

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



The Silvery Pearl rowing boat is officially named by HRH Earl of Wessex © 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

2017-2018 saw the final year of delivery for the Tay Landscape Partnership (TayLP), with much of the previous year's hard work coming to fruition with several opening ceremonies and a final farewell ceilidh to say thanks to all our volunteers, contractors and supporters. The TayLP is a partnership between Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT), Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust (PKCT), 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



**21,275**  
people engaged



**780**  
volunteer days



**5,457**  
volunteer hours



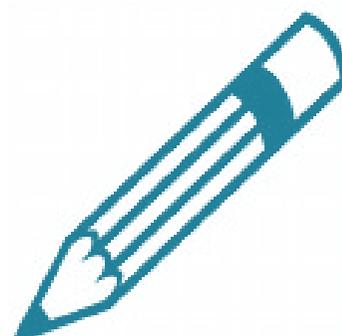
**£117,963**  
volunteer value



**68**  
events



**35**  
community groups



**10**  
schools participating



**3,187**  
youths engaged



**17**  
presentations

# Chairman's Report

I can hardly believe that we have reached the end of our successful and very busy 4 year Tay Landscape Partnership. The achievements over that time are really remarkable and many thanks are due to the "army" of volunteers who helped make this possible.

One of the highlights for me was the opening ceremony in Forteviot of the new pictish stone. Despite very poor weather there was a large turnout of local people which just confirmed the interest and enthusiasm they had in the project. I also enjoyed the opening of the clay legacy shelter in Errol – again something where there had been a large input from the villagers. It was good too to see Kinfauns Church being opened after all the work done to clear vegetation and then the lime mortar repair work.

Other achievements during the year included a Buildings for Biodiversity conference which was held in Perth Concert Hall and was very successful and well attended. A new permanent orienteering course on Kinnoull Hill has been established and a new footpath between Errol Station and Inchmichael has been opened much to the delight of the local community who previously had had to walk on the road.

Once again we held a Fruit Festival and a Medieval Festival and these were both well attended and enjoyed. We were also delighted to see the completion of the digital reconstructions for 3 hillforts which has been received very well. The A K Bell Library hosted an exhibition of quilts which were TLP heritage themed and most interesting.

The final highlight of the year was a Ceilidh held in Perth as a means of thanking all our volunteers for their enthusiasm and input. The event was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

Sadly all the staff, except Shirley, have come to the end of their contracts but she will be in place until September finalising various details and making sure that all that is needed for maintenance over the coming years is in place. Finally I have to thank her and all the TLP staff for all their input, hard work and enthusiasm over the 4 years of the TLP. It has been great to work with them all and to see and enjoy their achievements.



Illuminating the Iron Age with PKHT; launch of The Year of Archaeology with a torchlight procession to Moredun Top, Moncreiffe Hill © Mike Bell

