

13 September 2004

Restoration Nation

As part of Heritage Open Days 2004, Fountains Abbey near Ripon hosted a four day event for the public on 10th -13th September 2004 to showcase the traditional skills used to preserve historic sites, such as the ruins of Fountains Abbey.

The day was run as a partnership between the National Trust, Classic Masonry, Historic Property Restoration, National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) and York College. It aimed to provide visitors with an insight into the techniques used by skilled craftsmen at Fountains Abbey and gave them an opportunity to have a go at stone masonry and other traditional skills.

Specialist guided tours were conducted by conservation experts, and visitors were given the opportunity to see award-winning stone masons work.

Sasha Jackson, National Trust spokesperson said:

“Fountains Abbey is living proof of the importance of maintaining a ready source of skilled craftspeople to work on historic buildings. Without this skilled labour force the National Trust and other heritage organisations would struggle to maintain their historic properties.”

Beverley Peters, NHTG spokesperson said:

“The National Heritage Training Group were delighted to be involved in the event. We know that there are currently not enough new people entering the building conservation and restoration industry, hopefully the day gave people an insight into traditional building skills and some of those people may now be aware of the rewards that a career in the industry can offer.”

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