



## April 2016 Newsletter

Dear All,

*The third year of the Cupar CARS/THI scheme has now begun, and there is lots to update you on!*

Painting of the **County Buildings** along St Catherine Street is now underway. The colour scheme was chosen by Fife Council's Conservation Officer following careful research. The building would originally have been unpainted and so the most historically appropriate colour scheme for repainting is stone shades to match the original stone finish, using a breathable mineral paint that will not damage the underlying stonework.

*Test panels for the County Buildings paint colour. The chosen colours are shown in the middle and right-hand panels:*



Good progress is being made on the **Burgh Chambers** project. The design team will soon submit the planning and listed building consent applications for the repair and conversion of the Burgh Chambers to a holiday let. The design has

been informed by an economic feasibility study and includes two en-suite bedrooms on the top floor with a generous kitchen and living area on the first floor, and all finished to a high standard. The drawings can be viewed at the Cupar Development Trust 'Cupar Could' event on Thursday 21 April at the Cupar Corn Exchange. Also, please do get in touch if you know of anyone who would be interested in managing the holiday let once the works are finished (expected Autumn 2017).

Lots can be done to improve the energy efficiency of older buildings, and the Efficiency Officer is keen to hear from anyone who would like a free **energy efficiency audit** of their property. This will include images taken with a thermal imaging camera which can show where your house is losing heat – here's an example from Historic Environment Scotland's 'Improving Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings' Inform Guide:

*Thermal image showing the reduction in heat loss with the traditional shutters closed (right) and the shutters open (left)*



*Image courtesy of Historic Environment Scotland*

Young people are benefiting from the Cupar CARS/THI project in a number of ways. In February, eighteen young people from **Bell Baxter High School** enjoyed working alongside experts from the Scottish Lime Centre Trust to design and produce their own 'Mason's mark' in blocks of stone. This is the first of many activities that will be held for Bell Baxter pupils as part of a heritage skills academy.

*A pupil from Bell Baxter creating his own 'Mason's mark' in stone:*



Four **traditional skills apprenticeships** (two in masonry and two in joinery) are now up and running with funding from the Cupar CARS/THI project. Three of these are with Fife Council Building Services and one is with East Fife Joinery. Two more private sector apprenticeships will also be created. The apprentices attended a training event in March led by Richard Groom, CITB Traditional Building Skills Project Coordinator for Scotland. This included a tour of the Cupar

CARS/THI project area to identify issues with buildings and examples of good and bad maintenance practice.

#### *Craft apprentices training event*



A programme of training and events for **the local community** is being prepared and an update will follow soon. One date to keep in your diary is Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June: Moses Jenkins from Historic Environment Scotland will be following up on last year's successful event with a session on repair and maintenance techniques and energy efficiency improvements.

The **Building Repair Grant Scheme** for private property owners has now been up and running for a year and the first project has been completed successfully. We will be changing the way the grant scheme is managed by introducing application deadlines to encourage projects to come forward more quickly, and I will be in touch again soon with more information on this.

*If you have any questions or would like to find out more please email me at [fiona@fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk](mailto:fiona@fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk) or call 01592 890060.*