*Sue Henry*



ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA

The Cross Trust

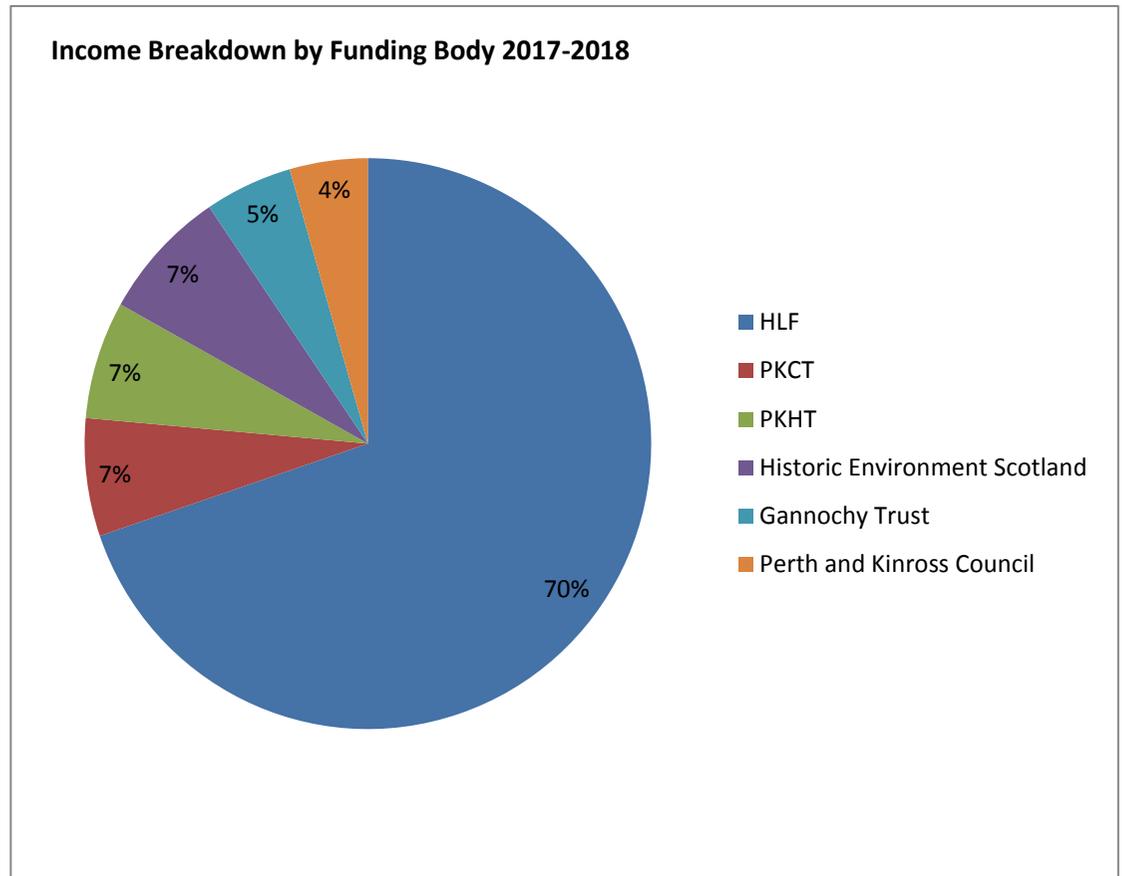


# Funding

Between 2014 – 2018, the Tay Landscape Partnership will support £2.6 million of environmental and historical projects. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) 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

