



The Friends of Leith Hall

Supporting the future of Leith Hall through
Promotion, Education and Participation

The Friends of Leith Hall
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Dear Friends,

Welcome to a busy summer season. The friends group has had a busy few months since our launch in April with a few changes to the committee. Eileen Law has taken on the role of Chair person and with her extensive experience and knowledge of working at Leith Hall, with the National Trust for Scotland, and with the network of guides, we look forward to a positive future for both the friends group and Leith Hall.

Eileen, with the support of the Leith Hall guides, the NTS and the Friends of Leith Hall have made Sunday openings possible through July and August this year, and these have been hailed as a great success with some form of entertainment each week. Grateful thanks go to the North East Members Centre, the Banff and Moray Members Centre and Hoodles Play Barn (Old Meldrum) for their sponsorship of the entertainments. If you have not yet made a visit to the hall this summer, there are still a few weeks left to show your support and visit Leith Hall and its beautiful gardens and grounds.

This edition of the newsletter also contains updates on the progress of the National Trusts Leith Hall Project, upcoming events at Leith Hall and further details of the ongoing photography competition.

If you have any further articles you'd like to submit for the interest of the friends, or indeed any feedback or suggestions our contact address can be found in the newsletter header.

Thank you for your continued support

Gráinne (Treasurer & Summer editor)

A word or two from Linda

"In this, the 21st century, speed seems to be the norm. Get your breath back, relax and enjoy how it used to be. Leith Hall is a wonderful traditional Lairds house in the heart of Aberdeenshire, built in the 17th century for the Leith family.

At Leith Hall the visitor can see the original 'tower house' built by James Leith in 1650, follow the development of the House, as we move from generation to generation as only one family has ever owned Leith Hall.

The visitor can follow the family into battle and see many 'spoils of war' in the military museum including the pardon received by a family member after the battle of Culloden (this pardon is the only one in a private collection). Visitors have been moved to tears as the Leith hall story unfolds, but the happiness which was once the core of Leith Hall, embraces the visitor so that people return again and again. As you walk in the grounds, don't be surprised if you should glimpse some 18th century Ladies out for a stroll. Just remember to say "good-afternoon"."

Activities and Events

Sundays August Leith Hall open 1.30 – 4.30 pm with entertainment in the music room;

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| 22 nd Aug | Fiddle Concert. |
| 29 th Aug | Traditional music. NTS Leith Hall project presentation |
| 11 th Sept | Bel Canto Evening of music |



NTS Leith Hall Project. August Update We are pleased that the Project is exactly on schedule and progressing as we'd hoped. Within the Trust's Project Management Guidelines, the Friends are identified for consultation purposes as Informed Stakeholders, hence this bulletin. If you wish to comment please use the friends contact address in the Newsletter banner.

The Project is to assess the feasibility of minor capital modifications to the Hall which will create new revenue streams and produce a robust and sustainable business model going forward; then to undertake these modifications through a further bid. The bid for the current Stage of the project (Stage 3, Second Feasibility Study) as promised was submitted in November, and was considered alongside several hundred other NTS project bids; it was accepted to start this financial year (1st March 2010) as planned. Tenders were invited against the project brief, two tenders received and the contract issued to consultant architect Kerry Smith. The first report, an architectural study in support of the proposed business plan, due by the end of July, has been submitted and signed off by the Group Manager; this will now be followed by a final costed business case to be prepared by the end of August. In anticipation of this, a second bid for the follow-up capital works (Stages 4-7 – Planning to Undertake the work; Undertaking the work; Closing the Project; Lessons Learned) to be delivered during 2011, has been registered in outline in June, for full costed submission by the end of August. The capital works will include:

- Taking the Oval room out of the public offering for internal operational security reasons, incorporating it into one of the letting flats, requiring . . .
- Sealing off the current Library door and door to corridor and re-opening hidden door to the Library;
- Slightly modifying bathroom off the Library to make it functional to support corporate use;
- Upgrading one of the ground floor kitchens to better support the tearoom;
- Creating a newly fitted shop in what is currently the second ground floor kitchen;
- Creating a catering kitchen in the old office on the first floor to support functions and corporate use;
- Upgrading the current staff office on the ground floor;
- Creating a new dry goods store to support the tearoom in the current staff welfare room;
- Creating a new staff welfare room elsewhere on the ground floor; and
- Upgrading all 3 letting flats.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE? NTS staff will present the proposals and be available to answer your questions Sunday 29th August, Leith Hall, Entrance Hall 1.30 – 4.30pm

2010 Photography Competition “Aspects of Leith Hall”

This competition continues to run until the end of September. So far we have had three winners of a digital photo frame each, but sadly have had no entries from our junior friends.



Winners so far (left to right)) “Spring at the boathouse” by A Scott (Inverurie), “Across the Stream” by D Scott (Inverurie) and “boy on Bike” by M Waterhouse (Kennethmont).



The gardens are in bloom with beautiful displays of colour, so load up your camera and visit Leith Hall

Entries to “Friends of Leith Hall, 2010 photo competition, The Lodge, Kennethmont, AB54 4NL” or by e-mail to photocomp@underwater.me.uk.

For entry details see community noticeboards or visit the Friends of Leith Hall website