

hands on Heritage Skills



The Green Festival: A HPR stonemason helps a festival goer try her hand at stonemasonry.

40,253 hours of heritage skills promotion and training!

Welcome to the HSI summer newsletter of 2010

The North of England Civic Trust's Heritage Skills Initiative has got lots planned for 2010!

The training and events programme has got off to a brilliant start in both the North East and Cumbria. In this newsletter we take a look at some of the events so far. Also in this edition are further details of the engineering heritage skills programme which has just been awarded £490,100 by the heritage lottery fund!

You will also find the link to the 2010 Training and Events programme for both the North East and Cumbria, which is available online at: <http://www.nect.org.uk/index.php?page=training-and-events-programmes-2010>

We hope to see you during 2010!

Andie Harris, Learning and Skills Manager and Lisa Rothwell-Young Cumbria Project Coordinator

What is in the Newsletter?

New Marketing for Heritage Skills Initiative



Have you spotted our new pop-up banners out and about yet? So far they've made appearances at the Association of Building Engineers exhibition in Gateshead and the Green Festival in Newcastle to name but a few. Keep your eyes peeled for us at other events near you!



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The Heritage Skills Initiative are on Facebook! Join our Facebook group to receive and share up to the minute heritage skills news.

ATTENTION! MIA Route is CLOSING on the 30th of September

If you are a contractor who works on pre 1919 and listed buildings you may find yourself not being eligible to work on this type of building or being put forward for tender lists should you not be a holder of the CSCS heritage card.

There are currently 2 routes to get this card – MIA (Management of Industry Accreditation) – a short form detailing specific projects and work undertaken in the last five years for those who work on historic sites and the full NVQ3 Heritage Skills route.

The MIA route closes at the end of August this year and so it is imperative that those working in the sector take advantage of this route and ensure that you have a fully accredited workforce able to work within the ten points laid out in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by English Heritage, ConstructionSkills and Government on 31st March 2009. We CANNOT stress how important it is for those who are eligible to take up this route while it is available.

HSI will be holding a contractors breakfast event on Thursday 12th August which will look at CSCS cards and the MIA route, watch out for more information soon!



HSI 2010 Training and Events so far!

As the Training and Events programmes from 2010 enter their 13th week, here is an idea of what we've been getting up to over the past few months.

As we reported in the last newsletter the programmes for the North East and Cumbria were launched this year at symposiums at the rheed centre in Penrith and at Brancepeth Castle in Brancepeth, Co Durham. Here are a few more photos from the North East symposium at Brancepeth showcasing the renovated St Brandon's church which lies in the grounds of the Castle. The Church is open to the public during daylight hours.



Clay Dabbins

The first two weeks of the three week Clay Dabbins course in Cumbria have been completed in Threapland. As the pictures below show, they certainly appear to be getting very muddy in the process!



Alan Gardner Lecture Series

Alan Gardner's Lecture Series in the North East kicked off on the 19th May with 'Principles of Conservation' at Northumbria University. Followed by 'Including Training on your Historic Building Site' on the 30th June. Both lectures were well attended by a mixture of heritage professionals, contractors, architects, conservation officers, planning and surveying professionals and students. As usual SPAB Lethaby scholar Alan Gardner easily held the attention of the room in lectures which perfectly balanced technical information and accessibility for those unfamiliar with the topic.

Alan Gardner started the Cumbria lecture series on the 9th June with James Innerdale also contributing to the series on the 23rd June looking at 'Integrating Modern Architecture into Historic Areas'.

Lectures continue in the North East from the 13th October and in Cumbria on 1st September.

For a full list of the remaining lectures please see the training and events programmes, available online at:

<http://www.nect.org.uk/index.php?page=training-and-events-programmes-2010>

The Green Festival

Sunny day out for the Heritage Skills Initiative at the 15th Green Festival, Leazes Park, Newcastle Upon Tyne

The crowds were out in force for the Green Festival this weekend, despite the Sunday's wet weather.

