



News Release

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CRAFT APPRENTICES LEARN THEIR TRADE IN CUPAR



Fife Council's Building Services craft apprentices, who are partly funded through the Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme and Townscape Heritage Initiative, recently took part in a Heritage Skills mentoring training event.

The event included a walk around the Cupar conservation area. The apprentices were given the opportunity to see the historic buildings in Bonnygate and Crossgate that are in need of attention.

As the group walked around Cupar, areas of interest were pointed out and an explanation of how the damage occurred, the restoration possibilities and how to prevent further deterioration was presented by Richard Groom from the Construction Industry Training Board.

Richard Groom, CITB said: "It is important that our apprentices gain a solid understanding and working knowledge of heritage skills as this will provide an excellent foundation to build on during their careers. It is becoming increasingly important as we continue to restore and repair historic landmarks.

Fiona Stenke, Project Officer for Fife Historic Buildings Trust added: "Each building is unique, providing a townscape of architectural design which spans centuries. As the apprentices progress through their training, it is great to see them accessing opportunities like this take on the additional knowledge to allow them to be considered heritage-skilled tradesmen. Seeing young apprentices

and local companies so interested and engaged with the project will help to give inspiration to future apprentices and projects of this kind too.”

Jordan Turnbull, Craft Apprentice Stonemason with Fife Council’s Building Services said: “It’s great to see first-hand what needs to be done and how we can prevent further damage in the future. Getting the skills and insight to working on heritage sites is important and it is brilliant to be a part of this project.”

The training is 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.