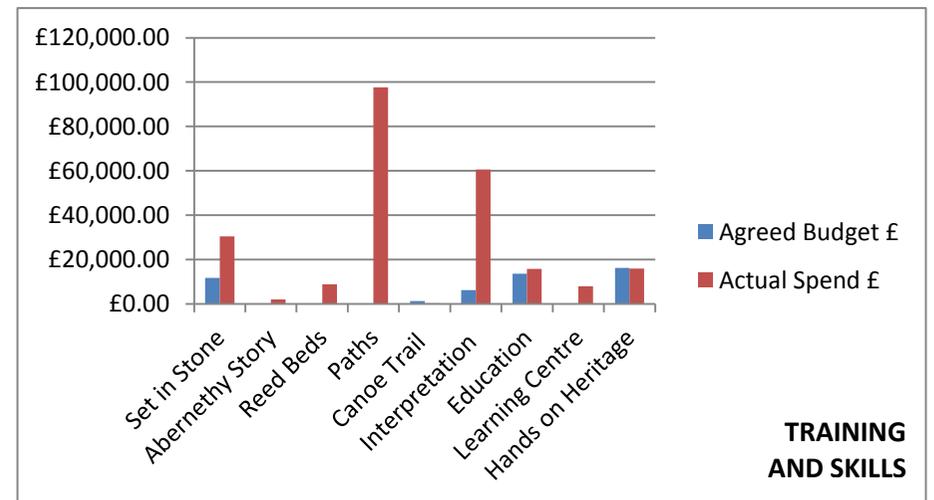
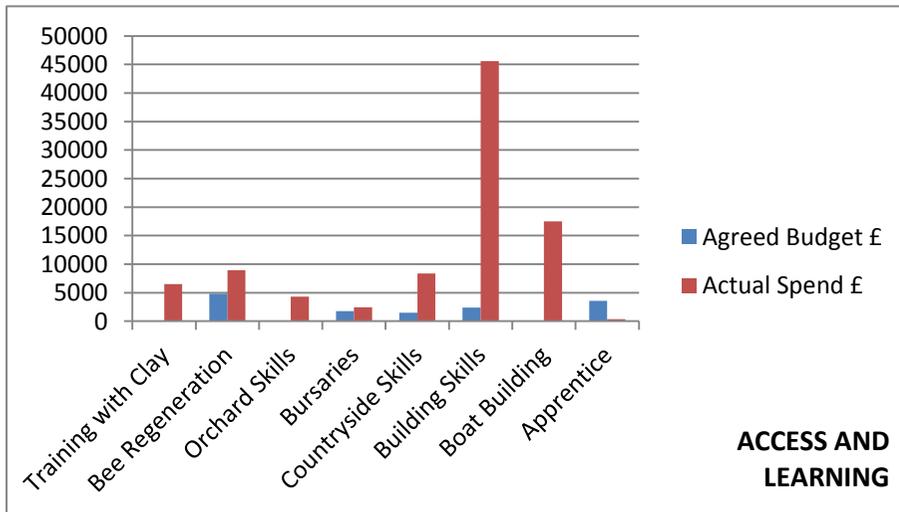
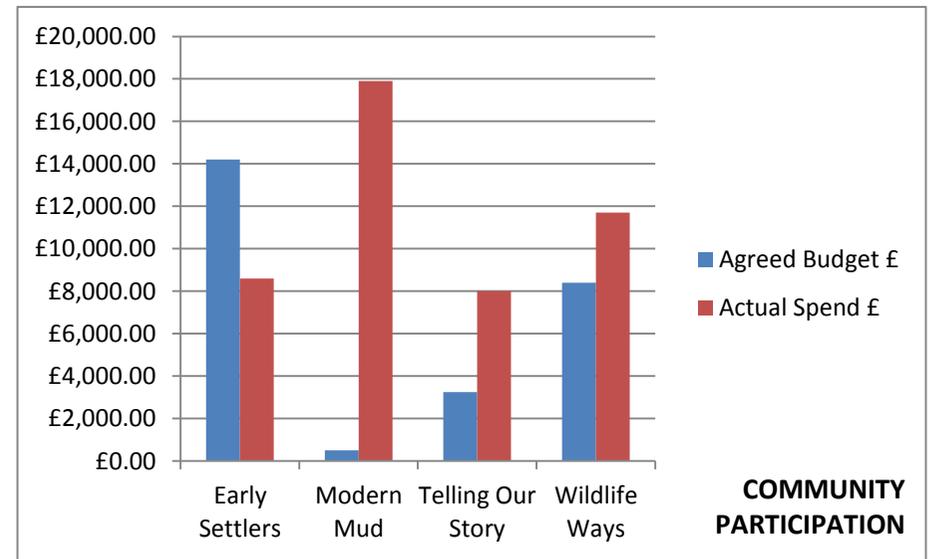
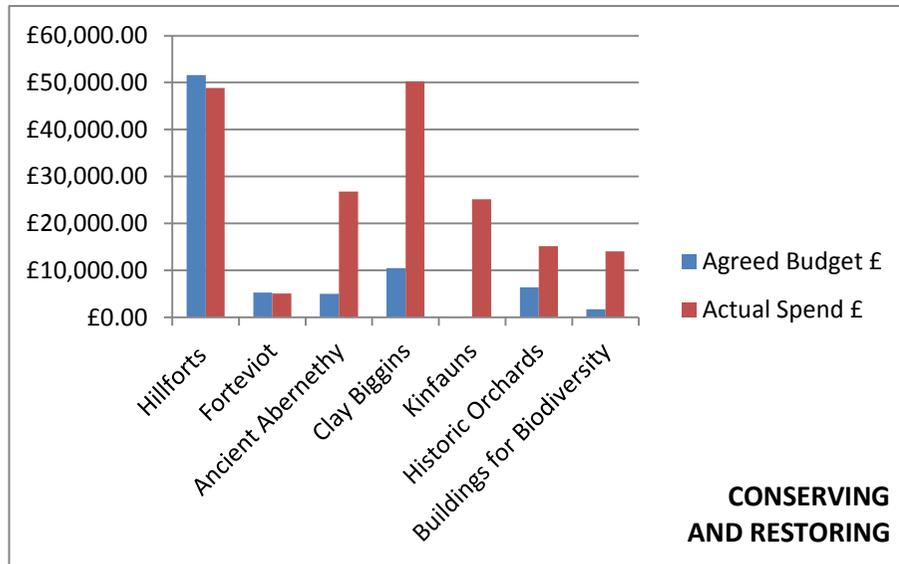
- Pledged income from funding bodies between 2017-2018: £457,613
- Actual income received from funding bodies in financial year 2017-2018: £484,729, with a further £114,637 pending
- Actual income to date September 2014- March 2018: £1,978,680





Graphic Illustration of Moredun Hillfort © Chris Mitchell

## Analysis of Annual Expenditure



Expenditure during 2017-2018 has been £877,400. Over 518 hours of in-kind has been contributed from lead partners and contractors and over 5,400 hours from volunteers. The graphs above highlight annual expenditure for each project during this financial year.



