

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



The ancient tradition of apple gifting at the Fruit Festival © George Logan



[www.taylp.org](http://www.taylp.org)

**Your Tay Your Adventure**

# conserving

natural and built features

# connecting

people with the inner Tay Estuary

# participating

in the landscape's heritage

# training

in traditional skills

# About The Tay Landscape Partnership

2016-2017 was the penultimate year of project delivery for the Tay Landscape Partnership (TayLP). Progress is now established on all 29 projects across 250km<sup>2</sup> of the inner Tay estuary. The TayLP is a partnership between Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, The Gannochy Trust and Perth and Kinross Council.

## Vision

We will celebrate and enhance for people and wildlife the landscapes where the rivers Tay and Earn meet.

We want residents and visitors to love and reconnect with their natural, built and cultural heritage.



## Goals

We will achieve this by:

- conserving and restoring 120 different locations
- erecting 800 new nest and roost sites for bats and birds
- completing 114 archaeological and wildlife surveys
- actively involving 10,000 people between 2014-2018
- planting 1,300 new trees and creating new hedgerows
- producing literature, resources, training materials and publications for future learning
- organising over 70 events promoting the unique landscape of the Inner Tay Estuary
- improving access paths to link communities to the wider landscape

# Achievements



## Chairman's Report

Yet again a very busy year for the Tay Landscape Partnership with work well underway on many of our plans.

We have completed most of the hedge and tree planting that was part of our plan and are delighted to have overseen the reinstatement of the original oaks at Scone Palace. We have also had our first countryside skills training courses on hedge laying. New interpretation boards and benches have been erected along the Tay reed beds at Errol. In September we held a Fruit Festival in Perth city centre which was most successful. We have held our final field walking event and all who participated enjoyed themselves.

The Forteviot Pictish Stones having been conserved are now part of an excellent display in the church at Forteviot. We also held our first Drop in Workshops with the local community in Forteviot and consulted on the design of the new pictish stone carving. Work has continued throughout the year on repairing the walls and the Aisle building of Kinfauns Church. In September we held our second archaeological season at Moredun Top and once again this went very well and we were delighted with the number of volunteers who participated.

Contracts have now been awarded for interpretation – these will cover information panels, viewpoints and trailheads. We have also had our first traditional building skills training on the Megginch Castle Estate where six youngsters took part.

We were particularly delighted when at last, after various problems, the boat building project was started with pupils from Perth High School. This seems to be going very well and we look forward to the completion of this in the summer of 2017.

I cannot finish this without thanking Shirley Paterson and all the TLP staff for all their enthusiasm and the tremendous amount of hard work they do.

*Sue Henry*



Having fun at TayLP's Hillforts Community Day  
© George Logan



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EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA



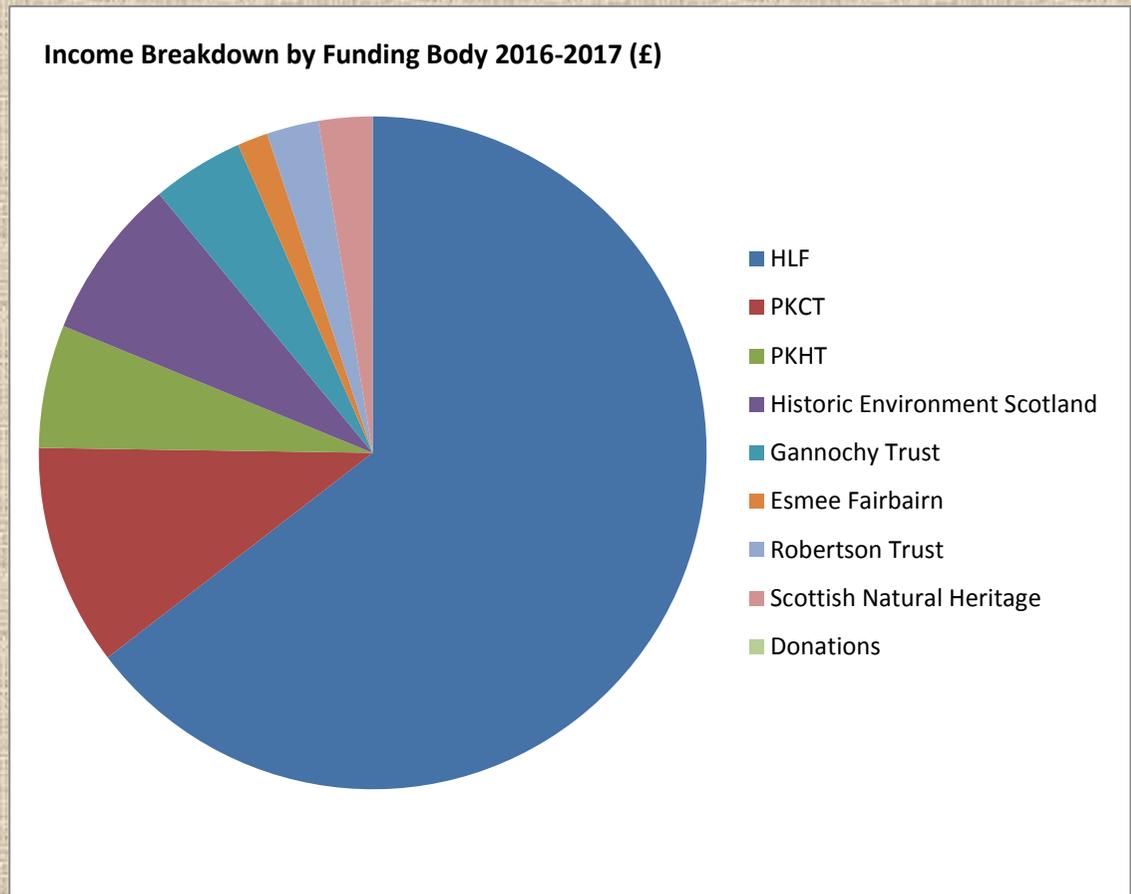
The Cross Trust

# Funding

Between 2014 – 2018, the Tay Landscape Partnership will support £2.6 million of environmental and historical projects. The Heritage Lottery Fund is the principal funder offering £1.4 million towards all 29 projects. Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, The Gannochy Trust and Perth and Kinross Council are lead partners. The page opposite acknowledges the financial support received by all of TayLP’s funding bodies.

## Analysis of Annual Income

- Pledged Income from funding bodies between 2016-2017: £682,504
- Actual Income received from funding bodies in financial year 2016-2017: £555,837, with a further £175,198 pending
- Actual Income to date September 2014- March 2017: £1,345,453



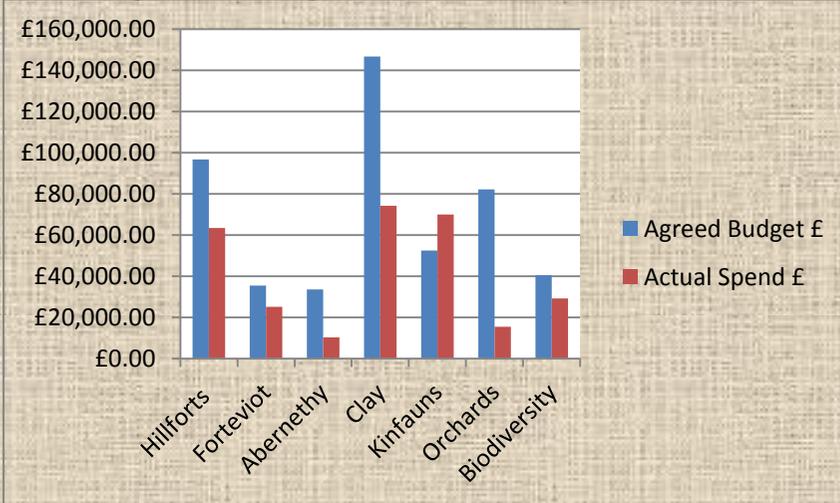


Members of the TayLP Steering Group visit Kinnoull Hill to look at new path improvements around the Aitken Arboretum

