



December 2015 Newsletter

Dear All,

Just a quick update as the Cupar CARS/THI scheme moves towards the end of its second year (with three more years to go!)

One of the key projects is the repair and reuse of the **Burgh Chambers**. The project team have narrowed down the options to three uses (holiday let, offices for let and affordable housing) and are recommending the holiday let option as the most suitable use for this prominent building. As it is a Common Good property a formal consultation process is needed to approve the new use, and so far the Community Council and the Area Committee have welcomed the proposal. The next step is for approval from the Executive Committee. The detailed design for the building will begin in January 2016 and the project is expected to be on site in January 2017.

The **County Buildings** project is on track for completion early next year. The West wing is being converted to affordable housing with a new build element at the back, and there is some CARS/THI funding to allow repairs to be carried out to a high conservation standard. Changes visible from street level include the removal of the modern dormer windows and refurbishment of the sash and case windows, and the St Catherine Street façade will soon be painted.

West Wing before works started:



West Wing after dormer windows removed:



The Energy Efficiency Officer (Gregor Stewart) has carried out some **energy efficiency audits** on older properties in the town. These surveys can identify energy efficiency measures that are appropriate for historic buildings – an old house doesn't need to be a cold house! Gregor is encouraging anyone with an old property in Cupar to get in touch for a free survey (please email Gregor.Stewart@fife.gov.uk). There will also be energy efficiency volunteering opportunities; these will be advertised through Fife Voluntary Action in the new year. Gregor now has a thermal imaging

camera that can take pictures showing where your house is losing heat – here's an example from Falkland Palace (photos courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland)

Image with a normal camera:



Image with a thermal camera:



A number of **traditional skills training** courses have been held for local contractors. These have been delivered by the Scottish Lime Centre Trust and include sash and case window repair and making and using traditional lime mortars. More courses will be delivered next year.

Training sessions for **the local community** have also been delivered, including an energy efficiency seminar by Historic

Environment Scotland and a presentation on Common Repairs and maintenance. We are organising lots more training and events for next year!

The **Building Repair Grant Scheme** has been up and running since April. This scheme is designed to help private owners in the centre of Cupar to repair and conserve the external fabric and traditional appearance of their buildings. There has been lots of interest in this locally, and we have already awarded one grant. We expect more grants to be awarded in the next few months – look out for the Cupar CARS/THI sign!



If you have any questions or would like to find out more please email me at fiona@fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk or call 01592 890060.

*Fiona Stenke
Project Officer, Fife Historic Buildings Trust*