



Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust

Traditional Building Skills Roadshow 2024

Summary Report

On 27 and 28 August 2024, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust held our annual Traditional Building Skills Roadshow alongside Developing the Young Workforce. This year's Roadshow took place at Perth Grammar School and invited pupils from Perth Grammar and nearby St. John's RC Academy to take part.

The aim of the event was to deliver introductory taster sessions to pupils who may be considering their future career options, allowing them first-hand experience across various traditional building skills.

This gives pupils the opportunity to reinforce their knowledge of traditional building skills and develop their interest in conservation, restoration and caring for our build heritage.

Demonstrations were led by traditional craftspeople, industry professionals and trade experts. Representatives from Forsters' Roofing Services, T+M Stonemasonry, Philip Winkle Contracting and Bungo Sign Company. 30-minute workshops were delivered on traditional roof slating, stone carving, drystone walling and sign writing.





The Traditional Building Skills Roadshows delivered by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust have proven to be progressively successful year on year, with a healthy increase in the number of pupils taking part with each edition.

As we do yearly, we rotated the venue for this year's Roadshow, with Perth Grammar School once again graciously hosting us across 2 days. Pupils from St. John's Academy also visited and took part.

Pupils attended the workshops in groups of 16-20, split into 4 smaller groups, and were given a 30-minute lesson in each Traditional Building Skill available, dependent on time and class schedules. The workshops took place in marquees on the grounds of Perth Grammar School, creating a strong, noticeable presence and allowing ourselves to be seen and heard by other passing pupils. The idea behind this is that it will encourage a further increase in pupil registration for the event next year.

108 pupils participated in the Roadshow in total.

The event was covered by our local STV news anchors, who aired short interviews with pupils and staff. You can view the interview clip using the link below.

<https://news.stv.tv/north/we-have-a-real-shortage-pupils-learn-traditional-construction-crafts-to-skill-next-generation>

Roof Slating

Led by Forsters Roofing

Pupils were introduced to traditional slating techniques, such as slate dressing and traditional roofing. They were also given the opportunity to fix their dressed slates onto sarking boards using traditional copper clout nails.



Stone Carving

Led by T+M Stone Masonry

Under the tutelage of Billy Traill, pupils were shown how to carve and dress limestone with traditional tools and techniques.



Drystone Walling

Led by Philip Winkle Contracting

Pupils were taught how to plan, erect and maintain a drystone wall through a series of hands on practical demonstrations. Traditional techniques were explained and used in the workshop. Pupils used local field sandstone, a material which traditional drystone wallers would have used.



Sign Writing

Led by Bungo Sign Company

A new addition to this years' roadshow, Rachel and Hana from Bungo Sign Company taught pupils the art of traditional sign writing, alongside design and painting techniques. They also explained the history of sign writing and how they entered the industry through graphic design.



Data & Feedback

Total Number of Attendees

108

Male **94**

Female **14**

Feedback Forms Completed

70

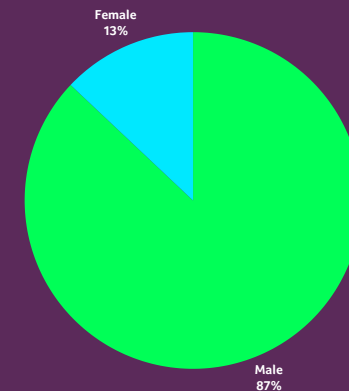
Interested in Following-Up with a Further Course

