Restoration work at present being carried out on the Ruardean Church spire is enabling repairs to be made to the cock which has proudly stood at the top of the spire, unmoved for the past 41 years.

It was in 1933 that the cock was last taken down and previous to that in 1866, when major repairs were

The date, September 1, 1866, is in fact engraved on the cock and it is believed that when the restoration work was completed the then vicar of English Bicknor, who had given a considerable sum of money to enable the repairs to take place, climbed 186ft. to the top of the spire to replace the cock.

The rector of Ruardean, the Rev. L. J. Bowyer, said the removal of the cock had in fact revealed a split in the capping stone and other unforeseen defects, which meant that work might well cost an additional £800, at least. He is seen here taking a close look at the weather cock.