

January 2018 Newsletter

Dear All,

The external works at the **Burgh Chambers** are complete – the scaffolding came down in November, revealing the repaired stone façade, clock tower and dome. A big thank you to all the nearby businesses and residents for your patience during the works.

FHBT is in discussions with Fife Council about taking on the lease to the historic holiday-let apartment, so you can start planning your stay from summer 2018!

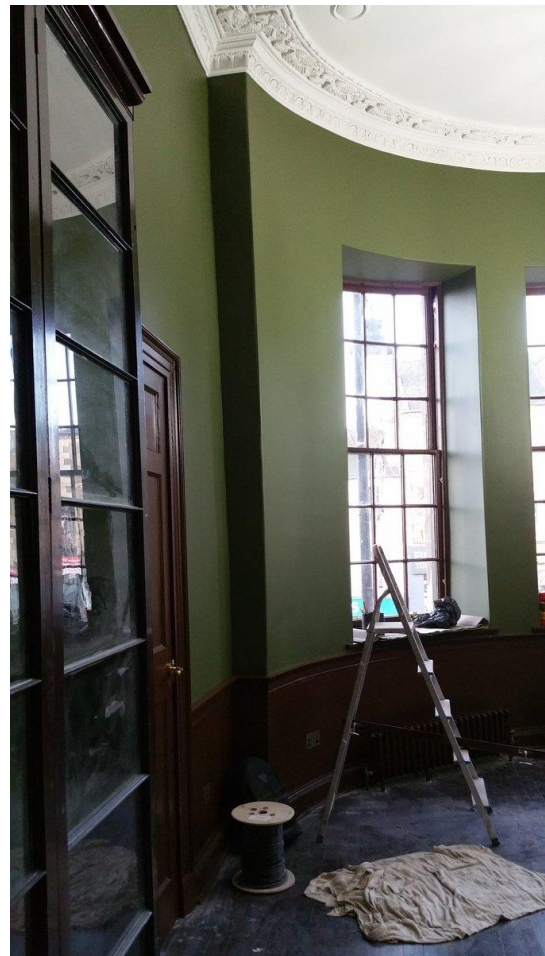
The exterior of the Burgh Chambers - the natural stone finish is visible again and the clock tower has been repaired to match the evidence in historic photographs:



Sadly the golden cockerel that went missing from the top of the weathervane hasn't been recovered, so the contractor is arranging for a replica to be installed.

The internal works are nearly complete too, and we will be arranging an open day for the community in the next few months, date to be announced soon! Meanwhile, here is a taster photo ...

The first floor main room, with its new paint scheme and repaired cornice and windows:



We were delighted to take part in a careers day at **Bell Baxter High School** in December, in partnership with the Fife & Tayside Traditional Building Forum. Eighty S4 pupils had the chance to try their hand at four different traditional skills (slating, stone masonry, joinery and sign writing) and to discuss potential careers in the sector with a range of contractors and professionals.

S4 pupils have a go at stonemasonry and slating:



All the funding for the **Building Repair Grant Scheme** has now been allocated: 38 grants have been awarded so far and a handful more owners are finalising their project proposals. Due to the high level of interest, grants have been limited to the priority area in the centre of Cupar.

A wonderful transformation at the Lighthouse Cafe (removal of damaging paint, masonry repairs and shopfront improvements):



The project to improve some of Cupar's **historic closes** is underway. The design team, led by erz, has prepared outline proposals for three closes and wynds, however the available budget will only allow two of these to be taken forward. Following the community consultation in November – thank you to all who took part - Fife Council has agreed to focus on Steele's Close and Speedie's Close.

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

fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk/project/cupar
Twitter: @FifeHistoricBT