

ROOF OVERVIEW

The voice of roof training



When lead theft affects livelihoods



Solar PV project in record time



All under one roof, and for free



Advice when things go wrong

Issue 11
Winter 2012

... plus much more!

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

Editor's view

First of all, if it isn't too late to say so, a very happy and prosperous new year to you all.

You'll see some new faces in this issue of Roof Overview, so a big welcome to you and, of course, to all our regular contributors. It's good to read about so many businesses holding firm and even seeing some light at the end of what has been a very long and dark economic tunnel during the last couple of years.

However, it doesn't take much to throw some small businesses into disarray, as Brian Middlemiss, group training officer for the two roof training groups, London & Southern, and South Central, discovered at the end of January. Many of his colleagues received a disturbing message from his e-mail address to say that he had been mugged while away in Malaga and he needed funds to get home.

The response was varied: knowing that Brian was very much in England, celebrating his wife's birthday, some instantly replied with the usual 'pull the other leg' comments. However, others, although dubious, half believed the story, replied to the e-mail and instantly received a further, more personal reply, backing up the claim.

Unaware of the commotion and involved in a morning meeting, Brian eventually looked at his mobile phone to discover 41 missed calls! A few

conversations and the picture soon became clear: Brian was the victim of a scam, his e-mail account had been hacked into and it seemed that all his contacts had received an e-mail of one sort or another, asking for money to get Brian back home.

Twenty-four hours later, Brian had set up a new e-mail account – **brian@rooftrainer.co.uk** – and had learnt a bit more about what had happened. "Apparently, these people attack the big names, such as Yahoo and Google, because the success rates are much higher simply because of the size," he explained.

"They hack in to the account, change the password, and double lock it so that the owner can't get back in."

So far, Brian thinks that nobody believed the scam enough to be completely taken in by it, but can't be sure because now he has lost his e-mail contacts list, it will take him a while to get in touch with everyone.

"It has been a very anxious couple of days, but I'm now much more clued up – so if anyone wants advice about e-mail hackers I'd be happy to share my new-found knowledge with them," he added.

"I'd also like to thank everyone for the concern they showed, although I'm a little concerned about the people who paid £50 to make sure I stayed in Malaga!"

Sue Clement



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Front cover: The roofing works and zinc rainscreen cladding on the Creative Arts Building at the University of Huddersfield were completed by European Roofing Systems Ltd.

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Image by Graeme Rowatt of
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– Marley Eternit –

ME – a name **you** can rely on

There are few, if any, people in the roofing industry that haven't heard of Marley Eternit. Their products are widely advertised, and they are used in roof training centres and in all types of construction projects.

However, what isn't so well known is the extent of the product types currently available. Those of us not in the first flush of youth will have grown up with Marley tiles in our bathrooms and kitchens, but this UK manufacturer has developed and expanded to offer a wide range of products as follows: concrete roof tiles, clay roof tiles, profiled sheeting, fibre cement cladding, and finally, fibre cement slates (the only manufacturer of this product in the UK; all others are imported).

With so many products manufactured in the UK, it comes as no surprise that there are multiple factories around the country, as campaign manager Richard Bishop explained: "In addition to our head office and factory in Burton-upon-Trent, we own factories in Glasgow, Widnes, Meldreth and Keele.

"However, we operate far beyond the UK, as Marley Eternit is part of the multi-national Etex group, which focuses on the construction industry through many companies around the world, including the recent acquisition of Lafarge plasterboards Europe."

"We operate across many sectors and channels, including specification, merchant/distributor, self build, etc, and provide product training to all."

Which brings us back to the beginning – most qualified roofing operatives have served their time using Marley Eternit slates or tiles at some stage in their training. And the company is renowned for its own product training and awareness, which, as Richard explained, is focused to a large extent on the requirements of ventilation and dry fix, and how the systems work and fit together.

"We have our own full-time training manager, David Cassell (pictured), who is based at our bespoke training centre in Burton," he added.

"David also travels all over the country to carry

out local sessions, but clearly these are not as hands-on as you would experience in our own workshop."

Richard went on to emphasise that Marley Eternit are committed to ensuring that their staff are the experts in their field, to be best placed to help and support their customers.

"As we operate across most forms of pitched roofing, it is essential that our staff are able to offer unbiased solutions to the customers.

"So as part of this training commitment we recently sent a number of our staff, including several from sales and marketing, on the Institute of Roofing training programme. Everyone found it beneficial, not only in terms of their own personal development, but also as members of the ME team."

Readers may have noticed that when flicking through other roofing and allied trades publications, Marley Eternit might have several ads in one publication. "There are five campaign managers, each responsible for their own marketing strategies, budgets and communications plans," Richard explained.

"I look after clay, fittings and accessories, Marley Contract Services and Bracknell Roofing, while Charlotte Hughes is responsible for fibre cement slates, and Diana Bullock, cladding.

"Meanwhile, Gavin White is responsible for Edgemere and the architectural schools programme, while Rebecca Farren takes care of profiled sheeting and the ME campaign."

So where does the ME campaign fit in, given all these 'mini' campaigns running independently?

"This is our 'umbrella' brand awareness campaign, aimed at highlighting how we make our customers' lives easier with the many free services and tools we offer," explained Richard.

"It will evolve to encompass all communications, and will be seen across all of our media, including the website."

It is all such a far cry from those original tiles that started the Marley brand name. And it seems that, decades later, this UK manufacturer's reputation for product quality, customer dedication and marketing savvy, is going from strength to strength.



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– Lead Contractors Association –

SOS – Save Our Specialists!



Picture courtesy of Ecclesiastical Insurance



The hidden, but very real, long-term threat caused by the plague of metal thefts is the eventual disappearance of the specialist lead craftsman as their livelihood is stolen along with the lead.

Stealing lead from a church roof has always been a problem, but one which was localised and therefore perceived to have little impact, beyond a distressed and inconvenienced parish community, an over-worked local police force and a disgruntled, out-of-pocket insurance company.

Indeed there was an upside, as such occurrences initially created work for the local leadwork contractor, called in to replace the stolen metal and put right the damage caused by its removal.

