

Press Release

Bells appeal gets off on the right note thanks to SBW

12 October 2012



Roger Harrington, Sembcorp Bournemouth Water's Managing Director (left), presents the cheque to Pauline Dillaway, Church Warden, watched by Chris Payne, Tower Captain

A £38,000 appeal to restore the bells at a Dorset church got off on the right note thanks to a donation from Sembcorp Bournemouth Water (SBW).

Managing Director Roger Harrington presented a £300 cheque just minutes before the appeal was officially launched at Gussage All Saints.

The village's All Saints Church has some of the oldest bells in Dorset with the five hanging in the tower dating back to 1440.

However, nearly 575 years of continuous ringing has, quite literally, taken its toll and urgent work is needed to repair the bells together with their wooden housing and parts.

SBW's cheque was the first received by organisers of the Bells Restoration Appeal which was launched at a harvest lunch in the village.

Mr Harrington said: "SBW already feels part of the community in this picturesque part of Dorset as we take water from nearby boreholes for the public water supply.

"The bells are a historic feature of the village and its life. I am pleased that we're able to help in a small way to restore and preserve them for the enjoyment of present and future generations."

Chris Payne, Tower Captain at All Saints Church, said SBW's generosity was greatly appreciated.

He added: "This is the start of ongoing fund raising which will eventually see the bells at Gussage All Saints ring out as they have done for hundreds of years.

"The support we have received from villagers and local people has been absolutely marvellous and the appeal has brought the village together. We also share the comments of Mr Harrington as we feel an attachment to SBW who look after the water which flows through our village."

For more information on the Bells Restoration Appeal, or to make a donation, please contact Mr Payne on 01258 840255 or email chrisc.ipayne@btinternet.com