

The Weathervane:

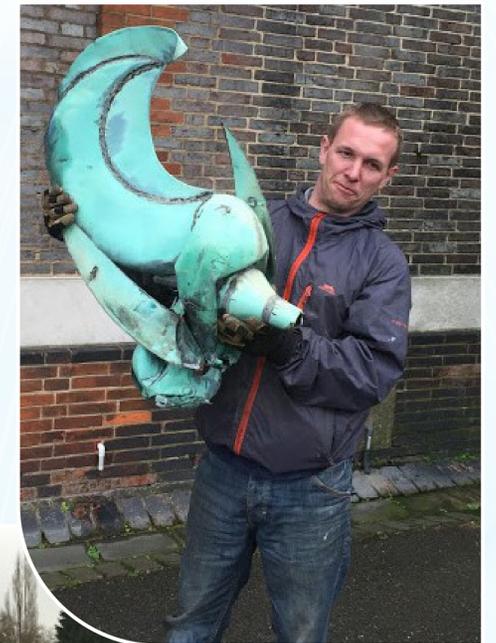
A Unique Opportunity for the Suburb:

1 STORM BARNEY

Storm Barney swept across southern parts of the UK bringing wind gusts up to 85 mph on the afternoon of the 17 November into the morning of the 18 November 2015.



Fortunately, no one was in the car park when the weathervane's shaft came down.

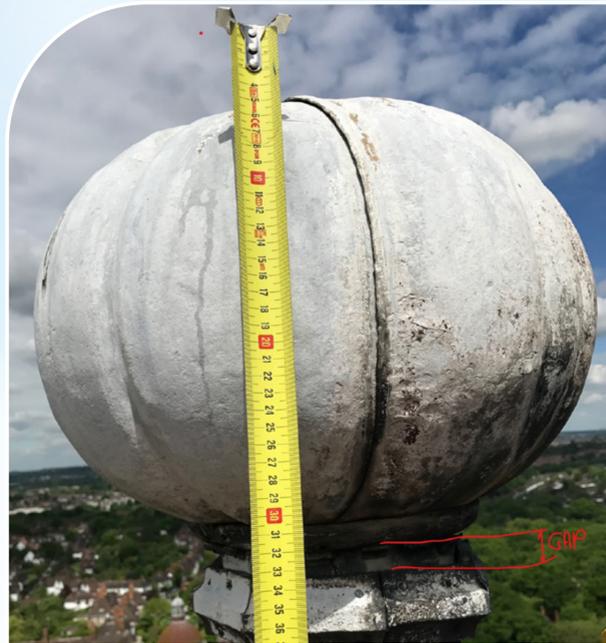


The cockerel landed on one dormer and the fish on another leaving the spire a little bereft.

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2 THE FINIAL BALL



This was a surprisingly large and heavy object. It weighed 53 kilos and was a solid lump of Douglas Fir, encased in lead and including two time capsules – see following images.



Contents of the Time Capsules found in the Finial Ball:

The whisky bottle

*Church Commencement
Oct 20 1909
Ball of Spire
Completed April
1913.
This Photo was taken
Commencement of job.
R. H. Hudson*

*The Vicar.
(Rev. B. C. Boushler, M.A.)
St Jude-on-the-Hill.*

*St Jude Spire
April 20 21 1913
Leadwork under supervision
of Fred Hubbard
Contractor
J. Parnell & Son
B. Ugly*

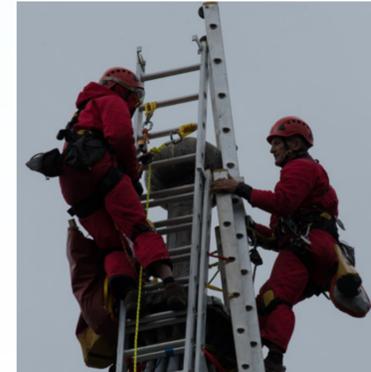
*Mr. H. J. White in Parish
Comm. Mr. Hudson on Spire
Mr. Thompson on Spire
This Picture was taken
on Spire of Lady Chapel
Domen*

