

ROOF OVERVIEW

The voice of roof training

Issue 5
Summer 2010



Slating and tiling



Solar



Heritage



Single ply

... plus much more!



THE magazine about your roof training groups, leading federations and key industry figures

– Redland –

We offer exceptional training – **officially!**



Redland

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Redland has won the award for exceptional contribution to training award from the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) at the 2010 annual awards event.

This award is only in its second year and winners are identified by ConstructionSkills for their total commitment to training.

Redland not only won the award for its dedicated customer training centre in South Cerney, but also for its own company-wide programme providing skills training to staff at every level.

Mike Bialyj, employer services director of ConstructionSkills, said: "Redland really stands out for its determination to continue with its programme of top-class training even in the difficult market conditions of the last year.

"This is the type of long-term commitment that makes a really significant contribution to the industry as a whole."

Redland sales director Andy Dennis, who received the award from news presenter Mary Nightingale, said: "As a market leader we expect to set a high standard for ourselves, but it is great

when this effort is recognised by our own industry."

Redland runs a wide range of training courses, from CPD-certified presentations for specifiers, NVQ-certified courses for contractors, product training for merchants and special skills courses such as PV installation.

Full information on the range of training offered by the company is available from the website: www.redland.co.uk.



Redland is currently taking bookings for the following courses:

Experienced workers practical assessment (EWPA) NVQ Level 2 in roof slating and tiling – October 26 and 27, November 17 and 18.
Photovoltaic installers training – October 20, November 11, November 30.

– Midland Roof Training Group –

Train with **the best!**



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Roofing companies in the West Midlands are extremely fortunate in having one of the industry's leading training providers on their doorstep.

The National Construction College in King's Norton offers roofing apprenticeship courses that have been designed in close consultation with the industry. They all combine college training with on-site experience. In addition, employers are eligible to claim an apprenticeship grant.

Apprenticeship places still on offer for the September 2010 intake are as follows:

Roof slating and tiling

This course provides training and assessment in plain tiles, interlocking tiles, cement fibre slates, etc, to cover valleys, hips and general areas. It also covers all practical and theoretical knowledge to achieve the roof slating and tiling framework.

Built-up bitumen roofing

Training and assessment covers bitumen, roofing felts, surfacing and insulation materials, tools and equipment, regulations and standards, together with practical and theoretical knowledge to achieve the built-up roofing framework.

Roof sheeting and cladding

Apprentices on this course are trained and assessed in single and double skin, as well as factory-assembled composite systems that include flashings, fastening and fixings. Theoretical and practical training satisfy the requirements to achieve the roof sheeting and cladding framework.

"Training is vital for businesses to grow, and although the recession has hit companies hard, they still need to be ready as the economy improves and more work is available," said group training officer Livia Williams.

For further information or to see for yourself the college facilities, please contact training officer Paul Harper on 07768 885761 or apprenticeship officer Judy Minty on 07843 218023.

AGM date

The group's annual general meeting takes place on September 7 2010 at the Royal Hotel, Ashby de la Zouch. Please support it!

Last chance for funding

Hurry – NVQ funding is still available but it won't last forever, so please apply quickly to prevent disappointment.

– National Metal Training Group –

APPRENTICES WANTED!

8 enthusiastic people
for **Hard Metal Special**
Apprenticeship
Programme
starting
September 2010
in the **North East**

The National Metal Training Group has been working closely with ConstructionSkills to create this tinsmith hard metal specialist apprentice programme for those who want to work with the traditional metals, such as zinc and copper, but using modern techniques.

This is your opportunity to enter this rewarding profession!

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– Confederation of Roofing Contractors –

Here's to the next **25 years!**

IT is reassuring to know that within the roofing sector there are quite a few federations and organisations that are celebrating big birthdays, in spite of the economic difficulties that have crossed their paths more than once along the way.

The Confederation of Roofing Contractors is one such body; this year Allan Buchan and his team are polishing the proverbial silver as CORC notches up 25 years.

Not that it has been plain sailing all the way, as Allan will readily admit. But his belief that CORC is there for the public, whether they are members or not, has stood him in good stead throughout

the not-so-good times as well as the prosperous. 'We're here to help' is CORC's core belief, and you only have to spend some time in the federation's offices to discover that this really is the case.

Perhaps it is because CORC is based in the bustling little harbour town of Brightlingsea in north-east Essex, accessible in and out by only one road, that much of the service is carried out on an informal basis. It wouldn't be inaccurate, in fact, to describe the attractive premises as a drop-in centre from time to time, as members of the public come in with their queries and problems. Allan, together with Lisa Howick (accounts), Mark Williams (sales/recruitment) and Mike Wolfe (membership co-ordinator) welcome allcomers with a smile and a ready ear.

Personal approach

"We are able to adopt a much more personal approach with our clients and the general public because of where we are," explained Allan. "It would be quite different if we ran the business from a large town or city."

And for those people who wish to contact CORC from further afield, there are no fewer than eight telephone lines to minimise the chance of having to leave a message. "It's vital to be as available as possible if people need information or help," he added.

It isn't only advice the team offer; complaints are also investigated for members and non-members alike.

However, it would be a mistake to equate small town with small federation. CORC has 576 members (contractors), as well as 47 associate members – manufacturers, suppliers, etc. Despite the recession of the last 18 months or so, membership numbers have suffered very little.

So as a note of cautious optimism breathes life into the industry, what does Allan think is the way forward?

"It is training, without a doubt, that will help businesses to recover and prosper again," he said.

"The regional roof training groups are ideally placed to offer complete packages, including management training, for existing and especially, new members.

"We mustn't forget manufacturers who often offer their own training in their respective products – and this is something we can all work together on."

Allan feels strongly that not enough knowledge about roofing apprenticeships is available in senior schools, something he intends to put right by distributing an e-newsletter containing details of the relevant information and how and where to get more.

Allan is aware that his competitive membership prices raise the odd eyebrow, but insists that members receive a comprehensive array of services for their annual fee.

"We do differ from other trade organisations in that we keep in touch with our members by phone wherever possible at least once or twice a year. And perhaps surprisingly, we don't have any committees.

Consumer protection

"I believe we are also the only consumer protection trade association in the country, as our aim is to protect the public wherever possible and get a good job done."

Every member can obtain help if needed on drawing up a method statement, terms and conditions, guarantees, and other advice on running a business.

Anybody wishing to become a member of CORC must be prepared to put their business under scrutiny. The application form, although straightforward, is comprehensive and insists on proof of competent work as well as trade references.

"We turn down more applicants than we accept, and there are no second chances," said Allan.

So as the CORC team continue to raise a glass with their customers in celebration of 25 years' business, the industry can be confident that they will be working all out to deliver and extend the services which have made them so successful.



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– Ploughcroft Training –

Skilled roofers wanted for solar market

Are you, or do you know of, a skilled, experienced and ambitious roofer who wants a rewarding job, and best rates of pay, in the solar market?

If so, Ploughcroft Roofing, the UK's leading solar roofing contractor, needs more roofers – subcontractors and employees.

Managing director Chris Hopkins explained: "We urgently require good roofers to upskill for work in solar roofing.

"The ideal candidate, who may live anywhere within the UK, will be competent and experienced in all aspects of roofing, and qualified to at least NVQ Level 2 in roofing occupations or equivalent. They must also be competent at working at heights, using safety harness

and scaffolding.

In addition they must have a full driving licence and be prepared to travel away from home."

Prospective candidates will be interviewed before attending a five-day course at Ploughcroft's accredited solar training academy. Upon successful completion they will be offered a position with the company and an excellent remuneration package.

Please send your CV or a letter of expression of interest to

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Ploughcroft 
Solar Roof Training Courses



Workshops for would-be roofers

Ploughcroft teamed up with ConstructionSkills recently to provide two workshops aimed at those advising both young people and adults about the range of careers, qualifications, training and skills available in the roofing sector.

The one-day events also provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about renewable roofing methods – such as green roofs – alongside more traditional materials.



The workshops offered a mix of both practical sessions and presentations. It was open to careers advisers, as well as those teaching adults or young people. The workshop was particularly relevant for those involved in the delivery of the 14-19 diploma in construction and the built environment, as well as for wider information, advice and guidance purposes.

Ploughcroft training and development manager Joe Hennessy said: "Even though we are

experiencing difficult economic times, it is vital that the industry is fully equipped to take on the inevitable upturn in fortunes.

"Professionals advising young people and adults need to be up-to-date on the training and career opportunities open to them."

Maria O'Sullivan, who is an adviser in the recruitment and careers sector of ConstructionSkills, said: "The construction sector offers a whole host of career opportunities and these workshops were designed to demonstrate the benefits of opting for a career in roofing.

"The ever-increasing use of new sustainable materials such as solar panels and green roofs has moved the roofing sector on significantly and now is an exciting time to develop a career in the trade."

Ploughcroft in the community

Throughout Ploughcroft's development and expansion throughout Yorkshire and the UK, Chris Hopkins has always been mindful of the company's place within the community and the many opportunities, as he puts it, of 'giving something back'.

This year he has been taking time out to visit local senior schools to talk about careers in the roofing industry.

"There are fantastic opportunities right now in the solar and renewable markets, and it would be great to get some local youngsters on to a successful and rewarding career path," Chris said.

