

ROOF OVERVIEW

The voice of roof training



Solar



Hard metals



Lead



Slating

Issue 6
Autumn 2010

... plus much
more!

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

Editor's view



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A bumper issue awaits you, with more contributors than ever providing great reading on a variety of issues. Hot topics range from solar roofing to specialist apprenticeship programmes, with lots to interest you in between.

And of course, everyone who features in Roof Overview has one thing in common – training. In spite of the economic uncertainty that continues to affect roofing and allied trades, it is heartening to see so many companies and individuals still investing in their future.

This is the sixth issue of Roof Overview and we have been making some investments of our own. In the next few weeks Roof Overview will have its own website up and running, where you will be able to view and download previous issues. Page rates

will be available for 2011, and we will be announcing some discounts for those of you who would like to book space for several issues in advance.

From Issue 7 we are introducing a new ¼-page availability. As a result of feedback from past issues, this new option is to extend the scope of the magazine to members of training organisations, federations, etc, who would like to be included in Roof Overview.

Anybody wishing to take advantage of this option needs to make clear reference to the organisation they belong to, or the type of training they themselves offer, support or take part in. Keeping Roof Overview focused on training is still a priority, and roofing-related trades are most welcome.

– Wales National Roofing Training Group –

What a difference a year makes

Is it really 12 months since Lesley Hughes took on the job of group training officer for the newly-formed Wales National Roofing Training Group?

It was on November 1 2009 that Lesley stepped into this key role. So far she has recruited 17 members to the group and the months ahead involve courses in working safely at heights, nailgun training, manual handling, asbestos awareness, abrasive wheels and ConstructionSkills' general health and safety.

One of the group's key milestones is the setting up of a dedicated training room in Caerphilly, where courses have been run on a regular basis, including emergency first aid at work, manual handling, asbestos awareness and the site supervisors safety training scheme.

Training hasn't been restricted to the south of the country either. "We provided a course for Owens Roofing near Pwllheli, North Wales," said Lesley.

However, there is currently no facility to offer roofing apprenticeship training within Wales.

"We have had a few enquiries and, as a specialised roofing training group, we are canvassing to see if there is any more interest to make up sufficient numbers to approach a local college to try and set up a training course within Wales," said Lesley.

Avonside Roofing's Wayne Gibbs said: "We have recently started using WNRTG for all our roof training requirements, as they can provide high quality courses at competitive rates, without the added expenses of travel and accommodation."

Support your group – attend the AGM

The group's first annual general meeting is taking place on November 4 at Robert Price, Old Compton Place, Corporation Road, Newport, NP19 4AD after the breakfast meeting.

Don't miss it!



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– Ploughcroft Training –

Take up the solar challenge

Solar is the way forward, according to Ploughcroft managing director Chris Hopkins. And he should know; since the company's decision several years ago to change from being a domestic roofing and building business to a roofing company with solar installation expertise, Ploughcroft has gone from strength to strength.

"It sounds altruistic to say that we are genuinely trying to help the roofing industry to move from traditional roofing skills into the new technology," said Chris.

"But we are 100 per cent genuine in our aim to convince roofers to take their share of the solar market. Roofers shouldn't be satisfied with taking subcontractors' jobs rather than going out and getting customers themselves. They have all the experience of traditional roofing – it is just the additional training of fitting solar panels that they need to address."

Since the government introduced the feed-in tariff (FiT) last April, solar photovoltaic (PV) installations have become big business. Domestic and commercial customers are able to receive cash from their utility company in return for generating their own electricity – and in these times of ever-increasing fuel bills, that's a very attractive idea!

For a single, one-off payment of about £12,000, you will receive around £1,000 each year for the following 25 years. And with many people jumping on to the solar train, the demand for solar installers is increasing to meet this demand.

Chris has been at the forefront of this exciting new technology since those early days. "We became the first roofing contractor to achieve the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) accreditation, which is obligatory for all solar PV installers," he said.

"We now have a full suite of solar courses, not only for roofing, but for associated trades such as plumbing and electrical, and we offer an easy guide to the MCS."

Please refer to the panel for a full list of Ploughcroft's solar courses.

It's good to be recognised...

- ◆ Ploughcroft has recently won the Corgi Award for the best green initiative. This was in partnership with Wolseley as part of a service provided with the Plumb Centre.
- ◆ Both the Halifax Courier and the Huddersfield Examiner have shortlisted Ploughcroft for small and medium enterprise (SME) of the year.

Courses available...

* All prices subject to vat

- NFRC Solar Panel Installation**
1 Day • NFRC Accredited • £195
- Solar PV for Electricians**
3 Days • Logic/NICEIC Accredited • £495
- Solar PV for Roofers**
1 Day • Eco Centre Accredited • ~~£195~~ NOW £150
- Solar Thermal for Plumbers**
3 Days • BPEC/Logic Accredited • £495
- Solar on-site Roof Training**
1 Day • Eco Centre Accredited • P.O.A
- Solar WAH & Manual Handling**
1 Day • Eco Centre Accredited • £195
- Solar Dec / Access Systems**
Half Day • Eco Centre Accredited • £85
- PASMA - Tower Scaffold**
1 Day • PASMA Accredited • £115
- Solar Surveying**
1 Day • Eco Centre Accredited • £195
- Solar Sales**
1 Day • Eco Centre Accredited • £195
- Guide to MCS**
1 Day • Eco Centre Accredited • £195



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Contact The Training Centre on: 01484 723344 or email us at training@ploughcroft.co.uk or visit www.ploughcrofttraining.co.uk

- ◆ Chris was recently asked to speak at a Federation of Master Builders (FMB) event to promote roofing and to what extent roofers can corner the solar market.

Team expands

Two new members of staff have joined the Ploughcroft team to help the company achieve national recognition: technical director Mark Hilton and marketing manager Babak Daemi.

Schools input

Ploughcroft Solar is hosting a schools competition to design a brand logo for use in the company's marketing material. The prize is £2,500 donated by Ploughcroft Building Services.

Bigger and better

Ploughcroft is soon moving to a larger and far more contemporary office: proof, according to Chris, of the success that solar can bring to businesses like Ploughcroft.



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– Institute of Roofing –

All aboard the HMS Belfast



Transport has been the theme for the last two IoR annual general meetings. Last year the National Railway Museum in York provided the setting; this year the IoR's 30th AGM took place aboard the HMS Belfast.

In any case, the venue and the event, held on October 14 on this most historic of ships, attracted almost 100 members and their guests to review the past 12 months' business and look forward to 2011.

First to speak was outgoing chairman Mike Harris, leading his last AGM before handing the reins over to his successor Martin Adwick.

He introduced the IoR's new president Gordon Penrose, who although unable to attend the meeting in person, delivered a video message in which he spoke of the honour of becoming the new president.

"I am looking forward to becoming actively involved and meeting the board of governors in Belfast next month," he said.

