

T.H.O.T.H.

THE HOUSE OF THE HOLY
A TWO HORIZONS PRODUCTION

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5 AUGUST 2019



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

THE BOLESKINE HOUSE FOUNDATION

An interview with Keith Readdy

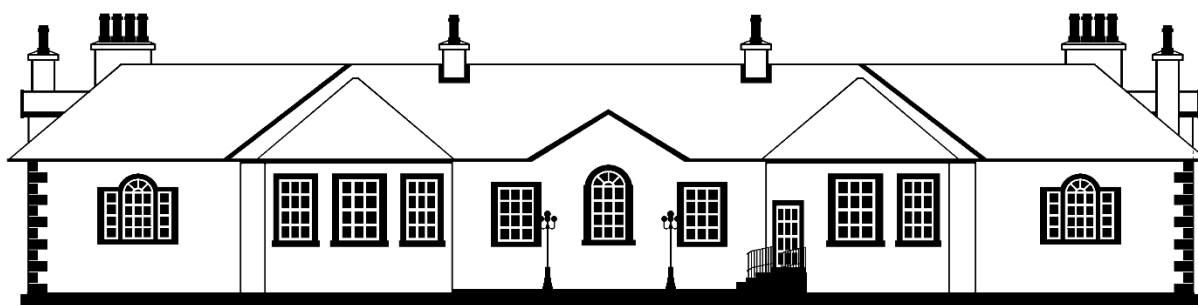
We would like to thank Keith Readdy of The Boleskine House Foundation for taking the time to be interviewed for our Special Supplement of T.H.O.T.H., sharing his vision and aims of the new purchase, as well as John Mitchell and Robert Molyneaux for their computer generated artworks and advertising material for The Boleskine House Foundation included in this edition.

While the aims of the T.H.O.T.H. publication are to promote Thelema, we are asked to advise that “The Boleskine House Foundation” has secular aims and goals. The views of Keith Readdy should not be taken as representing the views of all the trustees.



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Cover image: CG image of Boleskine House restored



The *Boleskine House* FOUNDATION

Mission and Vision

Our mission is to restore and preserve the historical legacy and heritage of the Boleskine House estate for the greater benefit of the public. Upon its complete restoration, our volunteers intend to use the estate to promote education on the heritage of the house, to welcome the enjoyment of its structure and surrounding gardens, and to help to generate awareness of health and wellness.

Our end goal and overall vision for Boleskine House is that it will become a historical landmark that will forever more offer public accessibility and enjoyment, while promoting a holistic approach to interested communities, and contributing to the local economy.

<https://www.boleskinehouse.org/restoration/mission-and-vision/>

The Boleskine House Foundation

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

*“They shall worship thy name, foursquare, mystic, wonderful, the number of the man;
and the name of thy house 418.”*

Liber AL, II:78

On the 23 December 2015, newspapers in UK and internet sites around the world released the news that at approximately 1:40pm there was a report from a motorist that reported smoke and flames coming from Boleskine House. By the time fire services arrived to the site, up to 60 per cent of the building had been destroyed. Flames reached 20 meters high and though firefighters had concentrated on the west wing of the House, the rest had been damaged severely.



<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-35171061>

Immediately following the great fire of Boleskine House, cries went out across the globe amongst the Thelemic community. *“The prophecy has been fulfilled,”* some exclaimed, *“An invisible House shall there stand,”* they cried, *“The Secret Chiefs have orchestrated the next step in the evolution of Thelema,”* others dared to utter. Some saw in the destruction by fire of Boleskine nothing but a series of unfortunate events. In either case, on that fateful day 60% of Boleskine House went up in flames.

For decades Boleskine has served as a House of intrigue and mystery, much has been written in regards to its history and of course there has been much speculation. Aleister Crowley purchased Boleskine in 1899, with the intent of undertaking the Abramelin Operation. Crowley, owned the property for a total of 14 years and it went on to become the magical focal point and energetic centre, from which issues the Thelemic Current.

“In the East, that is, in the direction of Boleskine, which is situated on the South-Eastern shore of Loch Ness in Scotland, two miles east of Foyers, is a shrine or High Altar.”

