

CANOLFAN TYWI



TYWI CENTRE

## BUILDING OUR HERITAGE CONFERENCE AND OPEN DAY

The National Botanic Garden of Wales  
Llanarthne  
Carmarthenshire

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017





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# **Building our Heritage**

## **Conference and Open day report**

### **1. Introduction**

The 'Building our Heritage' Conference and Open Day were organised by the Tywi Centre, to celebrate the success of the Heritage Lottery Funded project 'Building our Heritage: Training in building craft skills across Wales'

The Tywi Centre wishes to thank the following in making the event a success: Heritage Lottery Fund; Construction Wales Innovation Centre (CWIC); The National Botanic Garden of Wales; eventspeakers; event demonstrators and CITB.

The aims of the event were:

- To help members of the public engage with their built heritage through better understanding and enjoyment
- To work in partnership with other HLF funded projects to provide a support network within the heritage industry and to strengthen the impact of the message
- To provide an opportunity for professionals to better understand heritage construction
- To disseminate information learnt through the 5 years of the Building our Heritage bursary Scheme
- To celebrate the success of individuals that have achieved NVQ3 through the bursary scheme and the impact they have on the Heritage Construction industry in Wales

The event was held at the National Botanical Garden for Wales on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January was a conference aimed at people who work within the construction industry while Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> attracted people from all backgrounds. Through hands on activities, demonstrations, inspiring talks and technical lectures, visitors had the opportunity to learn, ask questions and explore their built heritage.

There are many organisations carrying out incredible work and running crucial restoration projects. This event provided a platform to showcase projects, network with other organisations, engage with homeowners, professionals, contractors and the general public.

75 people attended the conference on Friday 6<sup>th</sup>. This included a mixture of past students, contractors (both heritage and non-heritage); building control officers and representatives from Cadw, CITB, the National Trust, Local Authority Officers and FE Colleges.

Over 800 people visited the Botanical Gardens for the Open Day event on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

## 2. Building our Heritage - a background

There are 497,000 pre-1919 buildings in Wales, of which approximately 30,000 are listed buildings. Heritage building skills are essential to repair, conserve, maintain and restore this building stock. The use of modern methods and techniques often has detrimental effects on buildings that range from a loss of the aesthetic value to structural deterioration. This is happening due to a lack of knowledge, awareness and the loss of a skilled workforce. Skills that were commonplace prior to 1919 and which are essential to the appropriate repair and maintenance of older buildings are being lost.

The Tywi Centre has established itself as a centre for excellence for heritage training and information, specialising in Heritage Building. It is part of Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC), and sits within the Planning Department; it is located in Llandeilo and many projects, funded primarily through the Heritage Lottery Fund, CITB and the European Rural Development Programme, have contributed to the Centre developing a staff with the experience and expertise to take a lead in Heritage skills and training in Wales.

The Tywi Centre has delivered a Bursary Scheme for a total of 5 years; following on from the success of the Tywi Centre's 'Foundations in Heritage' Bursary Scheme (2011-2015), the 'Building our Heritage' (2014-2017) scheme was developed. The scheme offers a one-year training course leading to an NVQ Level 3 in traditional carpentry, lime plastering or stonemasonry. The Scheme addresses an identified skills gap and has increased the capacity of the heritage construction sector through training 84 people between September 2011 and November 2016. In addition to the year long programme, the Building our Heritage Bursary Scheme offered a 6 month intensive, multi-skilled training programme specifically for Women. Ten women completed this scheme and attained a Level 3 Award in the 'Repair and Maintenance of Traditional (pre 1919) Buildings.' Trainees learn alongside skilled craftspeople; most working with a number of employers in order to gain the experience necessary for the NVQ portfolio as well as receiving comprehensive training at the Tywi Centre. The Building our Heritage Scheme was match funded by Carmarthenshire County Council, CITB, CWIC and financial contributions from placement providers.

### 3. The Conference - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Below is the Programme for the Conference:

#### **BUILDING OUR HERITAGE: CONFERENCE**

*Half a million homes in Wales were built before 1919: Do you have the skills, knowledge and expertise to take advantage of this growing construction sector?*

**FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017**

**Principality House, National Botanical Garden of Wales, Llanarthne**

9am	REGISTRATION & TEA / COFFEE
9.45am	Welcome & Introductions <i>Nell Hellier, Manager, Tywi Centre</i>
10am	Regenerating our historic built environment - a path to prosperity? <i>Alison Powell, Associate Technical Director, Arcadis Consulting (UK) Ltd</i>
10.40am	Traditional Building Repairs: The History of Misunderstanding <i>Nathan Goss, Nathan Goss Conservation</i>
11.20am	TEA / COFFEE
11.40am	The Built Heritage and the Building Regulations <i>Tony Gwynne, Senior Building Control Surveyor, Forest of Dean District Council</i>
12.20pm	How to avoid a flutter with bats! <i>Steve Lucas, Wales Officer, Bat Conservation Trust (Wales)</i>
1pm	LUNCH
2pm	Workshops - have your say <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training Your Workforce - what are the barriers?</li><li>• Heritage Construction Training Group - how can this support your business?</li><li>• Burning Issues - what issues do you encounter that you would like help to resolve?</li><li>• Qualifications in Wales - Are the current construction qualifications suitable for development of your company?</li></ul>
3.30pm	Panel Debate
4pm	Summary & Close