Ploughcroft 
Solar Roof Training Courses

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– South Central Independent Roofing Training Group –

Packed house draws on Brian's safety expertise

When it comes to safety, group training officer Brian Middlemiss FCIQB knows his stuff – so when the Access Industry Forum (AIF) invited the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) to deliver a presentation at one of the industry's largest events for health and safety professionals, Brian was the obvious choice for the job.

The occasion was the Safety & Health Expo, which took place at the Birmingham NEC in May. It focused on the latest best practice in health and safety disciplines and attracted thousands of senior health and safety professionals.

Recognised as an accomplished industry practitioner in the field of working at height, Brian spoke for 30 minutes to a packed house on the theme 'Successfully managing working at height on site'.

AIF marketing manager Neil Tomlinson said: "Every seat was filled and there were also people standing to watch the presentation."

Because of Brian's expertise and knowledge, South Central and London & Southern Roofing Training Groups are at the forefront of delivering training courses for safe working at height.

For further information on the courses available, please contact Brian or Mike Fildes.

What you want is what we want!

We all know that times have really been tough lately and many of us have faced enormous challenges to keep our businesses afloat. It is especially difficult to put money into training when there is less work out there, so it is a credit to all our members who have supported the group's courses throughout this recession.

We would very much like to have all your views on how the group can work with you as we emerge from this recession. Many of us have had to change our working and training practices and

re-think our budgets. Some of the ways in which we used to operate have had to be modified or even dropped. So how can we help you? What can we offer which will support your business and set you on the road to recovery, and hopefully, prosperity?

Brian said: "This is a heartfelt appeal to every member to speak to me openly and honestly about how to get the best out of the group and improve its services – it's at times like this that we all need to pull together."

So please contact Brian, either by telephone, e-mail or in person. Meanwhile, hold on to the thought that companies who have continued to train while times are tough are ideally placed to take advantage of new business as we climb out of recession – and there are real signs that this is beginning to happen.

September deadline for CSCS heritage cards

Anyone planning to gain a CSCS heritage card, please note that the deadline for achieving this via industrial accreditation expires on September 30 – a month's extension to the previous deadline.

After this date you will have to go through the full on-site assessment and training process – so please don't delay!

NB The group is offering heritage roofing training, including upskilling, swept and laced valleys, and training towards the heritage NVQ Level 3.

All our regulars

Don't forget – all our regular courses are available throughout the year, including PASMA tower scaffold training (one day), safety harness training (half day), manual handling (half day), asbestos awareness (half day), and safety harness (half day).

Managers – is your health and safety knowledge up to scratch?

Tougher enforcement, lack of information... this new health and safety course is essential for directors and senior management.

It outlines and explains your responsibilities for health and safety at work as regulations become tighter than ever.

The one-day course takes place at Littlehampton on September 23 – book your place early as places are limited.



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– South Wales & South West Roofing Training Group –

Training really does pay

Back in January 2008 Neil Downton, from O'Brien Roofing and Leadworks Ltd, successfully completed a five-day LSA-approved basic leadwelding and bossing training course at the South Wales & South West Roofing Training Group training centre in Exeter.

The course provided Neil with sufficient knowledge and skills to enable him to use his training productively in his working environment. He successfully amalgamated his training with practical experience on site and went on to produce a prize-winning piece of work at Bay Cottage, Devon which secured first place at the prestigious national 2010 National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) roofing awards.

Praising Neil's work (pictured), Roofcraft's Alan Lander FloR said: "It's good to see the lead training being put to use, and the standard of work is really impressive. Neil also attended our day-release 12-month roof slating and tiling course held here in Exeter last year.

"It proves that training really is worthwhile."

Daniel O'Brien's commitment to training ensures traditional heritage skills are kept alive. Employees Gary O'Brien and Lee Northover (pictured with Alan Lander) both recently completed the same lead course in May this year at the South Wales & South West Roofing Training

Group training centre in Exeter.

So watch this space – perhaps there will be more awards to come for the O'Briens!



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– Eastern Region Roof Training Group Ltd –

Raising the roof for female apprentices

Potential female roofers in the East, take note – the group is holding its first 'Raise the Roof' event at its training centre in Ipswich.

The one-day event, which is being organised together with the Suffolk Education Business Partnership, is taking place on Wednesday October 20.

Sixty Year 10 female students from schools across Suffolk will get a chance to try their hand at slating, tiling and felt roofing. In the classroom they will get a chance to learn about green roofs, undertake an estimating exercise and have a go at spotting health and safety hazards.

"We are hoping that the day will be a huge success and become an annual event," said the event organiser, group health and safety adviser Angela Clarke.

For further information please contact Angela on 01473 744412.



Apprentice on the road to Wales

Congratulations and good luck to second-year apprentice Laurie Maund (pictured) who will be competing in the finals of SkillBuild in Wales.

