

## Four-Day Workshop: Introduction to Rope Thatching – Maintaining and Repairing Rope Thatch Buildings

**Date:** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
(Participants must be available to all four days)  
**Time:** 9.30am to 4.30pm  
**Location:** Donegal Thatching School, Dolmen Centre, Portnoo,  
Donegal, F94 DN83  
**Price:** €100



### Event Information

Come join us for a hands-on four-day workshop on rope thatching with Inishowen-based rope thatcher Brian Lafferty. This course will have a particular focus on rope thatch using flax.

Traditionally rope thatching was the predominant thatching method along the exposed west Atlantic coast in response to the high winds. On rope-thatched houses, the thatch was held in place by ropes, tied to stones or metal pegs projecting at the top of the walls underneath the eaves. In recent decades, this traditional method of rope thatching has been replaced by scollop thatching and non-traditional styles.

### Refreshments

Refreshments, lunch and snacks will be provided.

### What to Bring

Participants should dress for cold weather and bring suitable attire. Participants need to provide their own Hi vis vest, safety footwear, eye protection and gloves. Long sleeves recommended.

### Ticket & Booking Information:

To book your place contact the Dolmen Centre: 074 9545010 or [office@donegalthatchingschool.com](mailto:office@donegalthatchingschool.com)

The workshop is supported by the National Built Heritage Service as part of the National Vernacular Strategy  
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>



**NBHS**

An tSeirbhís Oidhreachta  
Tógtha Náisiúnta  
National Built  
Heritage Service



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

# Two-Day Workshop: The Repair of Mud Walled Buildings and Use of Earth Mortars in the Repair of Traditional Buildings

**Date:** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Time:** 9.40am to 16.30pm

**Location:** Pallasgreen, Limerick

(exact location provided upon confirmation of place)

**Price:** €120

## Event Information

If you are interested in learning more about the repair, upgrade and maintenance of traditional mud walled houses, traditional masonry buildings built with earth mortars or the use of earth based plasters and renders in new build. If so, the National Built Heritage Service (NBHS) invite you to take part in our two day, hands on workshop at a mud walled house near Pallasgreen, Limerick. The workshop will be hosted by Dr. Barry O'Reilly of the NBHS in partnership with Tom Pollard and stone mason Niall O'Shaughnessy. Tom specialises in the repair of vernacular structures using lime and earthen-based mortars and plasters.

The aim of the two days is to:

- Raise awareness and knowledge of using locally available earth for earth mortars in repair (using bricks, earth and fibre additives). It will also address plasters and renders for repair and new build.
- Introduction to lime: NHL and Quick Lime. Appropriate uses, diversity of use, reading mortar/render failure, Shelter coats to external repairs, internal washes and pigment use.
- The need to protect works and know when to apply these mortars.
- Mixing, using, curing and storing traditional earth and lime mortars in the winter.
- Meeting historic elevations with more modern materials. Keeping the thermal mass steady, modern and traditional materials to ensure thermal performance.

## What to Bring

This will be a hands on module and participants should dress for wet and cold weather and bring suitable attire. Participants need to provide their own Hi vis vest, safety footwear, hard hat, gloves and eye protection. Long sleeves recommended.

Attendees should bring any information, drawings, plans of their own project for advice and discussion.

A full site induction, health and safety meeting will be held at 9.45am prompt, prior to commencement at 10.00 am.

## Ticket & Booking Information

These workshops are being offered at a reduced rate with subsidised tickets of €120. Concession tickets are priced at **€80** for apprentices and students over 18. To book your place contact [heather@pollardconservationrestoration.ie](mailto:heather@pollardconservationrestoration.ie)

## Refreshments

A light lunch will be provided.



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Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

## Four-Day Workshop: Introduction to Rope Thatching – Maintaining and Repairing Rope Thatch Buildings

**Date:** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
(Participants must be available to all four days)  
**Time:** 9.30am to 4.30pm  
**Location:** Donegal Thatching School, Dolmen Centre, Portnoo, Donegal, F94 DN83  
**Price:** €100



### Event Information

Come join us for a hands-on four-day workshop on rope thatching with Inishowen-based rope thatcher Brian Lafferty. This course will have a particular focus on rope thatch using flax.

