

– Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

SkillBuild's pride of Yorkshire



The group has reason to be great reason to be proud – well, to be more accurate, three reasons. No less 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 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 their workforce are all highly skilled and hard workers."

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

Services apprentice Kev Barker.

Dodds Roofing Services Ltd 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 WorldSkills. If one of our apprentices wins SkillBuild this year, we will have an all-Yorkshire final 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.



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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."

All of Harwood's employees are apprentice-trained and offer roofing services as follows:

- ◆ Slating and tiling
- ◆ Built-up felt roofing
- ◆ Leadworking

They are also local authority-approved and health and safety-approved by Health Contractors.



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