

Relics Rising Video Transcript

Music plays

Man 1 – David Beaumont , Architect

Our culture is made up of everything around us, so if we lose parts of our culture we begin to lose parts of our identity.

Man 2 – Ken Bradshaw, Project Officer

The Relics Rising project is about consolidation and refurbishment of key buildings in the Limestone Landscape area and in the development phase we had to decide which ones we could do, obviously with limitations on cash. And so we've chosen four buildings across the area including the Westerton Tower on the western side of the area and we've got the Seaham lifeboat building, the Hawthorn hive Lime Kiln and here we have the Hetton Smithy. Erm and the idea behind it is we have chosen buildings made out of local stone and natural stone that needs some repair and a little bit of TLC to bring them back into much greater use, or to show people how important these buildings were in the past and to educate people about the importance of them through interpretation and various educational programmes.

Background talking.

Man 1 – David Beaumont , Architect

It's not been without its difficulties and challenges. When you've got an old building which has seen or has not seen much in the way of repair in recent past there's erm a lot of water in the building and rot as a consequence of that, so we've had to a bit in repairing the rafters. But of course what we have done is try to retain as much of the original fabric as possible because that is key to conservation. Erm we had some trouble with our south gabled wall and also some difficulties with our hearth as well. But perhaps the builder would tell you more about that. What we did, what we've done is use proper conservation techniques throughout. Lime pointing using the original materials, rebuilding it as necessary.

Background talking

Man 4 - Derek Nicholson, building contractor

Interesting part in terms of sourcing what we have is we've used Beamish Museum erm and through their goodwill and contact through Durham County Council who are obviously the major client in this we were able to go up there and salvage an element of the pan tiles and glass pan tiles which are very rare erm and we were able to take things from their sources and that they were keen to see salvaged materials which they didn't have any immediate use for in a development or a scheme like this, so that was good. We were also able to salvage some railway sleepers which are no the floor and across the doorways so again there is a historic content if you like in terms of what we have been able to get hold of to put back into this building and it's been kept local to the North East of England which I think is brilliant.

Man 2 – Ken Bradshaw, Project Officer

Well, this particular project in the Hetton Smithy we obviously need to finish the building we hope to do that in the next couple of weeks. We've got a Heritage Open Day coming up where the building will be open. John Guy the owner will be doing demonstrations and we will have a display of how the building was refurbished and how it's come back into life.

Man 4 – John Guy, Blacksmith Owner

Well, I think there are too many of these buildings being pulled down and dismantled and I think it's part of the countryside and part of Hetton itself really. If you go outside of Hetton and you are trying to direct someone into Hetton you always say make your way to the Blacksmith's Shop up at the Fox and Hounds at Hetton-le-Hole. And most people always know where the little shop is on the corner at Hetton-le-Hole.

Music to finish.