Following his speech about his two very successful and enjoyable years in office, Mike handed over to honorary treasurer Mike Kilbey, who described the IoR's financial position.

"Like every other organisation, we have suffered as a result of the downturn in the economy but are taking measures to ensure that our strong foundation is maintained," he said.

AGMs always offer the perfect occasion to present an award, and this was no exception. The award of the IoR's student of the year went to Stephen Ricketts, an estimator with Briggs Amasco, who scored very impressive marks in his examinations – gaining a distinction overall.

He was presented with a trophy and certificate by education and training committee chairman Bob Cooper, together with a cheque for £250 from sponsors Redland Training Centre, South Cerney.

Still looking ahead, two new governors – Mike Goddard and Clive Coote – were announced to replace Tom Moon and Alan Williamson.

It has to be said that there can't be many AGMs that round off the agenda items in such interesting fashion as this one. Former petty officer on HMS Belfast, John Wills, gave a fascinating and witty account of his time on board the ship, which included a tour of duty during the Korean War.

And after entertaining the audience with his recollections and anecdotes, he issued an invitation to a post-lunch guided tour of the ship which many accepted, drawing to a close another highly original and immaculately organised IoR AGM.

Will the sky be the limited for the 2011 event? Watch this space!



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CSCS management card benefit to all members

Among the many benefits of being an IoR member is the CSCS management card. The IoR is recognised as a professional body by CSCS and members can gain their card by applying to CSCS Ltd on forms downloadable from the website.

They will need to complete the forms, stating IoR membership number, take the required health and safety tests and pay the card fee.



– Institute of Roofing –

New president takes the helm



"Gordon is a very well known and highly respected figure in the roofing industry and we are delighted that he has agreed to become our president," said IoR's incoming chairman Martin

Adwick at the 30th AGM.

A popular choice to take up this role, Gordon Penrose is founder and managing director of Penrose Roofing, a leading Northern Ireland roofing company.

Gordon has been involved in the industry for over 50 years, having first served an indentured roof slating and tiling apprenticeship in Scotland.

He studied at Lauder College, Dunfermline, Scotland and won the City & Guilds student of the year award before undertaking an engineering course at Belfast's Millfield College of Technology,

going on to form Penrose Roofing in 1967. Working closely with CITB (now ConstructionSkills), Gordon was responsible for setting up Northern Ireland's first roofing training courses and chaired various CITB working parties on training.

In 1983 Gordon was admitted as a fellow of the Institute of Roofing and later became the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) chairman – Northern Ireland. In 1990 he was invited to join the main NFRC board and appointed vice-president, having served on the general council and executive committee in London for five years.

In 1994 Gordon was appointed NFRC national president – a position he held for two years following which he served tirelessly on various NFRC committees, culminating this year when he was awarded honorary life membership for services to roofing – the highest award within the NFRC.

Other highlights of Gordon's illustrious career include being:

- ◆ Presented with the Freedom of the City of London.
- ◆ Invited to join The Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers.

- ◆ Appointed president of the International Federation for Roofing Trades which represents over 16,000 companies worldwide.
- ◆ Appointed ambassador of Belfast for organising an international roofing congress in Belfast this year.
- ◆ Appointed director of NI Roof Training Group and also NFRC director responsible for the roof training centre in Northern Ireland.

In his role as IoR president, Gordon hopes to continue to convey to the roofing industry the importance of training and qualifications.

"I am delighted to accept the position of president of the IoR," said Gordon. "I have spent a considerable part of my working life involved in all aspects of the roofing industry and I see training as essential to the wellbeing of our industry.

"The IoR is a respected organisation for individuals, providing the support and route leading to professional roofing qualifications – so important in today's competitive world where it is vital to not only demonstrate professional competence, but to underpin it with a recognised roofing qualification."

– Lindab –

Why would you want plastic when you can fit steel?

Rainline, a unique steel-based rain drainage system from Lindab, is becoming the system of choice for many architects, local authorities, housing associations and house builders who are specifying and installing it in preference to the more commonly used plastic systems.

Why? It is all because of Rainline's sustainability features, performance, price, and ease of installation.

By utilising the latest advances in manufacturing technologies, Lindab, who is one of the Institute of Roofing sponsors, can offer Rainline at a price point comparable to a mid-range plastic system, thereby removing the perceived notion that steel is more expensive than plastic.

Outperforming plastic gutter systems in every respect, Rainline offers minimal thermal movement and UV stability. In addition, it will not crack, fade or leak, is highly resistant to corrosion and virtually maintenance free – all key factors for its increasing popularity.

Quick and easy to install, Rainline is precision-

engineered by Lindab to simply click together for a perfect watertight fit – just click, fit and forget it. On-site labour time and costs are kept to a minimum – no special tools are required either.

Available in ten standard colours by applying a high-build polyester paint to the standard plain galvanised finish, Rainline is also available in natural copper and Aluzinc.

Rainline is supported by comprehensive guarantees, including a 15-year warranty for the finish on the high-build polyester system to give total peace of mind for the contractor and building owner.

Lindab is happy to talk to roofing contractors about their product and installation training requirements and technical support services.



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– Midland Roof Training Group –

End of an era as chairman retires

To many, he was the Midland Roof Training Group. In any event, there are no other groups whose chairman has held that office for more than 30 years, or for that matter, who has tried to retire at least twice previously but has never quite succeeded.

So it was with a moment of sadness that, at the group's annual general meeting in September, Ken Smith finally relinquished the position he has made his own, although he still remains the group's director. He handed over the responsibility to Jason Wright of J Wright Roofing, who will take the group into a new era.

Ken was instrumental in creating and getting funding for the Midland Roof Training Group from the Construction Industry Training Board or CITB (now ConstructionSkills) in the late 1960s. This was when the first roof training centre was founded at one of the builder's merchants depots at Shirley, which belonged

to Ken's family business – now called EH Smith (Builders Merchants) Ltd. This first training centre was run by a CITB instructor from Bircham Newton (now the National Construction College East) before John Ireland took over, and could accommodate up to 30 trainees.

The premises then moved to a small area along the canal at Lifford Lane, King's Norton, rented by CITB from British Rail on behalf of the training group.

"I remember persuading CITB, with the help of an NFRC member, to take over the training arrangements for themselves rather than the group having responsibility," recalled Ken. "To our delight they did, and bought the whole site."

The rest is history; this site has been the Birmingham Training Centre, and now the National Construction College Midlands, since the late 1970s.

Ken's secretary of long standing, Elizabeth Coleman, remembers that he seemed to battle for years to keep roof training in the forefront.

"He once attended a meeting at the Council House when Edwina Curry was taking the chair as the head of the housing department when she was on the council," she recalled.

Norman Bovey (CITB, left) hands over a cheque to Ken Smith to launch the Midland Roofing Training Group in the late 1960s



"He was trying to get across the point that it was all very well building all these houses, but there were insufficiently trained operatives to put roofs on them. She said: "Let that man speak!" – which was quite an accolade from such a woman."