### 3.1 Speaker Biographies and presentation summary

**NELL HELLIER, Tywi Centre Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council**

**Title of Talk: *Welcome and introductions***

(See Appendix 1 for full details)

In her introductory presentation Nell outlined the focus of the day:

- To share some information with participants through inspiring speakers
- To gather information from participants to enable the Tywi Centre to continue providing appropriate support to the development of the heritage construction industry.
- To reflect upon where the Tywi Centre has come from and how funding from Heritage Lottery Fund, CITB, Welsh Government, Carmarthenshire Country Council have facilitated significant, positive changes in the industry.
- To highlight the key achievements of both the Foundations in Heritage and the Building our Heritage Bursary Programme for example:
  - The Bursary Programme has enabled 84 students to gain training and qualifications in Heritage Craft Skills
  - Ten women have gained entry level, intensive training in heritage craft skills
  - 82% of Bursary Scheme trainees are still working in Heritage some or all of the time!
- To acknowledge the work of other organisations who are driving forces in the development of the built heritage sector in Wales including Cadw, Ty Mawr, CITB, Welsh Traditional Building Forum and the Placement Providers who have supported the scheme.
- To provide an opportunity for contractors, past bursary students and people from other heritage related organisations to network.



**ALISON POWELL, Associate Technical Director, Arcadis Consulting (Uk) Ltd**

**Title of Talk: *Regenerating Our Historic Built Environment - A Path to Prosperity?***

(See Appendix 2 for details)

In her presentation, Alison examined the following:

- The emergence of heritage as a driver for social and economic regeneration
- Economic benefits of heritage at different scales, including Wales Heritage Sites and townscape heritage schemes
- Regeneration at a local level- obstacles and opportunities.

**Biography:**

Alison is a Chartered Town Planner with over 20 years' experience and is an Associate with Arcadis (a multi-disciplinary planning, design and engineering company). She has been

responsible for a wide range of heritage and regeneration projects across Wales and the UK, from strategic policy work and research down to community regeneration at grassroots level.

Alison is currently the Project Manager for the preparation of a new Management Plan for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward I in Gwynedd World Heritage Site for Cadw, which has involved working collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to identify policies and actions for the future safeguarding of the World Heritage Site – including, for example the role of the local economy, regeneration and visitor experience. The work has emphasised the value and benefits that WHS designation can bring to local economies and communities.

### **NATHAN GOSS, Nathan Goss Conservation**

(See Appendix 3 for details)

#### **Title of Talk: Traditional Building Repairs: The History Of Misunderstanding**



In his presentation, Nathan discussed the following:

- What to look for when addressing repair and maintenance issues
- Common misunderstandings made by surveyors and builders working on old buildings
- Traditional windows versus double glazing
- Tanking in cement versus repointing in lime
- The importance of saving features of pre-1919 buildings

#### **Biography:**

For the past 28 years Nathan has worked in carpentry and joinery, historic building surveying, project management, conservation and the restoration and consolidation of old buildings.

Nathan is now Director of Nathan Goss Conservation working as a freelance historic building surveyor and fully qualified trainer and assessor of NVQ's in traditional building practices. In addition to surveying and training contracts, Nathan is also Joint Executive Director of Adfer Ban a Chwm (ABC), a Wales based building preservation trust focused on saving rural vernacular buildings. He is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Building and a member of SPAB.



**TONY GWYNNE MRICS (Chartered Building Surveyor), MIFireE (Fire Engineer) Senior Building Control Surveyor, Forest of Dean District Council**

(See Appendix 4 for details)

**Title of Talk: The Built Heritage and Building Regulations**

During his talk he discussed:

- A background to building regulations
- The role of Building Control
- Approved documents
- How building regulations apply to older buildings
- Do Building control accept new technical systems for old buildings?
- Do the same regulations apply to old barns as old houses?
- New building control guidance document on lime

**Biography:**

Anthony Gwynne is a Chartered Surveyor and Fire Engineer and has 40 years' experience in the construction industry. He co-manages a building control section and has been in building control for over 24 years. He has been responsible for overseeing the building control function of major developments including commercial, industrial, healthcare, housing developments, conversions and works to heritage buildings.

Tony started his career as an apprentice banker mason and was responsible for conservation projects with Cadw and following further academic study was later employed by English Heritage as a professional and technical officer, responsible for historic monuments in the South of England

**STEVE LUCAS, Wales Officer, Bat Conservation Trust (Wales)**

**Title of Talk: How to Avoid a Flutter with Bats!**

During his presentation, Steve discussed:

- Understanding bats – ecology and biology
- Legal protection and consequences including planning process and legislation
- How to avoid getting it wrong on building projects
- General mitigation measures – materials including use of breathable membranes/timber treatments/cluster flies, timing of activities, lighting,
- Where to get help

**Biography:**

Steve Lucas has worked in nature conservation for over 25 years and has worked in both the public and NGO sectors. He is the Bat Conservation Trust's Wales Officer and has been representing the work of BCT in Wales since 2008. Prior to that Steve was a protected species officer in the Countryside Council for Wales during which time, Steve spent two years on secondment to the Welsh Government working on biodiversity policy and overseeing protected species licensing.