*FRANKLIN, 607
W. HENNINGTON ST.
E. L. LUTYENS
Albert J. Thomas, B.A.
11, Grosvenor Road,
Windsor, Berks. 20/4/1913*

17702-17703-17704-17705-17706-17707-17708-17709-17710-17711-17712-17713-17714-17715-17716-17717-17718-17719-17720-17721-17722-17723-17724-17725-17726-17727-17728-17729-17730-17731-17732-17733-17734-17735-17736-17737-17738-17739-17740-17741-17742-17743-17744-17745-17746-17747-17748-17749-17750-17751-17752-17753-17754-17755-17756-17757-17758-17759-17760-17761-17762-17763-17764-17765-17766-17767-17768-17769-17770-17771-17772-17773-17774-17775-17776-17777-17778-17779-17780-17781-17782-17783-17784-17785-17786-17787-17788-17789-17790-17791-17792-17793-17794-17795-17796-17797-17798-17799-17800-17801-17802-17803-17804-17805-17806-17807-17808-17809-17810-17811-17812-17813-17814-17815-17816-17817-17818-17819-17820-17821-17822-17823-17824-17825-17826-17827-17828-17829-17830-17831-17832-17833-17834-17835-17836-17837-17838-17839-17840-17841-17842-17843-17844-17845-17846-17847-17848-17849-17850-17851-17852-17853-17854-17855-17856-17857-17858-17859-17860-17861-17862-17863-17864-17865-17866-17867-17868-17869-17870-17871-17872-17873-17874-17875-17876-17877-17878-17879-17880-17881-17882-17883-17884-17885-17886-17887-17888-17889-17890-17891-17892-17893-17894-17895-17896-17897-17898-17899-17900-17901-17902-17903-17904-17905-17906-17907-17908-17909-17910-17911-17912-17913-17914-17915-17916-17917-17918-17919-17920-17921-17922-17923-17924-17925-17926-17927-17928-17929-17930-17931-17932-17933-17934-17935-17936-17937-17938-17939-17940-17941-17942-17943-17944-17945-17946-17947-17948-17949-17950-17951-17952-17953-17954-17955-17956-17957-17958-17959-17960-17961-17962-17963-17964-17965-17966-17967-17968-17969-17970-17971-17972-17973-17974-17975-17976-17977-17978-17979-17980-17981-17982-17983-17984-17985-17986-17987-17988-17989-17990-17991-17992-17993-17994-17995-17996-17997-17998-17999-18000

The Copper Tube

Wall Walkers who you see in these pictures brought down the finial ball and they will be responsible for all the work on the Spire at high level. They are steeplejacks and are highly skilled at working at such heights. They will also do some repointing by hanging from ropes suspended from the lower levels of the scaffold. Their ladders will come down when the works are finished.



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3 THE APPEAL

As the building is listed Grade 1, St Jude's has had no option but to replace the weathervane and after extensive negotiations with Historic England, St Jude's now has a splendid replacement as shown further along this display.

Installing the replacement presents St Jude's with a unique and **once in a lifetime opportunity** as a scaffold represents the only safe way of installing it and **the insurers are paying**. This has enabled us at the same time to carry out urgent repairs to the tower. The tower and spire are battered by the prevailing winds and the brickwork is in very poor condition as the recent photos show in board 4.

Local residents and other supporters have been incredibly generous, contributing £50,000 so far towards the cost of these urgent works, which will enable all of brickwork to be repointed. Together with a grant of £46,665 from Historic England, and grants from Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust (£15,000) and the Residents Association (£5,000), plus £11,666 from the St Jude's restoration fund, we were all set complete all the necessary repairs. We are also able to recover the cost of VAT under the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme.