Ken steps down at another time of change for roof training in the Midlands, when the East Midlands Roofing College is filling a massive gap in this side of the region.

Ironically, it coincides with the loss of Gary Derrick's position as manager at the National Construction College Midlands, so it remains to be seen how the balance of training eventually lies.

"It's marvellous to see so many roofers train at King's Norton, and naturally I'm delighted to see the emergence of the new college in the East Midlands, the lack of which has been a problem in terms of travel for so many roofing contractors," Ken added.

Whatever the outcome, Ken has no doubt as to the quality of the team leading the training group. "We have a very good training officer in Livia Williams, and an equally talented chairman in Jason Wright," he said.

"I am looking forward to seeing the group expand and prosper under their leadership."

MRTG facts and figures

- ◆ The new team leading the group is as follows: Jason Wright, chairman; Ian Deacon, vice-chairman; Bill Wood, treasurer; Livia Williams, training officer.
- ◆ Current membership stands at 128.
- ◆ From January to September 2010 the group has supported members with over £50,000 Train to Gain funding towards National Vocational Qualifications.
- ◆ Group members will qualify for an instant ten per cent discount when booking ConstructionSkills courses if they make their membership known at the time of booking.
- ◆ The group is deeply involved in working with schools and taking part in careers events in order to promote apprenticeships and training in support of the roofing industry.



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– E H Smith Sustainable Products –

The solar revolution – risks and rewards



John Cave, sustainable materials manager for E H Smith, describes the opportunities and risks associated with the rise in the solar market

Since the feed-in tariff (FiT), or clean energy cashback scheme, was launched in April 2010 there has been an explosion in the UK solar photovoltaic (PV) market.

Historically the businesses fitting solar PV prior to the FiT have been electricians and specialist renewable energy companies. This has created both a problem and an opportunity for those in the roofing sector.

E H Smith has been involved in roofing for over 50 years both as a merchant and previously as a contractor. We have also been involved in the PV market for more than three years. Our chairman, Ken Smith, has recently stood down from chairing the Midland Roof Training Group after more than 30 years, so roofing is definitely in our blood!

We have approached this new sector from a risk management perspective and have selected partners based not only on their products, but on their long-term commitment to the market, technical support and training. We can offer installation training for MCS-accredited organisations and advice on how to approach the market.

What is the FiT?

The government introduced the FiT to offset the initial capital cost of the installation of renewable technologies by giving a guaranteed income from the electricity generated for a 25-year period.

The FiT is not funded by the government directly. The revenues are paid via a levy on all electricity bills and are administered by the large utilities companies, which means that it is less likely to suffer from government spending cuts.

The FiT pays the owner of the array a fixed amount per kWh for the electricity generated. The scheme was initially set up to ensure an average return of eight per cent year-on-year, but with the reduction in the cost of PV products sparked by the rise in volume, it is possible to get higher returns, especially on large installations.

Risks

The first risk is in the selection of the product. At E H Smith we have taken this very seriously, as the last thing any reputable company wants is liabilities that are not managed responsibly. We have identified key product risk areas such as:

- ◆ Module efficiency
- ◆ Output variance
- ◆ Product warranty

- ◆ Output warranty
- ◆ Mounting system performance
- ◆ Inverter lifetime
- ◆ Inverter warranty.

This means that our solution is not only competitive, but offers peace of mind. The other areas of product risk relate to the after-sales support. There are a huge number of solar PV manufacturing companies with no UK base, and consequently no commitment to the long-term market. PV is an investment over a minimum of 25 years so it is important for clients that if a problem is encountered in 15 years, the warranty has to be worth the paper it is written on!

The next risk area is with the supply chain. Again, E H Smith can offer that solution.

Specific opportunities for roofing companies

There are a number of ways for roofing companies to become involved in the solar PV market.

- ◆ Partnering with a Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS)-accredited installer
- ◆ Becoming MCS-accredited
- ◆ Re-roofing properties – the investment is over 25 years and the roof has to last that long!

Many of the large scale tenders that are being prepared by regional councils and housing associations are looking for local companies to be involved. If your company can demonstrate the skills required, you could find a valuable income stream in these difficult times.

The skills gap

Training and skills are crucial to the long-term success of the FiT. If the products are installed incorrectly it could lead to the need for expensive remedial work which could jeopardise the client's return on investment.

It is this focus on awareness and training that E H Smith is looking to promote to its customer base in conjunction with installers and roofing companies.

Large-scale retrofit projects are only just beginning and these growing pains are being identified by the more discerning clients who are seeking solutions – you may be able to offer that solution.

If you would like to learn more about our offer, please contact us on 0845 070 3406 or via e-mail at sustainableproducts@ehsmith.co.uk.

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– London & Southern Roofing Training Group –

Tom takes triple honours



What a great year it has been for Tom Peck of Capital Roofing!

Having won his heat at the regional SkillBuild competition in reinforced bitumen membranes, he took the national prize at the competition finals.

The National Construction College South then judged him as the best second-year student in the same category, where he received his award from Kris Akubusi (pictured).

He was then awarded top honours as best overall apprentice of the year at the group's annual awards ceremony.

Proud dad Terry said: "The great thing is that Tom chose to come into the family roofing business – if anything we tried to dissuade him but he really enjoys it."

Awards galore for top trainees



Group members have been fighting difficult economic circumstances by training their employees for better times ahead.

And the awards presented to outstanding trainees at the

recent annual general meeting proved their determination to survive and to improve their businesses at the first opportunity.

"We are delighted at the success of these young people and applaud the companies who have encouraged them to train when times have been tough," said group training officer Brian Middlemiss.

Pictured, left to right, are the winners of this year's awards, with Tony Church of the Sheffield Insulation Group, main sponsor of London & Southern Roof Training Group (second right):

- ◆ Aaron Lambert of M&A Mastic Asphalt, best first-year trainee in mastic asphalt, sponsored by the Mastic Asphalt Council (MAC).
- ◆ Tom Peck of Capital Roofing, best overall roofing apprentice, sponsored by ICOPAL.
- ◆ Sam Hall of Russell Trew Roofing, best second-year trainee in reinforced bitumen membranes, sponsored by IKO.
- ◆ Ben Veysi of GB Roofing, most improved first-year trainee in roof slating/tiling, sponsored by the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC).
- ◆ Tom Cross of Southern Counties Roofing Contractors, best second-year trainee in roof slating and tiling, sponsored by NFRC. Russell Trew Roofing, where Sam Hall is an

apprentice, said: "We're delighted that Sam has done so well – he's got a real future ahead of him. Our policy is to train young people – they represent our future and qualified roofers are what our customers expect."

Anyone for site supervisor/management training?

There have been some recent enquiries about the two-day site supervisors safety training scheme course and Brian would like to know how many are interested to make the training viable. Please give him a call if you are interested.

