



# *News Release*

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## **NEW GENERATION MEETS TRADITIONAL METHODS**



FIFE Council's aspiring craft apprentices have been learning about the secrets of Scotland's stone industry.

The apprentices were given a guided tour of the historic Swinton Quarry in the Borders, led by Marcus Paine, Managing Director of Hutton Stone. The tour gave them the chance to see different types of stone and improve their knowledge of raw materials.

Jordan Turnbull, Apprentice Stonemason with Building Services, said: "It was great to see the range of processes needed to make the end product that I use every day on site: from extracting the stone blocks at the quarry face, to the range of machinery used to cut and shape the stone.

"Watching the banker masons using hand tools and traditional techniques to finish the stone in the final stages was incredible. I was also amazed by the fine carving work by the Artist in Residence, Michelle De Bruin, and would like to try my hand at some stone carving soon."

"The visit was a great piece of continual professional development for all involved helping to bridge the gap of processing Scottish Stone - from conception to completion", said Mark Shaw Heritage, Supervisor with Fife Council.

Catriona Henderson, Fife Council Project Officer for the Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) programme, added: “This tour demonstrated how relevant traditional skills still are in the 21st century, and how they can be successfully combined with modern technology to meet the requirements of the construction industry. It was also fascinating to learn about the history of stone quarrying in Scotland and the importance of careful stone matching in repair and restoration projects.”

Lesley Laird, Depute Leader Councillor and Economy and Planning Spokesperson, concluded: “Continuing to successfully boost employment for local people is a top priority for Fife Council.

“These visits give our craft apprentices a real insight into the industry, and supports the development of their practical skills which they’ll need for the job market. This is just one of the many ways that we are working to ensure that Fife is the best place to do business, and a great place to recruit staff.”

Fife Council’s craft apprentices are part funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) programme.

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Did you know?

- Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) is operated by Fife Council and Fife Historic Buildings Trust, and core funded jointly by Historic Environment Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund, and Fife Council. The five-year CARS/THI programme, which runs until March 2019, will deliver a number of elements: priority building projects, a building repair grant scheme, public realm improvements to Cupar streets and closes, and training, apprenticeships and community engagement.
- Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, it invests in every part of our diverse heritage. To date it has invested over £588million in Scotland’s heritage.
- HLF’s Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) encourages partnerships of local organisations to carry out repairs and other works to a number of historic buildings, structures or spaces. Grants range from £500,000 to £2m. To date, HLF has invested over £214m regenerating towns that have suffered serious social and economic decline.
- Historic Environment Scotland’s Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) provides financial assistance, over a five year period, for Conservation Area based regeneration and conservation initiatives undertaken by Local and National Park Authorities, community

groups and other 3rd sector organisations experienced in delivering multi-funded projects. Since 2005, there have been six CARS application rounds awarding £33m of Scottish Government investment.



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