

NFRC SUPPORTS FIRST EDINBURGH TRADITIONAL BUILDING FESTIVAL

Taking place this month is the first Edinburgh Traditional Building Festival as part of the Fringe. The event is celebrating Edinburgh's traditional buildings and the skills and materials used to build them.

The aim of the festival is to increase people's awareness of the importance of maintaining their flats and houses. Statistics have shown, 90% of Scotland's traditional buildings (those built pre-1919) have elements of disrepair, and a staggering 60% have disrepair to critical elements of the property which includes roofs.

With these problems comes the need for traditional skills and materials. Which is where the festival organisers, Edinburgh Traditional Building Forum, hopes to inform those who attend during the four day event.

The first talk will be given by National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) President and Chairman of the NFRC Heritage Committee, Mr Graeme Millar. Graeme will be covering Traditional Scottish Roof Slating Practices.

John McKinney, Forum Chairman and Scotland Regional Secretary for NFRC stated: "There's a genuine interest in the subject of built heritage and the skills and materials required to maintain them for the future. What we are trying to do is get away from the focus on Edinburgh Castle, Holyroodhouse Palace and places like that. If the building you live in is pre-1919 it's a traditional building, it requires traditional building skills and materials and that's critically important."

"There are stages to it; one is the acknowledgment and awareness of the condition of your property. If it's pre-1919 you will probably have elements of disrepair - the statistics show you'll be very lucky if you haven't - and if you don't get them repaired they'll get worse. Once you've acknowledged the condition of the building then you've got two elements - skills and materials."

The free festival takes place 21st – 24th August, with the majority of events taking place at the offices of Edinburgh World Heritage, who kindly donated its premises for the festival. The programme features talks from experts on the history of Edinburgh's Old and New Towns, geology, and how to care for your building, as well as bus tours and demonstrations of traditional skills.

To make it free and accessible to everyone the festival has been sponsored by Historic Scotland, the National Federation of Roofing Contractors, Stone Federation Great Britain and ConstructionSkills Scotland.

Free tickets are available at the Festival Fringe website at <http://www.edfringe.com/whats-on/spoken-word/edinburgh-traditional-building-festival>.

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Notes to Editor:

NFRC is the UK's largest roofing trade association representing over 70% of the roofing industry by value. NFRC actively ensures that members offer high standards of workmanship and sound business practice through a strict code of practice and vetting procedure, including site inspections and adhering to the Government endorsed TrustMark standards. NFRC also offers training services, technical advice, and represents member interests to the wider construction industry and Government. For more information please visit www.nfrc.co.uk.