Then, five years ago, rising metal prices began attracting organised gangs that attacked vulnerable buildings – particularly churches – on a far wider scale. Lead sheet stolen from a roof was quickly replaced to minimise internal damage and then, just as quickly, stolen again. Claims on theft insurance soared and the insurance companies involved took drastic action to reduce the cover provided on properties where theft of lead from the roof was a repeating occurrence.

A general limit to claims of £5,000 per property per annum has had even the most dedicated traditionalist looking for alternative replacement materials, those that had little or no resale value, and therefore were not likely to be stolen.

Even English Heritage, the national defender of the use of authentic materials on our historic buildings, has acknowledged the overwhelming cost impact on the owners of maintaining like-for-like replacement on a building repeatedly targeted by thieves.

As metal prices continue to climb, there is at last a national public and (more significantly) political awareness of the problem, brought about not by the increase in lead thefts, but ironically by the theft of its main metal roofing rival – copper. However, copper theft has hit the headlines not by being stolen from a roof, but by the theft of copper cable, severely impacting on not just local parishes, but hundreds of thousands of people losing power, communication and public transport facilities.

The resulting public outcry has demanded action and prompted various initiatives to address the escalating problem, involving a wide variety of public and private organisations that manufacture, design, install, transport and recycle metal products.

Various remedies are under scrutiny, including extended licensing, methods of payment,

certificates of origin and other identification options for the scrap recovery/recycling network, police initiatives and action plans, and various security measures, alarms and theft deterrent considerations to protect the metal once installed.

The LCA welcomes the high profile this long-standing problem is now receiving, whatever the circumstances that caused the escalation of metal theft in public awareness.

We only hope an effective course of action is determined sooner rather than later, if our specialist sector is to survive. Things are bad enough for everyone in the current economic situation, but the specialist lead contractor is faring worse than most.

The continuing high price of lead sheet deters those unable to see beyond initial outlay (a longer-term view would appreciate lead sheet's unrivalled cost effectiveness over its extensive lifetime performance).

Those blinkered by bottom-line priorities are therefore specifying short-term, cut-price expedient materials as (supposedly) cheaper alternatives to lead sheet. Now they are being joined by those who would like to use lead sheet and fully appreciate the long term, maintenance-free performance and aesthetic appeal of this most traditional of UK roofing metals, but remain fearful of the theft factor.

Either way, this means a reducing demand for the specialist knowledge and skills of the lead craftsmen who are increasingly looking to other trades, or moving away from construction altogether, in order to provide their income.

If this alarming trend is not quickly addressed, the lead specialist will become an endangered species and some of our most prestigious and historic buildings will have a very different look in the future. Imagine the dome of St Paul's covered in asphalt?

When modern architects tire of the current spate of bright, shiny, sharp-angled glass and steel indulgences, what alternatives will be identified as the next fashion in the merry-go-round of building design?

Why not the aesthetic, warm appeal of the hand-crafted curves of the most malleable roof metal used in construction, with horizons in design concept that are literally as wide as the architect's imagination.

When that happens, let's just hope we still have craftsmen with the lead sheet skills and knowledge to rise to the challenge of making that architectural vision a reality.

LCA members are specialists – committed to maintaining the beautiful art of the craft.



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– Lead Sheet Association –

Lead – there is no alternative

Lead and other metals are frequently making the headlines these days, unfortunately sometimes for the wrong reasons. Unscrupulous scrap metal merchants regularly hand over cash for metal brought to their yards, which means that for thieves, lead has become a target from churches, schools, and a wide range of other buildings which are unprotected by any security measures.

The LSA is leading a variety of initiatives to stamp out this mindless crime, including an e-petition on its website to add to the growing voice asking the government for a change in legislation. It is also partnering a campaign with the British Security Industry Association and producing information and advice on the range of security products available to protect buildings.

And as one might expect, there is a growth of 'lead alternatives' eager to make opportunistic mileage out of the situation, and at first glance these products may seem a viable option when there is no likelihood of them being stolen.

However, do you know what you are letting yourself in for by going down this route? The LSA has carried out extensive research into these alternatives, and you may be surprised at some of the major findings and proven facts which are listed below:

- ◆ **Cost** – the initial installation cost of lead is generally comparable with man-made flashings as the alternatives often also require the additional expense of adhesives and sealants. Moreover, with drying times of up to six hours for some adhesives, this can seriously increase labour cost. Lifecycle cost analysis has projected that lead will be almost 50 per cent cheaper over 40 years, and almost 100 per cent cheaper over 60 years, than most man-made products.
- ◆ **Installation** – lead is quick and easy to install in most weather conditions and requires no adhesive or other fixing materials. Man-made products generally require dry conditions above 5°C when being installed, and their performance



can also be suspect if the adhesives used are overexposed to UV light, and which may not adhere to porous brickwork without the use of additional sealants.

- ◆ **Appearance** – alternatives are very limited in the types of applications that they can be used for, and would not be suitable for more decorative flashings for which lead sheet is renowned.
- ◆ **Security** – when bossed and dressed correctly, lead has few laps and joints which results in a high degree of weather tightness. The cutting and shaping of man-made products give rise to more laps and joints where adhesives are needed, increasing possible risks of leakage and additional internal damage.
- ◆ **Lifecycle** – lead is proven to last up to 100 years and when used for flashings, will last about three times longer than most man-made products. As a result, very few post-installation inspections and maintenance are required. Lead is generally trouble-free once installed.

Lead Sheet Association chief executive Doug Weston said: "As our research undeniably shows, there are almost no circumstances when lead needs to be substituted by an alternative product. Lead has stood the test of time and importantly, is endorsed by heritage groups responsible for the nation's historic buildings.

"What's more, it is environmentally-friendly, recyclable and is straightforward to install. When you add up all the advantages of lead, there simply is no better alternative."

“Lead is one of the most environmentally-friendly roofing materials used in the construction industry.”



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Grey is the new green

Lead is green. A difficult concept to fathom, but lead is one of the most environmentally-friendly roofing materials used in the construction industry.

All lead waste is reusable, and nearly 100 per cent is recycled through a long-established recycling infrastructure process. Recycled lead has a low carbon footprint and a low energy

consuming melting temperature.

The same cannot be said for man-made products, and moreover the waste from most man-made products is not deconstructable and must be disposed of through expensive landfill sites. Furthermore, man-made alternatives publish very little data on their carbon footprint. Is this significant?

– London & Southern Roofing Training Group –

Can you afford not to train?