Brian also needs to hear from people interested in the five-day site management safety training scheme. Just two more delegates are needed to run this excellent course, competitively priced at £590.

Directors' responsibilities for safety

Following on from the success of the first course, the group is intending to run another course aimed at directors and senior managers with responsibilities for health and safety,

The course will cover the following areas: directors and the law, overview of the regulations, procedures and documentation, accident prevention controls and monitoring and auditing procedures.

See Page 17, South Central Roofing Training Group, for an endorsement of the course.

The continuing blight of asbestos

Did you know that at least eight joiners, six electricians and four plumbers die each week from asbestos-related causes?

It is essential that all operatives with any contact with asbestos are fully aware of the risks. The next asbestos awareness course will be taking place on November 11 at South Coast Roof Training, Littlehampton, at a cost of £65 per delegate. Places are limited to a maximum of 12 delegates, so don't delay with your booking.

Using abrasive wheels safely

If you or any of your employees use abrasive wheels in your work, than it's a good idea to attend the half-day course on the safe use of this potentially dangerous tool.

The training is taking place at Capital Roof Training, Greenwich, on November 22 between 12.30 and 4.30pm. Cost to members is £65 per person, including certification and ID card.

London & Southern
Roof Training Group

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– Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

Train (to Gain) now – or pay later!

The announcement of the government spending cuts on October 20 included the ‘axing’ of the Train to Gain budget, which entitles workers (without a qualification at, or above, NVQ Level 2) to undertake free training to achieve NVQ Level 2.

There is still some confusion as to whether this entitlement ends immediately or at the end of the current financial year. Some colleges and training providers are still hoping to be able to deliver NVQs for the next few months and at the time of publication it is still possible to sign up for Train to Gain.

Please contact group training officer Denise Cherry for an update.

Members get to grips with lime

By popular demand – heritage roofing specialist Richard Jordan was guest speaker at the group’s most recent quarterly meeting on September 30.

Delivering a presentation on the use of lime in roof works, he then carried out an interactive session on a rig specially prepared by Leeds College of Building apprenticeship students, who also took part in the interactive session. Richard demonstrated traditional techniques for fixing and back-pointing the roof.



“Roofing renovations should be sympathetic to the building envelope,” Richard said. “A roof replaced using traditional skills will probably outlive most modern replacement roofs.”

The session was attended by Nigel Dyer, heritage manager at Sandtoft, who commented that it was most useful to have an opportunity to see the practices demonstrated by an expert roofer.

Gary Shaw of Pickles Brothers Roofing added that he had enjoyed the hands-on informative nature of the session and would like more interactive sessions for members.

South Yorkshire companies – take advantage of subsidised SMSTS courses

‘A very useful course, simply a must for a director of a company’; ‘very intensive but enjoyable and thought-provoking’; these are just two of the positive comments fed back from roofing companies who have taken the SMSTS course recently.

The Yorkshire Skills Enhancement Fund has commissioned a project which will deliver the site managers safety training scheme courses at a subsidised cost of £2 50 (normally between £500 and £600) to companies in the South Yorkshire Area. For those members outside the area eligible for funding, the group is negotiating with associate training providers to get the best deals for this and other site safety plus courses.

This five-day essential course runs as a five-day block or day-release, and covers:

- ◆ Environmental good practice
- ◆ The avoidance of occupational ill health
- ◆ Safety of the workforce including substance misuse
- ◆ Upcoming legislative changes and how to keep up to date with them
- ◆ Working at heights, scaffolding and secure access and work systems
- ◆ Tracked safety, confined spaces and demolition
- ◆ Specialised plant and equipment
- ◆ Setting up a site
- ◆ Closing down a site.

Please contact Denise on 07971 232645 to book your place on a course.

Yorkshire’s heritage roofers

Congratulations to the group member companies who have applied for heritage CSCS cards through the managed industry accreditation (MIA) route, where the standard of their workmanship was demonstrated through personal statements, photographs and client references.

These companies were assisted by the Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group and the National Heritage Training Group.

The final date for applications for heritage CSCS through the MIA has now passed (September 30). Please turn to the next page to find out how to gain your heritage qualification – and to share the experiences of some of the companies who have already applied.



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– Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

Your heritage training starts here

Now the deadline for the managed industry accreditation (MIA) process has passed, the heritage qualification can be achieved through a training programme.

The NVQ for heritage qualifications is Level 3 and follows on from the

original NVQ Level 3 in roof slating and tiling. This can be achieved through the ConstructionSkills special apprenticeship programme (SAP) route which includes six weeks' off-site training.

This route is suitable for those who wish to expand their knowledge of

heritage issues before qualifying.

For those who have substantial heritage experience, the on-site assessment and training (OSAT) route is available. Please contact Denise to discuss these options and which would best suit your business.

Yorkshire's star heritage roofers

The following companies impressed Denise so much with the range and quality of their work that she would like to share this with other Roof Overview readers

Ashtree Roofing Ltd



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Ashtree Roofing Ltd is a proud, family-run firm which has been trading for almost 25 years. We have seen, estimated and carried out numerous magnificent heritage works that span all over Yorkshire and the Humber region, sometimes spreading into Lancashire, Lincolnshire and the North East.

Our workforce, all NVQ-trained in slating and tiling, is more than adequately equipped to carry



out heritage works now and in the future. With a combined experience of over 200 years it means there is rarely an issue that we haven't come across.

An example is re-roofing works we carried out on Sheffield Town Hall (pictured). Welsh slates were used on this prestigious city centre building; we re-roofed using the salvaged slates, and its swooping curve and the large amount of leadwork meant once the works had been completed we could stand proud at the fact Ashtree Roofing had carried out the project.

We believe greatly in a good finished product. We appreciate customer feedback and crave more challenges in the future. Heritage roofing, of course, is not our only forte; we carry out new builds, domestic properties and we are now able to carry out GRP flat roofing.

We are a company not short of good references and would ask anybody with a roofing query to get in touch for a free estimate at a competitive rate.

Inner City Roofing



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Over the years, we have developed a reputation for providing a reliable and efficient service to all our domestic and commercial customers. We have achieved excellent growth since our foundation and quite a lot of our custom comes via word of mouth.

This is a reputation we value and work hard to maintain. Our professional tradesmen carefully analyse the technical requirements of each and every project, giving due consideration to the clients' own preferences and priorities for their roof. We are able to carry out all works at short notice.

We specialise in all aspects of pitched roofing, including slating, tiling, stone tiling, liquid systems and leadwork. We undertake all manner of projects, from totally re-roofing any size of property to new

build or estate maintenance contracts.

We also carry out a full roof repair service, including replacement guttering, timber and cladding renewal, replacement flashings and chimney work, ie re-pointing, capping off and fitting new chimney pots.

We have worked with the Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group to source all our recent training and the help and advice of the group has been invaluable in growing our business.

