

The LEIGHTON LIBRARY RESTORATION NEWS



The weather hasn't improved much since Munster printed this illustration!

Postponed start

Readers may recall we planned a start on 14 November. Unfortunately due to the very wet weather over the past few weeks, our Stonemasons Gillies & Farrell have been delayed on their previous project.

Having consulted our architect, Rosalind Taylor, it was agreed the schedule of work needed revisiting as we move into winter weather. We are now planning for a mid-January start, when scaffolding will be erected at both gable ends of the Library. The harling at those ends will be removed and the stonework below the two chimneys exposed. Next steps will depend on what we find, but this work should not be too weather dependent. More vulnerable work, such as roof repair, will wait for the better weather. It is currently estimated external fabric works should be complete by June 2023, so we are hopeful we can open for a summer and autumn visitor season.

Cartouche

We have received a condition report on the cartouche, following examination at Graciela Ainsworth's workshop in Edinburgh.

There are many varied and complex fixings in each section. The total surfaces will be dry/wet cleaned carefully, and with magnification to ensure no removal/lessening of any original material covering original polychrome at the sides and in crevices.

The marble is in a reasonable condition overall and will not require the extensive consolidation treatment that would often be the case with external marble objects.

We now need to agree a conservation plan and seek the appropriate consents to continue.

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Stonework

A stone sample has been analysed and a match for the crow steps has been identified. As you can see from this picture, a variety of shades of stone have been used on the building over the years. We need Listed Building Consent from Stirling Council for the stone we propose to use. The new stone sample is ringed below.



Fireplaces

Moving the cupboard which was up against the South wall has revealed an attractive plain Georgian fireplace, which we will keep as a feature. It is well blocked with jackdaw debris (see the photo for the 'guano'!). The North wall fireplace is hidden behind the presses, so we will have to get a Joiner to examine what lies behind the back board. When both chimneys are worked on, there is a risk of soot and debris blowing into the library room, so they must be closed off.