A new year and a new beginning (well, almost!). The group is looking forward to a positive year of training with founder group member Mark Notridge, of Kingsley Roofing, in the driving seat as new chairman.

Picture courtesy of PASMA



Mark has a wide knowledge and experience of working in the roofing sector and took over at the end of last year from Terry Peck, who had completed his two-year term of office.

Steering group meeting

The next steering group meeting is being held on Thursday February 16 at Broke Hill Golf Club, starting at 8am. Topic of the meeting is 'The evolution of the group and its partnership with ConstructionSkills'. The meeting promises to be informative and entertaining, and rumour has it that the breakfast is rather good too!

The following group meeting will be held on Thursday May 24 at Cottesmore Golf & Country Club, where the discussions will centre around training needs, business development officers and the benefits of training plans.

"Members are always welcome at the quarterly group meetings and we welcome any suggestions for discussion topics or training ideas that you may wish to put forward," said group training officer Brian Middlemiss.

First aid

The group has recently delivered two fully-subscribed first aid (staying alive) training courses along the South Coast. Is this an area with a high safety training culture, high risk, or are there other members within the group who may be interested in first-aid appointed person training?

According to Hannah Mason, who works for Kingsley Roofing and attended one of these

courses, the training was excellent.

"I really enjoyed the first-aid training course – the trainer was fantastic! I've been on courses before where you struggle to remember any of it, but she brought it all to life with lots of humour and real life examples. I feel confident I'll remember what I learned for a long time," she said.

Site safety plus

The group will be delivering a subsidised five-day site manager safety training scheme course on a day-release basis, eg one day a week over a five-week period.

Commencing mid-February, this course will have a 50 per cent discount, plus the increased grant payment to companies in scope. There is a course requirement of a minimum of eight delegates.

Dependant upon members' requirements this course may run at Cheam, Wembley or Pease Pottage. Remember – subsidised training and increased grant cease in March.

Lead training course

There are still a limited number of places on the subsidised lead training course at the Littlehampton centre. This course has been well supported and beneficial to the members attending.

The course can consist of three days' lead bossing, three days' lead welding, or five days which cover both lead bossing and welding and is delivered to suit your requirements. Grants are available for members in scope.

Scaffold tower training (PASMA) (pictured)

The demand for scaffold tower training has increased with the new requirement for mandatory training in both advanced guard rails (AGR) and Through the Trap (3T) methods. These courses run on a regular basis and if there are sufficient space and numbers to meet the requirements, they may be delivered at your premises. The next open course will be held on Friday February 17 at the Littlehampton centre.

Subsidised training course

Look on the internet or watch e-mailed flyers and newsletters to members for subsidised training courses that are been delivered by the group. Have you any training needs? Then please let us know – can you afford not to train?

London & Southern
Roof Training Group

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– J Wright Roofing –

FIT cut turns the heat on PV project

JWright Roofing's decision two years ago to train all its workforce, including the apprentices, in the correct installation of photovoltaic (PV) systems, has certainly paid off.

The Nottingham-based company, whose founder Jason Wright had the vision to set up the East Midlands Roofing College, has been running these courses successfully in partnership with the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) and Ploughcroft Solar.

As a result of J Wright Roofing's reputation within the industry, it won the contract to fix a Schettler PV system to old housing stock in Nottingham last October. This project, the Sustainability Nottingham City Homes Social Housing Stock, has been recognised as one of the largest domestic PV schemes in the UK and builds on Nottingham's excellent track record for successfully delivering large-scale energy infrastructure projects.

J Wright Roofing's finance director Livia Williams explained: "We were very privileged to win this prestigious contract.

"Nottingham already provides 11 per cent of its own energy and this scheme will enhance the city's position as the UK's most energy self-sufficient city. The energy savings are thought to total about £72,000 a year."

Little did they know that one of the biggest challenges they had ever had to face was just around the corner. For when the feed-in tariff cut was announced on October 31, J Wright Roofing was asked to condense 24 weeks of work into just five and a half weeks – without compromising quality and health and safety, naturally!

"At this point this contract had become a race against time, extremely challenging, yet somehow very exciting," continued Livia.

"We had to work around the clock, under enormous pressure, in order to meet such a high target, to fit 600 properties with an average of ten panels per property. The key to achieving this was excellent managerial and organisational skills, professionalism and dedication, together with outstanding workmanship from our own workforce." Anyone who



knows Jason, Livia and the J Wright Roofing team would be certain that no challenge would be too much to cope with.

They set up seven teams of two men fitters, which included six apprentices, and they managed to correctly install just under 7,000 solar PV panels to 709 properties within the timescale.

Even more impressively, they had no call-backs, no accidents and all systems connected, tested and registered by December 12.

"This is a great achievement for a roofing contractor like J Wright Roofing; we have invested tremendously in training and qualifying our own workforce, especially getting the apprentices involved and giving them the opportunity to develop their skills on such a high-profile project," added Livia.

"J Wright Roofing has fully endorsed the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) philosophy that all roof works relating to the fixing of solar panels/systems should be carried out by qualified roofers, and certainly this was a key factor in Nottingham City Homes' decision when appointing us to carry out this installation."

After this experience, the team should find any similar project considerably less of a challenge. They are now working with Frank Haslam Milan on a new solar PV installation project involving 500 homes in Oxford. As far as they know, the deadlines are in place for a more realistic timescale. All fingers are crossed that they remain this way!

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– Ploughcroft Training –

ConstructionSkills endorses solar PV roofing installation course

Despite the uncertainty with the feed-in tariff (FIT), there is still a steady growth in the demand in solar photovoltaic (PV) training, according to Chris Hartley, instructor and assessor at Ploughcroft Renewable Training.

And he should know – the company is on the brink of re-launching one of its regular courses, the two-day solar PV installation course, as one which now has official ConstructionSkills endorsement.

“We’ve been running this course successfully for quite a while now, and found that a lot of our delegates appreciated the fact that here at Ploughcroft we are experienced installers ourselves,” explained Chris.

“So although this course already provided more credibility than that of many other training providers, we wanted to establish it even further as the premier solar PV roofing installation course



endorsed by ConstructionSkills.”