## 3.2 WORKSHOPS

### Setting up a group to support the development of Wales's Heritage Construction Industry- what should it look like?

#### *Background:*

The Welsh Traditional Buildings Forum is a Group that promotes the development of traditional building skills and sustainability issues relating to all old buildings across Wales. They provide support through educational events, advocacy on national construction committees and sharing information. It is mainly manifested in the form of the website and its contractor directory.

The aim of this workshop is to assess how this Group and Website can best serve the needs of the Heritage Construction Industry in Wales?

#### *Discussion:*

- A forum would be a good way of being recognised
- Contractors are very busy and it's difficult to get time off work; however, the right events (the type organised by the Tywi Centre) are worthwhile and provide great interaction and learning especially with the variety of information (policy and regulation updates) and contractors available at the event.
- The contractors' directory provides a very useful, accessible and impartial pathway to find heritage contractors.
- Any provision should be aware of other sources of information (Ty Mawr, Gerard Lynch), but could co-ordinate and raise awareness amongst building owners of the need for quality heritage construction contractors to undertake work on heritage assets.
- There was some support for a newsletter that shared information on job vacancies and opportunities (procurement) in the sector. It was suggested that this could include information on regulation updates, policy updates and funding opportunities.
- In addition to a newsletter, it was suggested that a national annual conference should continue (but to be careful to avoid 'death by powerpoint') and some regional 'doing' workshops.
- The existing website, or a new one, should be a 'shop front' and use RSS feeds to have updated information. E.g. information that goes into the newsletter would also be tweeted/posted on Facebook which would automatically appear on a column on the home page of the website.
- There is a need to facilitate consortium working using some of these tools, to be able to access bigger contracts.
- The website should be a place not only for contractors but also a place that owners of heritage assets can be directed to, in order to educate about the needs and potential of those assets. This is important to help owners understand that increased cost will mean increased quality and a more sustainable solution in preserving their asset.

- Any contractor directory can be 'bluffed' to get on a list. It was suggested that a trip advisor style referencing system would be useful. Policing/quality assuring by an organisation would be too resource intensive. A code of ethics should be signed up to by those who wish to join the list.
- A group or forum that is not linked to an organisation will have more freedom to apply for grants from all organisations.
- Heritage contractors in Wales need a collective voice to influence Cadw, Welsh Government, Local Authorities, CITB and others. This could be an effective instrument to address many of the points above and issues around CSCS cards.

### Qualifications Wales: Sector review of construction and the built environment.

Qualifications Wales provided the following presentation during their workshop and invited all participants to input their opinion on the current qualification system and how it could be changed/improved in the future

**1** **Sector Review of Construction and the Built Environment**

**2** **Principal Aims of Qualifications Wales**

- To ensure that qualifications and the qualification system in Wales are effective for meeting the reasonable needs of learners
- To promote public confidence in qualifications and the qualification system in Wales.

**3** **Qualifications Wales**

- Recognises and regulates awarding bodies
- Designates qualifications as eligible for use on funded programmes of learning
- Sets approval criteria for some priority qualifications
- Monitors awarding bodies and the qualifications they offer
- Conducts research and review activities – sector reviews form the backbone of our vocational qualification strategy
- Provides advice to Welsh Government and others in respect of qualifications and the qualification system.

**4** **Sector Reviews - Aims**

- Develop an understanding of the qualification landscape in the sector
- Identify the views of stakeholders on the effectiveness of existing qualifications and the system in meeting the needs of learners, employers and higher education institutions
- Consider the extent to which a sample of qualifications are technically effective and fit for purpose
- Identify any lessons to be learned from qualifications in other comparable nations
- Identify whether Qualifications Wales should take, or recommend others to take, any actions to improve the effectiveness of the qualifications and/or the system.
- Analyse and impact assess options for action and publish a report on findings and proposals.

**Focus**

Qualifications used in publicly funded programmes of learning, especially:

- Qualifications taken by learners aged 14-18.
- Qualifications taken by learners aged 16-19 in full time programmes of learning.
- Qualifications used in apprenticeship frameworks.

As well as:

- Other qualifications that the sector tells us its **important** to look at.
- Any **gaps** that the sector tells us about.
- Any other regulated qualifications about which the sector raises **concerns**.
- Aspects of the **qualification system** about which the sector raises concerns – or which we identify through other sources.

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**Core lines of enquiry – the extent to which:**

- the range and nature of qualifications available in the sector are sufficient;
- the assessment arrangements for qualifications are effective, reliable and valid;
- the provision of Welsh medium assessment is sufficient;
- the requirements of employers, higher education and the professions are being met;
- the knowledge, skills and understanding requirements reflect current knowledge and best practice;
- the qualifications are comparable with qualifications elsewhere;
- the qualifications in the sector are provided efficiently and represent value for money.

