

Eric Blatchford

Repair of the bridge in the 1970s.

The second pier was leaning very drastically, so I came right out the next day, had a look to see that the clapper stone, which is ten ton, was balanced on an inch and a half [3.75cm] of stone, and it could have gone at any time. But what we did was to jack the slabs up, obviously close the bridge, jack the stones up and then took the piers down and re built them right from bedrock in the river so that, hopefully, now they'll last well beyond my time anyway.

I understand you used a little bit of assistance that the medieval builders wouldn't have been able to have access too.

That's right, I mean they were dry laid of course, initially, but we used an epoxy resin cement which was a method of bedding them, but then scraping it back so that you can't see any of it, so it was a little bit of cheating but it has now stabilised, that structure will go on, hopefully, for hundreds of years again.