

## September 2023 Raising the Roof



This month's major milestone news is that the roof slates have been removed and the timbers below exposed for examination. This was always going to be a moment to hold our breath! Whilst we expected some damage, we had no idea what lay beneath. Inspection involved the attendance of an archaeologist, as well as our architect, stonemasons, roofer, joiner and our volunteer photographer, Tom Astbury, who is recording everything for posterity.

## THE LEIGHTON LIBRARY RESTORATION NEWS

The stone roof ridge consists of 17 stones. Examination determined five need to be repaired/replaced.



**The roof is a story of two halves.**



**The east elevation.** Some of the boards have timber pegs visible from inside the attic space. The roof boards are in very poor condition, soft and worm eaten and not suitable for fixing slates. Replacement timbers will match the original dimensions. Staggered joints will make the roof structure stronger.

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Detail of the South end of the East elevation



**The West elevation.** Here we have better news. The majority of the timbers seem to come from the 1930s, with some 1980s overlay. Mostly in good condition except for small areas at the foot and sides. Rafters will need repair.

*Photo: Tom Astbury*



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Inspection section on the west elevation



*Photo: Tom Astbury*

The roofer has sorted the slates and set good slates aside for reuse. This is about a third over both sides. The existing slates proved to be small and soft at the tops of both slopes. Although we have already purchased a number of reclaimed matching slates, more will now need to be obtained.



The cast iron gutters have been found to be poorly aligned, set too low and shallow for the size and pitch of the roof. New deep flow beaded cast iron gutters will be installed; these have to be bespoke and there is only one foundry which does this!