Each course takes no more than ten people so that Chris can address individual specific needs. Course content is extremely comprehensive, addressing issues such as health and safety legislation, types of roof structure and coverings, tools, inspections and surveys, and has been examined in detail by Ploughcroft and ConstructionSkills to make sure that delegates achieve maximum benefit from the two days’ instruction.

Jack of all trades (and master of them too!)

Ploughcroft is the only employer Chris Hartley has ever worked for, and he joined the company straight from school, as managing director Chris Hopkin’s roofing operative.

And some ten years on, he has a list of qualifications and a wealth of experience that he and Ploughcroft can draw upon – and he is still far short of his 30th birthday!

His ambition was to be a bricklayer, but there were no vacancies on the course. Instead he chose to enrol on the roofing course at Leeds College of Building, where he achieved his NVQ Levels 1, 2 and 3 – no mean achievement, considering it was his second option.

When Chris Hopkins recognised the opportunity to offer roof training, including on-site assessment and training (OSAT), he put his former roofing operative through the A1 assessor course, who then used his accreditation qualification to assess out on site for the next few years.

However, he was versatile enough to work as one of Ploughcroft’s own roofers, heading up his own team, before Chris Hopkins began a programme

of training his own staff. And having gained experience carrying out solar installations himself, he is completely relaxed about running the new ConstructionSkills-endorsed course, as well as currently heading up the company’s training department.

“It hasn’t all been plain sailing – like any job, there have been ups and downs,” he said.

“But Ploughcroft has given me some great opportunities in a wide variety of skills which have set me up for life. I’ve already been on the professional training certificate (PTC) course and my next goal is to qualify to teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector.”

Not a bad CV for someone who wanted to be a bricklayer!



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– National Self Build & Renovation Centre –

Everything about building – all under one roof, and for free!

Before you build your home, build your knowledge. You would think that anyone about to embark on a DIY construction project, large or small, would look into the hows, whys and wherefores before picking up the hammer and nails, but we've all seen, heard of, or even experienced, the nightmares of what seemed like a good idea going horribly wrong!

That's why the National Self Build & Renovation Centre in Swindon is such a great place to visit. For a start, it's easy to find, being just minutes from junction 16 on the M4. There's plenty of free parking, and once you get inside, it's a revelation and inspiration to walk around – with over 200 exhibitor stands, an educational journey with life-sized exhibits, two audio tours and numerous experts on hand to help you every step of the way in the art of self build – and when you need to sit down and take in all the tips and knowledge you've learned, there's a café on site to grab some refreshments.

And it's not just for the enthusiastic amateur; many a professional has passed through the centre's doors to brush up on existing skills or add some new dimension to his or her existing portfolio. With three full-scale houses on show, this unique centre – yes, the only one of its kind in the UK – offers every reason to visit, and be inspired by one of the many exciting events, audio tours, shows and diverse courses which are available all year round.

Courses

Give yourself the perfect foundation for any self build, renovation or large-scale home improvement project you're thinking of taking on. The National Self Build & Renovation Centre's three-day courses, which run as a series of informal workshops and make use of the superb practical exhibits at the centre, will give you the knowledge and confidence to make your project run more smoothly and help save you thousands along the way. Cost of each course is £335 including VAT.

For more information and to register, visit www.nsbrc.co.uk or call 0845 223 4455 (see panel for dates).

Eco workshops

Inspired by the idea of a greener build, or just want to talk to the experts about eco technologies, sustainability, low-carbon building and refurbishment? Then the eco workshops, which run throughout the year, are for you.

Whether you're starting from scratch with a new build, renovating or improving an existing property, the experts will lift the lid on a range of eco issues to help you design and plan the perfect project.

2012 events and dates

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ◆ Sat 25 Feb | Eco Workshop: Design, Planning and Building Systems |
| ◆ Sat 17 – Mon 19 March | Self Build and Renovation Course |
| ◆ Sat 14 – Sun 15 April | National Self Build and Renovation Show |
| ◆ Sat 19 – Mon 21 May | Self Build and Renovation Course |
| ◆ Sat 26 May | Eco Workshop: Heat and Energy |
| ◆ Sat 14 – Mon 16 July | Self Build and Renovation Course |
| ◆ Sat 25 August | Eco Workshop: Retrofit |
| ◆ Sat 15 – Mon 17 Sept | Self Build and Renovation Course |
| ◆ Fri 26 – Sun 28 Oct | Big Green Home Show |
| ◆ Sat 17 – Mon 19 Nov | Self Build and Renovation Course |



Find out about everything from sustainable heat, energy and building systems to feed-in tariffs and renewable incentives. All in a friendly, relaxed environment, with one-to-one consultations, workshops and seminars.

For more information and to register for FREE entry, visit www.nsbrc.co.uk or call 0845 223 4455 (see panel for dates).

National Self Build & Renovation Show

Held this year over the weekend of April 14–15, this event is the key to creating your perfect home. If you're dreaming of building your own home, planning to renovate, or have a project that's already under way, this is the show for you. It has everything you need to make your project a success – from finding the right plot, to finding the right finance, and from sourcing suppliers to discovering eco solutions.

The National Self Build & Renovation Centre

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– Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

New website offers sustainability awareness boost to group members

Always at the forefront of new ideas and initiatives to help members get the most out of their membership, the group – through training officer Denise Cherry – is all set to launch its exciting new website.

Called The Roofers' Guide to Sustainability and part-funded by the CITB-ConstructionSkills growth fund, it offers a point of reference in many areas which link up to more comprehensive information and guidance. It is Denise's brainchild after she became aware last year how many members lacked basic awareness of all sorts of developing issues, and corresponding legislation, relating to sustainability.

The first phase of the project was direct delivery of courses to group members. During initial courses delivered through the National Construction College, companies were encouraged to tell Denise exactly what their concerns were and what sort of training they required. Courses offered under the project delivered to 75 individuals from 34 companies.

The second phase of the project reported on the findings, and what assistance companies

needed, to engage with the sustainability agenda. Denise came to the conclusion that many companies need clear information, and a map through the maze of acronyms and initiatives.

This model of training, company consultations and dissemination of information could be used in other sectors.

"Sustainability, by its very nature, seemed to fit best within the medium of a website rather than a CD or manual, not only in terms of cost, but also for ease of updating and developing," said Denise.

"It does not reproduce information from other sources, but links the visitor to the source itself. Interestingly, one of the most valuable sections is the glossary, which has received particular interest and positive feedback."

