

hands on Heritage Skills



Participant on the September Stone Tracery day with P&S Coverdale Masonry Ltd

Welcome to the final HSI newsletter of 2008

The North of England Civic Trust's Heritage Skills Initiative is now into its third year! It's been a busy year, full of new and exciting things like the first regional Training the Trainers programme, the jump from running 5 days of events in 2007 to 69 days of events in 2008 and of course the Heritage Skills Fair at Gibside.

Funding continues from English Heritage and Construction Skills for the core post of Co-ordinator into 2009, however the events this year will require more funding to be sought. Watch this space for the 2009 programme...

Also, please look at page 4 where we detail available grants, jobs and an exciting event for contractors!

If you have any ideas of what you would like to see included in next years programme of events please contact me on andie.harris@nect.org.uk and let me know.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Andie Harris, Heritage Skills Co-ordinator 1

Development and Marketing

In the local press...

HSI has had continued press coverage for events throughout the year with articles in November about 'Skills on the Rise' and 'Revival of crafts can enhance heritage; New generation discovers old skills' as well as the article below which appeared in local press last week in November.

Traditional skills can protect the past

New careers help fill the skills gap and safeguard the North East's heritage. Two North East men, both graduates of Heritage Skills Initiative courses, have turned their personal interests into new careers and in the process are helping safeguard the country's heritage.

Paul Heal, of Stockton-on-Tees, and Daniel McColl, of Eggleston in Teesdale, both started working recently as dry stone wallers and took the opportunity to boost their skills at the English Heritage-supported courses at Belsay Hall, Northumberland. The Heritage Skills Initiative courses aim to help reduce the gap in heritage skills and raise awareness of the need for skilled workers in the heritage sector across the region. Earlier this year English Heritage launched its Heritage at Risk Register, which showed that there are more than 120 Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings and structural monuments at risk in the North East. If these heritage treasures are to be saved, it is crucial that the workforce repairing and maintaining them have the skills to do the job properly.



L-R: Paul Heal, Ray Stockdale, Andie Harris, Daniel McColl

Paul Heal, aged 48, spent 15 years in the RAF and then had a career in the care industry, working for social services and the NHS. But, he said: "I know it sounds daft, but I have always been interested in stone. I love the old skills, and if you look at what can be achieved it is remarkable." Paul first put his interest into practice, and started to learn the necessary skills, on weekend and holiday courses run by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, and followed up this experience at an agricultural college in Scotland and by becoming a member of the Dry Stone Walling Association. He broadened his skills to include the use of lime mortar, and undertook further training with the Heritage Skills Initiative. His most recent training was on a HSI course at Belsay in partnership with English Heritage and led by a registered instructor from the Dry Stone Walling Association.

Paul works on some occasions alongside Daniel McColl, another newcomer to the dry stone walling business who also attended some of the recent courses held at Belsay by the Heritage Skills Initiative and English Heritage. Daniel, aged 26, obtained a BSc then an MSc in sports science at Teesside University but decided about three years ago to develop his career in a new direction. He said, "Although I was working in sports science, it was still a computer-based job sitting in an office. I was doing research at the university into issues involving bone structure. In 2005 I decided to change direction and decided on dry stone walling because it came across as a very satisfying job and it would enable me to work outdoors".

Daniel started off doing voluntary work, picking up basic skills, and gradually increased his involvement in the business. He was supported by the Northern Cultural Skills Partnership, and in April this year took the momentous step of giving up his work in sports science altogether and going into dry stone walling on a full-time basis. He continued, "I have jumped ship completely and have got to make a go of it. It is hard at the moment, but the basic qualification I took on the course at Belsay is a help and I plan to go on to gain higher qualifications in future and develop my skills in areas like the use of lime mortar. I am moving into restoration work as well and I'd love to work on historic buildings when I get more qualifications and skills behind me."



Daniel McColl, left, pictured with fellow Heritage Skills graduate, Paul Heal

Andie Harris, North East Heritage Skills Co-ordinator, said, "It's has been a fantastic year for the Heritage Skills initiative and Paul and Daniel are two of this year's success stories and we wish them every success in this incredibly satisfying field."

Training and Advocacy

2nd Annual Regional Heritage Skills Action Group conference, Alnwick, November 2008

The annual Regional Heritage Skills Action Group conference was held on the 11th November at Alnwick Castle. It provided an opportunity to get a national overview of progress from Mike Moody, Chair of NHTG followed by regional overviews.

Each regional representative spoke about their progression and challenges faced during 2008 and outlined potential targets for the forthcoming year.

Richard Bayliss demonstrated the functionality of the new look NHTG website with the addition of the regional pages and information. The website is due to go live in the new year.

www.nhtg.org.uk

CSCS Cards – awarded to Historic Property Restoration Ltd.

The first two brand new CSCS heritage skills cards have been awarded to Charlie Catlow (pictured) and Alan Foster of Historic Property Restoration Ltd.