However, since preparing the initial estimates, further and wholly unexpected problems have arisen – see board 6 – and we now need to raise a further £60,000. This only came to light once the team had access from the scaffold.

The building is over 100 years old and sits as a landmark at the top of the Suburb in its historic centre. Your support is so important in helping us preserve Lutyens' iconic tower. St Jude's will recognise all donors, giving £200 or more with a plaque in the church unless you wish to remain anonymous. If St Jude's raises more than it needs, St Jude's will put the surplus towards its overall restoration budget of £2.75m. (Our restoration fund is now down to £24,000 as a result of the current repairs, and we need to rebuild this over time to enable further much-needed repairs.)

We are hugely grateful for your support to date. Please help us to complete these works by contributing to the cause either via St Jude's Virgin Money page: www.bit.ly/3sLwNua

or via the website: <http://stjudeonthehill.com/restoration-appeal>



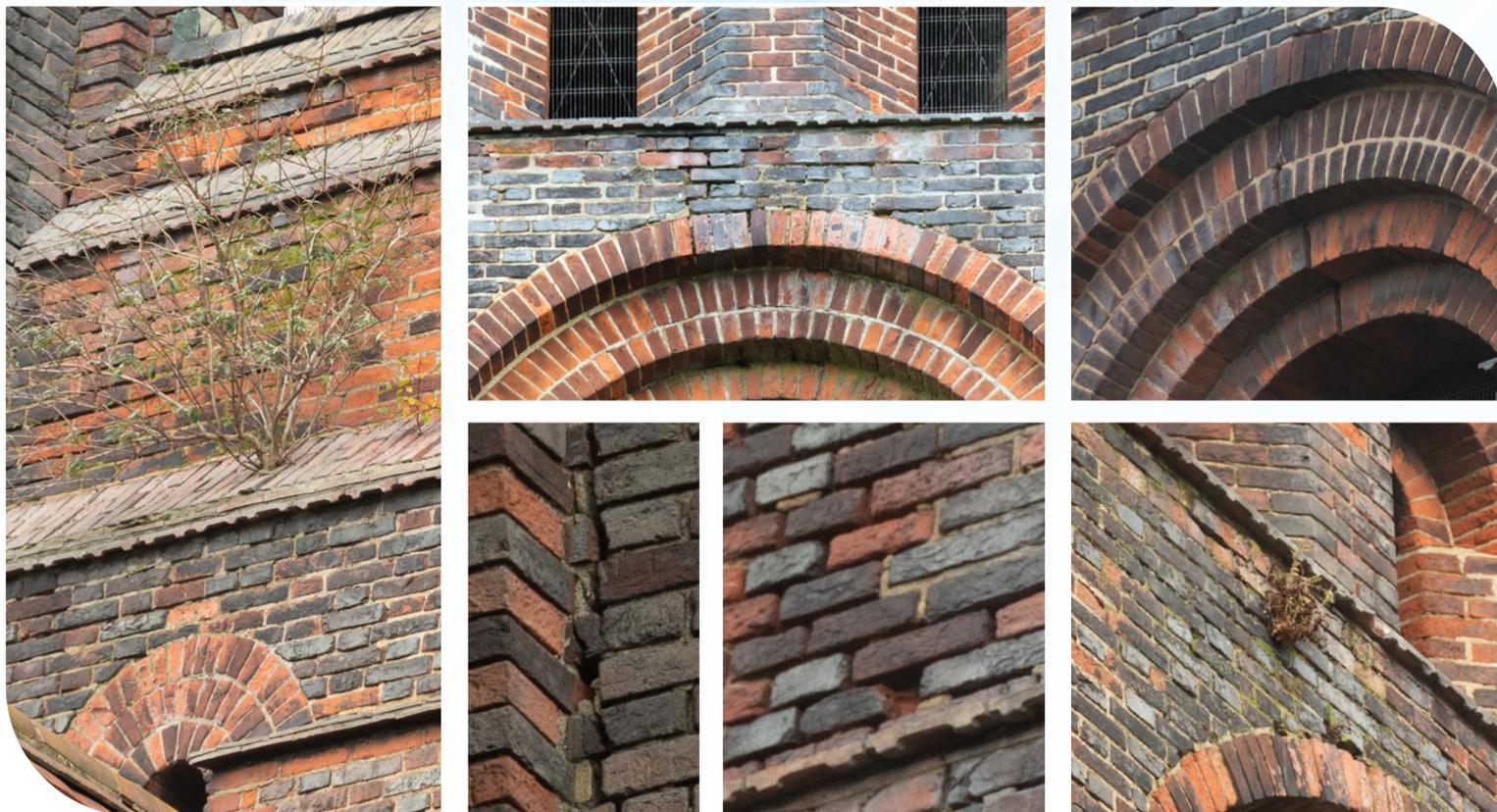
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4 THE BRICKWORK ON LUTYENS' TOWER

