



## Pembroke Town Walls Project 28/03 to 01/04 2022

Photo record of the Pembroke Town Walls project, undertaken by Pembrokeshire College Learners from the 28th March to the 1st April 2022.

The project allowed for learners undertaking L1 Brickwork courses at Pembrokeshire College to try practical stone masonry, overseen by Oliver Coe of Coe Stone Ltd, a highly experienced mason of many years. The learners discovered that using stone is a very different discipline to using bricks and blocks, but were able to use their brickwork skills to help them to quickly learn the fundamental approaches work with stone.

The learners initially undertook training in the College's workshops based in Withybush, Haverfordwest for the first week of the project. This allowed them to understand and develop skills in working with stone and lime mortar, which was further developed and practiced for real, as part of the project in Pembroke.

The learners also met with a local historian, who explained that the 'Burgage Plot' walls, were built some 700 years ago, stood around 5 Metres in height, and were a major part of the town's defences, which prevented Oliver Cromwell's forces seizing Pembroke in the siege of 1648.

The initial stage involved removal of existing stones and old mortar, along with earth and plant growth which had damaged and weakened the wall. Once a solid course of existing stone was reached, this was cleaned to allow for the new wall to be built upon it. The first course of stones was relaid into fresh mortar, made by the learners.





*1 - Learner Briefing with Oliver*



*2 - Learners removing and sorting stones*



*3 - Oliver working with Iona to ensure the face of the new wall was in line with the original*



*4 - Working together*



*5 - Oliver shows learners how to correctly identify how stones are replaced in the wall.*



*6 - Filling the wall with smaller stones*



*7 - The learners enjoyed a talk from local historian Howard Rudge, explaining the importance of the walls to the history of the town of Pembroke*



*8 - The first course of new stones in place*



As the week progressed, so did the rebuild of the wall.

Existing courses of stones which were left from the historical build were repaired and completed, with further courses laid out and then set in mortar once Oliver and the learners were happy with their position.

The learners now became more independent with respect to their work, with Oliver checking and supporting them, where he was overseeing the work earlier in the week.



*9 - Stones being laid in place to check they met with the existing course below*





*10 - Tara overseeing the hot lime mortar mix, which was used to ensure the wall was rebuilt using historically accurate mortar*





*11 - The new part of the wall, with the lighter mortar blending in well with the existing wall*





*12 - Phase 1 of the project is nearing completion and the wall is filled and levelled off*





The project is completed for the first week, with the wall rebuilt with level courses and the mortar scraped away from the face of the

stones to give a clean finish. The new built wall fits in well with the existing wall and in places it is difficult to tell old from new





