



May 2018 Newsletter

Dear All,

We are now in the final year of the Cupar CARS/THI – the project ends March 2019!

Key achievements so far:

- 2 disused public buildings have been repaired and adapted for new uses that will benefit the local community and economy (the County Buildings West Wing and the Burgh Chambers)
- 48 grants totalling £520,000 have been awarded to private owners for external building repairs. Match funding from the owners will result in the investment of more than £1 million in Cupar's town centre buildings
- 6 traditional skills apprenticeships have been created
- Over 800 young people, property owners, contractors, professionals and the wider community have taken part in events and traditional skills training

Thank you to everyone who attended the **Burgh Chambers** open day in February, it was great to get your views and feedback on the project. The internal works are now complete and furnishing is underway with the help of local furniture historian, David Jones. FHBT will be managing the holiday-let apartment, and we have taken our first bookings for July! You too can book your stay through our website, https://fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk/fife_holiday_lets/cupar-burgh-chambers/

Don't forget to check chimneys regularly to make sure they are safe and well-maintained! You may have noticed the new sandstone chimney at 1 The Barony: the owners received a **building repair grant** to rebuild the chimney using traditional materials, to match the original chimney that had to be demolished after part of the gable collapsed in 2016. A case study leaflet has been prepared by Arc Architects outlining the cause of the initial collapse and the methods for repair and ongoing maintenance. This is also available [on our website](#).

The new sandstone chimney at 1 The Barony – the gable wall below the chimney was also repointed using lime mortar to create a stable base for the new chimney:



The project to improve **Steele's Close and Speedie's Close** will soon be going out to tender. The work is expected to start in June and will take around 6 months to complete. During this time there will be some unavoidable disruption to residents and businesses who use the closes as access will be limited and a section of the council's car park at the back will be in use by the contractor. Fife Council apologises for any inconvenience this may cause, and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Matthew Price (Matthew.Price@fife.gov.uk).

Improvements to the temporary hoarding at the **Bonnygate gap site** will begin soon. The height of the hoarding will be increased and interpretation telling the story of the site and Cupar will be added. Fife Council has explored the feasibility of also having a banner at high level to hide the structural supports but unfortunately this won't be possible as it is more technically challenging and expensive than anticipated.

An artist's impression of the Bonnygate gap site hoarding:



Please help spread the word about the **traditional skills training** on offer during the final year of the project. This includes:

- £500 training bursaries for contractors to fund traditional skills training for their apprentices and junior staff
- A mentor scheme for contractors involved in the repair and maintenance of traditional buildings to access bespoke advice and support for their business and staff
- Lunchtime CPD training for specifiers and contractors, details to follow soon
- A community archaeological dig, details to follow soon

Training for contractors at Hutton Stone quarry in the Scottish Borders:



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

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