HSI were there with demonstrators from the National Trust and Historic Property Restoration (HPR). Festival goers had an opportunity to see an explosive lime slake and traditional box and sash window construction. People were also given the chance to have a go at lime pointing and plastering and stonemasonry for themselves.

It was great to get the message about traditional skills and materials to a new audience and to see just how much interest there was in heritage skills due to their use of natural materials and sustainability.

Below are some of our favourite pictures from the day. If you did not make it down to see us this year, we are hoping to take part again next year so pop along !



Walk and Talks

Walk and Talk tours of the historic vanished village of Barforth and award winning Shittleheugh Bastle

The first two walk and talk events in the North east programme to go ahead allowed the public to get up close to two heritage sites at risk, one currently undergoing consolidation works, and the other recently consolidated by Heritage Consolidation with Architect Peter Kempsey.

Barforth, near Gainford in County Durham, is the site of a now largely invisible medieval village which boasts not one, but three built structures at risk; A bridge, dovecote, and church. The walk and talk on the 27th May looked at the masonry repairs which are currently underway on all three. The bridge tells a fascinating story of its own, confounding archaeologists and contractors alike when the cores of the bridge taken out to allow for syntec anchors to be put into place to hold the apparently unsound structure together revealed that it was, in fact, backfilled with concrete. When, by whom, or why the Bridge was filled with Concrete remains a mystery as there is no information in the records that we have yet been able to find. The larger gaps created by the concrete pushing out the face of the bridge were filled, and the wall was re-topped with coping stones.

Work on the dovecote had not yet fully begun as the contractor was waiting for the results of an archaeological survey to determine a safe route across the site, but visitors got an idea of how they plan on making the structure sound and taking it back to its original appearance by re-rendering it to match some of the render left on the structure.

In contrast, work on the church was in full flow with scaffold currently up and re-pointing and capping currently underway. Here visitors had the chance to see the contractors in action, and had the methods explained to them up on the scaffold by the workmen. There was also an opportunity to get an idea of how the contractor and architect worked together to come to decisions about which methods and materials were best in which situations.

Shittleheugh Bastle is set a top a hill in Otterburn, Northumberland. Its not exactly the most forgiving location in terms of weather, so those visiting the sit on 2nd June were definitely lucky with the sunshine. After walking to the Bastle, which is on the Heritage at Risk register, the contractor, architect, and archaeologist involved in the consolidation project last year explained the work that was done on the site and the challenges which working in such an isolated location posed. For one thing, the archaeological sensitivity of the surrounding area meant that Heritage Consolidation had to purchase a quad bike with balloon tyres to move materials to the site without damaging underlying archaeology.

Also the harsh, exposed weather conditions meant that to ensure the lime mortar used on the Bastle didn't fail the whole structure was wrapped in hessian sacking for the winter.

The mortar didn't fail, and the project was a resounding success. So much so that, as reported in last quarter's newsletter, it won the heritage award for best small project at the Constructing Excellence North East awards in May.

Photos from top: Gary Simpson of Heritage Consolidation explains the work done on the bridge at Barforth, Gary Peter Kempsey and members of the public at the dovecote, Mike Simpson working on removing vegetation from the church, Gary and Peter explaining work on Shittleheugh Bastle, Members of the public listen to the archaeologist, contractor and architect explain work at the Bastle.



More Walk and Talk lectures will be happening throughout the summer across the North East and Cumbria. For more details see the training and events programmes available online at: <http://www.nect.org.uk/index.php?page=training-and-events-programmes-2010>

Heritage Engineering Skills

The Heritage Skills Initiative at North of England Civic Trust are pleased to announce that its joint 'Skills for the Future' Heritage Lottery Fun bid with Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums has been successful! The bid will fund placements for the next generation to be trained in engineering heritage skills. Below are further details of the programme.

Some of the region's specialist heritage skills are to be passed on to a new generation to ensure that the North East's industrial history will be preserved for the future.

Thanks to a grant of £490,100 from the [Heritage Lottery Fund](#) (HLF) under their 'Skills for the Future' programme, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums and North of England Civic Trust will be able to offer training placements in practical heritage engineering skills to 24 people across the region.

The training programme aims to provide participants with varied skills including the repair and maintenance of steam engines and trams, and skills to maintain examples of Victorian industry such as mining and water pumping equipment.

Iain Watson, acting director, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums says,

"The North East is famed as the birthplace of the railway and the region's fortune was made through mining, shipbuilding and marine engineering.

However we have reached a stage now where former miners and engineers are aging or retiring and vital skills to preserve our industrial collections are dying out. The Skills for the Future programme not only addresses this skills gap head on, but it enables a new generation to gain first hand experience working alongside expert older workers, develop their practical skills and contribute to the maintenance and preservation of some of the most important industrial heritage exhibits in the North East."

The placements will cover a range of skills from mechanical engineering, metalwork and carpentry to painting and finishing and pattern making. Trainees will be able to preserve and protect valuable pieces of history and get some hands on experience in the field.

Andie Harris, heritage skills co-ordinator at North of England Civic Trust says,

"The Heritage Skills Initiative (HSI) is committed to reducing the skills shortage in the North East's heritage sector. The Skills for the Future programme is an engaging way for younger people to connect with valuable pieces of the region's heritage whilst also preserving the essential skills needed to ensure their future.

It is the first time the HSI has undertaken a programme involving industrial heritage skills and it will be a huge benefit to add this specialist knowledge to our remit."

Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums and North of England Civic Trust will work in collaboration with museums, heritage societies and voluntary groups in the region to deliver a programme of work based training placements.

This is just one of a number of North East Skills for the Future projects. In total there are 54 projects across the UK and with an overall investment of £17m from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This money will deliver 808 placements and adds up to an impressive 780 years' worth of paid training opportunities for people across the UK seeking a career in heritage.

If you want any more information, may be able to offer placements, or are interested in being involved in another capacity please contact Andie Harris, heritage skills coordinator at andie.harris@nect.org.uk and she will be able to answer any queries and put you on our list to be kept informed of developments. Otherwise just watch this space!



Heritage Saved!

Restored Blyth Battery has its official opening

On May 13th Blyth Battery had a celebration to mark the completion of restoration at the site. The collection of World War one and two buildings nestled in the dunes at Blyth South Beach may not seem like much to behold at first glance, but once you get in amongst them you cannot fail to be captivated by the stories of the men who served here over the course of the two wars.

The battery represents the one of the most complete examples of wartime coastal defences in the country. It includes searchlight buildings, two gun emplacements, two watchtowers, bunkhouses, shelters, a magazine and other associated buildings. The World War one watchtower is one of only two remaining in the world of its kind, the other example of which is in New Zealand.

The restoration process started in 2008 after the Battery was awarded £525,000 for restoration work to all the buildings, including the conversion of some to house visitor facilities, by the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, and Blyth Valley Council. The project has also included the training of the Blyth Battery volunteers who lead guided tours around the site at weekends from May to September, and the funding of a Heritage Officer post. It was first re-opened to the public in September last year and this summer will see its first full summer season of visitors, as well as its first season of school visits by local schools.

The restored buildings are now colour coded to represent the era in which they were built. Grey for World War one, pink for the second World War, and white for post- war. This not only makes the site easier to interpret for the lone visitor, but also is somewhat representative of what it would have looked like as paint samples taken off second World War buildings have shown that they were in fact painted pink to act as camouflage in the evening and morning light and to disguise them as part of a seaside resort. This, along with the outlines of previous fake roofs which were also part of the disguise, has proved to be a source of fascination to the local school children who have visited the Battery so far. It is hoped that by encouraging these children to understand the battery they will come away with a sense of pride in the site which is so unique to their town and thus develop a sense of ownership of the site that will result in its future protection.



