



WHITEHAVEN TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE

Newsletter

FURTHER GRANTS AWARDED

Since the last newsletter three further grants totalling £400,000 have been awarded by the Whitehaven Townscape Heritage Initiative. These will see three properties in the town centre, two of which have been vacant for a number of years, refurbished and upgraded to create four shop units and four residential units. A total of 443 sq m of floor space will be brought back into beneficial use and a further 101 sq m will be refurbished.



45 Market Place

Work commenced on this property late last year with completion due in October. The property will be fully refurbished and let out as a shop unit with separately accessed residential accommodation above. The scheme will bring 107m sq of accommodation back into use. Apollo Electrical of Essex is the main contractor.



48-50 Market Place

Work has commenced on a quarter of a million pound scheme to transform this building into two high quality retail units with a bedsit and a two bedroom flat above. It is hoped works will be completed by the end of November and tenants will be in by Christmas. Brickwork Solutions of Cleator Moor is the main contractor.



32 James Street

This long vacant building is about to undergo a major facelift costing over £150,000. The ground floor shop unit will be totally refurbished and a three bedroom flat with separate access will be created above. The main contractor is Ian Harvey of Whitehaven.



Introduction to working with Lime

Calling all building professionals, contractors, apprentices and students. The THI in conjunction with Crosby Granger Architects and Muncaster Castle Estates is running a 2 day introduction to building with Lime. Attendees will learn about the lime cycle, types of lime, hot mixes and preparing walls. They will get hands on experience of using lime for pointing, plastering and harling.

Places on the course can be booked at

<http://bit.ly/2cvAlzb>

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From YMCA to Foyer



Work is progressing on the conversion of the derelict former YMCA building on Irish Street into a Foyer for young people. The new build element at the rear of the property, on the site of the former gym, is now mainly complete and tenants are moving in.

Completion of the front element, in the original Grade II listed building, has been delayed due to problems with the lime plaster setting. Work has however recommenced and it is hoped this element will be complete early in the new year.

Historic Windows returned to the Peeney family

Number 48-50 Market Place is currently being refurbished with the aid of a THI grant. As part of the refurbishment two new shop fronts will be installed. The current windows were in a very poor condition, but beneath layers of stickers and sheeting two of six windows from the early 1900's remained. These advertised Peeney's fish and chip shop which many locals still remember with great fondness.



The shop was bought by Mrs Louisa Peeney in 1905. Prior to this, Louisa and her husband, Giovanni moved to England from northern Italy and established an ice cream business in Blackpool. She was well known for her generosity, particularly during the depression in the 1920's. Although under 5 feet tall, she stood no nonsense. She was known to leap over the counter and deal with any trouble makers. In 1924, the shop was gutted and rebuilt with bay windows upstairs, from which the very first Whitehaven Carnival was judged.

When the fish and chip business was established, that and the ice cream business was carried on by Louisa's two sons - Louis and Joseph and their families until the start of the Second World War when Joseph took it over permanently. Joseph and his wife Mary had 4 daughters - Louisa, Mary, Dolores and Joan. Mary, Dolores and Joan were all born above the shop and all the girls worked there. Louisa and Mary until they married and Dolores and Joan until the shop was sold in 1966 to Mr Thomas Todd. The four Peeney sisters were also well known in local music and amateur dramatic circles. Dolores and Joan performed songs and dances on local television talent show, 'Cock o'The Border' in 1963.

The shop was extremely popular and there are still many times when Delores and Joan go into town and are stopped and reminded of the days when you could go into Peeney's and buy a, 'mixture'. This was when customers would bring in a basin for a ladle of mushy peas topped with a spoonful of chips which were smothered in salt and vinegar.

The windows were made by Pilkingtons of St. Helens. There were six windows in total - three to the left of the entrance and three to the right. Each side read 'Fish', 'Peeney's' 'Chips'. Mr Todd removed the three windows on the left of the entrance and the, 'Fish' window on the right of the entrance was apparently broken when a market stall fell over into it in high winds. During the war, when Italy joined forces with Germany, Italian owned businesses were sometimes targeted, but customers of Peeney's fish and chip shop remained loyal and protected the shop and windows. Delores can be seen with one of the windows which has been restored by her daughter, Melinda, in the photo on the right. Delores's father and nephew can be seen outside the shop in the photograph above.





Love It or Lose It

The Whitehaven Townscape Heritage Initiative has issued a helpful set of free guidelines for people with older properties.

The booklet, packed with practical tips and planning guidance, is aimed at those in conservation areas, or who own a listed or older building.

