



# WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

Promoting careers in the built heritage



**OCTOBER 2024**

**BANNOCKBURN HOUSE**

**EVENT REPORT**



**Stirling City**  
HERITAGE TRUST



## Women in Construction

Women in Construction is a series of events conceived and organised by Stirling City Heritage Trust (SCHT), with the aim of inspiring female high school students to consider a career in the construction sector. Our events showcase how varied and rewarding work in the sector can be, with a focus on roles which involve working with the historic built environment.

According to the [report](#) of National Statistics, women currently make up only 15%\* of workers in the construction sector and only 1%\* of the manual workforce. Women also occupy just 9.2%\* of the highest-paid roles in construction. These events, which increase awareness, are therefore much needed.

\* Women in Construction UK | The Access Group

***'The girls really enjoyed the practical aspect of the event and that they were making something that they would be able to visit in the future.'***

***- Teacher***



## Women in Construction October 2024

Our autumn 2024 event was held in October at Bannockburn House. We spent two days with a group of twelve S4-S6 pupils from Wallace High School and Stirling High School and a team of three joiners, constructing a timber garden pergola.

Pupils started their [first](#) day with a tour of Bannockburn House, led by one of their History Volunteers. Only one of the twelve pupils had visited the House before, so we were glad to be able to introduce them to this important part of their local history.

Our enthusiastic pupils were mentored by expert joiners Kirsty Cassels, Katrina Mantell, and Jim Bunce, and over two days the group constructed a timber garden pergola using traditional techniques and tools. The pupils learned valuable teamworking skills, as well as traditional skills, and had the opportunity to talk to our joinery demonstrators and SCHT members about their varied career paths.

The completed pergola has been gifted to Bannockburn House for use in its thriving volunteer-run gardens.



## Bannockburn House

Bannockburn House is a Category A Listed country house, built around 1675 for the Paterson Family. The house was later owned by the Wilsons of Bannockburn, renowned tartan manufacturers. In the 19th century Alexander Wilson added an extension to the rear and opened up the ceiling of the main hall to create a mezzanine level, showcasing one of the house's incredible 17th century plasterwork ceilings. The complex plasterwork may have been created by John Houlbert and George who also worked on the lavish interiors of Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh.

In 2017, Bannockburn House was purchased via community buyout, and is now cared for by the Bannockburn House Trust. Since then, the House has been used as a [venue](#) and photoshoot location, and events are held throughout the year. You can [find out more here: Bannockburn House.](#)

With thanks to Bannockburn House for being excellent hosts. Thanks also to our funders, Historic Environment Scotland, and our demonstrators, Kirsty, Katrina and Jim.



The SCHT Women in Construction events bring together women with a variety of skillsets and experiences from across the construction and heritage sectors to inspire the next generation.

Two of the pupils had been inspired to participate, having previously attended a Women in Construction event at their school.

***'I'm hoping to gain ideas for what I want to do in the future. More helpful skills for construction!'***

**- Student**

### Awareness

now have a greater awareness of the variety of job roles and career paths in the construction sector.



### Encouragement

Pupils have been encouraged to see a career in the sector as a viable option for themselves.



### Experience

Pupils received encouragement to try practical hands-on joinery in their physical skill sets.



### Team Work

Pupils learned how to work well as a team to achieve a common goal, supporting and encouraging each other.



### Understanding

Increased understanding of the importance of traditional skills & materials and the historic built environment amongst pupils.



This event helped to deliver the following priorities and outcomes from Historic Environment Scotland's strategy for the historic environment, [Our Past, Our Future](#):

- Outcome 3: Improved pathways for historic environment skills
- Outcome 6: The historic environment is more diverse and inclusive
- Outcome 9: Increased engagement with the historic environment, with a focus on activities that enhance wellbeing

***'This has been an amazing opportunity for our pupils to get involved in a practical project which they will be able to visit with their families for years to come. They are so proud of what they achieved!'***

**- Teacher**



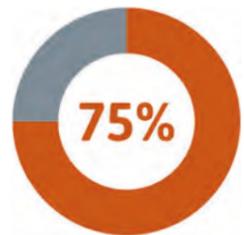
## Skills Aquisition

The pupils who attended learned:

- Creation of mortise and tenon joints
- Health and Safety in construction
- Use of traditional hand tools including chisels, mallets, saws, and planes.
- Safe use of power tools such as drills and sanders.



# Feedback



**BEFORE**  
of students felt  
ability to complete the  
practical elements of  
the event



**AFTER**  
of students felt  
applying the skills  
acquired during this  
event



**BEFORE**  
the event **100%**  
of students were  
mostly looking  
forward to the  
event



**AFTER**  
the event **89%** of  
the students loved  
it and **100%** enjoyed  
the event



**34%**  
of students knew a lot  
about careers in the  
construction sector  
before the event



**100%**  
of students as a result  
of the event would  
maybe consider a  
career in construction/  
heritage



**89%**  
of students would give  
the Joinery skills they  
learnt during the event  
another go



**78%**  
of students felt  
inspired by the event  
to try other traditional  
skills



**AFTER**  
of students felt better  
prepared to make  
choices about their  
career options as a  
result of the event



**AFTER**  
of students would  
consider a career  
in construction/  
heritage after the  
event

*'I'm hoping to learn new skills regarding construction, that may be helpful in the future' - Student*



## ABOUT SCHT

A registered Scottish Charity and a private company limited by guarantee.

The Trust is managed by a Trust Manager and overseen by a Board of up to 11 voluntary Trustees. Funding is from **Historic Environment Scotland** and **Stirling Council**.

*Stirling City Heritage Trust,*  
Ground Floor, Cameron House,  
Forthside Way, Stirling, FK8 1QZ

Company number: SC277033

Scottish Charity number: SC037888



**Stirling City**  
HERITAGE TRUST



## SUPPORTED BY



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA