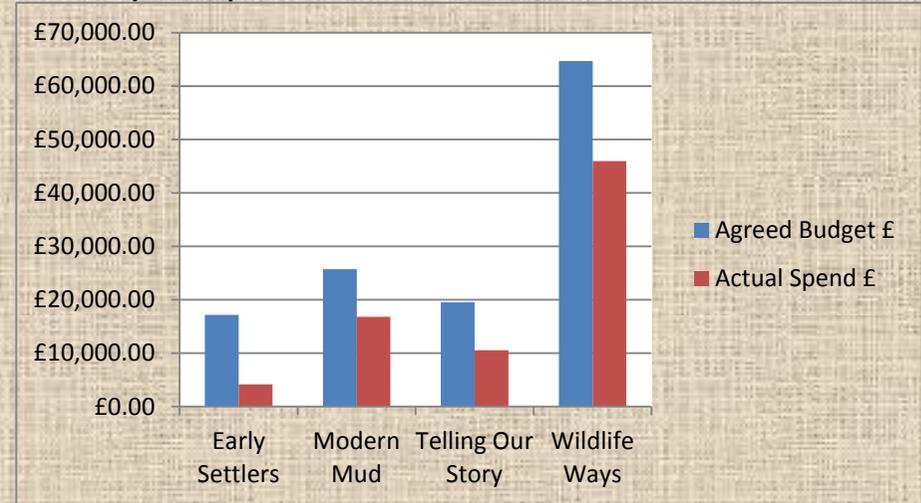
## Analysis of Annual Expenditure

Expenditure in financial year 2016-2017 has been £725,642.55. There has been over 426 hours of in-kind contributions from lead partners and over 5355 hours from volunteers. The following graphs highlight annual expenditure against each project.

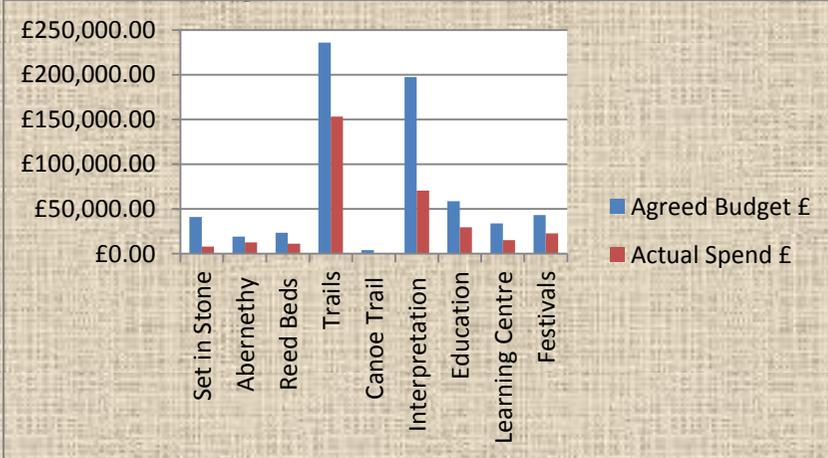
### Conserving and Restoring



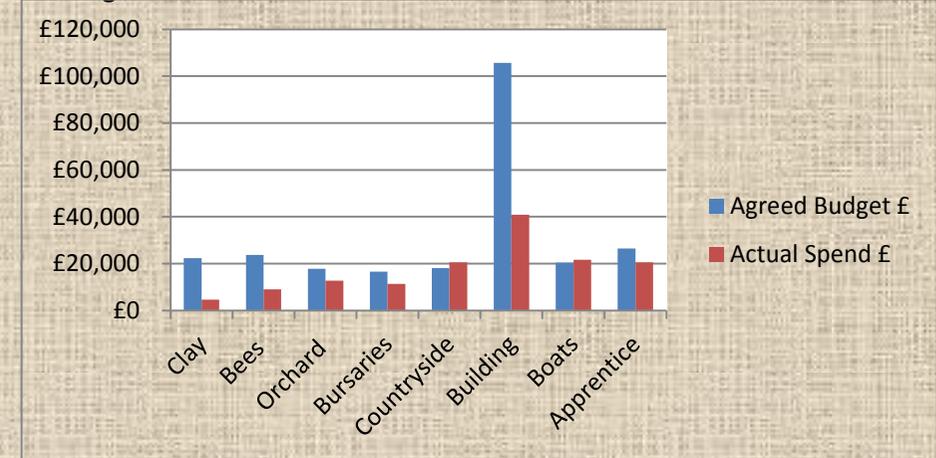
### Community Participation



### Access and Learning



### Training and Skills





# Conserving and Restoring (Built Heritage)

We have:

- Excavated Moredun Top hillfort with the over 60 volunteers. Large stone walls and defences were found, alongside stone carvings and various artefacts – including stone lamps, pottery and metal jewellery
- Completed one topographical survey of Arnbathie Hillfort near Perth, training people in this archaeological skill
- After removing ivy in 2015-2016, begun work on wall restoration and masonry conservation of Kinfauns Old Parish Church, including a new slate roof, gutters and soakaway through the graveyard
- Displayed the pictish stone fragments at Forteviot within St Andrews Church, alongside new interpretation
- Supported Abernethy Museum display pictish stones, along with new interpretation
- Engaged over 230 people and 80 volunteers during Abernethy's Wee Big Dig, in partnership with Abernethy Museum. This incorporated 2 excavations, pictish re-enactments, stone carvings and Round Tower tours over a weekend. 41 children took part in school activities
- Continued to support Errol and Abernethy homeowners conserve listed and historic buildings
- Instigated a group of 12 "Clay Detectives", undertaking research on clay buildings throughout the TayLP area



Top: pictish re-enactment © George Logan, Bottom Left: Moredun Top volunteers uncover a possible broch, Bottom Right: stone lamp discovered at Moredun Top Hill Fort



Recording blossom and leaves to create botanical illustrations for future scientific identification

# Conserving and Restoring (Natural Heritage)

We have:

- Installed 193 nest boxes throughout golf courses, churches, day nurseries, houses and schools; 103 small bird, 7 swift and 105 bat boxes. 10 training events have also been delivered to individuals, schools and socially disadvantaged volunteers
- Delivered 10 training events to raise awareness of nest boxes and how to site them for maximum wildlife gain
- Delivered 6 orchard work parties involving 31 volunteers in orchard pruning, harvesting, tree protection and grafting
- Spent 4 days in Scone Palace nursery looking after our young fruit trees which will be donated to various groups during 2017
- Collected samples from 40 locally important fruit trees and analysed their DNA. Results indicated some varieties are indeed unique whilst others are known nationally under alternative names
- Begun 12 botanical illustrations on local fruit varieties so their identification can be preserved for future generations
- Supported data collection towards a national orchard inventory for varieties on the the Carse of Gowrie

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“Learning how trees are propagated at a practical level was most interesting”

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Top: installing swift boxes

Right: maintaining the fruit tree nursery at Scone Palace





Teaching field walking skills and searching for lithics with Robert Douglas Memorial Primary School © George Logan

# Community Participation

We have:

- Completed 11 days field walking, amassing 595 volunteer hours. This saw the final season of field walking with over 500 lithics now being found since the start of the project
- An additional 4 days field walking, involving 546 school children, was achieved with Robert Douglas Memorial Primary School, with support from Scone Estate
- New habitat planted in 7 locations with help from unpaid work teams, high school students, NEET groups, prisoners and horticultural students:
  - 120 native trees (oak, willow and rowan), 30 of which have replaced ancient oaks at Scone Palace
  - 1526m of native hedgerow
  - 30 fruit trees in public spaces and community orchards
  - 1 woodland (2,500 trees) which will be managed for coppice
- Contractors continue to work with schools collating data and material for oral histories



Left: new oaks planted at Scone Palace

Top: flint discovery indicating signs of early settlers

Bottom: new hedge planting with Crieff High School

For what in Scotland can compare, Wi the Carse o' Gowrie'