Denise would like to receive your comments, which you can send to her via the contact page on the website, www.roofersguidetosustainability.info.



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Denise's diary

It has been the Christmas holiday season and I had a week or so away from the office, so my diary this issue is not dated, but these are a few of the interesting things I have come across this month that I hope will interest you.

Thanks to ConstructionSkills

The ConstructionSkills £10,000 additional funding paid for nine courses, including SSSTS, PASMA, IPAF, first aid, manual handling, abrasive wheels and working at heights, which delivered 110 days' learning to 82 individuals from 16 companies. Please sir... can we have some more!

Have your say!

I quite often get asked for industry representatives to involve themselves in consultation events on a range of subjects, from apprenticeships and qualifications to strategic learning development. If you would like to get involved in these events, please contact me.

On this same subject, you might want to visit <http://www.cskills.org/> where you can comment on the recent consultation on the ConstructionSkills Strategy.

Levy online

ConstructionSkills are looking for companies to trial a system of levy tracking on line – please let me know if you would like to be involved.

– Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

Waste Management

From this



To this



Diagrams

Information

Links

Make Waste Prevention your **FIRST** option

Prevention means designing out waste, at any stage in the build process. Work processes can be changed to prevent wastage

- decanting liquids and having the minimum number of large drums open at once.
- length of timber is right size and doesn't need cutting.
- avoid excess. Do not order significantly more than can be realistically used
- move materials around the site as little as possible – breakage is more likely to happen during movement.

Preparing for re-use relates to checking, cleaning or repairing activities which allow a waste substance, product or material to be re-used without any other pre-processing. This could be as simple as sorting and de-nailing laths for re-use, or saving off-cuts of insulation to infill on future jobs.

Recycling Segregate materials that can be recycled. A wide variety of materials can be recycled, you need to discuss your needs with companies or organisations who can provide this service. [The NetRegs Waste Directory](#) offers a search engine that allows businesses to find out where they can recycle different types of waste. Identify local recycling sites, waste operators etc. close to your office/yard or major sites. Make sure any service you use is legally permitted to take the waste

Other Recovery includes uncontaminated wood-waste which can be used in on-site biomass boiler, or larger industrial plants

Disposal - Ensure you follow your duty of care responsibilities to manage waste correctly to enable its safe recovery or disposal without harming the environment.

Get your personalised guide to applying the Waste Hierarchy in your business

Apprenticeship success

Recruitment of apprentices in Yorkshire & Humber went well last year, and I am delighted to confirm that Leeds College of Building has established a further cohort of roof slating and tiling apprentices who started college on Monday January 30.

Leeds work placements required

Our new full-time student group in Leeds will be available for work experience shortly, and companies offering opportunities to these students will receive funding support to recognise their commitment to these students.

NFRC management course

The group is delighted to be hosting the NFRC management course, held at the premises of associate member Birkwood Plant Training. The first week of the course, which covers core leadership and management skills, went extremely well with delegates commenting 'I thoroughly enjoyed the course, thank you' and 'Very well delivered and received'. I was privileged to be able to attend this course personally and the level of interaction and team participation was really enjoyable – although we were a pretty competitive group and we did smash the records for many of the exercises – not that I'm one to boast!

Act now!

NVQ funding support from the Skills Enhancement Fund in Yorkshire is coming to an end shortly, but associate member providers still have availability for the following projects:

NVQ Level 3 – site supervision, on-site assessment, subsidised programme for Yorkshire companies – £550 per person. ConstructionSkills grant also available.

NVQ Level 2 units – solar and warm roof units, on-site assessment, subsidised programme for Yorkshire companies – £250 per person.

Funding for Level 4 courses also available.

Registration is required within the next four weeks, so please contact me as soon as possible.

– Michael Kilbey Associates –

Independent advice from top consultants

Common problems encountered by MKA; in the bottom right picture, the hole was created by the retro fitting of a solar panel



Widely regarded as the UK's leading roofing and cladding consultancy, Michael Kilbey Associates is a family-run business which has been growing successfully since it was set up in 1990.

Now in its 23rd year, and having successfully met the challenges presented by the ups and downs of the economy, Michael Kilbey's son and practice partner, Guy, has no hesitation in offering an explanation for the business's enviable track record.

"Since it began, the practice has been independent from manufacturer or contractor," he said.

"Very often the cause of failures in cladding and roofing is not obvious. By using our many years

of experience in identifying all manner of faults and failures in cladding and roof installations, not only are we able to identify the cause of the failure where many others may have missed, but more importantly, we can offer effective remedial works.

"Being independent of all manufacturers and contractors allows us the freedom to apply the best solution for the client to overcome the problem they are experiencing."

Guy is keen to point out that they offer a flexible, tailor-made service to all clients, whether they are large companies or small businesses.

Over the years their expertise has been a proven success for many clients in a range of industries, including insurance companies, surveyors, architects, contractors, manufacturers, solicitors, building owners and property and facilities management companies, etc.

And not only does the size of their client companies vary enormously, so does the scope of the projects, which range from the smaller domestic properties to the largest industrial and commercial buildings.

MKA's accurate and independent advice on all cladding and roofing problems covers the following areas:

Services

Surveys and reports for

- ◆ Acquisition, due diligence, dilapidation
- ◆ Design and specification
- ◆ Maintenance schedules
- ◆ Failure (premature or end of life)
- ◆ Structural, rain water/drainage and wind load calculations
- ◆ Expert witness (as recognised by the Law Society).

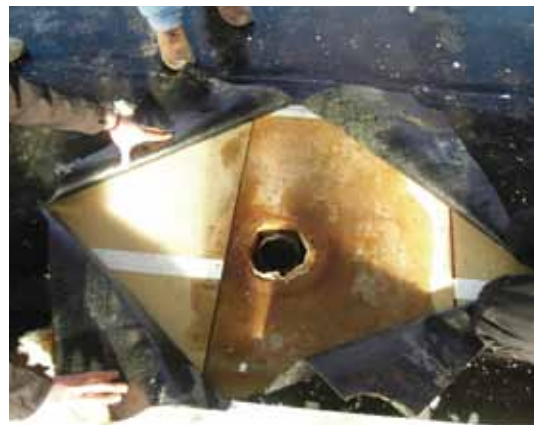
Carbon reduction and sustainability

- ◆ Thermal (insulation efficiency)
- ◆ Green roofing
- ◆ Photovoltaic panels
- ◆ Solar thermal
- ◆ Wind turbines.

