

# hands on Heritage Skills



## Welcome to the first HSI newsletter

The North East has a rich and diverse heritage and its future, along with regional tourism, employment and a sense of place for those who live here, is literally in the hands of those who care for it. The huge burden of ongoing care and maintenance is dependant upon the skills and knowledge of the people who innately understand the materials and have the craftsmanship to undertake the necessary work to discover, maintain, care for and interpret our heritage.

There has been long and growing concern at the loss of traditional skills and the impact of that loss on the cultural heritage sector. Along with this, the opportunities to undertake training and employment in this field are also dwindling, therefore creating a skills vacuum.

The pilot year of the Heritage Skills Project demonstrated, through a series of pragmatic partnership programmes, the North East's ability and desire to provide action. By creating practical opportunities to build regional capacity for training, placements and employment through events programming, awareness raising and brokering partnerships, the region is seen to be dynamic and leading the way.

Through further funding from English Heritage, National Heritage Training Group and European Social Fund we are able to increase the programme tenfold this year to 63 days of exciting skills related activities and look forward to seeing many of you at the events, taster days, lectures and hopefully the Heritage Skills Fair in July.

**Andie Harris, Heritage Skills Co-ordinator**

# Development and Marketing

## HSI Report – Heritage Skills – *the first steps*

Upon completion of the pilot year the Heritage Skills Co-ordinator wrote 'Heritage Skills – *the first steps*' which outlined the methodology and findings of the first year of work. It also holds an audience development plan, training plan, 2 year action plan and risk assessment.

The report can be found on the North of England Civic Trust's website on [www.nect.org.uk](http://www.nect.org.uk). Use the link to *North East Heritage Skills Initiative* and then to *Reports* where you will find links to each section of the report.

Happy reading!



## Publicity and Marketing

HSI would like to welcome Stephanie Celino as the Events Assistant for the next year. She is assisting with publicity and marketing of the ever lengthening list of events, taster days and lectures HSI are holding this year.

Steph has developed a marketing and branding plan and during this year you should hear a lot more from HSI in the media and through new mediums such as the newsletter and website.

If you have any skills related activities or news that you wish us to put in the newsletter, please contact us on [admin@nect.org.uk](mailto:admin@nect.org.uk) clearly marking your e-mail for the attention of HSI, or alternatively call us on 0191 2329279.

## Launch of the new National Heritage Training Group Reports

Two reports by the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) launched on Tuesday 29 April at The Prince of Wales's Foundation for the Built Environment, highlight serious skills and knowledge gaps affecting specialist workers in England and building professionals working across the UK built heritage sector. Andie Harris the NE Heritage Skills Co-ordinator spoke at the Launch and welcomed the new research.



Encouragingly, the shortage of skilled craftspeople to work on England's historic buildings has been greatly reduced since the first NHTG report in 2005. However, the future of the five million pre-1919 buildings in England could be at risk as most of the workforce undertaking repair and maintenance work does not possess all the skills required to do the job properly.

Similar knowledge gaps affect the majority of the building professionals who specify, commission and oversee this work across the UK and this is exacerbated by recruitment difficulties in the professional ranks of the sector.



The NHTG will now be working with its partners in the home countries to increase demand for suitably skilled and building-conservation accredited professionals and maximise the number of high-quality entrants into the sector by strengthening building conservation components within mainstream built environment courses. There is also a need to develop flexible training and improve advice and guidance on traditional building skills and materials and link these to the sustainability agenda.

Download the reports from the ConstructionSkills website using the following links [select and copy web addresses and paste into your browser]

Traditional Building Craft Skills in England:

[http://www.constructionskills.net/research/researchactivity/nationalandregionalreports/2008\\_review.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.constructionskills.net/research/researchactivity/nationalandregionalreports/2008_review.asp#TopOfPage)

Built Heritage Sector Professionals:

[http://www.constructionskills.net/research/researchactivity/nationalandregionalreports/professionals\\_2008.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.constructionskills.net/research/researchactivity/nationalandregionalreports/professionals_2008.asp#TopOfPage)

## Training and Advocacy

### 2008 Events Programme

Summer 2008 brings an extended programme of events and activities totalling around 64 days of events, over a tenfold increase from 2007!

Please see the next few pages for the full events programme for the year which has a range of skills days for both the beginner to some specifically for those in the industry. Also we have a series of lectures throughout the year from a range of excellent practitioners ranging from Conservation Philosophy to Cleaning Historic Buildings.

We are also holding the usual Symposium and 'Hands on' Heritage Skills days but most exciting is the **Heritage Skills Fair** being Held at Gibside Estate on the **11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July**.