Laurie comes from a roofing family; his dad, Ian, was assessed by the group for his NVQ Level 2 and his brother, Ryan, is also a second-year apprentice. To complete the family line-up, his younger brother is enrolling as a first-year apprentice this September.

"This is a great testament to the group that Ian is enrolling his third son, as he firmly believes that apprenticeships work," said group manager Clive Coote.

A special mention must go to course lecturer Colin Wombwell, who worked tirelessly in organising SkillBuild and tutoring the apprentices.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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– Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

SkillBuild's pride of Yorkshire



The group has great reason to be proud – well, to be more accurate, three reasons. No fewer than three Leeds College of Building apprentices are going forward to this year's SkillBuild final.

Matt Timby (pictured top), last year's SkillBuild winner, is off to the final for the second year running. The 24-year-old employee of Otter Roofing came to roofing as his chosen career after leaving the navy and is committed to making his career in the industry.

Seeing SkillBuild and his place on the heritage specialist apprenticeship programme as an investment in his future, Matt said: "I don't just want to be an average slater and tiler – I want to be the best.

"Winning SkillBuild last year was the highest point of my career to date, and I'm hoping to do greater things at the NFRC WorldSkills in Belfast this coming November."

Joining Matt at the SkillBuild final is 21-year-old Ian McCarthy (pictured second from top) who works for Pickles Brothers.

"I love working for the company and am very grateful to my boss, Gary Shaw, for all his support throughout my apprenticeship and my goal to complete the Prince's Trust heritage programme.

Both he and Matt have been selected to join ten other successful applicants out of 100 throughout the country to attend the Prince's Trust heritage apprenticeship. This is an eight-month programme which will lead to an NVQ Level 3 qualification as heritage roofers. The programme involves theory and practical work on heritage buildings.

Most of all, Ian is now looking forward to travelling around the country to a variety of sites and advancing his skills in roofing, which will lead toward the title of master craftsman.

Pickles Brothers has a long history of supporting apprentices and Terry Chiswell, roofing course leader and chairman of the training group, said: "This company has always supported apprentices over the 12 years I have been in college and its workforce are all highly skilled and hard workers."

Last, but certainly not least in the SkillBuild final line-up, is Dodds Roofing

Services Ltd apprentice Kev Barker.

Dodds Roofing Services is no stranger to sending apprentices to the SkillBuild final, and neither is the Barker family.

Second-year apprentice Kevin (pictured with employer Graham Dodds) is following in the footsteps of his older brother Josh, who won the silver medal at SkillBuild in 2008.

Since Josh completed his advanced apprenticeship he has progressed to take on more responsibility and has now transferred his skills into a supervisor role within the company.

Kev looks like having the same talent as his brother. "Although only in his second year, he is already demonstrating the technical skills needed to produce high quality work on every project he works on," said office manager Tanya Etherington.

"His training combines college-based learning with on-site experience working with colleagues who have already successfully followed the apprenticeship route. This ensures that our apprentices learn the skills that work best for us and is a great way of adding value to the business.

"Here at Dodds we carry out a vigorous selection process to find the right employees for our business and strongly believe in investing in the leaders and managers of the future."

Group training officer Denise Cherry said: "The group wishes them every success at SkillBuild. If one of our apprentices wins SkillBuild this year, we will have an all-Yorkshire entry at WorldSkills next year."

Managed industry accreditation – grandfather rights

The group is working with the Northern Heritage Training Group and member companies to manage the MIA registration process before the end of September.

"We have a target to achieve a minimum of 30 individual accredited through this route before the September 30 deadline – please contact me if you need any assistance," said group training officer Denise Cherry.



– Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

Heritage matters

'It is one of the best meetings I have attended'; 'I could listen to Richard all day'; these were just two of the enthusiastic comments after Richard Jordan of Jordan Heritage Training (see page 10) was guest speaker at the group's July meeting.



As a result, he is returning on Thursday September 30 to the group's quarterly meeting where he will present a morning session called 'Working with lime'. It will include the following topics: lime circle, the history of lime and why lime gets such bad press.

In the afternoon Richard will lead a practical session on the use of lime on roofs which will be restricted to just ten delegates – so contact Denise early to book your place on this afternoon session.

The group is currently negotiating with a funding body to subsidise further one-day heritage courses, which will start in October. Please contact Denise for further details.

Can you offer work experience?

As part of a pilot project ConstructionSkills is offering £65 per week to companies who can give Pathway into Construction students summer work experience.

The group has interviewed five full-time students at Leeds College of Building who are now halfway through their course programme and would like to work in or around the Leeds area. They have passed their CSCS test with a working at heights endorsement.

If anyone can offer these students work experience, please contact Denise.

IoR course

Places are still available for the September-start Institute of Roofing course in Leeds, easily accessible to group members from the motorway network

Upon successful completion of the course, which takes place one evening a week over 20 weeks, and final examination, delegates are entitled to apply for associate membership of the IoR.