Lutyens' tower sits at the highest point in Hampstead Garden Suburb and the tower is exposed to the worst that wind and rain can cause. The bricks were specially made; they are an unusual size. The original mortar dates from 1912 / 1913 and has been the subject of re-pointing works in 1949, some date unknown and 2016. These photos, taken from the ground, show their state before the scaffold was erected.

As the tower is Grade 1 listed, the pointing mix and technique must be approved beforehand by Historic England, to ensure it matches as closely as possible the appearance of the original. A lime mortar is used as this is breathable, allowing moisture to evaporate via the joints. If hard cement mortar were used, this could lead to frost damage, for example, when moisture trapped in brickwork freezes. The architect's recipe which has been approved is as follows: 3.5 Natural Hydraulic Lime with grey additive, Bath stone dust and a number 28 sand mix. All materials as supplied by the Cornish Lime Company. After initial cure the mortar is tamped back (NOT brushed back) with a natural bristle brush to ensure that there is a slight shadow line below the course above. The result can be seen in the image here:



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5 IMAGES FROM THE SCAFFOLD AND AN UNUSUAL PROBLEM



In carrying out the initial works, we encountered an unusual problem:



Residents may have noticed a pair of Egyptian Geese in Central Square earlier this year. As it turns out, the pair chose to nest at the very top of the spire as the photo shows. These geese are known to nest in trees and the goslings will jump to the ground within 48 hours of hatching and follow their parents to the nearest water where they will be reared. The goslings in the tower stood no such chance as there are vertical sides between the outer wall and the dome. The contractors came to the rescue and a plank was laid between the dome and

the exterior of the scaffolding so that they could walk out and descend to the ground. Four goslings fell through the hole at the top of the dome into the bell chamber and three were rescued by the scaffolders. The 4th could not be found. The other three walked the plank and two were rescued the next morning and we don't know where the 7th is. Louisa, the goose expert, walked the goslings to the Heath Extension with the parents following but dogs scared the parents away and the goslings were taken to a sanctuary.

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6 LUTYENS' DESIGN OF THE BRICK TOWER UNDER THE SPIRE

Once the scaffold was erected, a detailed inspection at close quarters could be undertaken and this is when and where the team, comprising the Project Architect, the Project Structural Engineer and the Site Manager (MCo Group), discovered we had a major problem.



Sir Edwin Lutyens had adopted a light-weight, 'thin wall, hollow-box' form of construction. It may be assumed that this form of construction was adopted to reduce the deadload of material upon the foundations, which are founded on clay. The removal of a fractured brick has enabled the Team to view the inside of the single-skin brickwork hollow box construction. There is no cross-bonding of brickwork, nor 'cross-ties', although a curious stone 'bridge' has been found. The returns at the sides of the hollow-box corners to the tower are constructed on stacked half bricks which are not bonded into the corner flanks. Whilst Lutyens' church is an architectural masterpiece, it is something of a miracle that this part of it is still standing! The lack of bonding means it is an inherently weak structure, highly vulnerable given its exposure to prevailing winds.