The cards were awarded during the annual conference at Alnwick Castle



National Gutter Day

Friday 28th November saw National Gutters Day run into Bedlington as part of a joint partnership between NECT, Wansbeck District Council and Alert Property Services Ltd.

National Gutters Day is part of National Maintenance Week, the brain child of The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). The campaign aims to encourage homeowners and others to be aware of the simple economic and achievable maintenance steps they can take to maintain their buildings.

To mark the event Alert Property Services Ltd carried out a gutter cleaning demonstration on a number of commercial properties on Bedlington Front Street West. The demonstration kicked-off at Tallantyre Interiors at around 10am and then ran throughout the day. At 1pm renowned SPAB Lethaby scholar, Alan Gardner, gave an informal talk at the local Salvation Army Hall to property owners and local professionals alike. The talk contained invaluable information on how to maintain your property correctly and what not to spend money on.

Listeners to BBC Radio Newcastle may also have heard NECT's very own Jules Brown being interviewed and carrying out a gutter cleaning demonstration live on the Breakfast Show.

The event generated some excellent publicity for us and we are looking into the possibility of making it an annual event in the HSI calendar.

2007/8 Bursaries

We secured two traditional skills bursary scheme placements, a one year placement in stonemasonry with Historic Property Restoration and a six month placement with AW Artistic Blacksmiths. Both of these placements are now completed and both Ian McMaster and Lee Knibbs continue to work in their chosen sectors.

All bursary recipients were invited to a presentation at the Tower of London to recognise their hard work during their placements on Tuesday 9th December and were presented with certificates and pin badges.

2009 Bursary Opportunities

If you or a company you know, can provide a placement, please contact me on andie.harris@nect.org.uk or 0191 2329279 as we have a further 6 bursaries to be awarded during 2009 -10

Grants, Jobs and Events News

Grants for Craft Training (<http://www.hi-arts.co.uk/default.aspx.locid-hianewodk.Lang-EN.htm>)

The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST) makes awards ranging from £1,000 to £15,000 to craftsmen and women of all ages to help them further their careers. Since 1991 the Trust has awarded over £1,215,000 to 191 craftspeople aged between 17 and 50 plus for study, training and work experience. QEST was established in 1990 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Warrant Holders Association and the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

What are Scholarships awarded for? To fund further study, training and practical experience for craftsmen and women who want to improve their craft and trade skills. Scholarships may not be used for acquiring equipment, premises or for other business set-up costs.

How much is each Scholarship worth? Between £1,000 and £15,000. The size of each award depends on how much funding is needed for a project. Scholarship winners also receive an emblazoned certificate.

What sort of crafts are covered? A huge range of modern and traditional crafts. Scholarship winners have included: an antiques restorer, calligraphers, book conservators, potters, silversmiths, upholsterers and many more.

Who can apply? There is no age limit. But you need to demonstrate you already have a high level of skill and are firmly committed to your craft or trade. You must live and work permanently in the UK to be eligible for a Scholarship. You do not have to be connected with firms or individuals holding Royal Warrants.

What are they looking for? Well thought out proposals which will contribute to the excellence of modern and traditional British crafts. On the application form you need to explain clearly why the proposed training will improve your skills and what you expect to achieve as a result. You also need to give a careful estimate of the full cost of the training you would like to undertake.

How to apply Scholarships are awarded twice a year. Completed forms for Spring 2009 Scholarships must be received not later than 9 January 2009.

Contact: General enquiries, The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust, No 1 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR T: 020 7828 2268

qest@rwha.co.uk

Turquoise Mountain is investing in the regeneration of the historic commercial centre of Kabul, providing basic services, saving historic buildings and constructing a new bazaar and galleries for traditional craft businesses. It has established Afghanistan's first Higher Education Institute for Afghan Arts & Architecture gathering some of the greatest Masters in Afghanistan and training students to produce masterpieces in wood, calligraphy and ceramics.

Turquoise Mountain are recruiting for a number of interesting vacancies in Afghanistan:

Managing Director
Senior Conservation Architect,
Conservation Architect or Conservation Builder,
Project Architect
Senior Joiner / Woodworking Advisor / Joinery Production Manager
Interested in building new with traditional materials... like mud!



Further information and how to apply can be found on the link below

<http://www.turquoisemountain.org/index.php?actionid=1@XD6Y7X9Js4A&pageid=67&viewtype=normal>

2009 Events Programme

The 2009 events programme planning is underway after a very successful programme held during 2008. However, due to funding constraints we will no longer be able to offer the courses free of charge and the 2009 events programme will attract a subsidised cost for those attending to assist with meeting the costs of such a programme. There will be additional CPD opportunities and prospects to gain evidence towards the NVQ level 3's in Heritage Skills throughout the 2009 programme.

Please check www.nect.org.uk for details of the 2009 programme in February 2009.

Contractors Breakfast Meeting

We will be holding a contractors breakfast meeting in March 2009 to highlight training and development opportunities to those working in the sector. If you, or anyone you know would be interested in attending this event, contact me on andie.harris@nect.org.uk or 0191 2329279 to book a place.