

**November 2023**

## **Getting there!**

Despite the heavy rainfall in October, progress has been made, although it has caused some slippage to the schedule. All being well, it is hoped the exterior will be practically finished and the scaffolding dismantled before Christmas. This means the building will be watertight. At the time of writing, the North and South walls have been repointed, the roof fully slated and the ridge replaced. The next steps are finishing off the rainwater system and repointing of the East and West elevations. Some works will be rolled over until 2024, in particular the replacing of the cartouche, the Undercroft door openings, some drainage works in the Manse garden and eventually the lime finish. Any lime work can only be done in good weather and will be done next Spring at the earliest when the walls have properly dried out. We still have to agree the final finish with the authorities.

### **Stonework restoration**



South window before and after

A considerable amount of craftsmanship had gone into the stonework, for example the South window, where the original stone colours have been kept and the stonework detail restored. The sash windows have all been fully renovated by Architectural Joinery of Stirling ([www.sashandcase.com](http://www.sashandcase.com)) as a donation towards the restoration, for which we are extremely grateful.

## THE LEIGHTON LIBRARY RESTORATION NEWS



West window

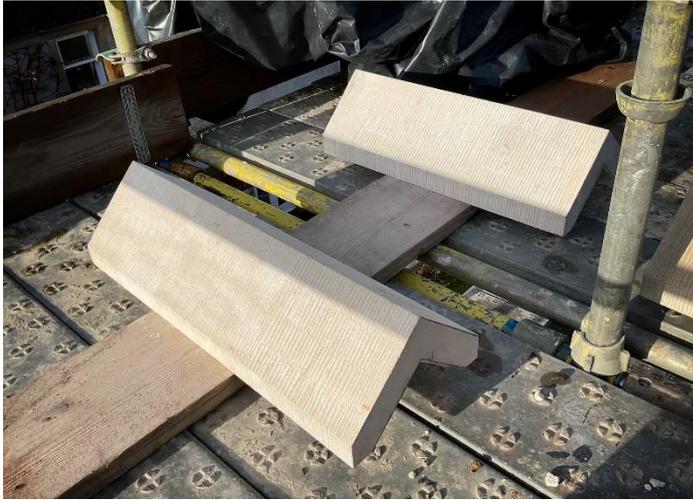
Cartouche surround

### Roof



New slates and guttering with new crowsteps in foreground

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New ridge stones made to measure

*Photos :Tom Astbury*



### **Volunteers needed in January and February 2024!**

Once the building work is done, we need to clean and decorate the library room, which will include rubbing down and freshening up the wood work – press ‘cages’, shutters, inside the windows and painting the plaster walls. We are going to do this ourselves – so any volunteer painters and decorators please join our team! Once decorated, we will then need to monitor the environment - particularly for the humidity level - to ensure we have safe conditions for the books to return. We will need another team of volunteers to help unpack the books, check them and record condition, dust and place them back on the shelves in the right place. Again please let us know if you would like to volunteer for either important task. We think the books can only go back late February at the earliest, but it depends on conditions.

Volunteering offers please to Alastair MacDonald at [leightonrestoration@gmail.com](mailto:leightonrestoration@gmail.com)

*(NB: In 1691 the Leighton Library volunteer criteria were that you be ‘Pious and sober, trusty and of good behaviour’ !)*

# THE LEIGHTON LIBRARY RESTORATION NEWS

## Discoveries

One replaced crowstep was found underneath to have been a recycled carved stone, possibly originally from the Bishop's palace or the Cathedral ruins. We are keeping this and some other items for display. In the roof we also found some pieces of plans from the 1987? Restoration, a couple of bits of metalwork and some wrappers from long discontinued consumables!