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**Methodology**

- Appointment of a sector advisor on recruitment
- Interviews with stakeholders – including a target of 100 employers and all main learning providers
- Stakeholder panels – North and South
- Learner engagement project
- Data analysis
- Online consultation
- Technical review of materials – awarding body materials and learner portfolios
- International comparison study

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**Timescale for Construction and Built Environment**

- *Sept 2016* – Review start-up
- *Oct 2016 to April 2017* – Stakeholder engagement
- *Dec 2016 to Mar 2017* – International comparison study
- *Jan 2017 to Feb 2017* – Learner engagement
- *Jan 2017 to Mar 2017* – Technical review
- *May 2017 to Jul 2017* – Options analysis and impact assessment
- *Sept 2017* – Report

*ICT runs parallel though starting slightly later*

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**Examples of findings of Health and Social Care Review**

- Complexity of the system
- Unclear progression routes for learners
- Learning and assessment issues impacting on qualifications
- Some ineffective and inefficient assessment models
- Some qualifications out of date
- Gaps between levels
- Inconsistent assessment and quality assurance processes
- Insufficient assessment in the medium of Welsh

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**Outcomes of Health and Social Care Review**

- Need to clarify roles of key bodies in relation to qualifications
- New suite of qualifications to be commissioned for Wales at levels 1 to 5 – to address the issues identified in the review and to reduce overlap and duplication. Only these will be fundable
- Awarding bodies asked to address some of the issues identified in delivery of the existing qualifications
- Minimum standards of competence and CPD to be identified for assessors
- Workforce development and change management
- Recommendation to Care Council for Wales to lower level of Essential Communication Skills required in Level 3 framework

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## Training: Upskilling your workforce with Heritage

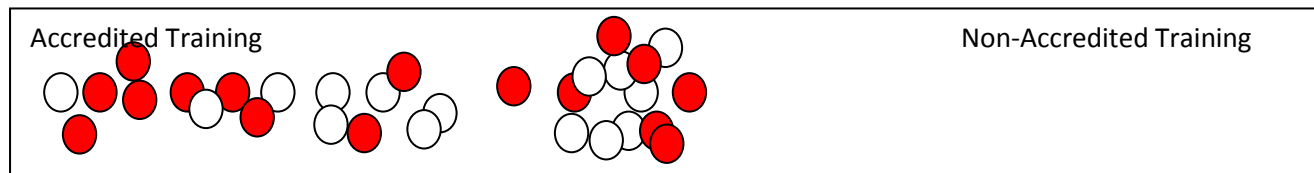
The aim of this workshop was to investigate how participants value heritage training and what the types of training that are appropriate to their organisation. It is acknowledged that training opportunities are not always taken up. This workshop also investigated barriers to accessing training.

### The following options were discussed.

- Accredited vs Non-Accredited training
- Short Courses (e.g. morning seminar) vs Long courses (e.g. 12 month specialist apprenticeship programme)
- General Heritage courses (e.g. Damp and Defects) vs Specific skill training (e.g. decorative plasterwork)
- Training for new entrants vs training for existing workforce

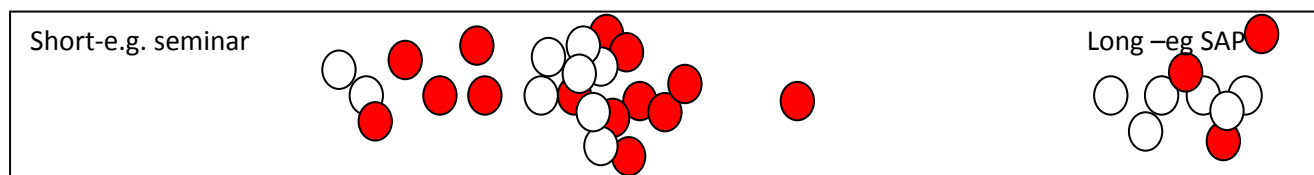
Activity 1. Participants were asked to stick dots on to a line to indicate what sort of training they thought was needed. Contractors used red dots and other participants used white. The results of this exercise are illustrated below.

#### Activity 1: Line 1: What Training is needed?



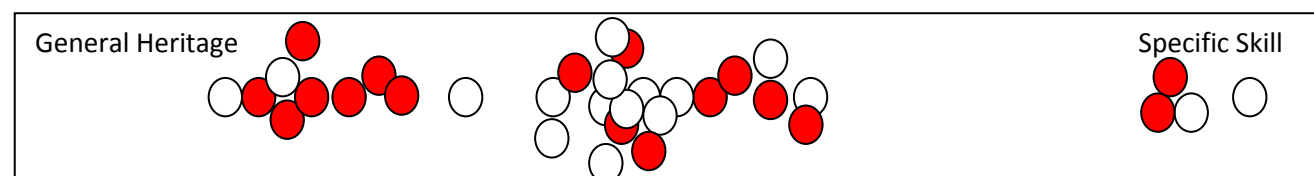
The majority of participants felt that accredited training is most needed. No dots were placed on the 'non-accredited' end of the line. However, there is a significant cluster of dots in the middle of the box indicating that a mixture of both accredited and non-accredited training is needed. There is no significant difference in the opinion of contractors or non-contractors.