The Heritage Skills Fair will have over 70 Demonstrators, Exhibitors and Talks going on throughout the 3 day event.



**Get your hands dirty**  
at the North East  
**HERITAGE SKILLS FAIR**  
Fri 11 • Sat 12 • Sun 13 July 2008 10am – 4pm



**Gibside Estate**  
See craftspeople in action • Blacksmithing  
Try your hand at new skills • Stone Masonry  
Meet the traditional Crafts • Lime Slaking & Pointing  
People and Contractors in • Durham Quilting  
your region • Plastering  
Find out about heritage • Woodland Crafts  
skills courtesy, faster days • Steeplejack Displays  
and more • Mat Making and more!

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HANDS-ON HERITAGE SKILLS

### Training the Trainer



Funding for the Training the Trainers programme was secured from the Learning and Skills Council's Train to Gain monies.

The course was offered to all 23 colleges in the North East, to their trainers/assessors of NVQ 3 in Carpentry & Joinery, Masonry – Brick, Plastering and Painting and Decorating (also initially roofing) however, disappointingly, responses were only received from the five Construction Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE's), with whom a number of meetings were held in advance to explain the programme. 22 regional college lecturers attended the programme.

After spending week one at West Dean and the Weald and Downland Museum near Chichester, week two in practical workshop situations and week three undertaking further practical and philosophical lectures on the conservation of historic buildings, all were ready to undertake the final exam.

I am pleased to announce that all 22 lecturers passed their exam and certificates of attendance have now been sent to all who attended. A Training the Trainers group has been set up and will meet quarterly.

#### Heads of the Class were;

Masonry – Brickwork Occupations – Peter Natrass, New College Durham 90%

Plastering Occupations – Alex Paterson, Northumberland College 89%

Carpentry and Joinery Occupations – Dave Hutchinson, New College Durham 79%

Decorative Occupations – Nigel Fisher, New College Durham 77%

Well done all!

## 2008 Events Programme

### June

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Lime in Historic Buildings	Wallington Estate, Northumberland
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Trade Fair	Northern Maintenance 2008 (ABE)	Lancastrian Conference Suite, Dunston
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Dry Stone Walling*	Ingram Valley, Northumberland
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Event	Europa Nostra Visit	Stephenson's Shed, Newcastle
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Artistic Blacksmithing	Ormsby Hall, Ormsby, Cleveland
<b>TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>HERITAGE SKILLS SYMPOSIUM</b>	<b>Bede's World, Jarrow, Tyne &amp; Wear</b>
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Dry Stone Walling	Belsay Hall, Belsay, Northumberland
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Taster Day	Pointing with Lime Mortar	Belsay Hall, Belsay, Northumberland
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Taster Day	Dry Stone Walling*	Walltown, Northumberland

### July

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Taster Day	Horse-Logging	Coalburns, Greenside, County Durham
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Artistic Blacksmithing	Blackfriars, Newcastle upon Tyne
<b>FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>HERITAGE SKILLS FAIR</b>	<b>Gibside, Rowlands Gill, Gateshead</b>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> 10am	Event	Heritage Wonder Champion of Champions	Gibside, Rowlands Gill, Gateshead
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> 2pm	Lecture	Principles of Conservation (for professionals) <i>Alan Gardner, SPAB Lethaby Scholar</i>	Gibside, Rowlands Gill, Gateshead
<b>SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>HERITAGE SKILLS FAIR</b>	<b>Gibside, Rowlands Gill, Gateshead</b>
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> 10.30	Talk	Regional and Local Identity <i>John Grundy</i>	Gibside, Rowlands Gill, Gateshead
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> 12pm	Lecture	Homeowners Do's and Don'ts: understanding your Pre-20 <sup>th</sup> century building <i>Alan Gardner, SPAB Lethaby Scholar</i>	Gibside, Rowlands Gill, Gateshead
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> 2.30pm	Talk	Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme <i>Clara Willett, Manager of Scheme</i>	Gibside, Rowlands Gill, Gateshead
<b>SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>HERITAGE SKILLS FAIR</b>	<b>Gibside, Rowlands Gill, Gateshead</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Course	Lime and Hair Plastering	Ireshopeburn, Weardale, Co. Durham
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Pointing with Lime Mortar	Belsay Hall, Belsay, Northumberland
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Dry Stone Walling	Belsay Hall, Belsay, Northumberland
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Lime in Historic Buildings	Wallington Estate, Northumberland
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Blacksmithing**	Bede's World, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear

**TO BOOK contact 0191 2329279 or e mail [admin@nect.org.uk](mailto:admin@nect.org.uk)**

\*Partner event – contact Kevin Malone of Northumberland National Park Authority on 01434 344472 or [kevin.malone@nnpa.org.uk](mailto:kevin.malone@nnpa.org.uk)

\*\* Partner Event – contact Pearl Saddington of Bede's World on 0191 4892106 or [youth@bedesworld.co.uk](mailto:youth@bedesworld.co.uk)

## 2008 Events Programme

### July continued

Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Stonecutting (make a sundial)	Washington Old Hall, Tyne & Wear
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Dry Stone Walling	Belsay Hall, Belsay, Northumberland
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture	'Breathability': do we need damp and timber treatments in historic buildings? <i>Alan Gardner, SPAB Lethaby Scholar</i>	Central Newcastle, Tyne and Wear

### August

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Taster Day	Dry Stone Walling**	Bede's World, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Taster Day	Horse-Logging	Coalburns, Greenside, County Durham
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Course	Lime and Hair Plastering	Ireshopeburn, Weardale, Co. Durham
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Dry Stone Walling	Belsay Hall, Belsay, Northumberland
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Stone Masonry – Tracery	Barnard Castle, Co. Durham (Venue TBC)
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Stonecutting (making a sundial)	Blackfriars, Newcastle upon Tyne
18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Taster Course	Historic Paint Scheme (Practical)	Kirkley Hall, Northumberland
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture	Understanding Paint in Historic Buildings: (Part 1) types of paint and the naming of parts <i>Alan Gardner, SPAB Lethaby Scholar</i>	Central Newcastle, Tyne and Wear
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Dry Stone Walling	Belsay Hall, Belsay, Northumberland
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture	Delights and Diversity of Building Lime and Lime Burning <i>Stafford Holmes, Lime Guru</i>	Central Newcastle, Tyne and Wear
27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Course	Lime and Hair Plastering	Ireshopeburn, Weardale, Co. Durham

### September

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lecture	Understanding Paint in Historic Buildings: (Part 2) practical considerations and architectural paint research <i>Alan Gardner, SPAB Lethaby Scholar</i>	Central Newcastle, Tyne and Wear
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Ancient Woodcrafts**	Bede's World, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Dry Stone Walling	Belsay Hall, Belsay, Northumberland
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Artistic Blacksmithing	Beamish Museum, Co. Durham
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture	Cleaning Historic Buildings <i>Alan Gardner, SPAB Lethaby Scholar</i>	Central Newcastle, Tyne and Wear
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture	Reviving Craftsmanship – a vision for the future <i>Tim Ratcliffe, SPAB Lethaby Scholar and Jeff Orton</i>	Central Newcastle, Tyne and Wear

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## 2008 Events Programme continued

### September continued

Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Pointing with Lime Mortar	Belsay Hall, Belsay, Northumberland
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lecture	Understanding Conservation Area Character <i>Jules Brown, North of England Civic Trust</i>	Central Newcastle, Tyne and Wear
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Removal of Cementitious Pointing	Tynemouth Castle, Tyne and Wear
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Stone Masonry - Tracery	Barnard Castle, Co. Durham (Venue TBC)
Sept 29 <sup>th</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Qualification	Dry Stone Walling Association Level 1 Qualification	Belsay Hall, Belsay, Northumberland

### October

Sept 29 <sup>th</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Qualification	Dry Stone Walling Association Level 1 Qualification	Belsay Hall, Belsay, Northumberland
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture	Issues in Relation to the Specification and Use of Building Limes in Historic Buildings <i>Alan Gardner, SPAB Lethaby Scholar</i>	Central Newcastle, Tyne and Wear
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Introduction to Lime in Historic Buildings	Wallington Estate, Northumberland
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Taster Day	Removal of Cementitious Pointing	Tynemouth Castle, Tyne and Wear
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture	Planning Issues in Historic Buildings: private practice and project experience on Enabling Development & THI's <i>Alan Gardner, SPAB Lethaby Scholar</i>	Central Newcastle, Tyne and Wear

### November

Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture	Conservation Philosophy: the 'why' is often more important than the 'how' in approaching interventions in historic buildings <i>Alan Gardner, SPAB Lethaby Scholar</i>	Central Newcastle, Tyne and Wear
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture	Monument Repair Issues: with some recent case studies <i>Alan Gardner, SPAB Lethaby Scholar</i>	Central Newcastle, Tyne and Wear

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To find out more about each of the activities, please log onto [www.nect.org.uk](http://www.nect.org.uk) to download the events programme or request the events programme from [admin@nect.org.uk](mailto:admin@nect.org.uk)