The citadel wall, Moredun Hillfort © George Logan

# Conserving and Restoring (Built Heritage)

We have:

- Excavated two hillforts; Castlelaw in Abernethy and the final dig on Moredun Top, with a total of 148 volunteers participating. Extensive stone walls around Moredun's citadel were uncovered as well as many artefacts, including manufactured shale bracelets, worked bone pins and stone tools. Deturfing and back fill was completed by the local community payback team and Aviva as corporate volunteering. Environmental reconstructions depicting the vegetation at the time of occupation has also been completed
- Delivered the final Wee Big Dig in Abernethy with a series of events, workshops, tours and school activities. Over 146 people visited the museum alone. Some medieval pottery was uncovered during the excavations
- Completed the Clay Buildings Audit for Errol and surrounding area; our dedicated volunteers have identified 147 surviving earth buildings. The final report will be available to read on the TayLP website
- Completed lime mortar repairs at Kinfauns Church, including turf capping and the reinstatement of the unicorn finial on the mausoleum
- Completed all Building Conservation Grants for both Errol and Abernethy, with a total of nine homeowners being supported in the restoration of listed buildings





New community orchard planting on St Magdalene's Hill, with help from Greenspace Countryside Rangers and South Perth Green Spaces Group

# Conserving and Restoring (Natural Heritage)

We have:

- Hosted a Buildings for Biodiversity conference in the Perth Concert Hall to promote best practice amongst industry and professionals in the protection of birds and bats. 42 people travelled from Aberdeen to London to hear five key speakers representing architects, wildlife conservation and police. Delegates represented local authorities, ecological consultants, architects, land agents, academia and housing associations. The event is considered unprecedented in uniting all interest groups together
- Continued with the production of 12 botanical illustrations of local fruit varieties
- Installed 194 nest boxes; 75 small bird, 42 swift, 69 bat and 8 barn owl boxes. A promotional video illustrating management of swifts in buildings has been created and will be available on the TayLP website and used by Tayside Swifts group
- Delivered five orchard work parties on subjects such as summer pruning, grafting, plant protection and harvesting
- Re-planted approximately 60 new fruit tree plants from the nursery, produced through previous budding workshops, into new community orchards in Errol, St Magdalene's Hill in Perth, Scone and the Walled Garden at Murray Royal
- Supported the National Orchard Inventory by offering a volunteer grant towards the collection of data; 98 orchard sites were surveyed, many previously unrecorded in Abernethy and Perth city, with 1,867 trees recorded



Top: Tayside Swifts talking with delegates at the Buildings for Biodiversity conference © George Logan

Bottom: The Bloody Ploughman botanical illustration © Sharon Tingey



The opening ceremony for the new clay legacy shelter, Errol, with primary school pupils singing new songs, written by Ceilidhmakers © George Logan

# Community Participation

We have:

- Completed the construction of a new clay legacy shelter in Errol with 18 volunteers completing 199 hours; 155 children either through the primary school or other youth groups and a further 40 locals have also been engaged in the project. The construction supported a mud mason apprentice who amassed 40 training hours in preparation for their SVQ Level 2 in earth building assessment; two volunteers have become trainees and continue working with mud beyond TayLP
- Begun our post excavation analysis of our fieldwalking finds. A final report will be available early summer 2018
- Completed Telling Our Stories: four ceilidhs in Abernethy, Errol and St Madoes engaging over 490 people and school pupils; 13 TayLP heritage themed quilts produced by Perth Piece Partners, 12 of which were exhibited in AK Bell library; four care homes collaborated in sharing stories, the quilts and reciting new songs engaging a further 240 people. A booklet and CD illustrating the new songs written to old music has been produced, relating back to historical photographs and tales
- Installed 348 small bird, 162 bat, 21 barn owl and two red squirrel boxes
- Planted a further 30 oaks at Scone Palace, with Perth College horticultural students

---

“Thoroughly enjoyed hearing the songs. Matching the quilts to the stories.  
So well presented” (member of Perth Piece Partners)

