



TREASURED PLACES

100
years



Royal
Commission on the
Ancient and
Historical
Monuments of
Scotland

Scotland's favourite
archive images

Scouts Build Bridges with their Local Heritage

Scouts from Dunfermline got a chance to flex their creative muscles this week in an interactive workshop designed to get them hands on with their local heritage.

The 83rd Scout Pack based in Cairneyhill, teamed up with workshop leader Calum Price and staff from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS), to explore the cultural and historical impact of Fife's fascinating industrial heritage on their local landscape and community.

Taking the iconic Forth Bridges as a starting point for discussion, the two-day workshop kicked off with the 10-13 year olds getting to grips with the basic bridge principals. A light-hearted 'human bridge building' session and a fun 'bridge quiz' unleashed their enthusiasm for engineering. The excited group were then whisked off to South Queensferry to directly experience the famous landmarks for themselves and then on to Pittencrieff Park where they were challenged to identify as many different types of bridges as possible.

After a morning of new discoveries, the boys revealed their creative talents in translating all that they had learned in to building their own model bridges. Pipe cleaners, lollipop sticks and plasticine galore! The unique designs were then put to a panel of judges, including civil engineer and RCAHMS Commissioner Gordon Masterton, with Team B being announced the winners with their strong 'earthquake-proof' bridge!

Chris Johnson, Scout Leader said: 'We feel privileged to be part of a national project, to work with a dynamic and exciting team of specialists, whilst getting hand's on with our heritage. Projects like this are a fantastic example of engaging youngsters with their surroundings in a fun and interactive way. Above all, it helps us to value our places and spaces and understand why it is important to preserve them for the future'

The workshops were organised by RCAHMS as part of their 'Treasured Places' project to celebrate 100 years of recording Scotland's built environment. RCAHMS holds some 4.5 million photographs, drawings and manuscripts in their National Collection and seeks to open up this inspiring archive for everyone to enjoy.

Jane Gilchrist, Treasured Places education officer said, 'Creatively encouraging the public to interact and examine their local heritage is key to the Treasured Places project. A deeper understanding of our built environment helps us to develop a strong sense of identity and deepens our connection with our communities and the wider world'

Several further Treasured Places workshops are taking place across Scotland over the next six months, each being lead by an artist or specialist who will lead participants through creative responses to their local built heritage. For example in Glasgow, young people from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths will work together during Inter-Faith Week in November to use their places of worship to inspire the creation of a textile art-piece; whilst in Orkney, local residents will create artwork for public display that reflects the cultural and historical impact of Orkney's maritime heritage.

ENDS