Photo from *The Journal*, May 14th 2010

We would like to hear from you!



If you have any stories about the work being done in your area with heritage or heritage skills we would love to hear from you. You do not have to be an amazing writer or photographer, you just need to have a story. Please send you articles and any photos to skills@nect.org.uk and you could feature in the newsletter!

In the News

Apprentice Stone Mason at Durham Cathedral Wins Award

18 year old Joe Robb has been awarded the Lindord- Bridgeman Ltd Award for Achievement in Stonemasonry Studies. Joe spends one day a week receiving formal training at York College, and the rest of the time learns his trade whilst working within the stonemasonry team at Durham Cathedral. The Cathedral employs six full time stonemasons and one apprentice to maintain the building which dates, in parts, to the 13th century.

Facebook Campaign Saves Weaving Course

A Facebook campaign by the 'Killing Craft through Educational Vandalism' group has meant that the course in traditional weaving at the Duncan of Jordanstone College of art and design affiliated to Dundee University which was due to be axed this year, leaving second year students half way through their course, has been given a stay of execution. The course will not be taking any new students on, but will allow those currently studying in their second year to complete the course. Speaking to Scottish TV, prominent weaver James Donald has expressed his delight at the decision and is especially happy at the awareness that the campaign has raised. "It certainly has raised awareness. Nobody had any notion about what was going on at the university. I think they were just hoping it would shut down quietly. This has to show how strongly people feel about the craft not just across Scotland but also across the world."

Tanni Grey-Thompson Encourages People to Challenge Themselves to Try Stonemasonry

HSI's Introduction to stonemasonry course falls in the 2012 Olympics Open Weekend which aims to get the public to challenge themselves by trying a new cultural, artistic or sporting activity. Tanni singled out the Stonemasonry course at Souter Lighthouse on the 24th July as being representative of the wide range of different activities available. The picture (Left) gives an insight into the 'glamorous' side of what HSI does – that is our work placement student lying on the floor, holding the cloth down!



A Note from Andie Harris - NEW HSI TEAM MEMBER!

On behalf of the Heritage Skills Initiative I would like to extend a huge welcome to the latest member of the HSI team Kathryn Banfield. Katie joins the team as 'Heritage Skills Assistant' having just completed an eight week placement at North of England Civic Trust as part of her Masters in Heritage Management.

Katie will be taking over running the North East events programme and doing the administration for both the North East and Cumbria programmes – so you will hopefully be seeing a lot of her over the next few months!

Andie Harris, Learning and Skills Manager

CALLING ALL EXHIBITORS!

HSI are currently looking for craftspeople and exhibitors for the 2011 Heritage Skills Fair.

Are you a craftsperson who could demonstrate your work to the public, or are you involved with heritage or heritage skills in some form and would like to raise awareness of what it is that you do or the services that you offer? If so HSI are currently putting together the list of exhibitors for the 2011 Heritage Skills Fair.

To register an interest, please send us your details to skills@nect.org.uk

Fellowships and Bursaries

Applications are now open for 2011 Travelling Fellowships!

Each year the Trust aims to award 100 Travelling Fellowships to British citizens. Each Fellow receives a grant to cover return and internal travel, daily living and travel insurance within the countries visited.

A Travelling Fellowship is a unique addition to your personal development and brings long-term benefits to you, your employer and your profession/community in the UK.

No qualifications are required and closing date for applications is 5th October 2010.

For details of the new categories please see the website at <http://www.wcmt.org.uk/report-categories/general-categories.html>.

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2010 Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme

The Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme provides funding and work-based placements to help individuals develop their building skills to work in the heritage sector.