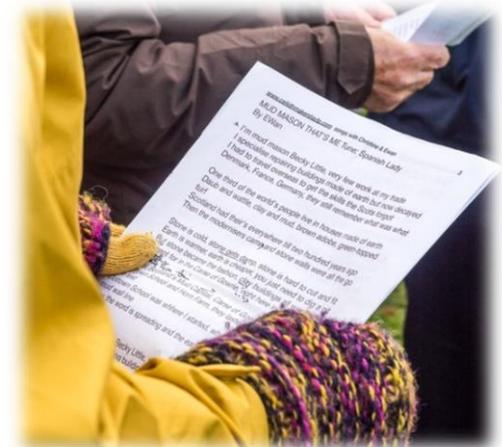
“We were thrilled to hear our Oral History being brought to life by the children in such an enthusiastic and happy way. The school have a wealth of material that can be used for many years with successive generations of children” (Chair, Abernethy Museum)

---

Top: possible late Mesolithic micro blades found during Early Settlers field walking

Middle: new music written to celebrate the mud heritage

Bottom: Kinnoull Tower, different perspectives; (left) Inspiring People Bursary photograph by Holly Campling; (right) Heritage quilt by Dorothy Ewan, Perth Piece Partners





New permanent orienteering course at Kinnoull woodland park, being enjoyed by youngsters © George Logan

# Access and Learning

We have:

- Created a new celebratory pictish stone and hosted an opening ceremony in Forteviot with over 150 people attending and attracting television media from STV
- Improved 1.03km of paths, enhancing a total of 1.9km for countryside access. This has included two new dog awareness signs to support the landowner with dog control during the lambing season. TayLP have now improved 19.6 km of paths since 2014
- Supported six NEET groups in piloting canoe trips on the Tay with guidance from Willowgate Activity Centre, whilst developing a new canoe trail website
- Completed digital reconstructions of Moredun Hillfort, Forteviot, medieval Perth, Carse of Gowrie and ancient Abernethy
- Completed illustrations of three hillforts and commissioned a report on placenames to support interpretative panels (see page 8)



Top: new pictish carved stone at Forteviot © George Logan

Bottom: before and after path improvements at Northlees Farm (Coronation Road) © PKCT





### BATTLE OF MONCRIEFFE

Sometime between the years 725-728 AD Irish monastic annals record a battle at Moin-craibe. Moin-craibe is likely to be Moncrieffe Hill, 3 miles southeast of Perth. The Annals agree that the battle was fought between rival Pictish kings Angus (Oengus) and Alpin. Angus was victorious and many of Alpin's men were slain including his son. This battle was part of a large war between four kings and shortly afterwards Alpin was defeated once more allowing Nechtan to secure the kingship.

Currently there is no archaeological evidence to confirm Moncrieffe Hill as the site of a Pictish battle but a series of excavations is drawing to a close on the hill. This work, part of the Tay Landscape Partnership Scheme, has explored both hillforts on the hill and the full results of their analysis are eagerly anticipated. Work over the last three years has focussed on the main hillfort, Moredun Top and established that it may have been a dun or broch. The excavations found a range of occupation evidence including quern stones, stone lamps, beads, gaming pieces and parts of shale bracelets.

From top left: fruit and medieval festivals; bottom right: Picts and Pixels exhibition at Perth Museum and Art Gallery © George Logan

## Access and Learning cont/

- Provided 500 slate coasters depicting the St Madoes pictish symbology towards a new community centre
- Provided new signage in Abernethy to guide tourists to local attractions
- Started producing five trailheads, eight interpretative feature panels, five leaflets and two viewpoints
- Produced five new educational resources for future use by teachers and youth leaders
- Engaged over 1,100 pupils and eight primary schools with heritage and fruit performances
- Produced a second Minecraft game, focusing on medieval Perth, which was launched during the medieval festival with over 57 children playing
- Delivered a Bushcraft activities week at Kinnoull learning centre, with 94 children participating. Two further bespoke workshops were created for seven ADHD youngsters
- In conjunction with Culture Perth and Kinross, supported a Picts and Pixels exhibition attracting 2,250 people. TayLP also took part in a local environment activities day making wildflower seed bombs with 35 youngsters
- Trained nine leaders in orienteering and officially opened a new permanent orienteering course at Kinnoull with 18 youths from local Scouts, Guides and secondary schools
- Supported eight students from Perth College attain their British canoeing UKCC Level 1 certificate and a further ten obtaining their intermediate bushcraft qualification
- Delivered one medieval festival in Perth city centre and the final fruit festival in the Carse of Gowrie, with over 14,400 and 430 people attending respectively