‘Of the Furnishings of the Temple’ from Crowley’s Gnostic Mass, Liber XV

On the 31 July 2019 at approximately 3:30pm, two sperate fires were started on the estate in a suspected arson attack. The police investigation is ongoing. While one of the fires was stopped, the fire in Boleskine House destroyed the remaining 40 per cent of the structure.

With our eyes now set upon the rising Sun in the East and our ears attuned to the shrieking of the Phoenix rising from the ashes of the great fire, we excitedly look to one of the new owners, Keith Readdy - who has recently purchased Boleskine House - for plans to restore it to its former glory. Keith intends to allow access to the Boleskine and envisages opening up the estate in a manner that has hereto been impossible. The Boleskine House Foundation will also aim to promote tourism, working with the local Foyers community in keeping its traditional heritage alive.

Two Horizons is honoured to be able to interview one of the new owners of Boleskine House about the inspiration that led to the buying parts of the estate and his plans for what is to come. We wish Keith the best of luck with this Great Work and support this milestone project.

Love is the law, love under will.



Boleskine House
Photo courtesy of Vere Chappell

“The first essential [in the Operation of Abramelin the Mage] is a house in a more or less secluded situation. There should be a door opening to the north from the room of which you make your oratory. Outside this door, you construct a terrace covered with fine river sand. This ends in a ‘lodge’ where the spirits may congregate. It would appear the simplest thing in the world for a man with forty thousand pounds, who is ready to spend every penny of it on the achievement of his purpose, to find a suitable house in a very few weeks. But a magical house is as hard to find as a magical book to publish. I scoured the country in vain. Not till the end of August 1899 did I find an estate that suited me. This manor of Boleskine and Abertarff, on the south-east side of Loch Ness, half way between Inverfarigaig and Foyers. By paying twice as much as it was worth, I got it, gave up my flat and settled down at once to get everything in order for the great Operation, which one is told to begin at Easter.

The house is a long low building. I set apart the south-western half for my work. The largest room has a bow window and here I made my door and constructed the terrace and lodge. Inside the room I set up my oratory proper. This was a wooden structure, lined in part with the big mirrors which I bought from London”

The Confessions of Aleister Crowley, Symonds & Grant 1979, Chapter 22, page 184



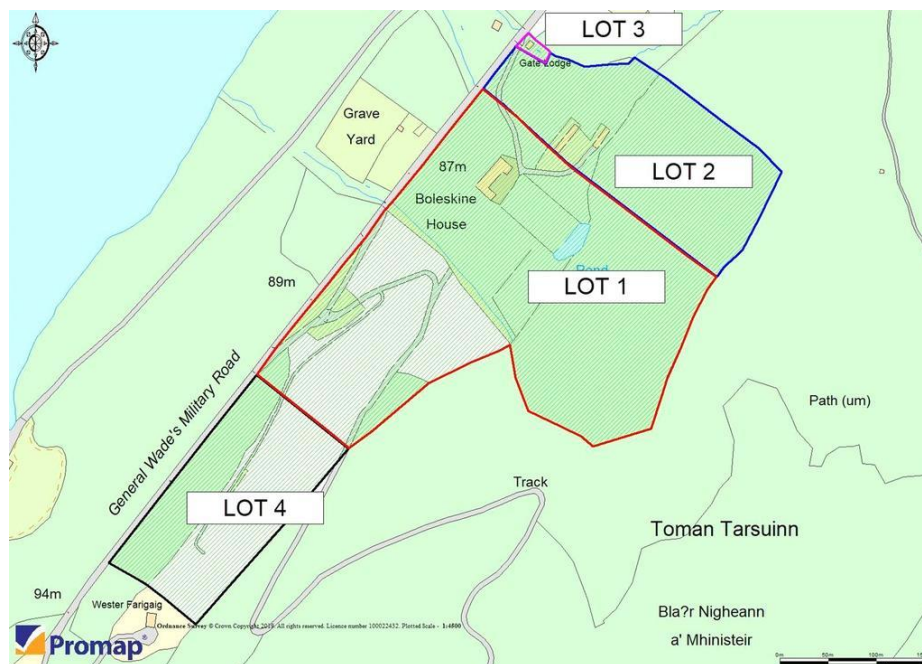
Images courtesy of The Boleskine House Foundation

Could you provide us with a brief account of the events that led up to the decision to purchase Boleskine House, and how that pathway was made open for you?

There is a rather interesting course of events which led up to this happening, but in fact there is never really such a thing as a coincidence.

My wife Kyra had thought about buying Boleskine for many years. In January of this year, we planned a family road trip holiday through Scotland for April. We had just bought a second dog, and wanted to plan a trip where we could take our pets with us for walking in the countryside. It was our first visit to Scotland and the house was listed on the market at almost the exact moment that we crossed the border. We also just so happened to have the exact amount of money in our savings which we needed to buy the house. Since we happened to be in Scotland, we decided to call up the local estate agent and book a viewing. Within a few days, we drove to Inverness, instructed a Solicitor, visited Boleskine, and then put our offer in the same day. Our offer was the first, and we negotiated above the asking price to secure the main lot for £220,000.

There was another interesting turn of events when I got an email from William Clifford-Banks (the purchaser now of “lot 2”) who said he had an intuition we had bought Boleskine. The email arrived within a few hours of the offer being accepted, when the only people who knew about it were ourselves and the estate agent. Furthermore, the listing online hadn’t been updated, so there was no way for anyone to know it was under offer. When we confirmed our plans, William



<https://www.onthemarket.com/details/6738046/>

subsequently offered on “lot 2 - the coach house”, so that we could ensure it was not purchased by developers and the estate as a whole could be protected. My wife and I then offered on “lot 3 - the gate lodge”, so that overall we were buying up all of the main lots.



Boleskine House - Lot 1, Foyers, Inverness, IV2
<https://www.onthemarket.com/details/6738046/>



Boleskine House - Lot 2, The Stables, Foyers, Inverness, IV2
<https://www.onthemarket.com/details/6738044/>



Boleskine House - Lot 3, Gate Lodge, Foyers, Inverness, IV2
<https://www.onthemarket.com/details/6738045/>

There has been much controversy surrounding the property and nearby land since the beginning of Boleskine House. How has this been since purchasing the property?

Many know how famous the estate is, and what many consider a “dark history”. The popular press does not help in dispelling some of the negative rumours about the house and the grounds.

We have seen some of the more popular reactions from locals, saying that the place gives them the creeps, and how spooked they are from the place. Being up there in the ruins themselves certainly lends a certain eerie feeling, but we also know that it truly has a great deal of attraction for people all around the world.

How did the idea for “The Boleskine House Foundation” arise?

We offered to buy the house without giving any real thought to what we would do with it once we had it. All we thought was “We want to protect this, otherwise some developer will scoop it up and do something dreadful to it”.

Our initial idea was to rebuild the house and to live in it as a permanent home, but when the consequences of what we had done slowly began to sink in, we then felt quite strongly that Boleskine should be a place which is accessible to others. Once we started investigating what some of the real options for doing this were, we decided that we wanted to have a charity established, so that on our deaths the estate as a whole could be preserved. The idea of the foundation was developed from there. As a consequence, we will not occupy the house as our home as initially planned, but we do intend on having an occupant at the estate at all times for maintenance and security purposes.

Our vision is still in incubatory stages, but, in brief, we are setting up a foundation primarily to restore and preserve the estate as a heritage landmark, to encourage education and engagement with Scottish heritage, and to promote the estate's historical legacy.

You mention a Board on your website, how do you envision this being run and will there be a "Friends of Boleskine House" developed for ongoing support?

The board will be comprised of up to seven individuals from diverse backgrounds, including law, heritage restoration, history and religious studies. Their aim as trustees will be to run the charity for the benefit of the public as a whole. We have so far appointed four trustees, all of whom are listed on our website, and we will add to the board over time to fill the remaining positions.

We are forming a "Friends of Boleskine House" type arrangement, and an announcement will be made about this in the near future.