#### Activity 1: Line 2: What Training is needed?



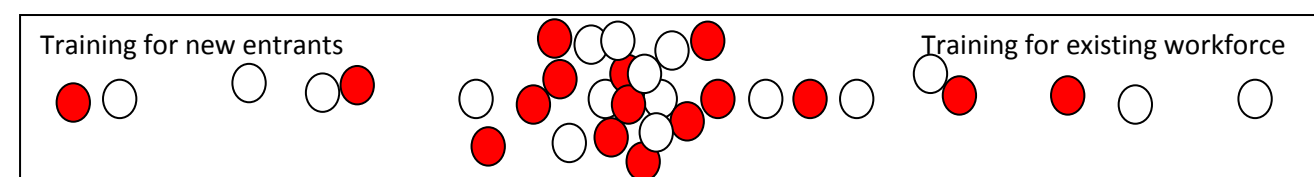
The majority of participants placed their dots in the middle of the box indicating that a mixture of both long and short courses are needed. There is a significant cluster of dots indicating that long courses such as the Specialist Apprenticeship Programme is needed with no support for just short courses.

#### Activity 1: Line 3: What Training do you need?



This question resulted in 3 clusters of opinion; the majority of participants placed their dots in the middle of the box indicating that a mixture of general heritage and specific skill training is needed. There is a large cluster towards the 'general heritage' end of the scale and a smaller cluster at the 'specific skill' end.

#### Activity 1: Line 4: What Training do you need?



This question generated an almost linear response with a significant cluster in the middle. This indicates that both training for new entrants and training for existing workforce is currently needed.

#### Activity 2: What are the barriers to taking up heritage training opportunities?

Participants were asked to list what they perceived to be barriers to training and to rank these barriers as of High (H); Medium (M) or Low (L) importance.

The results of this exercise are illustrated in the table below but in summary, the biggest barriers to accessing training were cost; availability; lack of awareness of the need of specialist training, geographic location and quality/ style of training. The range of barriers perceived by participants is also very significant. A total of 46 barriers were suggested.

Heading	Contractors			Non-contractors			All		
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Cost	11	3	2	6.5	4.5		17.5	7.5	2
Company cost				2	1		2	1	
Individual cost	1			1			2		
Significance	1						2		
Time away from work	0.5	1.5		1			1.5	1.5	
Time commitment	1						1		
Timing				3			3		
Time	1	6.5	2.5	1	2		2	8.5	2.5
Time availability	1				1		1	1	
Length of course	1			0.5	1.5		1.5	1.5	
Awareness of Training courses	4.5	0.5		1.5	1.5		6	2	
Communications with employers	2						2		
Communications with employees	0.5	1.5					0.5	1.5	
Willingness to learn	3			0.5	5.5	1	3.5	5.5	1
Openness to learning	1			1			2		
Benefit of training	2			1			3		
Opportunity					1			1	
Age		3	1		1	1		4	2
Company size	1	1				1	1	1	1
Willingness to travel	1		1				1		1
Geographic location/distance		3			2	1		5	1

Location			3	4		1	4		4
Transport	0.5	0.5		1			1.5	0.5	
Lack of training facilities			1	2			2		1
Quality/style of training	3			1.5	1.5		4.5	1.5	
Competent assessors	1			1			2		
Academic confidence			2			1			3
Technical content	1.5	0.5	1		1		1.5	1.5	1
Availability	7.5	0.5	1	5	3		12.5	3.5	1
Demand	1			1	1		2	1	
Vocation		1			2			3	
Perception		1			1.5	0.5		2.5	0.5
Heritage training not part of construction				2	1		2	1	
Interest					2			2	
Availability of good mentors	2						2		
Awareness of traditional building industry	3			1	1		4	1	
Retention of trainee		0.5	0.5					0.5	0.5
Loss of staff		2		1			1	2	
Confusion regarding varying qualifications	2						2		
Poor image of construction industry	1	1					1	1	
Confidence in joining a course	0.5	0.5		1			1.5	0.5	
Fear of returning to training	1			1.5	0.5		2.5	0.5	
On-site/classroom		1			2			3	
No. Of delegates	2	1			1		2	2	
Gender equalities		1			1			2	
Ignorance	1				1.5	0.5	1	1.5	0.5

## **Burning Issues: What do you think are the main issues facing in the Heritage Construction Industry?**

Each group were asked to discuss what they believed to be issues that they regularly face within the heritage construction industry. The results are as follows:

### **Group 1**

- Accessibility to training and information relating to Heritage Construction is frustrating, layered and dispersed.
- Apprenticeships on offer are not high quality- apprentices don't receive enough, in-depth and relevant training.
- Apprenticeship placements are letting apprentices' down- often treating them as labourers and not teaching them the skills that they need. Apprentices often become disheartened and withdraw from the training.
- Planning within the construction industry as a whole is not good- not enough investment in the right training.
- Transport is a big issue for apprentices.

