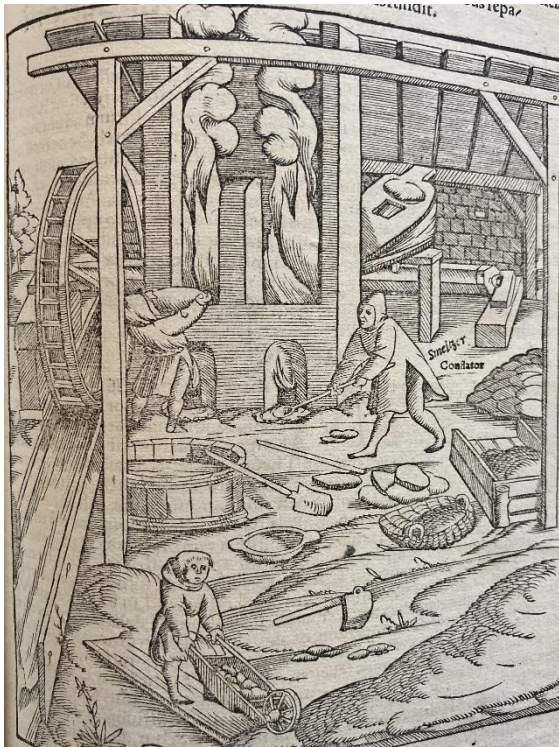


December 2023



The restoration of the Library exterior is nearing completion

The recent horrible combination of unusually cold weather and torrential rain has proved quite a challenge for completing the pointing. The roof pointing has now been done (see photo below). We have some concerns about the side of the building facing the street, as it is not drying out well. As a precaution against further bad weather, the scaffolding will need to be left in place for a while longer to provide some protection.

The two gable ends have dried out better and it is hoped the scaffolding there could be removed soon, but we are looking at the relative cost, as it may be uneconomical to have just part of the scaffolding left, rather than leave it all in situ a little longer.

The portacabin and the skip are planned to be removed on 15 December and the site generally tidied up and the fencing minimised. Work has begun on the window exteriors, mastic and repainting.

The storage heaters have been turned on, as we start to make the interior ready for cleaning and redecoration. (Please do not assume we shall be adopting the heating method shown in the 1544 Cosmographia woodcut above.) We are particularly monitoring the internal humidity, which is showing signs of reducing. We have book conservation guidelines to steer us.

Thank you very much for those who responded to last issue's appeal for decorating and unpacking volunteers. Your enthusiasm is much appreciated. We will keep those volunteers posted on a likely schedule of tasks in January and beyond.



Tom Astbury photo

THE LEIGHTON LIBRARY RESTORATION NEWS

Funding

Full details of all our funders can be seen on the Library website
<https://www.leightonlibrary.org.uk/leighton-library-restoration>

Started by a wonderfully generous legacy from Geraldine Goddard, we have been on a stretching journey to fundraise to restore our precious building. With the welcome recent additional grant from Historic Environment Scotland, in response to the unforeseen issues uncovered as during the work, we have now raised a total of £447,052. Whilst this is a fantastic achievement, given the costs involved, it is still not enough and we have to keep fundraising going.

It is very pleasing to report that last week we were awarded a grant by the Idlewild Trust in connection with the cartouche, which will enable us to have some microscopic paint samples found on the cartouche surface analysed and a 3D scan of the cartouche created, to provide a digital image we can use for display and educational purposes.

Fundraising takes a variety of forms, some ingenious. Below is a model of the Library in biscuit form, which Celia Aitken has had made to support fundraising!



Season's Greetings to all our supporters!

We also now have a great online shop on our website for ideas for those hard to think of Christmas presents! Profits go towards the restoration.

<https://leighton-library-shop.co.uk/>