



March 2017 Newsletter

Dear All,

We are now approaching the end of the third year of the Cupar CARS/THI, with two more years still to come:

Work to transform the **Burgh Chambers** into a holiday let apartment has now begun, following the appointment of the main contractor, John Smart & Son (Kirkcaldy) Ltd. Scaffolding is going up and work is underway inside the building. One consequence of this is that the clock has been disconnected to allow electrical works to the building and is likely to remain stopped throughout the project. The good news is that the clock faces and mechanism will be fully refurbished.

The clock faces and mechanism will be refurbished and the weather vane will be cleaned and regilded:



The Burgh Chambers project is expected to be completed by autumn 2017. In the meantime, Fife Council is keen to hear from any organisations or individuals who would be interested in managing the holiday let once the works are finished.

For those who would like to see inside the building while the works are ongoing, two **hard-hat tours** will be held for the local community, led by Arc Architects. Professionals and contractors will also have the opportunity to attend **workshops** on traditional sash and case window repair at the Burgh Chambers, led by James Normand & Son who will be repairing the historic windows.

The Scottish Lime Centre Trust's **stone and slate building survey** of the historic centre of Cupar is now complete. The results of the survey are presented in a report which can be viewed at fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk/cupar-cars/38-cupar-stone-survey

The report outlines the condition and conservation needs of Cupar's significant architectural heritage and identifies suitable matching stone and slate for use in repairs. As part of the main survey, individual mini-surveys of the majority of the buildings in the town centre were prepared, and building owners can request a copy free of charge.

A seminar will be held from 9.00am to 12.30pm on 10th April 2017 at the County Buildings to explain the findings of the survey and the importance of stone and mortar matching in repairs.

The **training programme** for 2016/17 has been well attended and further details on upcoming courses can be found here: fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk/cupar-cars/37-training-programme

A participant dressing slates at the Maintenance and Repair of Traditional Roofing course in January:



The **Building Repair Grant Scheme** is proving popular: sixteen grants totalling £260,000 have been awarded so far, resulting in an investment of over £500,000 for Cupar's built heritage and providing opportunities for local contractors and professionals. Expressions of interest are now invited for the next round of grants, with a closing date of 28 April 2017. Due to the high level of interest, grants will still be limited to the priority area in the centre of Cupar.

Building Repair Grant Scheme project at 7 St Catherine Street (masonry and concealed lead-lined gutter repaired, windows repaired and painted to match historic colour scheme,

historic projecting window detail reinstated, façade repainted in breathable mineral paint):



Gregor Stewart, the Energy Efficiency Officer, is working with **Bell Baxter** pupils to raise awareness of Energy Efficiency in older buildings. The project began with a visit to the Burgh Chambers to see the interior before works started, and three further visits are scheduled during the construction phase and on completion of the works.

Bell Baxter pupils at the Burgh Chambers:



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