

By Juan Camilo Rodríguez Puentes

Article: *Big Ben's bongos to fall silent until 2021 for repairs*

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The famous chimes at Big Ben's tower fell silent today, at midday to allow being restored and several essential repair works on it. *The Great Bell has sounded on the hour for 157 years.* It last fell silent in 2007 and before that, for major refurbishments between 1983 and 1985. Parliamentary authorities said that stopping the Palace of Westminster's Elizabeth Tower would protect workers carrying out the repairs, and they clarify that it will sound for important events as New Year's Eve and Remembrance Sunday. In other side, Steve Jaggs, who's clock's keeper told to the BBC that Big Ben's falling silent was a significant milestone and its essential maintenance will also be carried out for making the building more energy efficient and for safeguarding the clock on a long term basis. Besides, the Great Clock will be dismantled piece-by-piece and its four dials will be cleaned and repaired for preserving it better. The Ayrton Light, which shines when Parliament is sitting, will also be renovated. All previous, due to the landmark Elizabeth Tower is said to be the most photographed building in the UK. Instead of the repair work, an electric motor will drive the clock hands until the main mechanism has been restored, so it will continue to tell the time. Finally, a spokesperson from team project confirmed that they are going to record Big Ben's chimes because it will be the most reliable and resilient option whilst the Great Clock carries out its repair works.

I would say that it's quite important to preserve and restored those kind of places, historical monuments, and sort of relevant stuff in our history to maintain a basis and the heritage which made us great as civilization.