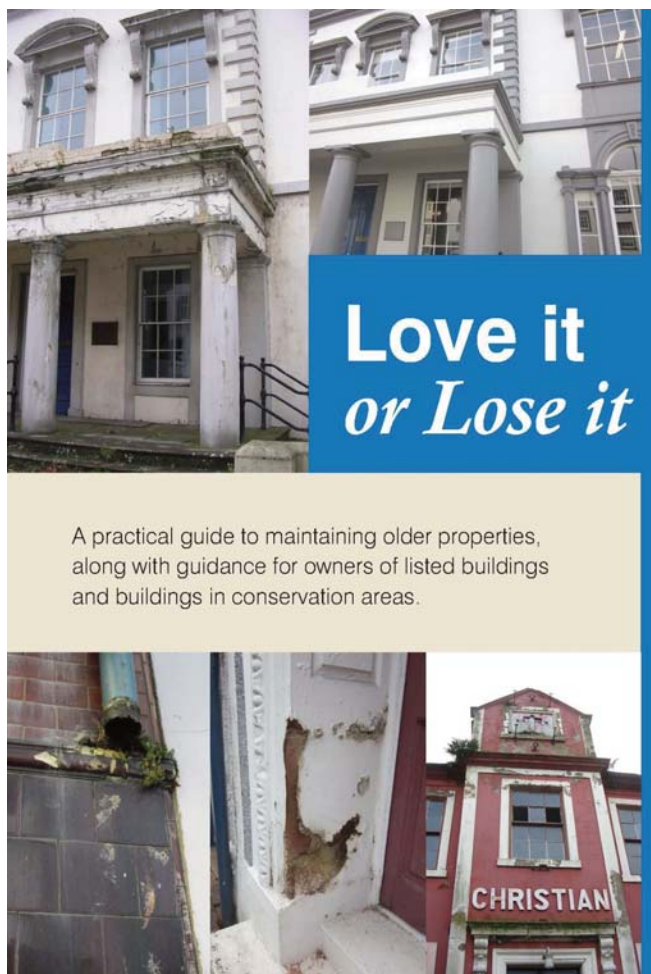
The booklet is called Love it or Lose it and is available at www.copeland.gov.uk/thi/townscape-heritage-initiative. It is also being sent out to all listed building owners in Copeland, and can be requested by calling 01946 598300.

The 24-page document shows property owners how to take care of older structures and gives guidance on what changes are acceptable in a conservation area.

Copeland's portfolio holder for economic growth, Coun Lena Hogg, said: "This guide should prove invaluable for anyone in an older property. It's very practical and it could save costly mistakes – it explains what you can and can't do to your home if it is listed or in a conservation area. For example, sometimes people have to make expensive changes because they have modified their homes without checking with planners first."

Copeland Council's Heritage Champion and member of the THI stakeholder partnership, Coun Michael McVeigh, said: "The guide tells you how to check your building for potential problems, and explains the benefits of using heritage construction techniques and materials. Studies have shown that every £1 saved by not carrying out preventative maintenance could cost £20 in repairs within five years."

The guide was put together by conservation architect James Innerdale, Copeland Council's conservation officer Richard Majewicz and THI officer Jane Taylor.



The beauty of our town centres lie in the many historical buildings therein. This beauty is slowly being eroded by insensitive and sometimes illegal repairs and alterations. For instance you may not know that whilst for cavity walls sand and cement renders and mortars are ideal, they are totally the wrong choice for traditionally constructed solid wall properties and by using these modern materials you can seriously damage the wall.

Replacing the original windows in a listed building (without the appropriate permission) is like ripping the heart out of the property, it can cause condensation and damp due to lack of ventilation and the person doing it is guilty of an offence which could lead to a large fine and or even imprisonment. What's more enforcement action can be taken indefinitely even if the ownership of the property has changed.

Further details and more can be found in Love It or Lose It. Download your copy now at

www.copeland.gov.uk/thi/townscape-heritage-initiative



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James Street Plaza

A plaza with seating and trees is to be created in Whitehaven's James Street. The transformation is part of the Heritage Lottery Fund supported Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI), which has already seen huge improvements to historic buildings in the Market Place and James Street areas. The plaza project also complements the adjacent Albion Square office complex, and the progressing Foyer project opposite.

There will be wooden benches inscribed with references to the history of the area, and a low wall at the top of James Street with information boards about surrounding buildings. Iron horseshoes and rails will also be inserted into the paving to replicate the waggon way that used to carry iron ore from the Preston Street depot to the harbour.

The THI partnership will use approximately £70,000 of it's £1.35m funding for the plaza improvements. The finished scheme will provide a pleasant place to sit, a fitting and attractive gateway to the town and a link between Albion Square, the Foyer and the shopping centre

Coun Lena Hogg, Copeland's deputy mayor and portfolio holder for regeneration, said: "It is wonderful to see this additional work in James Street. The current plaza is modern and attractive, and it will be great to see this added to, with somewhere to sit and attractive greenery. It will also provide a lovely outlook for Albion Square and the nearby Foyer project. "The fact that the history of this area will also be celebrated in the scheme is good to see. It was always part of the THI scheme to improve the public areas, so it's good to see this come to fruition. This is becoming a busy and beautiful corner of Whitehaven, befitting of its historic associations."

Work on the plaza will be carried out by Cubby Construction and Smith Engineering and will begin in early September and be completed within four weeks.



Come and have a go at improving your Heritage Skills

The Townscape Heritage Initiative is offering a range of taster days for the public to have a go at various heritage techniques.

Taster days currently being planned include joinery, laying setts, conservation principles, understanding damp and decay and making and repairing plaster coving. The taster days will be led by expert craftsmen with many years experience of working on heritage projects. Attendees will receive the benefit of their knowledge and have hands on experience of working on a live project in Whitehaven town centre.

If you would like to receive further information on any of the taster days please contact Jane Taylor, the THI Officer, on the contact details below.



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