Yes **47**

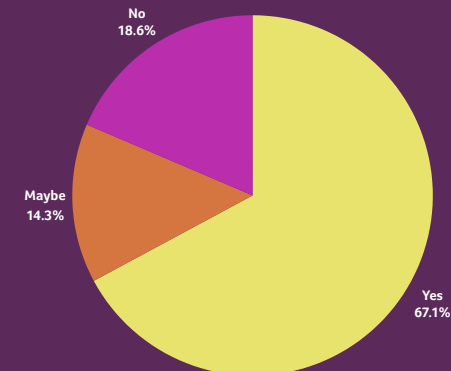
Maybe **10**

No **13**

Male/Female split of Pupils
who attended Roadshow



Percentage split of pupils
interested in a follow-up course



Data & Feedback

Interested Primarily in Roof Slating

35

Interested Primarily in Stone Carving

25

Interested Primarily in Drystone Walling

25

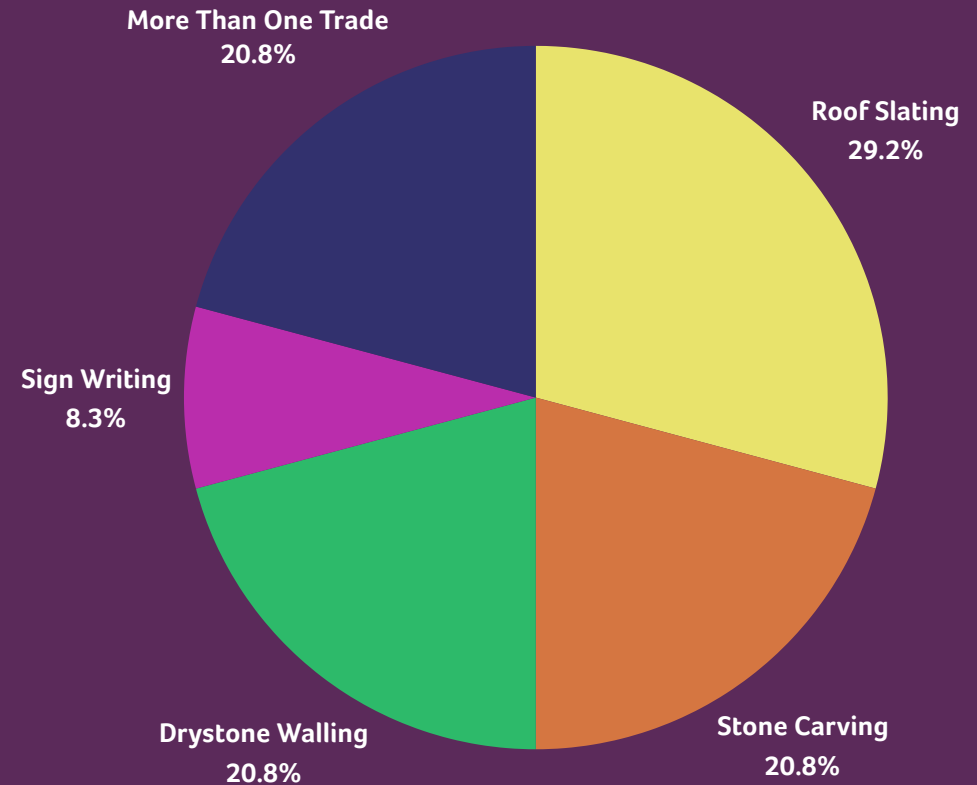
Interested Primarily in Sign Writing

10

Interested in more than one Trade

25

Percentage split of traditional building skills
which pupils were primarily interested in



Data Gathering

Pupils were encouraged to complete a feedback form upon finishing their last workshop. The feedback form placed a focus on what workshops they enjoyed the most and whether or not they would consider a short course on traditional building skills in the future.

Importantly, it also asked them to consider if the Traditional Building Skills Roadshow had changed their mind as regards career prospects within the field of heritage skills and building conservation.

For 2025, we will analyse and review our methods of data gathering and feedback in order to gain a more accurate and in-depth dataset.

Traditional Building Skills Roadshow 2025

As we begin to prepare for the 2025 edition of our Traditional Building Skills Roadshow, we will be reviewing the event and analysing ways in which we can improve it.

This will include feedback which is more accessible for pupils and gives a deeper reflection of the people who are participating in our Roadshow.

The review will also include how many workshops are available, how many days the Roadshow will run for, where the Roadshow will take place and how many schools are invited to join, among other changes and articles for review. Other local schools and organisations have shown interest, and therefore we feel the need to review how we deliver our Roadshow with the view of potentially expanding its scope.

The core objective of the Roadshow will remain the same and we look forward to delivering another display of Traditional Skills to the school pupils of Perth and Kinross in 2025.