Funding and opportunities are available to help craftspeople, trainees and career changers towards qualifying to NVQ Level 3 (or equivalent) and above gain valuable work-based training, develop existing skills or improve their knowledge and experience of conservation and repair of historic buildings, structures or sites.

Work-placements vary from 1 to 18 months and will be offered at a range of public and private providers, including specific heritage sites and/or workshops, supervised by experienced craftspeople. The Scheme's website (www.buildingbursaries.org.uk) has further details and you can contact the Bursary Scheme Manager, Clara Willett on clara@buildingbursaries.org.uk or 01442 890756.

Funded Placements in the EU – 4 week placements in July, and August Training in Contemporary Application of Traditional European Crafts (Ticatec)

The Ticatec placement focuses on the significance of re-introducing European traditional crafts that are at risk of being lost forever with an ever-increasing technically advanced society. The initiative has enabled over 200 students from the UK to participate on placements in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Slovakia, Ireland and Romania.

These placements are offered through Grampus Heritage and Training Ltd; a non-profit making organisation based in the North West of England. They are promoters of the EU Leonardo da Vinci Training Programme and provide funded training opportunities through this programme to UK students, recent graduates and young workers.

For more information visit: <http://www.grampusheritage.co.uk/TICATEC%20Main.htm> to express your interest or discuss placement availability email enquiries@grampusheritage.co.uk or telephone on 016973 21516.

National Trust Apprenticeship Scheme

The National Trust have created a major new Apprenticeship Scheme in a bid to tackle the severe heritage building skills shortage. The programme, aimed largely at 16 – 19 year olds, will train young men and women in traditional skills including stone masonry, carpentry, joinery, lead work, plumbing, painting and decorating.

The unique full time three-year programme, which begins in September, will offer 16 positions at National Trust properties across the country where apprentices will train alongside staff due to retire within that time. The aim is to provide continuity of valued skills by enabling those who are retiring to teach and mentor the next generation.

National Trust currently employ around 130 direct labour staff across the country with an average age of just under 50. With nearly 19% of those staff due to retire within four years, rising to 25% in six years, the need to recruit skilled people in their place is a priority.

Philip Venning, Secretary, The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, said:

'The National Trust has a huge range of different kinds of building, and this scheme will give the apprentices a unique chance to learn from some of the best in the field. Well done the National Trust for an initiative that will have a wider benefit for the nation's architectural heritage, both now and for many years to come.'

The Apprenticeship Scheme will be funded by the Trust's own funds and places will be offered on a three year contract basis. Each apprentice will be paid £12,000 a year and college and tuition fees will also be covered.

To apply for a place on the Apprenticeship Scheme, beginning in September, visit www.ntjobs.org.uk or telephone 01793 817799.

2010 Events Programmes



What's on this year?

The training and events programmes for both Cumbria and the North East are now available both in hard copy and on NECT's website via the link below. The range of events this year is just as impressive as ever. There are informative talks to increase the awareness of issues related to the conservation, repair and maintenance of historic properties and to promote links between those involved in the heritage and construction sector. There are 'Walk and Talk' events which allow people to find out more about work which is currently being undertaken or has recently finished from the experts who worked on local sites. We are running a series of lectures at Northumbria University which address some of the most permanent issues for those engaged with the Heritage sector. Taster events will allow people of any skill level to try their hand at various different traditional craft and construction skills and our Training courses will provide people with the practical skills necessary to use various construction techniques (such as lime plastering) on historic buildings that they own, manage or are working on.

You can find the programmes online at: <http://www.nect.org.uk/index.php?page=training-and-events-programmes-2010>

Training and Events Programme Update

HSI are delighted to announce that our introduction to Blacksmithing courses have proved to be so popular that they are all full across both the North East and Cumbria. Stonemasonry courses across both regions are also full, however some have very short waiting lists so it is still worth putting your name down!

Our other courses are filling up quickly so if you are interested in attending any of them do book now either by emailing skills@nect.org.uk or phoning 0191 232 9279.