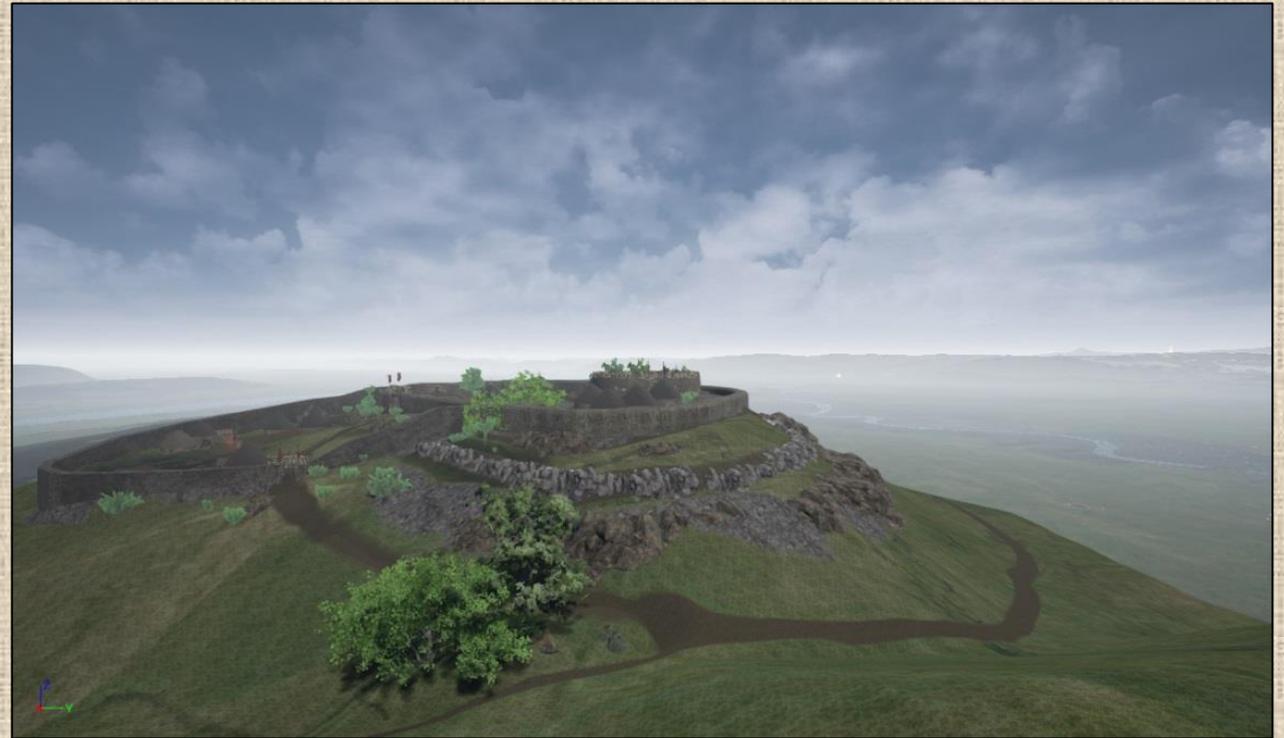
Community Payback  
www.communitypayback.co.uk

Community Payback produced beautiful benches at Errol for people to rest and enjoy the Tay, with words from local poetry

# Access and Learning

We have:

- Delivered 3 pop up stone carving workshops in Forteviot to introduce this skill and engage the community on the legacy stone to be built in 2017
- Been featured on STV highlighting the new Pictish stone to be carved for Forteviot
- Installed 5 interpretation boards, celebrating the natural and built heritage of Errol and it's surrounding area, and two benches along the Tay reed beds. The benches have carved on them lines from local poetry and were made by Community Payback
- Improved and maintained 1.8 km of paths, enhancing a total of 9.3 km for countryside access (totalling 17.7km since 2014)
- Completed a Feasibility Study for our forthcoming canoe trails along the River Tay
- Started our digital reconstructions of Moredun Hillfort, Forteviot, medieval Perth, Carse of Gowrie and ancient Abernethy
- Commissioned a design company to create and write 8 information panels, 4 trail heads and 2 viewpoints throughout the TayLP area



