

PROJECT CASE STUDY: A 100+ YEAR OLD HAND-POWERED LIFT

PROJECT SCOPE AND OVERVIEW

The project scope was to sympathetically restore a 100+ year old hand-powered lift located within a historic stately home, with the objective of returning the lift to its original operational condition. The project lasted 6 weeks: one week to install scaffolding, remove the existing gearbox, lift car, and ancillary equipment; four weeks off-site to overhaul/renew gearbox parts and to renovate the lift car. This included a new solid oak floor, sandblasting, and powder coating the existing car enclosure.

CLIENT'S CHALLENGES

The client could not find a lift company that would renovate the lift, as no one had the necessary experience with a hand-powered lift (including us!). There were also significant safety concerns due to the absence of electrical systems and safety components.

SOLUTIONS PROVIDED

Our approach to this installation was very much a restoration and not a modernisation. We contacted our respective experts: Elevator Solutions Limited for removal, Gearworks for the gearbox removal and installation, Pye London for gear inspection, overhaul, and fabrication of parts, and BMS for sandblasting and powder-coating. We also enlisted one of the few roping experts in England who could supply the rope and had experience in splicing a dumbwaiter hitch.

KEY CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES

The main obstacle was the car flooring. The original plan was to re-use the existing flooring and add a carpet matching the staircase; however, further inspection revealed the flooring was unfit for purpose and required renewal. We decided to install a solid oak floor to match other house furniture and stain it appropriately. The floor looked so good that we decided not to cover it with carpet.

THE RESULTS/OUTCOMES

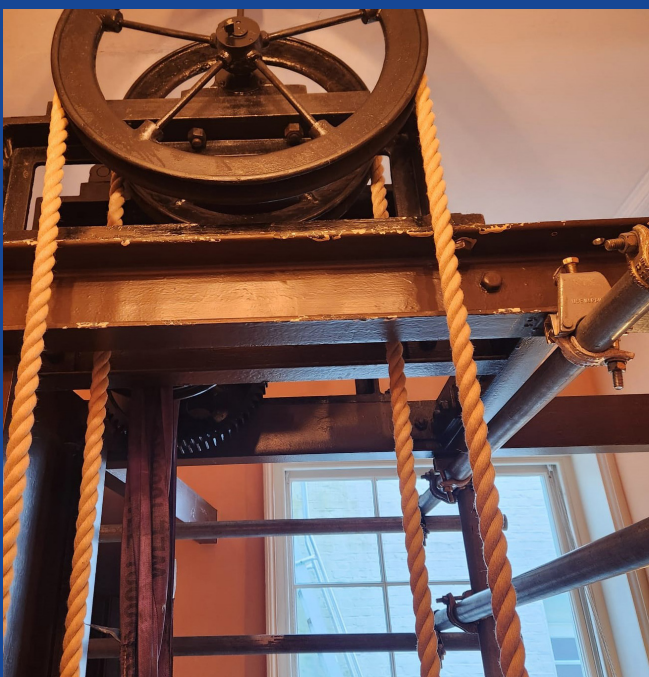
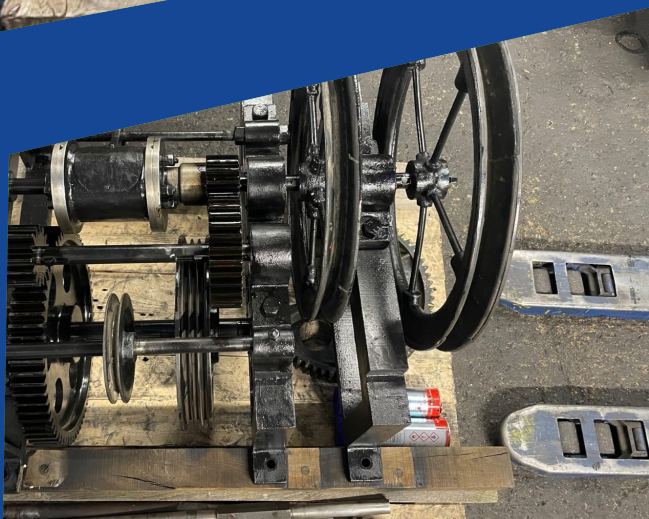
The overall outcome was a fully restored lift expected to last another 100 years. We had to re-make many gearbox parts due to excessive wear, which resulted in a much smoother and easier on-the-arm experience when travelling in the lift.

We matched the original paint colour for the lift car and painted the top steelwork to coordinate with the existing wooden guides. The car gates were overhauled in our workshop before powder coating to ensure easier opening and closing operation.



CLIENT'S FEEDBACK

The client was delighted with the result. Full feedback is pending, with one more visit planned to finalise client training.



ABOUT US

Apex Lifts was established over five decades ago. We maintain, repair and modernise lifts and escalators of all manufacture, origin and age. We operate throughout London, the South East and neighbouring home counties and consistently deliver service excellence that makes us stand out from the crowd.

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