It is anticipated that it will be necessary to employ a combination of measures to stabilize and secure the brickwork as follows:

- The introduction of 9mm thick stainless steel stitches inserted to the returns of the corner columns at 350mm centres.
- The introduction of 'sock ties' across the centre/cavity.
- 'Dry fix' pointing to the sides of the brickwork columns between the windows.

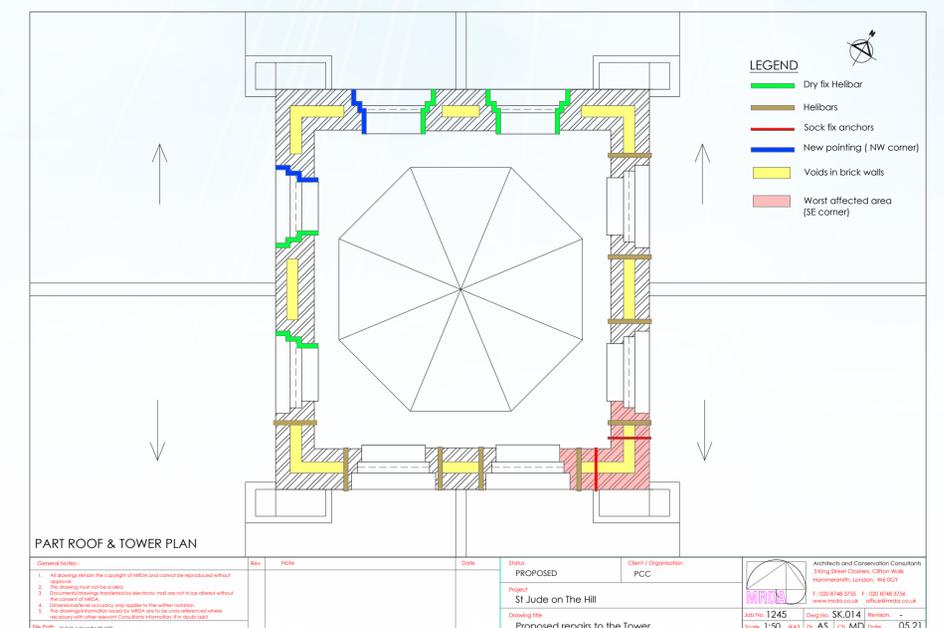


Diagram showing what is being proposed

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7 THE NEW WEATHERVANE

Here is how it used to look:



and here is its replacement:



It will be mounted on a marine grade stainless steel base as shown here:



Why do we have a Cockerel and a fish on a Church weathervane?

“Weather cocks” have topped church steeples for centuries. The eleventh century Bayeux Tapestry includes a scene of a craftsman attaching one to the spire of Westminster Abbey. The cock is the ‘proclaimer of the day’, but also a reminder of Jesus’ prophecy that the cock would not crow until Peter had denounced Him three times (Luke 22:34). There is an (unsubstantiated) tradition that a ninth century pope decreed that every church should carry a cock on its steeple.

Until recent times churches were orientated on an east-west axis so it was always possible to identify which way the wind was blowing. When that changed the points of the compass or a separate fixed image were added. Fish play a part in several stories in the gospels and the emblem was an early Christian symbol as the Greek word for fish - ichthus - could be read as an acronym for ‘Jesus Christ Son of God Saviour’.

