

Expanded plans for Scalan seminary

Following discussions between The Crown Estate and the Scalan Association, the association has purchased the old Scalan farmhouse and arranged a long-lease further grounds to protect and enhance the historic seminary of Scalan and its surroundings in the Braes of Glenlivet. The seminary has long been a place of pilgrimage for many, and attracts visitors from all over the world because of its importance to the Catholic Church in Scotland. The Association has carried out renovations to the building in recent years and had been keen to secure ownership of the additional building and management of the wider site to allow future improvements to be carried out.

The Scalan is one of the most important heritage sites on the Glenlivet Estate and The Crown Estate is very pleased to have helped to secure the long term management of the site in partnership with the Scalan Association. The new arrangements will enable further enhancements to be carried out which will help raise awareness of the Scalan as a significant attraction for visitors coming to Glenlivet and the Cairngorms National Park.

Scalan Association president, Canon Brian Halloran said: “The Scalan Association is very pleased to acquire the old dwelling of the late Sandy Matthieson which was once part of the kitchen wing of the College. Sandy was a faithful guardian and protector of the old seminary. The lease of the surrounding area has enabled us to fence the area to prevent possible damage from livestock and the developments should help us to promote pilgrimage to the old seminary of Scalan.”

To mark the transfer of ownership an open air celebratory Mass was held at The Scalan in early June. Canon Brian Halloran gave the sermon, which was also attended by Cardinal O’Brien and the local bishop, Bishop Peter Moran of Aberdeen.