

Community Engagement Programme - The Support Officer

The support officer’s contract came to an end at the end of March 2023 after a 5 year period. A significant amount of work has been achieved working with local communities to deliver a number of projects in the Activity Plan. An evaluation of the work is underway at the moment. There is not enough space here to set out all the projects, just a few highlights over the years:



Heritage skills workshops with the schools



The Artist in Residence working at pen-y-Coe Press

- **The story teller project.** Macastory were commissioned to work with the schools and local community groups to discover and record local stories about the history and heritage of Penicuik. The pandemic interrupted access to the schools so a video was produced and subsequently a drama production with one of the schools which proved very successful.
- **Fiona Maher an artist in residence** was commissioned who worked with local communities. She had a residency in the Pen-y-Coe Press and the Town Hall producing artwork related to the papermaking industry and permanent artwork is now on display in the Town Hall.
- **Heritage Heroes project** with Archaeology Scotland and the schools was very popular together with a long running series of heritage workshops based in the Town Hall and the schools.

This is just a snapshot

The Project Archivist

The Archivist’s contract was completed at the beginning of December 2022. Again a lot has been achieved and the work is currently being evaluated.

The Archivist’s main role was to work with the Penicuik Historical Society to digitise as much of their collection as possible, documents and images in order to make the collection more accessible. All of the images have been digitised and many documents. Volunteers were trained and young people were introduced to the collection i.e. the Princes Trust and local schools.

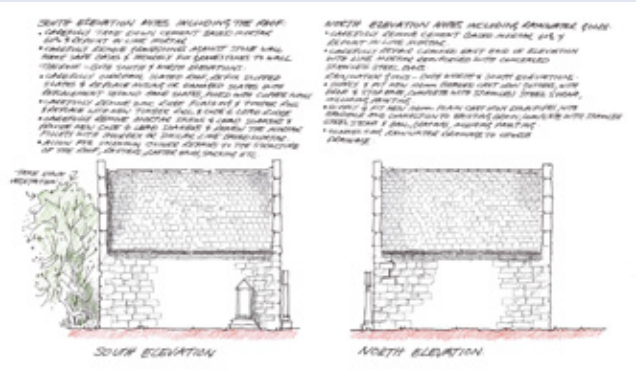


The Project Archivist working with the Princes Trust

- There were many other activities where the archivist assisted in providing historical evidence, information and advice i.e.:
- Exhibitions and leaflets
 - School projects including the production of comic books about the history and heritage of the town
 - Activities i.e. presence at Hunter & Lass, the Tinker Town event, St Mungo’s churchyard tour, Doors Open Day demonstrations of recording and cataloguing
 - Talks and presentations

The Hearse House Restoration and the development of the Heritage Trail:

The grant secured from the Scottish Government’s Place Based Investment Fund will mean that the Hearse House in St Mungo’s churchyard will be restored and used as a focal point for the Penicuik Heritage Trail. The structure will be repaired i.e. stone repairs and roof repairs with new timber boarded doors. Inside will be an exhibition about the town and it will be open to visitors on a seasonal basis as part of the Penicuik Heritage Trail. It is also proposed that a number of interpretative panels will be located in key positions in the town centre to provide information about important historic buildings and places.