Digital reconstruction of Moredun Hillfort © Smart History



VIRTUAL REALITY  
VIEWER

SCIENCE  
MUSEUM



## Access and Learning cont/

- Engaged with 1,732 school pupils including Perth Autism, Year of Archaeology celebrations, medieval mayhem, community events, open days, hillforts and field walking
- Supported training of UHI Perth College students in both buscraft and canoe coaching with a view to supporting future canoe trips and outdoor learning
- Have commissioned the writing and development of 5 education resources, themed on the River Tay, bees, salmon, Kenneth McAlpin and early settlers
- Funded the production of a new permanent orienteering map for Kinnoull to promote outdoor learning
- Delivered a street Fruit Festival in Perth City Centre, called Wild About the Orchard, engaging over 867 people of all ages and promoting 20 stall holders. 365 cups of freshly pressed apple juice were consumed as well as there being bee keeping demonstrations, apple identification, block printing, fruity themed live music, cooking demonstrations and bees being made out of willow
- Hosted a mini orchard festival in Abernethy for 55 pupils
- 1999 school aged children engaged in a variety of activities, from medieval mayhem, bushcraft, hillforts, hedge laying and planting, helping build the clay shelter in Errol, making seed bombs and boat building
- Awarded 200 Heritage Hero certificates as well as supported Duke of Edinburgh, school placements, Archaeology Skills Passport, John Muir Trust and University/college practicals



Top: Stone carving workshop for beginners at Forteviot

Bottom: Path improvements at Abernethy, before and after



Hands on Heritage Festivals: Top Left youngsters try their artistic botanical illustration skills: Top Right locally sourced apples for sale: Bottom Left live music from the Barrow Band: Bottom Right learning about bee keeping © George Logan

# Training Skills

We have:

- Continued to support training of two apprentices, gaining experience towards their SVQ Level 3 in Earth Building
- Delivered 2 bee training events and equipped 7 new beekeepers
- Delievered 11 orchard skills training workshops, supporting a wide variety of groups such as Giraffe Social Enterprise, Greenbuds, Dundee Urban Orchards, PKAVS volunteers, Rural Skills Scotland, horticultural students from Perth College and secondary schools. Workshop themes included pruning, budwood, budding, harvesting, grafting and tree protection
- Offered 10 grants within our Inspiring People Bursary scheme
- Planted a new coppice woodland of willow, alder and hazel at Castle Huntly which will be followed by woodland and green woodworking training skills
- Over 19 days, layed 610m of outgrown hedgerow to restore it for shelter and wildlife. This was achieved with the help from two secondary school pupils, Greenbuds and Perth College Horticultural Students. Existing rowan trees have been uncovered and retained to provide better foraging for bats
- Delivered 3 training events in green woodworking, including how to produce coil baskets and a childrens bee activity using willow
- Trained 6 participants from Perth's Young People Services in Traditional Building Skills at Megginch Castle Estate
- Begun training for 10 secondary school pupils in building a St Ayles skiff rowing boat; the boat is due to be launched in June 2017
- Supported two Modern Apprentices to complete their Level 3 SVQ in Business & Administration MA qualification



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“great benefit especially to kids not usually interested in sitting at desks. I think for my pupils it is an important transition to or taster of the world outside school”

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Top Left new beehive provided at Criminal Justice Service's Wesbank depot: Top Right weaving coil baskets: Bottom Left learning traditional building skills © George Logan: Bottom Right learning fruit tree grafting skills

# The Future

TayLP will continue to create bespoke training events for our audiences, particularly support groups for socially disadvantaged and without transport. We will continue to develop relationships with unemployed, local prison services, unpaid work teams, social enterprises and socially disadvantaged groups whilst offering vocational career experiences for school pupils. During 2017-2018 we will deliver:

- 20 days excavation at Moredun Top hillfort
- 10 days excavation at Castlelaw hillfort
- A 2 day community Wee Big Dig in Abernethy
- A new unicorn finial at Kinfauns Church
- An industry conference to promote best practice for swifts, bats and barn owls
- Further bat and bird boxes

- A new pictish stone in Forteviot
- 2 heritage festivals (medieval and fruit)
- Pilot canoe trails on the Tay
- Final path improvements
- A children's activity week at Kinnoull Learning Centre as well as launch the new permanent orienteering course
- New interpretation, trailheads and viewpoints
- New digital reconstructions of the Carse of Gowrie, medieval Perth, Forteviot, ancient Abernethy and Moredun Top hillfort