Although you are promoting the spiritual history of Boleskine - Aleister Crowley's legacy and Thelemic Kiblah - will Thelema *per se* be your focus or will you opt for a secular organizational approach that will allow the House to be accessed for multiple religious and spiritual activities?

The approach of the foundation and its affairs as an organisation will be secular in nature, being run in many ways like how a board of directors of a company manages a business. However, we have ensured that the board will always be sensitive to the impact that its decisions will have on many different communities. This includes both local communities in the Highlands and Thelemic communities worldwide.

How do the locals feel about the House being restored? Do they have any idea about the purposes you are intending to use the House for?

We have had some positive initial conversations with local people. At least half of our volunteers for the clearance weekend being held on 16 - 20 August, 2019, are locals who have no affiliation with the Thelemic community, so for us this is a remarkable thing. In fact, we already have 90 people attending this event. Our approach is secular so everyone is welcome.

In the future we would quite like to be able to offer some community events on Lot 2 should the local people desire it. Whether local artists and craftspeople come to sell their products, or we invite elderly members of our community up for tea and cake, we really hope to make a positive impact.

What do you hope the restoration of Boleskine House will do for Thelema?

The Thelemic community is undoubtedly vast and extends significantly beyond the O.T.O. Our vision is that Boleskine will be open and accessible to any person, so long as they are willing to be respectful to the estate and not wish any ill-intent towards it or members of the board of trustees.

We are hoping the restoration could be a source of unity, especially for a community of people who share so many different perspectives on things. We hope that having a secular approach to the matter, as well as involvement of people in our board and advisory committees who are not members of any Thelemic-orientated initiatory Order, will be beneficial to us. Our approach is to restore the heritage property and to educate people in the history of the estate. Religion has nothing to do with our goals.

We also intend to offer volunteer positions on the estate for people to be able to come and stay for 6 - 12 months, in exchange for attending to security of the estate and the maintenance of the gardens. More on our volunteer programme will follow later in the year after discussion with the trustees.



CG image of proposed fountain at Boleskine House - The Boleskine House Foundation

Has the O.T.O. disclosed any plans that they themselves may have for the property at this point in time?

The short answer to this question is no, the O.T.O. has not expressed any plans for the property that they wish to see materialise.

While we intend to cooperate with the O.T.O. and be sympathetic to their aims, we would like to reinforce that Boleskine House is not owned by the O.T.O., and the estate will not be managed by the O.T.O. The Boleskine estate will instead be run by the Boleskine House Foundation as a separate charitable entity with an independent board of trustees. No religious ceremonies of OTO will take place on the land and their involvement will be academic.

(A statement from the OTO IHQ can be found at: <https://oto.org/news0619.html>)

Boleskine

...needs you!



Image courtesy of Vere Chappell

On the 23rd of December 2015, Boleskine House, the former spiritual home of Aleister Crowley caught fire. 60 per cent of the building had been destroyed by the time the fire crews arrived. The entire interior had been totally gutted. In the four years since the fire, the Scottish weather has taken its toll further.

The restoration costs are estimated to be substantial. Boleskine House needs your support if it is to be fully restored to the house's historical legacy.

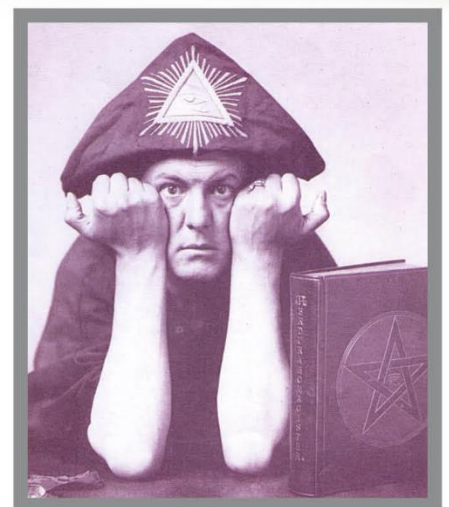
The Boleskine House Foundation is a not-for-profit group aimed at restoring and maintaining the Boleskine House estate. It is our hope and intention that Boleskine – once restored – will be available for people to enjoy for many generations to come.