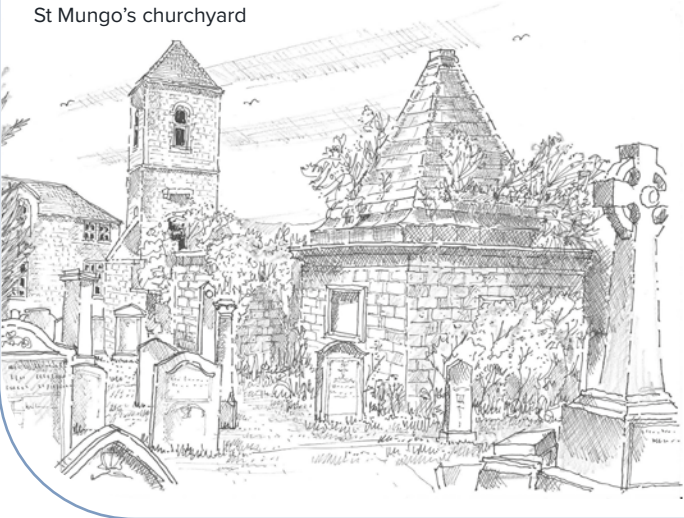
The Hearse House restoration proposal



The Hearse House before restoration work

Traditional Construction Skills Training: The Final Phase

The final phase will take place this year with students from the high schools being given the opportunity again to carry out hands on repair work to some of the stone boundary walls in St Mungo’s churchyard. Craig Frew Conservation will be organising the training and providing expert guidance with experienced masons. The previous phase proved very popular and it is hoped 15 students from the two high schools’ can gain some valuable practical experience of traditional masonry skills. The repair and restoration of the Hearse House will be taking place at the same time and students will have the opportunity to observe and talk to the contractor about the work.



St Mungo’s churchyard



Schools on-site training at St Mungo’s churchyard

Penicuik Townscape Heritage (TH) and Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)

Penicuik Heritage Regeneration



NEWSLETTER #6

Spring 2023

This newsletter gives a brief update on the project so far which includes progress with the building and shopfront grants, the completion of the public realm work outside the Town Hall, the approval of additional grant sums for shop front improvements and the completion of the archivist and support officer’s work. There is also an article about the Hearse House restoration and the Heritage Trail.



Proposals for No 4 The Square

A bid for additional shop front improvement grants has been successful meaning that an extra 5 shop fronts can be grant aided. These include 26 High Street, No3 The Square and 10-12 John Street.

The public realm improvements outside the Town Hall and up to St Mungo’s church are now substantially complete giving a safer and more accessible access to the Town Hall and St Joseph’s. This has been funded through a grant from the Scottish Government’s Place Based Investment Fund.

Grant application for No 4 The Square

A grant application is expected to be submitted for the restoration of the old grain warehouse building, creating a commercial unit on the ground floor with two flats above. The existing building will be restored with a new mansard roof to match the original. The sheeted roof extension to the side will be demolished creating a courtyard area with vehicular access. This is a high priority building within the scheme.



Before



After

Public realm improvements outside the Town Hall.



Before



After

Cut out this slip and return it to: Rod Lugg, PHRP Manager, Penicuik Town Hall, 33 High Street, Penicuik EH26 8HS or email it to rod.lugg@midlothian.gov.uk

The Project Area

The Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project is now in its 5th year. It has been agreed to extend the project for a further year due to the time lost during the pandemic. The building grant rate has been increased and this has encouraged the uptake. The grant fund is committed now apart from the additional 5 shop fronts which will be funded through the additional grant recently approved.

25-28 The Square Now complete



Before

After

4 The Square

Project soon to start



2-3 The Square

Projects under way



Pilkington Buildings now complete



Before



After



Before



After

14-20 High Street Now complete



Before



After

4-6 John Street Now complete



Before



After

Hearse House

Projects under way



22 The Storehouse Now complete

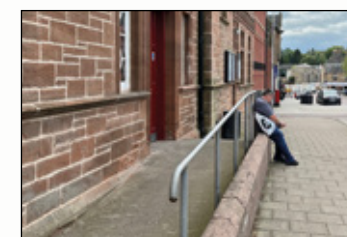


Before



After

Public Realm Phase 2 Now complete



Before



After

19-20 The Square Now complete



Before



After

Town Hall now complete



Before



After

Penicuik Press now complete



Before



After



Before



After

Shop Front Improvements

Additional grant funds have been approved to work up proposals for:

26 High Street



3 The Square



10-12 John Street



TH/CARS Boundary

Projects Underway

Public Realm Phase 1 (Complete)

Public Realm Phase 2 (Complete)

Public Realm Phase 3 (Medium Priority)

High Priority Buildings

Medium Priority Buildings

Reserve Projects

Completed Projects

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