Management

- ◆ Project management and on-site progress inspections
- ◆ Monitoring specification compliance and quality inspection.

"Our services are bespoke and we are happy to discuss specific requirements – please visit our website at www.mkaconsultants.co.uk or call us on 01494 723365, and we will be delighted to help," said Guy.



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– North East Roof Training Group Ltd –

Brilliant Helen offers new member a fresh dimension to training

Thanks to the training group, latest recruits European Roofing Systems are well on the way to having most, if not all, their employees trained in various areas and skills.

The company has worked on some of the most prestigious buildings in the north east, including York University's Computer Science Building (pictured). They installed the zinc rainscreen and perimeter cap flashings.

They have been making full use of the group's services and expertise since ConstructionSkills' Jeremy Wright put them on to group training officer Helen Wilson.

Sharon Rowley, who looks after the company's training programme, said: "I really don't know how we would manage without Helen – she is absolutely brilliant

"I phone her up one week to ask about a course for some of our staff, and they're attending the following week – it's really impressive. And the prices are so much lower than anything we could find – in some cases they are even fully funded."

Sharon has also benefited from the networking

opportunities gained from attending a group meeting towards the end of last year.

"I would encourage every member to take full advantage of all the training opportunities the group offers, or even just the advice Helen is able to give at the drop of a hat," she added.

Helen says that the same services she offers to Sharon are open to new and existing members alike.

"The group has had a positive start to the year with regard to training, which will hopefully continue throughout 2012," she said.

"Several courses have been arranged using the £10,000 funding available from ConstructionSkills, and we continue to work with a number of local and national training providers to be able to offer the most cost-effective training to our members.



NERTG

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– Midland Roof Training Group –

Single ply SAP apprentices are recruited by MRTG

The new year is already looking good for the Midland Roof Training Group. It has played a key role in recruiting apprentices for the very first single ply specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP), working closely with Jim Hooker (pictured with SAP apprentices) from the Single Ply Roofing Association (SPRA).

Group training officer Livia Williams said: "We are extremely pleased that employers have recognised the need for this apprenticeship and as a result, on January 12 the single ply apprenticeship started at the East Midlands Roofing College.



"Many thanks to Advanced Roofing, Met-Clad, Briggs Amasco and J Wright Roofing who, as always, have shown great support."

The group has secured Workplace Learning Funding (formerly Train to Gain funding) for Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications, which include the Level 3 heritage roof slating and tiling.

It is also supporting the National Apprenticeship Week which takes place between February 6–10. Livia, who is working closely with the schools in promoting the apprenticeships in roofing, said: "We are currently working with male and female students from Years 9, 10 and 11 on the 'Introduction to Roofing Programme', which enables us to identify potential roofing apprentices at an early stage."

National Construction College Midlands and East Midlands Roofing College are currently recruiting apprentices and they need employers to come forward with apprentices and recognise the benefits of training their own workforce.

"We are delighted that MRTG has supported its members with over 130 days of free training over the past two months," Livia added.

MRTG

Midland Roof Training Group

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– The National Federation of Roofing Contractors Limited –

Training is top of the agenda for 2012

Picture courtesy of Viridian Solar



The National Federation of Roofing Contractors is renowned for supporting and facilitating training, with a view to raising both the standards, and improving the image, of the roofing industry.

However, with the imminent arrival of the Green Deal, the rise of competent person schemes and the increasing need to qualify the workforce, NFRC is pushing training, education and skills to the top of its agenda. It has worked closely with ConstructionSkills for projects which are needed by the industry, and here are just some of the opportunities that NFRC will be helping to create for the industry:

Courses

Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) training and accreditation – NFRC aims to train 100 roofing companies on MCS and to provide funding to support them through registration, assessment and certification on one technology, with our partner, the National Association of Professional Inspectors and Testers (NAPIT). Courses have taken place in Leeds, Stockport and London and a further seven courses are planned throughout the country. The courses will run until the end of the year, or until the total has been reached, whichever comes first.

Solar training – NFRC is part-way through its programme of facilitating 30 solar courses, split into pitched, flat and sheeting and cladding-based courses. A further seven courses are planned for the pitched roof training which began last year, with eight courses planned for flat roofing and five for sheeting and cladding coming on stream over the coming months. It is our intention to extend both the solar and MCS training into summer 2013.

Green roofs – experienced installer training and assessment leading to a horticultural QCF award, an ambitious target to provide basic qualification for 90 operatives, has proved to be a difficult task, as it appears that most companies are very busy and finding it difficult to release people, even for two days. The objective to train 30 before the end of February looked unlikely at the beginning of the month, but thanks to further promotional work and assistance from a number of companies, it looks like initial targets will be achieved, and perhaps exceeded. There will then be a push to train and qualify the remainder by the end of November, so any interested companies should contact tanyacoutts@nfrf.co.uk.

In addition to the green roof training, the roofing management and leadership development

courses that started in August last year have been rolled out in the north, with one in Preston and the fourth now under way in Wakefield under the watchful eye of Denise Cherry. For those that complete any of the four courses, there is an opportunity to continue towards an NVQ/QCF Level 6, with particular emphasis on heritage management, among others if required, or Institute of Leadership and Management qualification and others will be available.

E-learning

NFRC recognises that not all training needs to be in a classroom or workshop, and that there is a big place for e-learning. As such, we have produced modules on solar and heritage which will be available in the coming months. The modules are expected to take under an hour to complete and will be accessed through the NFRC website. The e-learning will be free to NFRC members, with a small charge to non-members. Further modules are planned, with flat roofing due to be available in the early summer.

Standards and qualifications

Working with ConstructionSkills and with consultation with the industry, NFRC has raised, via the incremental change mechanism (have your say), to re-develop units in the National Occupational Standards to meet the changing needs of the industry. Additional Unit VR281 on warm roofs is in the process of being amended, and will cover cold roofs (eg loft insulation) as this is now becoming part of many re-roofing contracts under Part L and CompetentRoofing. Unit VR298 on solar will be amended slightly, from just slate/tile roofs to 'roof coverings' to open the unit up to those in the flat roofing, and sheeting and cladding disciplines. NFRC will be liaising with the awarding bodies to ensure these changes are reflected in the units of qualification over the coming months.

