



The Minerva Newsletter

Spring 2008



Here at St Andrew's Methodist church in Devizes we have been rebuilding a rose window which blew out during a ferocious storm two years ago. We secured the contract after interview, beating other parties on both tender cost and experience gained on the many projects completed over the past sixteen years.



It was a challenging project for Adam, our newly qualified apprentice who was guided by Dieter our chargehand. Here they pose with with newly carved and saved sections.



Above are the last pieces of the repaired and rebuilt rose window fixed into place and awaiting mortar repairs and glazing bars to add extra support, fixing the elements was relatively straightforward once the logistical aspect of getting the larger pieces of tracery on to the scaffold had been worked out and completed. The Hartham Park Bathstone was a good match and will soon oxidise and tone in.

Sherborne Abbey Church.



This spring we undertook quinquennial works at the Abbey church of St Mary. We replaced decaying stone weatherings, pointed in a specially created mix to suit the original, and replastered and limewashed internal areas. Leadwork was undertaken for us by master lead-worker and stone slater Andy Jones. It was satisfying to have the opportunity to carve a new pinnacle for the tower, The Hamstone quarry even managed to supply the stone on time!



New pinnacle.

Church of St Mary the Virgin Marshfield.

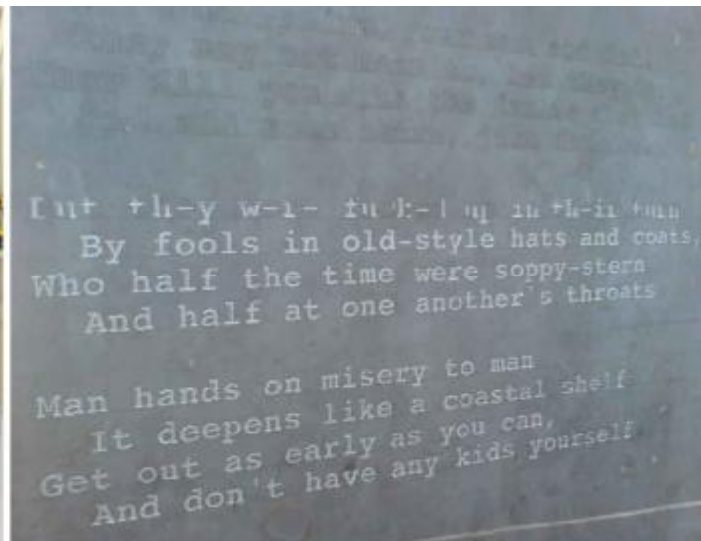


After completing extensive lime and masonry repairs to the tower, which sits on an exposed position on the Cotswold edge, it was found that the weather vane required insitu welding and repair and the cock needed repairing and regilding, we have gilded many weather cocks over the years but few had a past as interesting as this one. Upon stripping back to bare copper it was found to be peppered with shotgun pellets, previously it had wings but it had lifted off its shaft in a storm a few years ago and enjoyed a short flight down to the churchyard (the wings were subsequently removed). We always enjoy gilding work, restoring objects to their original glory.

Lettercutting

Working with Turner Prize nominee Cornelia Parker, we recently hand cut the Philip Larkin poem, *This be the verse* into a slab of Blue Lias. It can be seen in the Intervention/Decoration exhibition in Frome, Somerset until 21st June.

http://www.foregroundprojects.org.uk/inter_cornelia.php



As you can see we have become more workshop based over the last couple of years; we have a new facility for conservation and repair to monuments and sculpture which complements our other, in situ projects. The workshop is in Frome, Somerset and has excellent facilities. This means we are able to work on a wide variety of pieces, from small decorative sculptures to large public monuments. We undertake and advise on projects throughout the UK and further afield.

Please follow this link to see how one of our regular clients views our work.

<http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/content.php?nID=23>

The workshop is managed by 2 of Minerva's most experienced senior staff, Christina Kaye (who began her career in 1981 at Wells Cathedral under Professor Baker) and Nell Pickering.

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Stonemasonry & Carving

Stone Façade Cleaning & Repair

Lime Pointing & Traditional Plastering

Traditional Building, Roofing & leadwork

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