

Seaton Delaval Hall National Trust Images, John Hammond

The National Trust has gained initial HLF support for a £3.8million project to bring Seaton Delaval Hall back to life.

Romantic and partly ruined, Seaton Delaval Hall is a true gem of the North East but it has deteriorated badly over the centuries. Now the story of this historic building and its famous inhabitants can be told.

Family drama

Seaton Delaval Hall was built in the 18th century and was home to the Deleval family who were infamous for their parties, performances, pranks and flamboyant lifestyle. They also played a key role in the area's industries of coal mining and the production of salt and glass.

At dusk on the 3 January 1822, Seaton Deleval Hall was ablaze. The fire caused a great deal of damage.

Despite the late Lord Hasting's efforts to revive the Hall in the 1970s, it remains at risk and urgent conservation work is needed for the hall and its surrounding buildings. In 2009, it was acquired by the National Trust following a fundraising campaign.

The Curtain Rises project

As well as a programme of repairs, the Curtain Rises project will invest in much-needed visitor facilities and reveal the Deleval family’s story through new interpretation. At the heart of the project will be a volunteer and community programme creating new ways for the community to connect with this very special place.

Ivor Crowther, Head of HLF North East, said: “Seaton Delaval Hall and its historic surroundings are of outstanding significance but its future development was uncertain. The Curtain Rises project aims to secure the hall for future generations to enjoy. Thanks to National Lottery players we’re pleased to offer our initial support and look forward to seeing plans develop.”