Qualifying the workforce

While training is obviously important for its own sake, it is vital that the industry continues towards a fully-qualified workforce to demonstrate competence for contractual reasons, and to be viewed in a similar light to some of the other trades. NFRC has therefore taken the proactive approach of working with ConstructionSkills on a qualifying the workforce programme. This programme will include a thorough assessment of the Level 2 and 3 qualifications which companies currently have, followed by detailed training plans,



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– The National Federation of Roofing Contractors Limited –

hopefully serviced via the roof training groups (RTGs). It is intended that NFRC will address all of its members' requirements under this scheme.

Skills Policy Group

In a review of all committees and working groups within NFRC, it was decided that the Education and Training Committee should be dissolved and replaced with a smaller, more strategic Skills Policy Group. The group has met twice since its inception and focuses on how NFRC can best interact with ConstructionSkills, the colleges, and the regional RTGs for the benefit of its members. The first product of this group is a complete Minimum Technical Competences (MTC) handbook for roofing that will be used for the Green Deal.

Competitions

NFRC will once again be responsible for all the roofing trade competitions at the National SkillBuild final, which will be held at Preston College on September 12–14. Further information on the finals and the criteria for qualifying will be provided in due course.

Roof training groups meet at Roofing House

The Roofing Industry Alliance (RIA) hosted a meeting, in January, of officials from ten of the regional RTGs. They received a presentation from Stuart Littlefair, the national specialist manager of ConstructionSkills, where he outlined the new arrangements under which they would maintain a relationship with the RTGs.

Due to the loss of personnel dealing with the groups, it was arranged that regional staff resources would support the RTGs and, to ensure consistency, the national specialist team roofing specialist would maintain contact with the area delivery managers and strategic contact with all the groups. If these new arrangements didn't prove beneficial to the groups, it would be reconsidered. ConstructionSkills had noted that the

groups sat under the umbrella of the RIA and that this could provide a single, strong voice for the sector.

Ray Horwood, chief executive of NFRC, then outlined the increased involvement in training by NFRC, much of which could be delivered through the RTGs. The courses include solar and MCS, GRO and CompetentRoofing training, as outlined above. A series of continuing professional development (CPD) courses were also being developed. Ray took a number of questions from the groups as part of an ongoing dialogue.

The representatives went on to discuss ways in which the groups share best practice with each other, the content of the website, IoR qualifications and other matters of common interest.

Our intention for all the courses and initiatives described is to work closely with the RTGs, although priority will be given to NFRC members and/or any members of CompetentRoofing, in order to meet the future challenges that the Green Deal for the whole industry and other sustainability initiatives will bring. If contractors are interested in any of the above courses, they are encouraged to contact their local RTG, or e-mail NFRC training support Tanya Coutts at tanyacoutts@nfrc.co.uk.



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– South Central Independent Roofing Training Group –

Success and sustainability – key topics at the AGM

Highlight of the past few months has been the group's third annual general meeting, with numbers up from the previous two. As before, the venue was Sherfield Oaks Golf Club, Sherfield on Loddon, where the event took place on November 17.

Group training officer Brian Middlemiss told the meeting that, not surprisingly, 2011 had not been an easy year. "This is largely down to a combination of the Train to Gain funding being withdrawn, alterations in ConstructionSkills grants, a lack of employer funding for training, reduced workloads and reduced workforces," he said.

On a brighter note, he was pleased to say that there had been many positive achievements from members who systematically deliver training for their staff and employees.

"The group is very fortunate to have the help and support of South Coast Roof Training, who have not only worked hard to provide both a training and assessment centre, but have developed and delivered the heritage specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP) in roof slating and tiling, which leads to an NVQ Level 3." Brian continued.

"Although these have been challenging times we have achieved most, if not all, of our targets and I am pleased to inform the meeting that the group has secured some additional funding for local training demands."

Sustainability

Guest speaker, ConstructionSkills' John Middleton, delivered a very interesting and lively presentation and discussion on reducing your carbon footprint. Love it or hate it, it is here to stay, was his message to the group.

"If we look at sustainability issues and carbon emissions and monitor them, there are cost savings and improvements that we can make to improve profits," he said.

"In the same way that they require pre-qualification questionnaires, companies and clients will be asking for your carbon footprint reduction proposals for a greener, more sustainable industry."

His talk opened up some lively discussions which continued over lunch, when John was able to answer individual queries.

Awards presentation

The final formal proceeding for the day was the

presentation of the Nimrod Training award for the most outstanding student in heritage roofing. The award this year went to Dan Jones of Fildes Roofing. Dan's attendance and attitude to both the practical and theoretical aspect of the roofing course made him an outstanding candidate for the award. He is pictured receiving his award from Rob Harrison of award sponsors Burlington Slate, and Lucille Fildes, centre manager of South Coast Roof Training.

Afterwards, Brian offered his thanks to the Confederation of Roofing Contractors for sponsoring this year's AGM.

If anyone would like more information relating to sustainability issues, Brian can give you advice on available presentations and training.

Site safety plus courses

Site supervisors safety training scheme (SSSTS) – there has immense demand for this subsidised course and the group is delighted that for the first time a course has been over-subscribed. Many thanks go to the companies involved in making this course such a huge success. Remember that the increased ConstructionSkills grants for the site safety plus course are due to terminate at the end of March 2012.

Steering group meeting

The next steering group meeting will be held on Thursday March 22 at 8am at Sherfield Oaks Golf Club, Sherfield on Loddon. The meeting's topic is 'Training needs and the benefits of training plans'.

The following group meeting will be held on Thursday April 26 at Hampden House Business Centre, Oxford. Members are always welcome at the regular group meetings and we welcome any suggestions for discussion, topics or training ideas that you may put forward.

Advisory forums

We are looking for two employer group members to become involved in the SME advisory forums for this area.

The purpose of these twice-yearly forums is to provide employers, training groups and federations with the latest information on areas of industry training board activity that may be relevant to them. The forums will also act as a vehicle to enable employers to raise questions and also offer suggestions for future industry training board support initiatives.

Thought for the day! The only thing worse than training an employee and having them leave is not training them, and having them stay.