### **Group 2**

- Why isn't there specific building regulations for older properties?
- Education of Building Control officers is essential.
- Contactors agree to do lime work but don't have the skills to do it properly.
- We often focus on what we are doing based on Building Regulations and the Law- what we should actually be focusing on is the building health and what is right for the building.
- The damage has already been done to the majority of our old buildings- what can we do to reverse this?
- Could there be a licencing/ accreditation system to demonstrate that a contractor knows what they are doing?
- Heritage Cards (CSCS) should have more value- don't mean much at the moment because no-one asks for them.

### **Group 3**

- Apprentices not taught that there are differences between old and new and are therefore unable to identify differences in materials.
- People tend to enter the heritage industry by accident rather than by understanding or seeking out heritage work.
- All construction NVQ's should include a unit on heritage.
- Appropriate skills rather than heritage skills are needed.
- Economic issue- heritage skills are required for the upkeep of all of our built structures including railways, canals, buildings- we should be putting jobs and skills into communities.
- Size of the skills gap is larger that we think- needs to be taught at an earlier stage
- Homeowners need more knowledge.



- Putting in a system for accreditation of heritage builder- how would this be managed? Who would accredit it? Would this just become a money making scheme with little actual value?
- Need more training and a more consistent approach to training.

#### Group 4

- Larger companies are usually good at training their workforce but smaller don't know where to go for help and will often use lime without know how to use it appropriately.
- Building Control officers often don't understand the needs of older buildings.
- It is difficult to engage with Conservation Officers in Wales (compared to England)
- Specifications should be job specific rather than general.
- Having the LABC approvals on Ty Mawr Products has been a big help.
- Every trade's person should have some training in heritage.
- Lack of skilled people to recruit - unable to find carpenters with the right skills for current job.

#### Overall themes

- Apprenticeships need to be improved both in terms of training and placements
- Every person on a construction training course should be taught about heritage construction
- Training is needed for Building Control officers
- Training and information for home owners is important
- The process of accessing heritage construction information should be improved
- There needs to be some sort of licencing/ accreditation system to evidence that contactors have the knowledge required to work on old buildings
- Lack of skilled crafts people available for recruitment

#### Panel debate

To end the day, participants were invited to bring their burning issues and questions to a panel of experts. The panel was made up of Neal O'Leary (Cadw), Nell Hellier (Tywi Centre), Nathan Goss (Nathan Goss Conservation), Tony Gwynne (Building Control Officer, Forest of Dean), Steve Lucas (Bat Conservation Trust).

Topics discussed were:

1. **Where to find guidance on defects and how to treat them.** Sources of information suggested included Cadw (Maintenance Matters), Scottish Lime publications and SPAB booklets- all of which are available on-line. It was suggested that it would be useful to pull all of these resources together in one place.
2. **How can we get Heritage skills training incorporated into all NVQ courses?** The question was largely answered by a representative from Qualifications Wales who referred back to the work that they are currently carrying out to improve the provision of construction training based on input from the industry.

**3. How can we ensure that when we meet, as a group, in the future that we are seeing progress in the industry and not just coming together to discuss problems and then not follow this up with actions?**

It was recognised that it is crucial that we have enough skilled and qualified people to look after our infrastructure and the effect this has on the economy. Progress has been made since the last Heritage Conference in Llandudno in 2015 was highlighted, for example the number of people who have completed Heritage Construction NVQ3 qualifications both through the bursary scheme and through industry and the great turn out of people from a range of backgrounds at the current conference.

**4. What happens to information now and what are the next steps?**

- a. Need to celebrate success and growth of skills- through events such as this one
- b. Utilise and develop the resources provided by the Welsh Traditional Buildings Forum (WTBF)
- c. Access CITB funding to make WTBF more effective, and to train the workforce
- d. Work with Qualification Wales to develop qualifications that are relevant to the Construction Sector needs in Wales
- e. Utilise the specialist training provision offered by Construction Wales Innovation Centre training
- f. Strategic Skills Partnership Agreement will soon be launched and will provide a national action plan for skills development in Wales. CITB is a partner in this agreement demonstrating a commitment from mainstream construction to support heritage construction.
- g. Indicators that more specialists are coming into the field in the past last 5 years. The more we do this , more we educate people the better- slow infiltration

**5. Is the Building Regulation document produced by Tony Gwyn going to be widely available?** This document will eventually be available on line and regularly up-dated to reflect new and innovative products that meet building regulations and conservation requirements.

**6. There is currently an issue with procurement procedure for heritage projects resulting in a risk of low quality reflecting low cost.**

It was acknowledged that this can sometimes be an issue. How can quality be defined? Organisations still don't demand evidence of qualifications to enable contractors to work on old buildings.

#### 4. The Building our Heritage Open Day - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Below is the programme of events that was produced for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January:

800 people participated in this event.



### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS: BUILDING OUR HERITAGE OPEN DAY NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN OF WALES, LLANARTHNE

**SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017**

Join us for some or all of our fascinating talks in **Principality House:**

10.15am	<b>RESTORATION OF LLWYNCELYN</b>
	<p><b><i>Kasia Howard (Landmark Trust's Education Officer)</i></b></p> <p>The Landmark Trust is restoring a late medieval farmhouse and associated buildings in the Llanthony Valley. The project involves sensitive conservation and restoration of dilapidated buildings, and challenging conversion issues. Kasia is leading the HLF funded training, volunteering and activities programme on this project.</p> <p>The Landmark Trust is the UK's second biggest historic buildings charity. It rescues historic buildings from dereliction and gives them a vibrant new life as places everyone can enjoy for short breaks. Each year some 40,000 people stay in their buildings.</p>
11am	<b>USING LIME IN RETROFIT, BUILDING HEALTH AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY; IMPROVING BUILDING HEALTH. ACTIONS BASED ON UNDERSTANDING.</b>
	<p><b><i>Nigel Gervis (Technical Director of Ty-Mawr Lime Ltd.)</i></b></p> <p>An illustrated talk on understanding building construction, maintenance and repair leading to decisions on retrofitting appropriate insulation systems. For further details of Ty Mawr Lime Ltd. Please visit <a href="http://www.lime.org.uk">www.lime.org.uk</a></p>
12 Noon	<b>THE TYWI GATEWAY AT BISHOP'S PARK</b>
	<p><b><i>Michael Norman, Trustee Tywi Gateway Project</i></b></p> <p>The Tywi Gateway Project is an exciting and innovative community driven landscape restoration project led by the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust based at the Bishop's Park, Abergwili. Tywi Gateway Project is working to restore the Bishop's Park to its former grandeur.</p>

1pm	<b>ECO-BUILD</b>
	<p><b><i>Mark McKenna, Director, Down to Earth Project</i></b></p> <p>Down to Earth specialise in a community-led approach to traditional and sustainable construction.</p> <p>Find out how they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• blend traditional and contemporary construction methods and put the community at the heart of award-winning community facilities.</li> <li>• Embed 100% renewables with an “off grid” grid connect concept</li> <li>• Design buildings to be centred around the sun and the users</li> <li>• Incorporate natural building techniques</li> </ul> <p>Building methods include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round pole timber framing/traditional timber framing/i-beam stud timber framing</li> <li>• Clay plasters</li> <li>• Natural insulation: sheep’s wool, wood fibre and straw bale</li> </ul>
2pm	<b>HOW TO AVOID A FLUTTER WITH BATS!</b>
	<p><b><i>Steve Lucas, Bat Conservation Trust, Wales Officer</i></b></p> <p>Find out everything you need to know about bats in your buildings. Steve Lucas has worked in nature conservation for over 25 years and has worked in both the public and NGO sectors. He is the Bat Conservation Trust’s Wales Officer and has been representing the work of BCT in Wales since 2008. Prior to that Steve was a protected species officer in the Countryside Council for Wales</p>
3pm	<b>LOOKING AFTER OUR TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS PROPERLY - UNDERSTANDING AND CARING FOR YOURS</b>
	<p><b><i>Helen Whitear, Landscape Archaeologist</i></b></p> <p>Helen will discuss the need to understand and care for our amazing and varied stock of traditional buildings in Wales, which perhaps more than any other features of the historic landscape, help to define the character and spirit of an area. Looking after your traditional building for environmental performance and historic integrity can be compatible and mutually beneficial.</p> <p>Helen is an archaeologist who specialises in landscape and traditional buildings. She is currently undertaking a project to map abandoned and derelict traditional buildings in the Western part of the Brecon Beacons National Park.</p>

Visit the **Great Glasshouse** where you will find demonstrations, displays and the opportunity to try your hand at traditional skills or ask the experts about your building or project.

### **DEMONSTRATIONS**

- Thatching Demonstration - Pembrokeshire Thatch and Carpentry Services
- Roofing Demonstration - Wales National Roofing Training Group
- Stone Carving with Coe Stone Ltd
- Mosaics and Sgraffito / Fresco - The Natural Building Centre Ltd
- Timber Framed house; Paint, Lime & Casting Demonstrations - Ty Mawr Lime Ltd
- Sash Windows and Timber Framing

### **DISPLAY STANDS**

- Tywi Centre
- Dyfed Archaeological Trust
- Tywi Gateway Project
- Adfer Ban a Chwm Project
- Llwyn Celyn Restoration Project
- Down to Earth Project
- Middleton Paradise Regained Project
- SPAB

### **GUIDED TOURS**

- Guided tours of the Gardens will be available.

11am & 1.30pm	<b>REGENCY PARKLAND GUIDED TOUR</b> Join us for a guided tour of the fabulous historic parkland created by Sir William Paxton in the late 18 <sup>th</sup> century. Let our excellent tour guides take you around this wonderful Picturesque landscape. Come and see the waterfalls, dams, weirs and cascades created over 200 years ago which shaped the estate in which our stunning botanic gardens were created.
11am & 1.30pm	<b>HISTORIC BUILDINGS GUIDED TOUR</b> Find out more about the historic buildings at the Garden. Come on a walking tour of the buildings and structures from the late 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries which have been conserved and restored as part of the National Botanic Garden. These include the ice house, the double walled garden and peach house, the stable blocks and the servant's quarters of Sir William Paxton's fantastic mansion.