The picture shows the company's future heritage project at Castlegate House, York.



– Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

Harwood Roofing (Yorkshire) Ltd

Harwood Roofing has an excellent reputation for quality and workmanship throughout the region and beyond. The business has an extensive client list and repeat business amounts for a large percentage of their workload, a sure sign of a job done well!

Steve Harwood, Harwood's managing director, adopts a very hands-on approach. He leads by example and is never concerned about getting on a roof to demonstrate advanced roofing techniques to his teams.

Many of Harwood's teams have been with the business for up to 20 years, a testament to the business and to Steve's management skills. The company does a considerable amount of heritage work, including neighbourhood renewal and more challenging individual works such as that illustrated at New Hall Farm, Ardsley, where the roof of the

barn was fully replaced with stone slates, including replacement of some beams.



**Harwood
Roofing
(Yorkshire)
Limited**

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Dodds Roofing Services Ltd

Established since 1995, Dodds Roofing Services Ltd has a varied client base including national and multi-national contractors and developers, architects, surveying practices, national house builders, church authorities and local authorities right through to private domestic re-roofs.



We have a wide experience of working within the heritage sector. With four specialist heritage roofers we have undertaken many projects,

including the re-roofing of Swiss Cottage at Castle Howard, South Dalton Hall and Westella Hall in East Yorkshire.

Our highly skilled workforce can tackle any scale of project involving the most difficult and challenging roof problems, and all the projects we carry out are supervised, ensuring the high standards of health and safety and workmanship set by us are met and maintained.

Every member of our team is crucial to the success of Dodds Roofing; from our apprentice roofers to the fully trained technician, from the admin staff to the company directors, everyone has their part to play. We believe in teamwork and will do whatever we can to ensure that all our projects are completed successfully.

For more information about Dodds Roofing visit our website www.doddsroofing.co.uk

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Bradford Roofing Contractors Ltd

Bradford Roofing Contractors Ltd is now celebrating the third generation of the Cleminson family joining the company. Twenty-one-year-old Tom Cleminson has just started his apprenticeship at Leeds College of Building to confirm his roofing skills following his achievement of BSc (Hons) in civil engineering.

The company has been established since 1969 and prides itself on having excellent staff retention, with some team members being with the company for over 30 years. This has allowed the business to develop a pool of expertise in roofing, with a heritage specialism that is second to none. The business is family-run and managed by Dominic Cleminson.

The company client list includes English Heritage, Yorkshire Forward, National Trust, and the Queen (Windsor Castle). All clients, whether individual

householders or public organisations, can be assured of a quality service, delivered by qualified tradespeople who are carded, competent and committed to client satisfaction.

The picture shows work on Gorton Monastery, Manchester, where the whole annexe building was enclosed to allow for total re-roofing. While working on this property, which forms an important part in local community activities, Bradford Roofing promoted traditional skills to local young people at a community event to raise the profile of the roofing industry.



Bradford Roofing Contractors Ltd

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– Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

Be inspired at **IPS Rubberfuse** open day

Don't miss out on new business opportunities – that's the message from the group as it offers a visit for member companies to **IPS Rubberfuse**.

The event, which takes place at the company's head offices in Leyburn on November 23, includes a briefing on its products, services, as well as important new business opportunities.

IPS provides training for its subcontractors, assistance with product installation, and helps companies work towards NVQ qualifications in product installation.

IPS managing director Peter Bowers said: "We are always happy to help training group members with information on our company, and welcome the opportunity to show them round our training facilities."

Peter is particularly proud of the fact that IPS has recently achieved ISO 9001, 14001 and BS OHSAS 18001, which confirms the company's commitment to quality, safety and sustainability.

IPS's products have excellent environmentally friendly qualities and IPS will be taking a stand at next year's Ecobuild to showcase their products.

Visit their website www.ipsukltd.co.uk for further information.



Former apprentice turned tutor

Andrew Townsley of AT Roofing, who attended Leeds College of Building to complete his apprenticeship and advance apprenticeship qualifications, is now running his own business and taking time to pass on his skills to others by offering his services as a part-time tutor at the college.

He is pictured with Chris Messenger, full-time tutor at the college.

Ashtree Roofing nominated for NHIC award

Wakefield company Ashtree Roofing has been nominated for the NFRC roofing excellence award from the National Home Improvement Council in respect of their work at Brookhouse Crescent, Sandal, Wakefield.

The awards are held on November 4 2010 in London and we wish Ashtree all the best in representing roofing (and the region) at these awards.



Group goes green

The group was pleased to host the two-day green roof operatives course with Mark Harris of Blackdown Horticultural Consultants Limited and Peter Allnut of Alumasc, at the end of October.

Held in Wakefield, the course covered the following:

- ◆ Roof work health and safety
- ◆ Types of roof that will support green roof systems
- ◆ Different types of green roof system
- ◆ Components for each system
- ◆ Preparation of roof surface prior to installation
- ◆ Installation of extensive roofs
- ◆ Biodiverse systems
- ◆ Installation of intensive and semi-intensive green roof systems.

This green roof course is aimed at operatives and Mark and Peter offered sound practical advice for roofers on installation of intensive green roofs, covering logistics, access, irrigation and planting.

Course delegate Simon Beales of Leeds said: "The course was really useful for us as contractors, because it not only told us about green roofs, but also gave lots of tips on good practice and operational hints that will allow us to avoid some of the common problems faced by contractors.

"Mark and Peter also gave us money-saving tips – this was a worthwhile course for roofers wanting to know about green roofs."

As a result of this excellent feedback and the interest shown by member companies, the group has booked another green roofing operatives course in Wakefield on Wednesday January 26 2011. It begins promptly at 8am.



Looking ahead

Here are some dates for your diary:

November 23: open day at IPS Rubberfuse.

November 24: asbestos awareness training £50 (half day), 8.30am start.

December 15: quarterly group meeting to focus on zero carbon issues.

January 26 2011: green roof training for operatives £75 (full day), 8am start.

February 2: IOSH directing safely course £150 (including accreditation), 9am start.

March 11: quarterly group meeting and tour of Sandtoft's Broomfleet works, focusing on new generation products.

– National Metal Training Group –

SAP gets off to a flying start

Would-be zinc and copper workers received a tremendous boost earlier in the year through the launch of the specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP) in hard metals.

Apprentices from various different areas all congregated at the Lead Sheet Association's training centre in East Peckham, Kent, at the end of June, to register for the programme and begin their practical hard metals training.

"The apprentices are required to carry out 30 days off-the-job training over the next two years at the training centre," explained National Metal Training Group (NMTG) managing director Graham Cashin.

"They attend the training centre for one week at a time and complete one, or possibly two, modules each training week."

The first week kicked off with great success and the apprentices completed modules on employment rights and responsibilities, and flashings. They have since completed their key skills course with ConstructionSkills and return for gutters and weathers practical training this coming December.

