

Leon McVeigh



Leon McVeigh based in Ballycastle has over 10 years' experience in woodworking and joinery in the construction industry and holds a Foundation Degree in Building Technology and Management. Leon studied part time allowing him to work as a joiner on key restoration projects for the National Trust including Murlough Bay and Carrick a

Rede Rope Bridge which started Leon's love for heritage projects.

As part of the Heritage Specialist Apprenticeship Programme in Wood Occupations Leon was successful in gaining a placement in Heritage Joinery with National Museums NI in the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. During his placement Leon was involved in repairing manufacturing and fitting windows, doors, shutters, fencing, gates and associated ironmongery. Leon also restored a newsagent's kiosk which was situated at a train station in Larne and is now installed at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum and is used for historical story telling.

He was also involved in the restoration and conservation of woodwork pre-1919 buildings and the repair and replacement of woodwork in modern buildings.

Speaking about the programme Leon said, "The work was very diverse, no two days were the same. Each project had its own set of challenges and rewards but meant we all gained valuable experience. I loved meeting new people with similar interest in restoration of our local heritage. My fellow trainees have now become friends and we are able to share our experiences further in our own individual projects since completing the programme."

On completion of the 'Heritage Specialist Apprenticeship Programme in Wood Occupations' Leon was successful in gaining full time employment with the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum working on maintaining over 50 exhibit buildings that are housed on site.