Please contact Denise for further details.

Group member wins NFRC award

One of Yorkshire's premier roofing contractors, Harwood Roofing Ltd, has won a prestigious National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) award.

It has received top honours for roofing excellence in the shingles and shakes category for a project at Camphill Rural Crafts Workshop, Chapelthorpe.

Managing director Steve Harwood said: "We are only a small company with 15 employees and this was our first entry into the NFRC awards.



"This is a project I was extremely proud of – it had 200 metres of roof and two conical roofs, where each shingle had to be individually cut. I am also very proud of my workforce and they agree with me that a job worth doing is worth doing well."

Harwood Roofing is one of the contractors working with the group to obtain heritage CSCS cards.

Rubberfuse helps win NHBC award

Thanks to IPS Rubberfuse of Richmond, a major home developer has won two National House-Building Council (NHBC) awards.

Rubberfuse was the roofing contractor on a Berkeley Homes site providing student accommodation which won the award for best large site for the central region, as well as overall national winner in the best large builder category (same site).



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– Jordan Heritage Roofing Limited –

In a heritage class of his own



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It has been a long time coming, and has involved a huge amount of work by many people.

Finally, the heritage specialist apprenticeship programme in roof slating and tiling – amongst other skills – are up and running, thanks in no small part to Richard Jordan of Jordan Heritage Roofing. He is responsible for writing the roof slating and tiling modules and supporting the programme overall.

Richard's passion for the heritage sector goes back more than 20 years, when he began working



on projects such as Brodsworth Hall and Lincoln Castle.

Since then his involvement with English Heritage and his keen interest in training has brought him into contact with all the major players throughout the industry – with the

result that many are turning to him for training, consultation, advice and 'all things heritage'.

"We offer continuous professional development as a bespoke, and very flexible, service," said Richard.

"Costs are very reasonable when training is delivered to groups such as county conservation officers. We have a mobile rig which we regularly take all over the country."

Richard's client base is continuing to grow among architects, surveyors and other professionals. He liaises closely with heritage training officer for ConstructionSkills, Simon Holmes, most recently with the plan to bring heritage training and advice within the reach of the regional roof training groups (see page 9).

The great thing about going to Richard for help with heritage and conservation work is that his knowledge isn't restricted to roofs. "We will look at the 'building envelope', and explain the best procedures for the entire building," Richard explained.

Sounds too good to be true? If you're involved in heritage, and want any of these services, then give Richard a call. You won't be disappointed!

– Single Ply Roofing Association –

SPRA commits to SAP

In the heady days before the election (see Roof Overview, Issue 4) Single Ply Roofing Association (SPRA) agreed to develop a specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP) for new entrants to single ply roofing.

So what happens now, given the implications for grant levels and availability of reductions in levy income and government support?

We know that there are employers out there who are keen to invest for the upturn because the SPRA survey identified a broad range of support for the SAP. Less certain is the future availability of grant, now that we only know the levels available during the first of two years.

However, apprenticeships have been affected far less than many other categories and the current year levels remain an excellent incentive.

◆ Total grant for two-year apprenticeship – £5200 (nine per cent reduction over 2009/10).

To give employers maximum flexibility to reflect their business processes, the generic modules concentrate only on key skills, and safety training and awareness. Specific skills relating to access (eg mobile elevated work platforms, or related operations (eg abrasive wheels) can be 'bolted on' to the initial modules.

Single ply technology is changing fast. Within the rules of SPRA manufacturers must bear full responsibility for detailed training in the use and installation of their membrane products.

Therefore it is logical that SPRA – which will offer the SAP – will require manufacturers to deliver their product training (and related product

awareness) within the two-year apprenticeship. This will also ensure that candidates receive the most up-to-date information on this exciting technology.



Grant for 2010/11

- ◆ 1st year attendance/incentive – £1,715 (paid quarterly, in arrears)
- ◆ 2nd year attendance/incentive – £1,410 (paid quarterly, in arrears)
- ◆ NVQ Level 2 – £275
- ◆ Framework achievement – £1,800



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– J Wright Roofing –

Earn as you learn

Time is drawing ever closer for the first intake of apprentices at the East Midlands Roofing College (EMRC) in Bulwell, Nottingham.

J Wright Roofing has opened a training division in partnership with East Midlands Roofing College and is currently recruiting 16 to 18-year-old apprentices as from September 2010.



They will be paid as they train because the apprenticeship programme is an 18-month programme based on day release.

“The apprenticeship programme was designed around employers’ views and we trust this will accommodate their needs and encourage employers to come forward with apprentices,” said J Wright Roofing director Livia Williams.

East Midlands Roofing College is the newly-open college based at Dabell Avenue, Blenheim Industrial Estate, Bulwell, Nottingham NG6 8WA (M1 junction 26), which will be accommodating the first intake of apprentices in September 2010.