Once the apprentices have completed their training they will receive an NVQ Level 2



qualification and fulfil NMTG's ambition to ensure that hard metal workers are fully skilled and provide quality work for their employers.

"Funding for our specialist apprenticeship programme can be provided for levy-paying companies by ConstructionSkills and the National Specialist Accredited Centre (NSAC), which has made the programme affordable for employers and provided an opportunity for companies to upskill, without losing money at an economically critical time," Graham added.

NMTG has also just confirmed plans to host the SAP in the North West of England and Scotland. This will ensure that the group's training courses are accessible for all hard metal companies in the United Kingdom who may be interested in providing affordable training for their workers.

From February 2011 the group's mobile training rig will be available to travel around the country and provide training courses in hard metals on location. "If you have a particular training requirement we can travel to your yard or site and bring the training to you, which will reduce your costs in terms of travel and accommodation," said Graham.

He added that all workers who complete training courses with the National Metal Training Group will receive a certificate to acknowledge their completion of the training.

They will also receive a training logbook, which provides an official record of all the training that has been completed, together with the training group that has delivered it. The training logbook is compatible with other training groups and recognised by many hard metal companies.

Book your management courses

NMTG is also able to provide management courses in order to help senior staff run their companies efficiently and deal with any problems that may arise during contract works.

Examples of training available are:

- ◆ Adjudication seminars
- ◆ Negotiating contracts
- ◆ Health and safety
- ◆ Credit insurance, insolvency and guarantees.

For further information on management training or to request a specific type of training, either practical or theory, please contact the NMTG at info@metalrooftraining.co.uk to discuss your specific needs.

Visit our new website!

The NMTG is also pleased to announce the re-launch of its website www.metalrooftraining.co.uk.

"It has up-to-date information on training courses available, more detailed information about our specialist apprenticeship programme and the areas in which the training will be taking place," said Graham.

"There are also downloadable guides for employers who may be interested in taking on an apprentice and the benefits of doing so."

If you are interested in any of these training opportunities, please contact NMTG's office directly on 01293 614662 or info@metalrooftraining.co.uk. You will be added to the mailing list to receive notifications of all up-and-coming training.



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– The National Federation of Roofing Contractors –

Roofing competitions at SkillBuild – **the untold story**

What makes SkillBuild so successful? NFRC technical and training officer Kevin Taylor takes us behind the scenes of one of the industry's most prestigious competitions for a fascinating insight into the competition preparations



As many in the industry will already be aware, NFRC has a long-standing commitment to training and developing skills. Skills competitions are, we believe, a key part of that commitment.

However, very few people are likely to be aware of the enormous amount of time and effort which NFRC puts into running such events for the benefit of the industry, or that we have been doing so for over 20 years.

The process normally begins in January with the design of the drawings, marking schemes and specifications for the forthcoming heats. At the same time, work is going on to source materials from our associate members, without whose support the competition just would not be viable.

Once the competition information has been approved by UK Skills, NFRC sends copies to all roofing centres and liaises with them to establish which of them would like to host a heat and if so, how many competitors they would be able to accommodate.

Dates for the heats are then agreed and materials deliveries arranged with our associate members. The heats run between April and June, are marked by an independent judge, and the overall top scorers make it to the national finals later in the year.

Designs for the finals start in early April with roughly three times as much work going into them as the heats. As with the heats, the information has to be approved by UK Skills and such is the strict criteria, amendments are commonplace.

On approval of the information, NFRC arranges a tutors' meeting for all those with competitors in the finals to share information and discuss the forthcoming competition, and we believe we are

the only sponsors at SkillBuild who do this. While all this is going on, we are busy liaising with Skillbuild and the venue for the finals on everything from health and safety and accommodation requirements, through to logistics for setting up and breaking down the competition. The relationship with the venue normally starts with NFRC visiting to view the areas earmarked for the roofing competitions, and from that we draw up layout plans for where the rigs will be located, fire exits, walkways, etc. There is then a period of negotiation between NFRC, the venue and SkillBuild before the final version of the layout is agreed.

Tight timescales

In the weeks before the competition, a lot of work goes into planning the logistics of delivering and carting away rigs and materials. Normally materials are not a problem but we have a unique problem in that, unlike all the other trades, we need rigs – and roofing rigs are relatively large items which are difficult to transport. With a total of nearly 40 sections to transport, assemble, dismantle and bring back within very tight timescales, this is always the most problematic part of the whole process.

The set-up starts first thing on Monday morning and we have about a day and a half to position all of the rigs, bolt them together and carry out any further work on them, as well as positioning all of the materials for each competitor. The team of helpers we have, many of whom have been with us for years, deserve much credit as they always seem to be able to cope with whatever new challenges arise (and each year there are many!). By Tuesday we are all set up, and the



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– The National Federation of Roofing Contractors –

competitors are arriving to check in to their accommodation. NFRC makes a point of looking after them from the time they arrive to the time they leave.

The competition itself runs from 9am until 5pm on Wednesday and Thursday and from 9am until 1pm on the Friday. Although this is the part which visitors see, it is only a tiny part of the whole process and in many ways is the easiest. It is, in fact, a culmination of literally hundreds of hours of work by many people over several months. It is with a mixture of relief and satisfaction, then, that we watch the competition unfold. At the end of the competition, we gather the competitors to thank them, and award our own certificates prior to the main awards ceremony to come later that evening.

For NFRC and our helpers, however, there is no rest. At approximately 2pm the breakdown begins, with rigs being stripped, dismantled and moved out of the competition areas. The breakdown takes anything from a few hours to a day and a half, depending on the support we get from the venue, so often this means the team working on the Saturday to get everything cleared.

At a time when many contractors are feeling the pinch, it is perhaps understandable that skills competitions are not at the top of their agendas. However, at a time when many are looking to cut back on training and skills development, NFRC believes that it is important to lead, support and encourage the industry and in particular, to encourage excellence in young roofers.

Focusing on solar

Over the past five years, NFRC has become increasingly involved in roof-located solar installations in anticipation of the opportunities which may arise for our members.

With the arrival of the feed-in tariff (FiT) earlier this year, there are now many indications that the market demand is here at last. With this in mind, NFRC has set up a solar focus group made up of associate manufacturers, invited guests and trade members covering all the main roofing disciplines.

The main purposes of the group include providing guidance on training, becoming an accredited installer and working with other trades. Regarding training, NFRC

will be seeking to clarify what provision already exists and will be looking to work with training providers to promote relevant courses.

IFD World Championships for Young Roofers

On November 17-19 in the prestigious Kings Hall in Belfast, NFRC will host the 23rd IFD World Championships for Young Roofers, with 24 teams from 17 different countries competing in the disciplines of pitched roofing (slating and tiling), waterproofing (single-ply and bituminous), and metal roofing (sheeting and cladding).

Most of the UK team have come from previous SkillBuild competitions and NFRC has been providing extensive training to ensure they are ready to make the step up to international level.