Traditionally rope thatching was the predominant thatching method along the exposed west Atlantic coast in response to the high winds. On rope-thatched houses, the thatch was held in place by ropes, tied to stones or metal pegs projecting at the top of the walls underneath the eaves. In recent decades, this traditional method of rope thatching has been replaced by scollop thatching and non-traditional styles.

### Refreshments

Refreshments, lunch and snacks will be provided.

### What to Bring

Participants should dress for cold weather and bring suitable attire. Participants need to provide their own Hi vis vest, safety footwear, eye protection and gloves. Long sleeves recommended.

### Ticket & Booking Information:

To book your place contact the Dolmen Centre: 074 9545010 or [office@donegalthatchingschool.com](mailto:office@donegalthatchingschool.com)

The workshop is supported by the National Built Heritage Service as part of the National Vernacular Strategy

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## Two-Day Workshop: Hot Lime Mortars for Beginners

**Date:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Time:** 9.30am-4.30pm

**Location:** Killoran House, Thurles, Tipperary, E41 Y925

### ***Event Information***

This two-day introductory workshop is designed with the beginner in mind. The event is aimed at promoting confidence around the use of hot lime and an understanding of how and where it should be used.

Most of our traditional and vernacular buildings were finished in traditional lime mortars externally and then lime-washed to provide important protection which kept walls dry and warm. This course will focus on the preparation of traditional renders using hot lime mortar.

Our course venue is the historic Killoran House near Thurles, Tipperary. The small group numbers will ensure you'll get plenty of attention.

Participants will go away knowing:

- Advantages of using hot lime & appropriate specifications
- The range of aggregates for traditional hot lime mortars
- How to mix lime mortars & their application
- The correct protection & aftercare measures to apply when using hot lime mortars

### ***Course Tutor***

The course will be led by Damien Condon, a sixth generation plasterer with decades of experience working with historic structures. He holds a PDD (Professional Development Diploma) in Historic Building Conservation and Repair from West Dean College in England. He also holds a C1 and C2 in Conservation Masonry and SQA, as well as a SCQF in Making Historic Materials from the Scottish Lime Centre. He is the current Vice Chair of Building Limes Forum Ireland.

### ***Refreshments***

Tea/coffee and lunch will be provided.

### ***What to Bring***

Participants should prepare for wet and/or cold weather and should bring suitable attire. Participants must bring their own PPE including eye protection, gloves, hi-vis vest and safety boots.

### ***Ticket & Booking Information***

Subsidised tickets are priced at **€140** for the two days but places are limited and will be allocated on a first come-first served basis. Concession tickets are priced at **€120** for apprentices and students over 18. Contact [coursescalx@gmail.com](mailto:coursescalx@gmail.com) to book a place and arrange payment.

The workshop is supported by the National Built Heritage Service <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>



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Department of Housing,  
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# Two-Day Workshop: The Repair of Mud Walled Buildings and Use of Earth Mortars in the Repair of Traditional Buildings

**Date:** Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Time:** 9.40am to 16.30pm

**Location:** Pallasgreen, Limerick

(exact location provided upon confirmation of place)

**Price:** €120

## Event Information

If you are interested in learning more about the repair, upgrade and maintenance of traditional mud walled houses, traditional masonry buildings built with earth mortars or the use of earth based plasters and renders in new build. If so, the National Built Heritage Service (NBHS) invite you to take part in our two day, hands on workshop at a mud walled house near Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick. The workshop will be hosted by Dr. Barry O'Reilly of the NBHS in partnership with Tom Pollard and stone mason Niall O'Shaughnessy. Tom specialises in repair to vernacular structures using lime and earthen-based mortars and plasters.