The college – which delivers apprenticeships in roof slating and tiling and heritage roof slating and tiling – offers excellent learning facilities, including new classrooms, a workshop with new rigs, leadwork training, including a lead bench and fume extractors and of course, the essential canteen!

“Craig Wilson and Kriston Wright are our assessors and look forward to the new intake of apprentices arriving on September 10 at our college,” said Livia.

For more information please contact Livia or training centre co-ordinator Roger Oliver on 0115 9271 333, or e-mail to info@jwrightroofing.co.uk.

Celebrating partnerships at VQ day

The anticipation of great results at VQ day at the Royal Horticultural Hall in London in June did not disappoint.

J Wright Roofing, Bulwell Academy and the Midland Roof Training Group successfully bid to participate in the exhibition, which is a celebration of vocational qualifications that brings together the top 12 providers of vocational education.

J Wright Roofing carried out a workshop on a mobile roofing rig where Jason Wright, Kriston Wright and four Year 10 students from the Bulwell Academy proudly represented both employer and the academy.

“This is an example of an excellent partnership



between an employer and a vocational academy,” explained Livia.

“Each element of the partnership comes together to provide work placements, industrial visits and careers advice and guidance for students.”

The stall attracted much interest from visitors taking part in the exhibition. Lord Baker, chairman of independent education foundation Edge (pictured with members of the partnership), took a keen interest in the roofing rig and discussed future projects with Jason, including expanding the partnership with the Bulwell Academy to develop the new Bulwell Academy Technical University.

“We would like to thank Alison Bingham, director of business and enterprise at Bulwell Academy, who has made this partnership grow and played an important part in organising the VQ day,” said Livia..

“We’re also grateful to ConstructionSkills specialist training adviser, Mike Harris, who joined us at the event.”

And finally...

Congratulations to Kriston Wright on winning this year’s key skills award at the National Construction College Midlands.



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– London & Southern Roofing Training Group –

Train to gain with SIG Design & Technology

Sustainability, ease of installation in single ply and a business opportunity were top of the agenda at a recent training day for the London & Southern Roofing Training group, sponsored by SIG Roofing Supplies.

Ron Walshaw, training manager for SIG Design & Technology, demonstrated to more than 20 roofers at Capital Roofing's premises at Greenwich just how easy it is to install the world's most eco-friendly single-ply membrane, Rhepanol.

With more than 90 million sq m sold worldwide, Rhepanol is made from PIB (polyisobutylene) and contains 70 per cent natural materials, including the substance that makes chewing gum 'chewy'.

A firm favourite with the contractor, Rhepanol has a self-sealing edge which means that no hot works are needed on site.

Exclusive to SIG Design & Technology, Rhepanol is available in three types. Rhepanol fk is suitable for general applications and can be



combined with Pro20 liquid waterproofing for ease of detailing. Rhepanol hg is resistant to roots and rhizomes and has been accredited with FLL certification at two levels.

And finally, an application has been developed for solar panels – Rhepanol fk in ultra reflective white – which can be combined with Solyndra PV to maximise solar reflection by as much as 90.4 per cent.

SIG Design & Technology designs, supplies and guarantees the whole roof installation, giving the contractor much more to sell than a simple single-ply solution.

Ron said: "We work with the contractor to design and enable 21st century roofs which do much more than keep the heat in and the water out."

Roofing companies are invited to join SIG Design & Technology's Accredited Contractors Scheme (DATAC) and share in a key business opportunity.

Need help with a project or information on DATAC? Call 01509 505714 or visit www.accreditedcontractors.co.uk.

Training officer is fit to train – and that's official!

Staying ahead of the game – that's what was on group training officer Brian Middlemiss's mind last September when he decided to take the ten-week preparing to teach (PTTLS) course.

However, having completed the course – which covers the basic principles of learning – and gained the certificate, Brian felt that he would like an additional qualification in this field.

"I had reservations about a certificate that says 'preparing to teach' so in January this year I



commenced the certificate to teach in the lifelong learning sector (CTLLS) course," he explained.

"This course lasts for 22 weeks and gives you more information and experience with teaching methods and principles."

Did Brian find the course difficult? "It is a demanding course but not beyond the reach of anyone who is in the training environment, and well worth the effort," he said.

New name, new course

Did you know that the first aid appointed person course has been replaced by the new emergency first aid course?

The group is running this new one-day course at the Greenwich centre when sufficient numbers are interested. It costs just £75 and includes buffet lunch, tea and coffee.

Managers – is your health and safety knowledge up to scratch?

Tougher enforcement, lack of information... this new health and safety course is essential for directors and senior management.

It outlines and explains your responsibilities for health and safety at work as regulations become tighter than ever.