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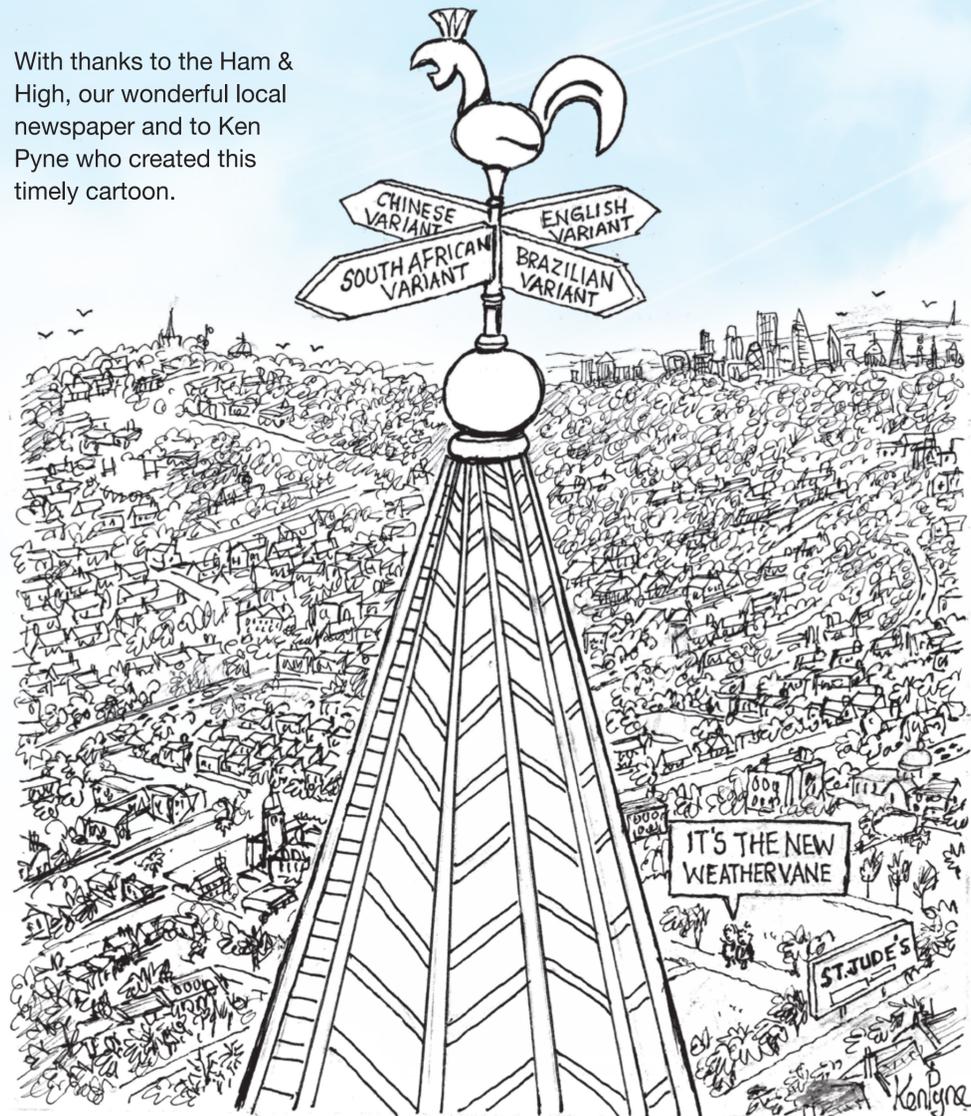
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8 SUPPORT STILL NEEDED

The launch of our campaign was supported by an article in the Ham & High and with a cartoon separately in the paper.

With thanks to the Ham & High, our wonderful local newspaper and to Ken Pyne who created this timely cartoon.



St Jude's would like to thank everyone who has supported this project to date and hopes that if you have not made a donation or would like to contribute more that you will do so either by contributing to the cause either via St Jude's Virgin Money page:

www.bit.ly/3sLwNua

or via the website:

<http://stjudeonthehill.com/restoration-appeal>



Thank you so much for your support



The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Jude-on-the-Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb wish to acknowledge the support received under Round 2 of the Government's Culture Recovery Fund award Scheme.

If you want to learn more about what happened or want further information about the weathervane and its replacement, please feel free to contact David White, fabric@stjudeonthehill.com, as he has overseen the replacement from the outset.

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PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR COMMENTS

