

Holm Cultram Abbey Roof Restoration



Photos & article by: Bill & Winifred Allan



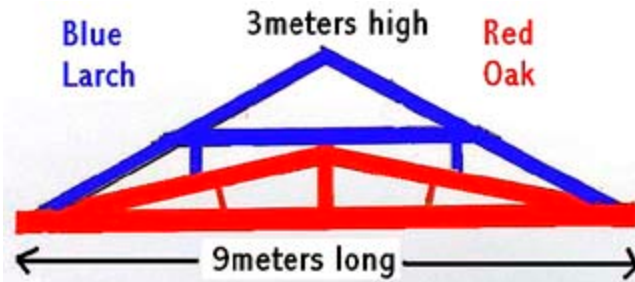
Photo by: Mike Faulkner



On Friday 11th January the last roof truss was set in position at the Abbey, this follows the fire which destroyed the roof, causing much damage to the whole building.

To mark the occasion Holm Cultram Abbey School walked the short distance to view the occasion, they thoroughly enjoyed the event with large cheers when the huge crane lifted the last truss. In attendance were the Vicar, Rev David Tembey who was interviewed by Border TV and our local interviewer Gilly Fraser.

A few facts: The Trusses, 15 in all, weighing approximately 1.6 tons, are 29ft 3in long, by 9ft 9in high. Consisting of two angles. The Red being made of Oak this was probably the original angle and may have had a Lead or Copper finish. The Blue is Larch (Steeper) for a Slate or Flag finish. The Purlins are 8ft long, 5 in all, (which go horizontal between the Trusses) are Oak for the lower angle Larch for top Angle, 6 in all.



The Crane stands 88ft high with a beam of 130ft long, it is controlled by radio, a workman carrying the controls on the scaffolding, which surrounds the building, and is used as a platform inside, reached by a staircase inside the Abbey. With thanks to Ronnie Clark Site Agent.

Clockwise from top left:
 Oak purlins being lifted on to the roof.
 Crane towering over Abbeytown at dawn.
 Lifting a whole truss.
 The maze of scaffolding inside the Abbey.
 TV filming the work and Abbeytown children spectators.
 The different woods used to make the roof trusses.