The one-day course takes place at Greenwich on September 30 – book your place early as places are limited.

London & Southern
Roof Training Group

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– Institute of Roofing –

Happy birthday to us!

As the Institute of Roofing celebrates 30 years in the roofing industry, board secretary Carol Dukes reminds us of its core values, the importance it places on training and qualifications and how, through membership, individuals and companies can gain and maintain a competitive edge to their business.

Who would have thought that after 30 years, there are still today no fewer than 35 current members who founded the IoR in 1980?

In those intervening years there have been 14 chairmen and five presidents, with those figures about to increase. Martin Adwick takes over as the 15th chairman in October and a sixth president will be announced later on this year.

The idea of forming the Institute of Roofing was developed by well known roofing figures such as Cyril Baker, Bill Jenkins, Graham Bateman, Brian Caldwell and Peter Brunger, who all went on to become founder members. It is the only recognised professional body in the UK that offers individuals, who are involved in all aspects of the roofing industry, including contractors and manufacturers, the opportunity to gain nationally-recognised roofing qualifications.

This is achieved through a series of dedicated training courses provided by external training providers, covering six key roofing disciplines as follows:

- ◆ Slating and tiling
- ◆ Sheeting and cladding
- ◆ Flat roofing
- ◆ Mastic asphaltting
- ◆ Liquid coatings
- ◆ Single ply membranes.

In the increasingly demanding construction industry, roofing companies need to offer a competitive edge – not only in terms of products and service, but also people – by demonstrating key staff have recognised roofing qualifications.

This is often perceived by clients as creating a much more professional organisation. Importantly, it also enhances career opportunities for individuals who, via their IoR roofing qualifications, can demonstrate a proven level of competence and expertise.

There are many other benefits of membership, including access to the following:

- ◆ CSCS management cards
- ◆ Legal advice
- ◆ Insurance packages
- ◆ Health care.

Further details of these benefits are available on our website: www.instituteofroofing.org.

During the past year we have focused on re-establishing regional meetings where they have not been run, with considerable success in Southern, South Wales and South West and Midlands

regions. In particular, North West region has an exemplary record in running its regional meetings. Members continually highlight the importance of regional meetings to them and we hope our initiatives are supported by their attendance.

More courses and exams have been run and held during the last 18 months with fantastic results and we would hope this continues, supported by the introduction of a distance learning package that is being developed.

We have a very hardworking board of governors, 12 people who give their time to meet



at least four times a year to ensure that the Institute of Roofing is as relevant today as it was 30 years ago.

Pictured at the last AGM, from left to right, are ten of these members: Mike Bradbury, Jim Slater, Tom Moon, John O'Connor, Mike Harris (chairman), Martin Adwick (vice-chairman), Bob Cooper, Alan Williamson, Mike Kilbey (honorary treasurer) and Guy Kilbey.

Within the board there are three committees: public relations, regions and education, which incorporates membership. We are supplementing our quarterly board meetings with regular monthly conference calls to enhance the service provided to our members.

The board is in turn supported by myself as secretary to the board and I am assisted by Natalie Johnson, the person you will inevitably speak to if you phone our office in London.

However, the Institute of Roofing is about our members and we welcome comment on ways to improve and move us forward to the next 30 years.

THE INSTITUTE OF ROOFING
IOR
training | qualifications | professionalism

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– ConstructionSkills –

Specialists support heritage apprenticeships

The national specialist team at ConstructionSkills is supporting the development of heritage specialist apprenticeship programmes in roof slating and tiling and specialist leadwork.

Heritage training adviser Simon Holmes explained: "The training specifications for roofing and leadwork provide the historical, theoretical and technological knowledge and practical skills required to work on conservation, repair and maintenance projects in the built heritage sector.



"This includes understanding the causes of decay and the relevant traditional building methods, materials, tools and approaches to undertake sympathetic repairs."

The repair and maintenance of pre-1919 buildings requires craftspeople with specialist skills and knowledge. The heritage skills NVQ Level 3 allows experienced craftspeople working in the sector without a qualification to become qualified; holders of this NVQ demonstrate competency to work in this sector of the construction industry.

"Those already working in mainstream construction can upskill and develop the knowledge and expertise to use traditional building methods and materials," added Simon.

So who would benefit from this training? The heritage specialist apprenticeship programmes are aimed at roofers and leadworkers with an existing mainstream NVQ Level 2 or 3. Candidates follow the bespoke training programme in their craft occupation to upskill to the heritage skills NVQ Level 3.

The training programme provides a step-by-step approach delivered in modules linked to this NVQ. It combines off-the-job training with on-the-job work experience and assessment.

The first pilot off-the-job modules for roofing are being delivered by leading sector practitioners in Yorkshire and West Sussex. Subsequent programmes will be delivered in other locations. Leadwork modules are being delivered by the Lead Sheet Association's general manager Nigel Johnston at its training centre in Kent.

