

## Paula Sheppard – Heritage Case Study

**CITB-ConstructionSkills in NI secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund through its Skills for the Future Programme to develop traditional skills in the local built heritage sector. Paula Sheppard from Lurgan Co. Armagh has been involved in the Sustaining Traditional Building Skills in NI project working on decoration, restoration and conservation of local heritage projects.**

Paula studied Fine Art and Creative Imaging in DeMonfort University and John Moores University and always had an interest in various periods of decoration. As part of the project Paula had the opportunity to work with Decowell Decorative Arts and to use her skills in a number of jobs including the decoration of organ pipes in The Guildhall, Derry, lettering of a Titanic Statue at City Hall Belfast and restoration of Letterkenny Cathedral.



Speaking on her experience during the project Paula said, “I have always been interested in historic buildings and decorative art within them and I wanted to learn more. There are a variety of jobs involved in decoration and restoration and I am glad I had an opportunity to work on some wonderful projects. I learnt lots of new skills and techniques and how important it is to use the correct materials and approach for each individual job.”

Throughout the project Paula gained an NVQ Level 3 Diploma in Heritage Skills (Construction) - Decorative Occupations and now plans to build upon the experience and use skills and knowledge and apply them to upcoming built heritage jobs in the future.

For further information on the Sustaining Traditional Building Skills in NI project and other built heritage work that CITB-ConstructionSkills NI are involved in log on to [www.citbcsni.org.uk/heritage](http://www.citbcsni.org.uk/heritage)