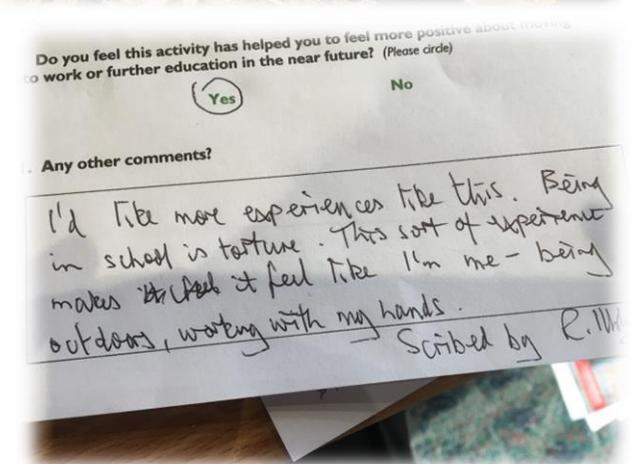


Clockwise from top left: stool making; budding new fruit trees in the nursery; making hazel fences using coppice material from Craigie Community Woodland; turf capping at Rait Church © George Logan

# Training Skills

We have:

- Supported three delegates attend the EBUKI conference in Lincolnshire
- Equipped three new beekeepers, delivered one training event and supported Perth and District Beekeepers Association develop a new education and training facility for future queen rearing demonstrations
- Delivered seven orchard skills training workshops regarding pruning, grafting, planting, diseases, pollination and one evening talk on orchard heritage, attended by 35 people
- Offered three grants within our Inspiring People Bursary scheme
- Delivered eight days hedge laying, involving pupils from two secondary schools
- Delivered five workshops teaching green woodworking skills such as creating stools, skeps (traditional woven bee hives), Christmas decorations and fences using material left over from coppice woodland management
- Delivered two days coppice management training to support a local community group (South Perth Green Spaces Group) maintain their woodland
- Delivered 36 days of traditional building skills on subjects such as lime mortar, pointing and building and included: eight days at Castle Huntly SPS involving 41 people; one day turf capping at Rait Church; Perth College HNC Construction Management and Built Environment students; Perth Six Circle (a mental health recovery group); PKAVS Walled Garden; Perth High School; Services for Young People; professionals and homeowners. Over 120 people were involved throughout
- In the presence of HRH the Earl of Wessex and ten Perth High School Pupils, a new St Ayles Skiff rowing boat was named the “Silvery Pearl” – a reference to the silvery Tay and the rare fresh water pearl mussel (see front cover photograph)



Top: Perth High School students learning traditional building skills © George Logan; feedback from a secondary school pupil



Perth and Kinross  
**HERITAGE  
TRUST**

Conserving  
and promoting  
archaeology and  
architectural heritage  
for the benefit of  
residents, visitors  
and future  
generations

**Perth City**  
Heritage

21 local voluntary groups gathered for our 'Making it Happen' event, signposting volunteers to other opportunities beyond TayLP

# The Future

TayLP will continue 'behind the scenes' until September 2018. During this time, we will:

## Conserving and Restoring

- Complete the Hillforts of Tay final publication
- Complete summer pruning of pear fruit trees
- Complete the botanical illustrations following this year's blossom

## Community Participation

- Complete the early settlers (field walking) report
- Plant a new wildflower meadow at St Magdalene's Hill, Perth

## Learning and Access

- Create a new legacy website with all TayLP's resources, maps, reports, canoe trail, visitor attractions.....and so much more
- Install all the information panels and leaflets
- Produce a final Evaluation and Monitoring report
- Finalise the long term maintenance agreement with stakeholders to ensure assets funded by TayLP are protected for 10 years

## Training Skills

- Host a final reception for stakeholders and funders to highlight achievements and future legacy considerations

# Steering Group Members



“Really enjoyed working with you and your team. TayLP has brought such great opportunities to my participants which they would otherwise never had the chance to access. Thank you for all your help in this!” (Greenbuds)

“Brilliant opportunity to learn together, great fun, challenging but relaxed too” (Bushcraft attendee)



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

Wee Big Dig, Abernethy © TayLP



The Lodge | 4 York Place | Perth | PH2 8EP

Tel: 01738 477083

PKHT Scottish Charity No. SC003139