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– Institute of Roofing –

Increased membership is our route to success

Chairman of the Institute of Roofing, Martin Adwick, has always let it be known that one of his main aims has been to drive up membership.

“Despite this biting recession, we have managed to keep our membership at a healthy level, but we have so much to offer new members, which is what we urge existing members to tell their colleagues and work associates,” he said.

“We think that if everyone talks to a colleague or other roofing associate and encourages them to join, we could expect to achieve about a 75 per cent increase in numbers.”

Martin explained why an increased membership is so vital for the future of the IoR. “To begin with, we receive no funding; all our money comes from membership fees,” he pointed out.

“Secondly, we need more members if we are to go for chartered status. Thirdly, our membership profile needs to show how it represents a wide range of supervisory and management positions. Finally, we need to help the people in these positions to show their commitment to their profession and accredit their competence at this level.”

As Roof Overview reported throughout last year, there was a positive increase throughout the country in the number of, and attendance at, regional meetings.

“At these meetings we are regularly asked by existing members about how to upgrade, guests ask to join, and in some cases the speakers show an interest and become members and sponsors,” said Martin.

“I find, as I talk to companies through my normal working day, that they express an interest in the letters on my business card or my lapel badge, and usually they ask about joining along with their colleagues.

“Sara Howitt, our head office secretary, sends out application packs and examination course information, which she follows up, and usually this results in a new member signing up.”

He added that senior directors of large national companies, contractors and suppliers are enquiring about membership for their entire management team, to demonstrate their professionalism and competence when dealing with clients, selling products and generally representing their company. For example, Marley Eternit recently put 13 staff through the IoR licentiate course (see page 3).

“No existing member needs to feel that this is a hard sell – we all know from the benefits of being members ourselves, that the IoR sells itself,” Martin said.

And, of course, a great opportunity for a large and diverse increase in membership presents itself now the IoR has joined The International Federation for the Roofing Trade (IFD). “Our membership has the chance to become truly international, where we can learn from, and share best practice with, the very best people from all over Europe,” he added.

If anyone is interested in IoR membership, they can join by attending one of the many courses available throughout the UK, or through distance learning, or in some cases with the relevant experience, by direct entry. Please visit the website or contact Sara (details on the bottom right of this page).

Belfast hosts this year's AGM

The Institute of Roofing is renowned for using original and unusual venues to hold its annual general meetings, and this year is no exception.

The 32nd AGM will be held in Belfast on Thursday October 11 2012 at Titanic Belfast – the world's largest and latest Titanic visitor centre (pictured above and below).

One hundred years after the maiden voyage of Titanic – the world's most famous ship – Titanic Belfast® is set to become the major new tourist attraction for Northern Ireland when it opens in March this year.

The 14,000m² venue accommodates nine galleries of interactive exhibition space, including a dark ride, underwater exploration theatre, and re-creations of the ship's decks and cabins.

“As the AGM takes place on a Thursday it will be a great opportunity to take a long weekend break and explore Belfast and its many other attractions,” said IoR executive officer Roger White.

“We are currently looking into other events for the Thursday evening; details will be released soon.

“There are cheap flights available from many UK regional airports, and there are also ferry crossings – but please try to book early to ensure you get the best rates.”

For updates and news, please continue to visit the website www.instituteofroofing.org.



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– Web Dynamics Ltd –

Grade II listed building gains thermally efficient extension



Specialist period renovators Colin Clark Builders Ltd chose TLX Gold multi-foil insulation for a sympathetic vaulted ceiling extension to an 18th century Dorset farmhouse.

The project, which also included the renovation of the Grade II listed farmhouse by Colin Clark Builders Ltd, saw the building of a brand new extension, designed to be in keeping with the original Georgian farmhouse construction.

Due to the requirements of the build and a need to achieve 0.18 U-value for the roof, the company, which also designs and builds sustainable eco structures, looked for a product which would enhance the thermal performance of the extension and would also be easy to work with. The vaulted ceiling ruled out many other options and TLX Gold was chosen to manage the tricky roofing requirements.

Installed over rafters, more than 725m² of TLX Gold was used with 100mm of Celotex between six inch rafters. The roof was completed with peg tiles from Sandtoft.

David Thorne, of Colin Clark Builders Ltd, said: "This was the first time we had used TLX Gold, but we have used it on several occasions since. It was easy to install and presented no problems, enabling us to comply with Part L building regulations without having to insulate underneath the rafters, saving labour costs and time on the project.

"It's also a benefit to insulate externally, helping to keep the roof structure itself above dew point temperature – a good solution for a host of reasons."

As a Grade II listed building it needed to meet stringent requirements of English Heritage as well as Building Control. TLX Gold, which achieved European Technical Approval (ETA) in 2011, is just 33mm thick and its design enables it to control water vapour and air movement – allowing a building to 'breathe'.

The product, which helps deliver a comfortable and energy-efficient environment, has successfully been put to the test in the refurbishment of a number of historic buildings as well as many public sector, retro-fit social housing, property conversion and new-build projects.

TLX Gold, which is available in a 1.2m width and 10m length, has been designed to reflect heat back into a building to conserve maximum energy and often proves popular for traditionally hard-to-insulate buildings.

The roofer on site, Steve Frost of Abbey Roofing, commented: "Although we hadn't used this product before we have continued to use it in many of our other projects – both for refurbishment and new build. It installs as a normal roofing tile underlay but with the added benefit of additional thermal qualities. It will continue to be an important roofing product in our business."

Manufactured in the UK, the TLX range of multi-foil insulation has achieved LABC Registered Details and is fast and simple to install. Web Dynamics' technical team will provide advice on which insulation construction to use and the company offers U-value and condensation risk calculations, and can answer queries concerning specification or installation of any of the TLX range.

For further information visit www.webdynamics.co.uk or call 01204 674730.



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Replacement Parts				
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TSCG	TurboShear Heavy-Duty Chuck Guard	—	—	.06 (0.03)
TSNS1RB	TurboShear Replacement Blades for TSNS1	—	—	—

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Need any more information on issues raised in this magazine?

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Ooops!

In the South Wales & South West RTG article on page 22 of the last issue, the full name of the course in the opening paragraph should have read 'heritage skills SAP in roof slating and tiling'. We apologise for this omission and for any confusion that may have arisen as a result.