



News Release

16 March 2020

LOCALS ARE BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE AT INVERKEITHING'S TOWN HOUSE

Over three days in February an archaeologist and a team of volunteers carried out a standing building survey on the Town House in Inverkeithing. They discovered many tantalising clues to the building's long and complex history.

Archaeologist David Sneddon guided the community volunteers through the skills and archaeological techniques needed to investigate, measure and record this fascinating building at the heart of the Royal Burgh of Inverkeithing. Though 1770 is proudly carved over the door of the Town House, its history goes back much further.

This survey is part of a larger Burgh Survey which will include surveying the Friary Hospitium and two archaeological digs. Historian Dr Tom Turpie is leading workshops for local people on historical resources and research techniques. An oral history project will start in the autumn, allowing the voices of Inverkeithing people to be recorded in a published Burgh Survey.

The standing building survey was one of the activities that Fife Historic Buildings Trust are delivering, on behalf of Fife Council, and partner funders Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage fund. It is a small part of an ambitious programme of heritage-led regeneration in Inverkeithing. The 5-year Inverkeithing

Heritage Regeneration will see over £3.6 million invested in Inverkeithing's heritage. The project will see repairs and conservation projects running in parallel with an ambitious activity programme.

The local volunteers clocked up a total of 102 hours discovering how the features and "phases of the building fit together." Using photos to "find features not visible from a casual inspection." One volunteer said they'd "definitely look at old buildings differently in future."

All the results will eventually be published in an illustrated book. It will tell the amazing story of Inverkeithing's architectural and archaeological riches and outstanding heritage.

Emma Griffiths, Training and Development Officer at Fife Historic Buildings Trust, said "The information gathered was tantalising. The archaeologists are now piecing together all the evidence and will soon produce their conclusions in an eagerly awaited Town House report.

"We'd like to thank the volunteers who took part, they described their experience as 'fascinating', 'thoroughly enjoyable' and, about the experience of practical archaeology as 'like catnip for me!'"

Councillor Alice McGarry, Convenor of the South and West Fife Villages Area Committee, added "These activities are not just a real benefit to the wider community, but they allow people to get involved, rediscover their local history and learn new skills. This complements the physical regeneration work that is planned as part of the project. I'm sure the report will make fascinating reading!"

If you have any questions or would like to find out more, please email

inverkeithing@fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk or visit

www.fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk/inverkeithing



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Notes to Editors:

- Inverkeithing has a rich history and heritage, reflected in its large Conservation Area and many listed buildings. Fife Council is working with Fife Historic Buildings Trust and the local community to invest in Inverkeithing's historic buildings and streets to support the town's future. The five-year Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration scheme, which runs until March 2024, will deliver a number of elements: priority building projects, a building repair grant scheme, public realm improvements to the Inverkeithing High Street area, and training and community engagement.
- The Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration scheme is funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund (£1,255,900 via its Townscape Heritage programme), Historic Environment Scotland (£1,007,700 via its Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme), and Fife Council. Over £3.6 million will be invested in Inverkeithing's heritage during the five-year programme.
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund is the largest dedicated funder of heritage in the UK, believing that understanding, valuing and sharing our heritage brings people together, inspires pride in communities and boosts investment in local economies.
- Using money raised by the National Lottery, we inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund
- National Lottery grants range from £3,000 to £5million and over, funding projects that sustain and transform the UK's heritage
- Historic Environment Scotland's Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) programme can offer grant of up to £2 million to support cohesive

heritage-focused community and economic growth projects within Conservation Areas across Scotland.

- HES expect CARS to deliver a combination of larger building repair projects, small third-party grant schemes providing funding for repairs to properties in private ownership, activities which promote community engagement with the local heritage and training for professionals in traditional building skills, all of which will contribute to sustainable economic and community development within the Conservation Area.
- The CARS funding programme has been in operation since 2007 with over £40m awarded to date. Applications for Round 8 were accepted up to 15 November 2018. Applicants were notified of funding decisions in March 2019.

Further information: Fife Historic Buildings Trust: www.fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk

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