This is a fantastic, open event, and we would encourage anyone with an interest in training and skills to visit.



– South Wales & South West Roofing Training Group –

Proof of the **pudding** . . .

Training group director Mike Long reflects on the resounding success of the Institute of Roofing examinations and how his group has played a key role in their delivery

I recently attended the Institute of Roofing annual general meeting on HMS Belfast and as always, it was good to meet up with fellow members and friends. What pleased me most, however, was seeing the number of people present who had attended courses organised by our training group, either in collaboration with others, or alone.

It was particularly pleasing to see that the two new governors and IoR board secretary are included. I also opened a trade magazine and noticed that another course delegate, and previous student of the year, has been given additional responsibility by his company.

The courses run and organised by the training group, and supported by experts from across the industry, were launched in the early 2000s and have been hugely successful, having a 100 per cent exam pass rate at both IoR licentiate and associate levels. We have now upgraded the course to meet the more stringent requirements of the associate exam from the onset, while at the same time providing refresher days for people wishing to upgrade. For the first time, earlier this year, we ran the course in

conjunction with the Eastern Region Roof Training Group with a resounding success.

However, we feel that the true measure of the success of any course is the range and extent of knowledge gained by employees and owners that is taken back to the workplace and used for the benefit of the company. This statement is reinforced by the fact that some companies send employees year-on-year because they can easily identify the benefits.

It has been said that the roofing industry employs around 12,000 office-based workers and staff and I am sure that some, or most, would benefit from some off-the-job training. The difficulty at the moment, during these desperate times, is trying to convince company management that now is a good time to train, in preparation for the better times when they arrive.

To help companies make that decision we have adopted a totally flexible approach and are prepared to run courses in selected locations, alone, or in conjunction with other groups, that are tailor-made to suit the specific company requirements.



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– Lead Sheet Association –

Enter the world of heritage via our training



T raining in the heritage sector has moved on leaps and bounds this year with the development of two specialist apprenticeship programmes – one for roof slating and tiling, the other for specialist leadwork.

The leadwork programme was written and developed by the Lead Sheet Association (LSA), with the Lead Contractors Association (LCA) providing feedback as industry practitioners to ensure a comprehensive course content.

So who can benefit from this apprenticeship? It is aimed at leadworkers with an existing NVQ Level 2 in lead, or alternatively, individuals who can prove knowledge and competence at Level 2.

The programme provides a step-by-step approach delivered in modules at the LSA's training centre in East Peckham, Kent, combined with on-the-job work experience and assessment.

One of the first people to enrol on the heritage SAP in leadwork is Matthew French (pictured).

At the age of 30, he is already an accomplished roofer in roof slating, tiling and leadwork, and has the qualifications to prove it.

So why has he jumped at the chance to return to the LSA training centre for yet another course?

"When I heard about the new heritage SAP I was keen to enrol, as the training will further my skills and confidence to work on bigger and better jobs," he explained.

He is finding the course very intense but the satisfaction at completing more complicated tasks is very rewarding.

"When you have taken a flat piece of lead and turned it into a ball without any creases, you have to give yourself a pat on the back," he said.

Matthew works with his parents and around 20 other colleagues for D & J Roofing, based in South East London, and says that competition for heritage-type work is keen.

"The NVQ Level 3 qualification will really help us to show a competitive edge when going for those sought-after jobs," he said.

Visit our new websites!

Any moment now and the LSA's new websites will be going live.

The new sites cover just about everything you'll need to know about lead sheet, the LSA, its training and its technical services. The course details are comprehensive, many can be booked online, and a wealth of technical information can be downloaded.

And yes, there are now two sites – the additional site deals with the increasingly important plumbing side of the business, including the many courses available.

Not only do they contain loads of information, both sites are attractive and easy to navigate ... but don't just take our word for it; pay them a visit. You won't be disappointed!

www.leadsheet.co.uk

www.train4plumbingatlsa.co.uk



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Have you got what it takes to be our new technical and training officer?

He's a hard act to follow; but next year John Woods is taking a well-earned retirement from the technical services department.

If you think you might be the right person to step into his shoes, then read the following job specification and apply in writing, with current CV and salary details to Nigel Johnston (see left for contact details).



The successful candidate will have good communication skills, be flexible and highly motivated and possess a very good knowledge of leadwork applications in order to deal with the technical enquiries, on-site surveys and report-writing.

The candidate will also be expected to assist with the training programme delivery and continuous professional development (CPD) seminars, and preferably hold professional teaching qualifications and assessor awards. However, a training plan will be implemented for the right candidate.

– South Central Independent Roofing Training Group –

Green light for solar training

With the support of several solar manufacturers – Solar Century, Velux, Veridian and Worcester Bosch – the group will be putting together a programme, linked to the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC), of one-day courses, similar to those run previously, plus some more in-depth training. They will all be held at South Coast Roof Training in Littlehampton, West Sussex.

Plans for heritage SAP in roof slating and tiling

We are actively looking to run the pilot in the south at South Coast Roof Training, and have received enquiries from companies interested in undertaking the course. Dates will be announced shortly.

And in general...

A new NVQ Level 2 diploma course in roof slating and tiling has recently started with five candidates, which is taking place at South Coast Roof Training.

Lucille Fildes has taken up an active role at South Coast Roof Training and will be exploring new avenues and opportunities for training. One of these may involve the Prince's Trust which is visiting the training centre in November.

South Coast Roof Training has been awarded a new Train to Gain contract for NVQ Levels 2 and 3 in roofing. However, numbers are limited, so please contact Brian Middlemiss, or Mike Fildes on 0845 678 0065, for details.

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).

Know your position on hazardous substance exposure

Employers – do you know that you have a legal duty to protect your employees from exposure to hazardous substances?

The COSHH Regulations – Reg.7(1) – place the duty on the employer to prevent the exposure of their employees to hazardous substances. Where prevention of exposure is not reasonably practicable, the employer must reduce it to the lowest concentration reasonably practicable.

As a last resort, employers may issue respiratory protective equipment (RPE), and are obliged to

have documented evidence of the characteristics of the RPE which is being used.

"These requirements are in place to ensure that the RPE provided is suitable," explained Brian. "The evidence to support the suitability will include fit test reports for face pieces with tight-fitting face seals. Fit test records should be retained by the employer and must be kept available for inspection on request."

Directors – don't shirk your safety responsibilities!

There's no getting away from it – senior management must take responsibility for the health and safety of employees working for them, and the group offers just the course to meet these legal requirements.

The first one-day course, held at South Coast Roof Training in September, was well attended by managers keen to find out about their responsibilities for health and safety in the workplace.

"Regulations are becoming tighter than ever and senior managers are required by law to know their responsibilities in this important area," said Brian.

And if anyone doubts the worth of this course, the following comments from Peter Mably, director of Henley-on-Thames-based Owlsworth Roofing, should dispel any reservations.