Please see the foundation's gofundme page at:
gofundme.com/boleskinehouse

For further information on the restoration project go to: ***boleskinehouse.org***

The Boleskine House Foundation is a not for profit entity.

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What were your first impressions upon setting foot on the property? How did it make you feel to actually be inside of what's left of the House?

When we stepped foot for the first time on the land in April, we felt a real gravity to it. The beauty of the Highlands in general is truly unmatched in many other places we have travelled, and Boleskine had a sort of magnetism that, when considering its history, we could immediately understand why Crowley would have found this place a suitable place for a spiritual retirement.

The estate has a real concentration of energy to it that is unmistakable. It is almost unnerving the feeling you get being on the land, and this is probably why so many get the creeps from it, because it is intense. For us, it felt like a real surreal energetic pull, and it is something which we imagine is very difficult to understand for people who have not visited yet. It is sad that someone wanted to burn down the remainder of this listed building on the 31 July.

You mentioned the possibility of having eco-cabins on your website. Do you see an “Airbnb” style format becoming available for people wishing to stay on site?

We would like to offer a way for people to travel and stay on the land, whether it is for simple tourism around Loch Ness and its attractions.

The idea of having small, unobtrusive cabins on our adjacent grazing land will also be a way to help fund the maintenance of the house and gardens once we have died. Further information on this will be made available via our website and social media channels in 2020 which will be run outside the foundation.



Image courtesy of The Boleskine House Foundation

Where do you see Boleskine in 10 years' time? "The perfect day".

I see Boleskine House and its estate as a centre for education, heritage, wellness, art, and community. The gravity that Boleskine has can be harnessed and channeled into some very positive things.

I envisage passers-by who know nothing about Archibald Fraser, Aleister Crowley or the Battle of Culloden to be able to come in and learn about such figures and events if they want to, or just to enjoy the gardens, if they prefer.

I see:

- Visitors coming and browsing a beautiful library on Scottish history and Western esotericism in one of the wings of the house – eventually in a bigger building when it is established.
- The local community coming together and enjoying lunch in the rose gardens.
- Academics and academic societies hosting events on history, religion and philosophy.
- Couples exchanging their vows in the presence of their loved ones at the coach house.
- Those who wish to say goodbye to their loved ones being able to hold private ceremonies on the land where they can scatter their ashes.

I can also imagine that we will witness more than we can envision at this moment in time.

I hope that after our lifetimes this legacy will be carried on by others for many hundreds of years.

What needs to be done now to secure this vision?

A lot of toil and labour, plus enthusiasm and hard work. In addition, a lot of money.

We need the right professionals with a passion for the house and our vision to help us do this. Plans are in motion and those who want to join us for the journey can sign up to our “Friends of Boleskine House programme” to receive a copy of our newsletter.

As to be expected, unfortunately, as a byproduct of these kind of major activities, there is a tendency for outsiders and pixel warriors to promote misinformation, opposition and criticism. Is there anything you would like to say to these people?

We expect people who don't truly know us to be skeptical at first, and in some instances even envious that they aren't the ones doing this project. Unfortunately, humanity will always be beset with "haters".

We are confident that, in time, most people will not take such irrational criticisms very seriously. We would like to invite even our most ardent antagonists the opportunity to see what we're trying to accomplish, and if they wish to be friendly towards us we would have them as our guests. Our doors are open to everyone who wants to walk with us on this journey and to contribute their thoughts, opinions and time along the way.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Anyone interested in this project should follow us on our website, and the several social media channels we have set up which are linked on the homepage of the website.

We would also like to add that at this early stage of the project the biggest hurdle which we will face is financial, as the foundation seeks to obtain the funds needed to restore the house and we also hope to shortly arrange a transfer of the land to the foundation. We will be funding more than half of the costs personally, as the basic rebuild cost of the house is £1million alone following the latest fire for which we did not have insurance for as the building was in too poor a condition to get it. For as little as £5 you can be part of our journey, and we would ask those who can to consider making a monthly donation via our page.

<https://www.boleskinehouse.org> or <https://www.gofundme.com/boleskineHouse>



CG image of the detail of the proposed fountain - The Boleskine House Foundation