

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT **Time to make changes for the better**



Reset bell (originally from St Leonards Church Corve Street, Ludlow) and hammer, which before it can be rung will have to spring loaded to protect the bell.



Deep and dangerous cracks had developed in the glass covering the Buttercross clock face.

High above the centre of Ludlow refurbishment works to the Grade I listed Buttercross (c.1746) are progressing well. The sensitive restoration work is being carried out by crafts persons from Treasure & Son, Ludlow, with Architects Nick Joyce and Alan Simcox overseeing the specification of works, and John Tiernan from English Heritage offering expert advice throughout the project.

The Clock is also being restored by Smiths of Derby as it suffered from water damage in recent years. Inspection also revealed potentially dangerous cracks in the glass of the clock face (pictured – cracks highlighted in white) which necessitated the replacement of the protective glass.

Internally the dome of the cupola has been restored with new oak spliced to preserve the character of the original frame where possible and one upright has been delicately repaired in situ. Much of the facia have been replaced and

elements of the structure have been re-sheathed with intricate lead work. The cupola is beautifully capped by the gleaming re-gilded weather vane visible for many miles as a stunning land mark for all to see.

As well as the structural renovations, the cupola bell & hammer have been reset within their newly refurbished surroundings. The cupola bell, which is identified the listing as 'from old St Leonards Church in Corve Street' bears a faint time-eroded inscription, '1684 ALL PRAISES AND GLORY BE TO GOD FOR EVER'.

Councillors are delighted with the quality work to the cupola. The next phase of works will take place inside the Buttercross and involve extensive refurbishment of first floor ceilings to protect the historic interior of the Chamber, which affords a historically celebrated view of Broad Street, described as 'one of the finest streets in the country'.



BEFORE



AFTER

BUTTERCROSS NOW ENJOYS A NEW LOOK



BEFORE



AFTER

BUTTERCROSS - Next Phase

A recent new collapse of part of the Buttercross ceiling, this time in the Town Clerk's old office, has come as a timely reminder of the work required to make the internal ceiling plaster safe and give this beautiful building a new lease of life.

The Linney

Nature in the form of spawning salmon has intervened and temporarily halted all work at the Linney Riverside park. The earliest that work can resume is the springtime, so this opens up a further opportunity to let the Town Council know what you want. There are funds in place to enable the town council to provide a new play area and we would like to know what you would like to see what sort of play experiences are important – what did you enjoy as a child – what do your children want? Please get in touch to let us know.

We have good news of a £32,000 grant from Shropshire Council and a local community group that we are working in partnership with is hoping for an extra £50,000 for the Linney project.

You can use the feedback form on the reverse of this newsletter or email the Town Clerk, townclerk@ludlow.gov.uk.