The aim of the two days is to:

- Raise awareness and knowledge of using locally available earth for earth mortars in repair (using bricks, earth and fibre additives). It will also address plasters and renders for repair and new build.
- Introduction to lime: NHL and Quick Lime. Appropriate uses, diversity of use, reading mortar/render failure, Shelter coats to external repairs, internal washes and pigment use.
- The need to protect works and know when to apply these mortars.
- Mixing, using, curing and storing traditional earth and lime mortars in the winter.
- Meeting historic elevations with more modern materials. Keeping the thermal mass steady, modern and traditional materials to ensure thermal performance.

## What to Bring

This will be a hands on module and participants should dress for wet and cold weather and bring suitable attire. Participants need to provide their own Hi vis vest, safety footwear, hard hat, gloves and eye protection. Long sleeves recommended.

Attendees should bring any information, drawings, plans of their own project for advice and discussion.

A full site induction, health and safety meeting will be held at 9.45am prompt, prior to commencement at 10.00 am.

## Ticket & Booking Information

These workshops are being offered at a reduced rate with subsidised tickets of €120. Concession tickets are priced at €80 for apprentices and students over 18. To book your place contact [heather@pollardconservationrestoration.ie](mailto:heather@pollardconservationrestoration.ie)

## Refreshments

A light lunch will be provided.



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Department of Housing,  
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## Two-Day Workshop: The Repair and Maintenance of Historic Joinery

**Date:** Friday 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Friday:** 9.30am to 5pm

**Saturday:** 9.30am to 4pm

**Location:** Killoran House, Thurles,  
Tipperary, E41 Y925

**Price:** €140

### Event Information

This two-day on-site hands-on course is designed to teach participants about the repair and maintenance of historic joinery and see how traditional repairs are done.

The course is open to all levels, beginners, and professionals. Participant numbers are limited to ensure that everyone has the best opportunity to learn.

The course will be delivered at Killoran House, near Thurles, Tipperary, where work is currently ongoing, giving you a rare opportunity to learn about the theory and practice of the repair of historic joinery, with conservation joiners and conservation professionals who will also be on-hand to answer any questions you have.



### The day includes;

- Learning how sash windows were made, and how they were designed to work
- The evolution of historic windows and their importance as an architectural element
- Improving the energy efficiency of historic windows, doors and suspended timber floors

Practical sessions will cover

- Workshop setup and what tools to have
- Repairing skirting boards, doors and suspended floors
- How to remove and repair timber sash windows
- Window weights and pulleys, how they work, and how to get them working correctly
- How to prepare historic internal and external joinery for repainting and what paint to use

### Biographies:

**Carl Raftery** is an Architectural Conservation Advisor with the National Built Heritage Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

**Dr Nessa Roche** is a Senior Architectural Advisor with the National Built Heritage Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

**John Shorley** is a conservation carpenter and joiner with more than twenty years' experience. He has been working on the repair of historic joinery since 2009.

**Derwin Tanner** is a Cork-based conservation carpenter and joiner.



### Refreshments

Tea/coffee and a light lunch will be provided.

### What to Bring

Participants should prepare for wet and/or cold weather and should bring suitable attire. Participants must bring their own PPE including eye protection (safety glasses), gloves, hi-vis vest and sturdy footwear. Open or soft top footwear such as runners and wellies are not suitable.

### Ticket and Booking Information

Subsidised tickets are priced at €140 but places are limited and will be allocated on a first come-first served basis. Contact [coursescalx@gmail.com](mailto:coursescalx@gmail.com) to book a place and arrange payment.

This traditional skills workshop is supported by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and is an action of the National Vernacular Strategy <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>



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# Two-Day Workshop: The Repair of Mud Walled Buildings and Use of Earth Mortars in the Repair of Traditional Buildings

**Date:** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Time:** 9.40am to 16.30pm

**Location:** Pallasgreen, Limerick

(exact location provided upon confirmation of place)

**Price:** €120

## Event Information

If you are interested in learning more about the repair, upgrade and maintenance of traditional mud walled houses, traditional masonry buildings built with earth mortars or the use of earth based plasters and renders in new build. If so, the National Built Heritage Service (NBHS) invite you to take part in our two day, hands on workshop at a mud walled house near Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick. The workshop will be hosted by Dr. Barry O'Reilly of the NBHS in partnership with Tom Pollard and stone mason Niall O'Shaughnessy. Tom specialises in repair to vernacular structures using lime and earthen-based mortars and plasters.

The aim of the two days is to:

- Raise awareness and knowledge of using locally available earth for earth mortars in repair (using bricks, earth and fibre additives). It will also address plasters and renders for repair and new build.
- Introduction to lime: NHL and Quick Lime. Appropriate uses, diversity of use, reading mortar/render failure, Shelter coats to external repairs, internal washes and pigment use.
- The need to protect works and know when to apply these mortars.
- Mixing, using, curing and storing traditional earth and lime mortars in the winter.
- Meeting historic elevations with more modern materials. Keeping the thermal mass steady, modern and traditional materials to ensure thermal performance.

## What to Bring

This will be a hands on module and participants should dress for wet and cold weather and bring suitable attire. Participants need to provide their own Hi vis vest, safety footwear, hard hat, gloves and eye protection. Long sleeves recommended.

Attendees should bring any information, drawings, plans of their own project for advice and discussion.

A full site induction, health and safety meeting will be held at 9.45am prompt, prior to commencement at 10.00 am.

## Ticket & Booking Information

These workshops are being offered at a reduced rate with subsidised tickets of €120. Concession tickets are priced at **€80** for apprentices and students over 18. To book your place contact

[heather@pollardconservationrestoration.ie](mailto:heather@pollardconservationrestoration.ie)

## Refreshments

A light lunch will be provided.



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# One-Day Workshop: The Use of Traditional Hot Lime Mortars for Rendering and Wet Dash for Professionals

**Date:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Time:** 9.30am-4.30pm

**Location:** Killoran House, Thurles, Tipperary, E41 Y925

**Price:** €100

## Event Information

This one-day course is aimed at building professionals (architects, engineers, surveyors, local authority and other heritage professionals) who want a more thorough understanding of the specification, preparation and application of hot lime mortars.

Join us for a hands-on introduction to using traditional hot lime for rendering and wet dash on historic structures.

Most of our traditional and vernacular buildings were finished in traditional hot lime mortars externally and then lime-washed to provide important protection which kept walls dry and warm. This course will focus on the preparation of traditional renders using hot lime mortar.

This workshop will raise awareness of traditional skills, promote the sensitive repair and reuse of our traditional and vernacular buildings using appropriate materials and techniques, and encourage the sharing of knowledge between participants.

## You'll come away with improved knowledge on:

- The care and repair of older buildings
- Advantages of using hot lime and appropriate specifications
- The range of aggregates for traditional hot lime mortars
- How to mix a hot lime mortar and its application
- The correct protection and aftercare measures to apply when using hot lime mortars
- You will gain an understanding of the use of hot limes in exterior rendering including wet dash and lime washing

## Course Tutors

The course will be led by Damien Condon and Richard McLoughlin.

**Damien Condon:** Damien is a sixth generation plasterer with decades of experience working with historic structures. Damien holds a PDD (Professional Development Diploma) in the Historic Building Conservation and Repair from West Dean College in West Sussex, England. Damien also holds a C1 and C2 in Conservation Masonry and SQA, as well as a SCQF in Making Historic Materials from the Scottish Lime Centre in Scotland. He is the current Vice Chair of Building Limes Forum Ireland.

**Richard McLoughlin:** Richard is a Grade 1 Conservation Architect with over thirty-five years' experience focused on high quality architectural design and building conservation. He is a graduate of UCD and holds a master's degree in built heritage conservation from the Technical University Berlin. He is a director of Lotts Architecture and Urbanism and sits on the RIAI Historic Buildings Committee.

## Refreshments

Tea/coffee and a light lunch will be provided.

## What to Bring

Participants should prepare for wet and/or cold weather and should bring suitable attire.

Participants must bring their own PPE including eye protection, gloves, hi-vis vest and safety boots.

## Ticket and Booking Information

Subsidised tickets are priced at €100 but places are limited and will be allocated on a first come-first served basis. Contact [coursescalx@gmail.com](mailto:coursescalx@gmail.com) to book a place and arrange payment.

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