"As a director of a relatively recently-formed company I found the course invaluable in highlighting the roles and duties of a company and its directors, the pitfalls of writing a safety policy, the current terminology when completing a health and safety questionnaire, the procedures for auditing, reviewing and monitoring health and safety and the benefit of a proactive safety culture. The course has been of great benefit to our all-round understanding of health and safety."

"I would recommend that other members of the group take full advantage of the facilities provided by the South Central Roofing Training Group, which include various training rigs for training apprentices and upskilling and various accredited health and safety courses for operatives and managers alike."



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– Eastern Region Roof Training Group Ltd –

A career not just for the boys

It was a day to remember! ‘Exciting’; ‘great fun’; ‘not just for the boys’; these were just a few of the comments from female students who attended the ‘Raise the Roof’ event at the group’s training centre in Ipswich.

Around 60 Year 10 students from Suffolk schools – Suffolk One, Holywells High School, Holbrook High School and Orwell High School – took part in the one-day event, organised in partnership with the Suffolk Education Business Partnership, Wates Construction and ISG Jackson, on October 20.

Each student was introduced to a variety of hands-on exercises as well as being able to spend time in the classroom. “The aim was to give them a broad overview of all the careers available within the roofing industry, from office-based roles through to working on the tools,” explained Angela Clarke, the group’s event organiser.

Angela – who is also the group’s health and safety adviser – was supported by every member of staff at the training centre to put on the best possible event for the students. She and office administrator Megan Coote took care of the health and safety sessions, course tutor Colin Wombwell supervised the ‘have a go’ roof slating exercises in the workshop, while manager Clive Coote was on hand to help out wherever possible and introduced leadwork to the groups.

said: “Today is a great opportunity to give these young women – and their teachers – an informed choice of the careers available to them in the industries they would not necessarily consider.”



Perhaps one of the most influential people taking part in the event was Charlotte Collins, a roofing student from nearby Otley College.

Not much older than the students she was supervising, Charlotte knew she wanted to be a roofer from a young age, when she climbed up the scaffolding surrounding her house.

“My mum was terrified but I thought it was great and decided there and then that my career would be in roofing,” she said.

She has just finished a one-year NVQ Level 2 diploma in roof slating and is waiting for replies to some job applications. Meanwhile she has begun an NVQ Level 2 site diploma in carpentry.

“If I have more than one skill to offer it will stand me in good stead,” she explained.

Great opportunity

ConstructionSkills regional roof training adviser Mike Harris spent the day offering advice and helping the students understand the uses and merits of reinforced bitumen membranes.

Carol Conley, Norma Odain-Hines and Kate Wyatt, all representing Wates Construction, spoke about the many careers in the industry open to women.

Helen Clements, recruitment adviser from ISG,

Huge success

Jenni Carberry, service development manager from Suffolk Education Business Partnership, attended the event with her colleagues Angela Edwards and Kellie Green. She added: “The event has been a huge success. The students have given the hands-on exercises a real go, even if they were self-conscious to begin with.

“Many of them commented that it was much better to try out this sort of skill without the boys being there, as they may have been undermined by them otherwise.”

Jenni added that although there were ‘goodie’ bags for everyone to take home, it was great that by far the most popular souvenir was the hand-cut individual slates that each student had crafted themselves.

Everyone involved in the event said that they would like to run it every year, it was so worthwhile. “Fingers crossed that in a few years’ time, one of these girls may go on to become our first female apprentice!” Angela added.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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– J Wright Roofing –

Roofing's a real choice for youngsters



It is an attention-grabbing title for any initiative and J Wright Roofing has been keenly involved since it was launched some 18 months ago.

The Catapulting Kids Further programme, designed to inspire 14 to 19-year-old students and benefit local businesses, was officially launched in May 2009.

Only curriculum subjects which correspond with the regional economic strategy (RES) priority sectors are supported by the delegated grant fund, one of which is construction and the built environment.

As a result, J Wright Roofing has been introducing Years 9, 10 and 11 students from Bulwell Academy to roofing skills and health and safety issues.

"Since the programme began we have had over 150 students in the workshops, among them a number of girls," explained the company's financial director Livia Williams.

"We are keen to introduce young people to roofing as a possible career choice and show the options available to women as well as men.

"We find that these 'taster' sessions are useful to teachers as well as students, as they are not always aware of the scope of skills which exist within the industry."

Academy opens to royal seal of approval

It is a busy time at Bulwell Academy; final touches are currently being made before its official opening on November 2.

The Duke of Kent is performing the official opening ceremony, while Lord Baker, chairman of Edge (the academy's sponsor), will be taking the opportunity to talk to the academy's students.

Academy governor Jason Wright (pictured) is leading a workshop involving some of the

students who have already taken part in work experience here.

Then just eight days later, J Wright Roofing will open the training division when, on November 10, ten young apprentices will start their career in roofing, working closely with experienced craftsmen on a wide range of contracts.

The academy has replaced two secondary schools in the community and is sited in state-of-the-art facilities, catering for students from age 11 upwards, including a sixth form. It fosters an enterprising culture and works closely in partnership with local employers and the community.

East Midlands Roofing College takes on its first students

The college will be welcoming its first intake of roof slating and tiling apprentices this November.

The brainchild of Jason Wright, the college's aim is to boost jobs and help bridge the skills gap.

"We know the benefits of training and our own apprenticeship programme has been a huge success," said Jason. "That is why we decided to set up our own training facility and develop our own talent. There is no other training facility like it in the East Midlands – the nearest is in Birmingham."

The college is an accredited centre which delivers roof slating and tiling and heritage apprenticeships, and also NVQ Level 2 and 3 slating and tiling via the on-site assessment and training (OSAT) route.

It will also deliver NVQs via the experienced worker practical assessment (EWPA) route, as well as various specialist training courses including Institute of Roofing (IoR) courses, lead bossing and welding, and health and safety.

The apprenticeship programme is based on day-release over an 18-month period, apart from the initial three-week block – a system which employers prefer as there is minimal disruption to the working schedule, according to Jason.

"We want to ensure we work closely with employers and encourage them to put employees on courses and carry on training," he said.

The college will soon be starting to recruit students for the intake in April 2011, so any employers who are interested in putting forward an apprentice should contact Jason or Livia on 0115 927 1333.



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Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in the pages of Roof Overview. However, the publisher cannot accept liability for any inaccuracies contained herein. In addition, the views and opinions expressed in Roof Overview do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.



Front cover: Swiss Cottage at Castle Howard, where Dodds Roofing Services Limited fitted Sandtoft Humber clay plain tiles in a diamond formation using spearhead tiles and finial ridges in two colours.

News, views, comments and questions?

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



Ooops!



The correct e-mail address is: **customerservice@cscs.gb.com**, not as stated incorrectly in the last issue. Apologies!

ROOF OVERVIEW

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