- A final report detailing the results of field walking
- The official open of the new clay legacy shelter in Errol
- A series of ceilidhs "telling our stories", including production of a heritage quilt
- A new community orchard

- Final workshops and provision of bee keeping training events
- 10 orchard training events
- 5 new bursaries
- 13 green woodworking training events
- 6 hedge laying training events
- 3 coppice skills training events
- Traditional building skills training at Castle Huntly open prison
- A new St Ayles Skiff boat, built by Perth High School pupils



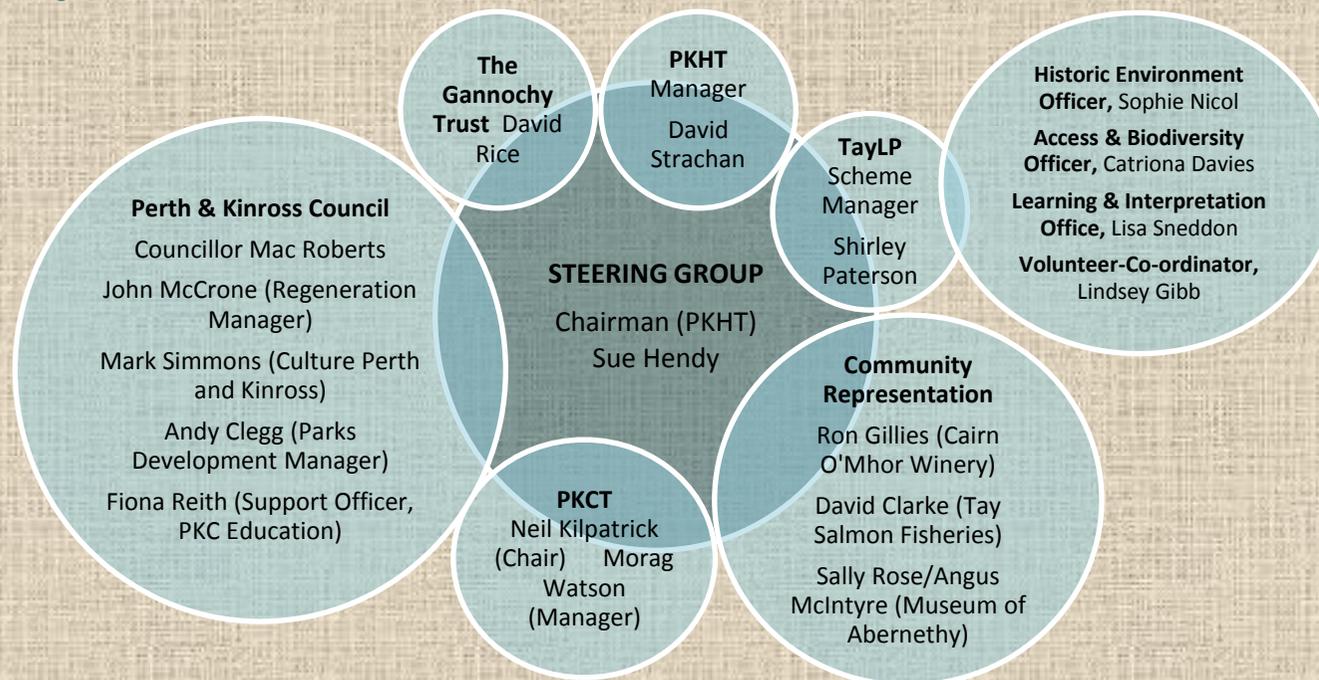
## Testimonials

“Thank-you so much from all of us – the children thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and it was so lovely to get them outside and thinking about learning from the past”.

“Getting to meet new people was really enjoyable and helping to play a part in the dig was very rewarding. Also a good bit of exercise”.

“An interest in archaeology which barely existed before”.

## Steering Group Members





[www.taylp.org](http://www.taylp.org)

School pupils learn about archaeological excavations at Moredun Top © George Logan



The Lodge 4 York Place Perth PH2 8EP

Tel: 01738 477083

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