The modules are normally delivered in one-week (five-day) blocks. In some cases training incorporates site visits to pre-1919 buildings and material manufacturers.

Employers registered with CITB-ConstructionSkills are currently eligible for grant support for themselves and their employees for the heritage specialist apprenticeship programmes. Others can still access this training, but on a full-cost recovery basis for the off-the-job training and assessment.

As with all training programmes, many individuals are involved. The roofing specification was written by the industry.

Support and endorsement came from an industry panel of Andy King, Geoff Neal, Mike Fildes, Richard Jordan and Ray Horwood, chief executive of the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC).

Ray said: "We view the heritage apprenticeship as a great support mechanism for the new heritage-endorsed CSCS cards and the NFRC heritage roof register which goes live in August.

"Responsible clients are starting to request proof of competence and the apprenticeship will provide all roofing contractors with the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of historical developments and craft techniques employed in traditional roofing."

The leadwork programme was developed in partnership between the Lead Sheet Association (LSA) and the Lead Contractors Association (LCA) and written by industry practitioners to ensure a comprehensive course content.

Central to the programme was Nigel Johnston, supported by LCA members Carl Bream (Norfolk Sheet Lead), Ian Harvey (Marshott Roofing) and Stuart Bailey (Norman & Underwood).

Development and promotion of heritage skills across the craft occupations is high on the agenda of ConstructionSkills and the National Heritage Training Group.

In addition to roofing and leadwork, heritage specialist apprenticeship programmes are available for brickwork, plastering (fibrous and solid) and stonemasonry, with others being added if there is sufficient demand.



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– Lead Contractors Association –

Heritage leadworkers – get your CSCS card now!

Experienced leadworkers are taking full advantage of the current opportunity to apply for the new heritage skills specialist leadworker CSCS card under the managed industry accreditation (MIA) route.

More than 120 applications for the new card have already been processed by the Lead Contractors Association (LCA) secretariat at its offices in East Grinstead.

Open to both members and non-members of the LCA, the MIA route only remains open for applications until September 2010.

This process (effectively ‘grandfather rights’) enables leadworkers to gain their heritage skills CSCS card by providing sufficient evidence of their experience and skills in support of the CSCS SmartCard application form.

“The LCA checks and processes each application on behalf of CSCS and ConstructionSkills, with access to vetting records for LCA members,” explained LCA secretary Ray Robertson.

Subcontractors that have worked under the guidance of LCA members can put forward the LCA member on the application as a referee for their work.

The memorandum of understanding signed last year by English Heritage, the National Heritage Training Group, ConstructionSkills and the all-party parliamentary group for arts and heritage declared their intention to work towards a carded workforce by the end of 2010, including the CSCS heritage skills and professional qualified persons cards for those working on all built heritage sites.

It is intended that after September 2010, access to work on these sites will only be by heritage skills card.



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– Construction Skills Certification Scheme –

CSCS 2010 - simpler and smarter

Applying for CSCS cards for professionals has been made more straightforward so that all competence-assessed members of professional bodies, including the Institute of Roofing (IoR), can now apply for the CSCS professionally qualified persons (PQP) card.

To gain this card, applicants also need to pass the managerial and professional (MAP) health and safety test. Cards are valid for five years and can be renewed on re-verification of the PQP criteria.

For more information on CSCS PQP cards, please visit <http://www.cscs.uk.com/types-of-cards#pqp>.

SmartCards, launched by CSCS last January, are bringing many additional benefits to contractors and clients through smart technology. These include:

- ◆ Making CSCS cards more difficult to forge, an increasingly common problem which has the potential to allow untrained or even illegal workers access to construction sites, putting safety at risk

- ◆ Allowing cards' authenticity to be checked more quickly and accurately on site
- ◆ The ability to store other information, such as recording toolbox talks and site inductions, recording continuing professional development (CPD), site access controls and verifying occupational health data.

Changes have also been made to the appearance of CSCS cards to give them an updated, consistent look. CSCS SmartCards still have the holder's photograph, name and CSCS registration number printed on the front together with the card's expiry date. The chip embedded in the cards enable this, and information such as qualifications held, to be verified either using a computer-connected or handheld reader.

CSCS chief executive Brian Adams said: “The introduction of SmartCards is in response to industry demands to improve competency on site and provide systems to support this requirement. The SmartCard really enables us to assist industry access the information it needs on site.”



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News, views, comments and questions?

Please contact your local roof training group – see inside for more details.



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Front cover: the magnificent lead dome of the Elder Park Library in Govan, Glasgow, has been restored by John Fulton (Plumbers), members of the Lead Contractors Association. The project won the prestigious Murdoch award for 2009, the ultimate accolade for leadwork.

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