## 5. Gallery



Tywi Centre's Tom Duxbury talks to visitors about the repair and conservation of sliding sash windows.



Tywi Centre display boards informing visitors of the projects and what the Bursary students have gone on to do following the scheme



Master thatcher Alan Jones inspired visitors with his incredible knowledge of traditional thatching in Wales and beyond







Past carpentry student  
Dominic Wright discussing  
the different types of  
traditional timber  
structures and joints with  
visitors

Stone mason, Oliver Coe  
gives the next generation of  
masons a master class in  
banker masonry



Traditional stone and slate roofing display provided by The Wales National Roofing Training Group







Ned Scharer from the Natural Building Centre engaging visitors in the ancient skills of Mosaic and Sgraffito



Past Bursary Student, Paul Walters teamed up with Ty Mawr Lime to offer advice to visitors on the range of products available to restore old buildings appropriately



Bat expert Steve Lucas from the Bat Conservation Trust was available to answer questions relating to building projects and protecting bats and other wildlife.

## 6. Conclusion

The 'Building our Heritage' Conference and Open Day was organised to mark the end of the HLF Skills for the Future Bursary Schemes that were delivered by the Tywi Centre. The event set out to achieve a number of defined aims.

To help members of the public engage with their built heritage through better understanding and enjoyment.

The Open Day attracted over 800 people who were provided with the opportunity to meet heritage crafts people and have a go at a range of activities from stone carving to thatching and mosaic making. Each of the talks were exceptionally well attended and provided a range of information.

To work in partnership with other HLF funded projects to provide a support network within the heritage industry and to strengthen the impact of the message

A number of organisations who were delivering HLF Funded projects were involved in the event:

- Mark McKenna from the Down to Earth project provided an illustrated and inspirational talk about the eco build projects. Mark also set up a display and was available to talk to visitors about their work throughout the day
- The Botanical Gardens of Wales provided guided tours to inform people about the 'Middleton: Paradise Regained' Project.
- Kasia Howard from the Landmark Trust provided a talk and demonstration relating to the restoration project at Llwyn Celyn
- Helen Whitear from Adfer Ban a Chwm provided a talk about her work mapping derelict buildings within the Brecon Beacons National Park.
- Michael Norman, Trustee Tywi Gateway Project informed visitors about the Tywi Gateway Project and the restoration of the Bishop's Park to its former grandeur.

To provide an opportunity for professionals to better understand heritage construction

The event was very well supported by members of the Construction industry- both heritage and non-heritage. The provision of seminars from professionals such as Alison Howells, Tony Gwynne, Nathan Goss and Steve Lucas provided a perfect opportunity for Continued Professional Development. All participants were given the opportunity to ask questions to a panel of experts and there were many opportunities throughout the event for people to network and to gather contacts and information.

To disseminate information learnt through the 5 years of the Building our Heritage bursary Scheme

This event marked the end of the Bursary Scheme and brought together many of the people who have supported and participated in the scheme over a period of 5 years. This is a pivotal point for the Heritage Construction Industry in Wales. The bursary schemes created a great momentum: they produced a new generation of skilled professionals; they brought together a dispersed sector; they generated interest amongst the mainstream sector of training providers, and they provided education to the general public and homeowners about the repair and maintenance of old buildings. This conference was crucial to

maintaining the momentum of the bursary schemes. It enabled the Tywi Centre to gather information from the sector in relation to moving forward and continuing to positively progress the development of the sector. Participants provided input into how the Welsh Traditional Building Forum can support them in the future; the type of training that would benefit them and the current barriers to training that exist; the general issues that they face that need to be addressed. This information will be invaluable as the Tywi Centre or other Heritage organisations plan for the future of Heritage provisions in Wales.

### [To celebrate the success of individuals that have achieved NVQ3 through the bursary scheme and the impact they have on the Heritage Construction industry in Wales](#)

The success of all of the 84 Bursary Students and 10 Women in Heritage Construction students were celebrated throughout the event. Nell Hellier, Tywi Centre Manager provided statistical information relating to the students during her introductory presentation. A series of posters illustrating the student's stories were created and displayed throughout the event. Also, many students were able to demonstrate their skills through the workshops that were provided on the Saturday. Luke O'Hanlon assisted Botanical Garden staff with their tours by providing information about the built heritage, particularly the stone work in the Garden. Dominic Wright helped visitors to work out how traditional timber frame joints fit together; Paul Walters and Cellan Jones assisted Ty Mawr Lime with their demonstrations relating to lime plastering and other lime products and Chris Knipe brought along his collection of wooden Furniture that he sells as part of his new business venture.

The 'Building our Heritage' Open Day and Conference was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate achievements and to plan for the future based on the sector requirements. The Tywi Centre are extremely grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund and CITB for making this event possible and to all exhibitors, speakers, demonstrators, supporters and participants for making the event a very enjoyable success.