

April 2024

The Leighton Library comes back to life



The stonemasons have finished and the architect has signed a certificate of 'effective completion'.

We anticipate the cartouche being replaced within the next few weeks, as Stirling Council has recently approved the drawings for refixing it in position. Focus over the past two weeks has been on cleaning the Library Room and preparing the bookshelves for the return of the books. A stalwart team of volunteers has polished every inch of all the presses twice!

Doors

The doors have been attractively restored, including the gate in the Manse wall, which had been boarded over for some years.



In the footsteps of Howard Carter

The door underneath the forestair has been locked for years and no-one admitted to having a key. A recent check of all the Library keys identified one which actually fitted the ancient lock. With bated breath, it was finally opened, to reveal.....nothing!



The return of the books

It was a big day on Monday 8 April when the first batch of books came home. A detailed plan has been agreed with the removers, Doree Bonner, to return the books in stages, allow them to acclimatise, then replace them on the shelves after a dust, condition check and a mugshot. We are grateful again to those volunteers who have come forward to help with this over the next four weeks. The process involves a batch delivery on Monday, lids open and left until Wednesday, when the removers return to unpack and place the volumes in correct order, one press along from their final home. On the Thursday and Friday, volunteers take the books individually, dust, check and record any condition issues. Each book will have its cover and front page photographed and be replaced in its proper place. We then repeat this 4,499 times!!



THE LEIGHTON LIBRARY RESTORATION NEWS



It's always important to have good relationships with our contractors!
Left: Duncan, Doree Bonner Removals Foreman and Right: Alan Clevett
from the Library Executive.

The book return exercise is scheduled to be completed by Friday 3 May.