



News Release

September 2015

FREE TRADITIONAL SKILLS TRAINING FOR CUPAR CONTRACTORS

Traditional skills training is being delivered by the Scottish Lime Centre Trust free of charge for contractors based in the Cupar area. A range of training is on offer for local contractors looking to brush up on existing skills or gain new skills. Courses range from making and using traditional mortars, to joinery repair techniques for sash and case windows, and traditional vernacular roofing. The next training dates are 17 October (Sash and Case Window Repair) and 23 & 24 November (Making and Using Traditional Mortars). A breakfast meeting for contractors will be held at the Cupar County Buildings at 8am on Friday 18 September and is a chance for local contractors to find out more about the free training as well as financially supported traditional skills apprenticeships, work placements and mentoring opportunities. Speakers will include CITB, Fife College, Fife Historic Buildings Trust and the Scottish Lime Centre Trust.

The training is funded by Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) programme.

The training is being delivered in parallel with a building repair grant scheme in Cupar. A grant pot of approximately £560,000 is available for properties within a designated area at the heart of the Cupar Conservation Area, which includes St Catherine Street and part of Bonnygate and Crossgate. Grants can support sensitive repairs to historic buildings using traditional materials and skills, as well as the reinstatement of appropriate architectural details such as improvements to historic shop fronts. Property owners will be encouraged to employ contractors who have attended traditional skills training or who employ traditional skills apprentices.

North East Fife has around 3000 listed buildings, and in Cupar town centre alone there are nearly 200 listed buildings and around 80% of private sector dwellings were built before 1919. This means that there is a strong market for local contractors with a sound understanding of traditional skills and the particular requirements of historic buildings. The traditional skills training will allow local contractors to compete more effectively for the upcoming building repair grants work, and it is hoped that a legacy of the Cupar CARS/THI programme will be to increase the local pool of contractors with the necessary skills to carry out repairs and maintenance in an appropriate and sympathetic manner.

A range of events and training will also be delivered for the local community, such as maintenance seminars, a traditional skills open day, and free energy efficiency audits for historic properties within the Cupar Conservation Area.

To find out more or to sign up to the training, please contact Catriona Henderson on CatrionaM.Henderson@fife.gov.uk or call 03451 555 555 + Extension 440291. Course details can be found on the Scottish Lime Centre Trust website at www.scotlime.org

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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 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 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.

