

# ROOF OVERVIEW

The voice of roof training



Issue 10  
Autumn 2011

Solar makes headline news

... plus much more!

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

# Editor's view

**T**his issue of Roof Overview has been most heartening to work on. Why? Because so many contributors are telling their stories of achievements, a increase in profits, more training courses on offer, and a general feeling that there is some light at the end of this long and gloomy tunnel that we have all been travelling down.

Take, for example, the [Institute of Roofing](#) (page 4). Its annual general meeting is always something to look forward to, because of the unusual choice of venue, its friendly and welcoming atmosphere, entertaining guest speaker, great food, etc. This year, at the delightful Birmingham Botanical Gardens, IoR president Gordon Penrose announced two major steps forward which could have a huge and positive effect on the Institute's growth: membership of the IFD and possible charter status.

This autumn has seen the SkillBuild finals take place, where the cream of British construction apprentices pit their wits and skills against each other to take the top awards (page 8). The [NFRC](#) can be justifiably proud of its unfailing attention to detail in its management of the roofing section of SkillBuild, and the competition goes from strength to strength, supported of course by many companies behind the scenes.

Solar really seems to be the buzz word at the moment, and you can read all about it in articles by [EH Smith Sustainable Products](#) (page 6),

[NFRC](#) (page 9), [PPL Training](#) (page 10), and [Ploughcroft](#) (page 21). And while mentioning Ploughcroft, what about the power of publicity? Since Chris Hopkins appeared on Dragons' Den, his business has increased dramatically. Let's hope Solarman continues to reap the benefits of his enthusiasm and hard work.

Of course, it's good to see the regional roof training groups coming up with new training courses and continued support, and they have been given a huge boost through ConstructionSkills' offer of £10,000 funding to each group. We are also delighted to welcome the [North East Roof Training Group](#) to our growing list of contributors (page 20), as well as all our regulars. [Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group](#) officer Denise Cherry gives us an insight into her 'perfect job' in the form of a diary (page 11).

What about bad debt? [Status Credit](#) has the ideal insurance policy for subcontractors, so read how you can protect yourself on page 23.

And finally, a result for the [Lead Contractors Association](#) as English Heritage backs the CSCS heritage skills card. Great news after so much hard work over the last couple of years.

To all the above-mentioned and everyone else in this biggest-ever issue of Roof Overview, a big thank you and we look forward to reading more about you all in the months to come.

*Sue Clement*



Contact: Sue Clement

Fernau Editorial Services  
Fernau Cottage  
Wivenhoe Road  
Alresford  
Colchester  
Essex  
CO7 8AJ

Telephone: 01206 823775  
Mobile: 07860 368159  
E-mail:  
sue@fernaueditorial.co.uk  
sue@roofoverview.co.uk  
Website:  
www.roofoverview.co.uk

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Front cover: *The Birmingham Botanical gardens, venue of the Institute of Roofing AGM, and inset, winner of the Student of the Year award, Lee Davey. Mike Bradbury presents the award on behalf of sponsor Sika Liquid Plastics.*

– South Central Independent Roofing Training Group –

# Train here for your **specialist skills** in heritage roofing

**W**e are still the only roof training group to offer the specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP) which leads to an NVQ Level 3 in heritage skills, and endorsed by English Heritage.

The next course, which comprises 30 days' training at South Coast Roof Training in Littlehampton, begins on November 17. It covers aspects of clay peg tiling, random diminishing course slating, stone slates (eg swept and laced valleys, curved roof details, eyebrows, decorative elements) and the use of lime mortar and torching techniques. The candidates also learn how to record a roof so it can be put back to its original format. Included in the course are field trips to, for example, the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum in West Sussex, Keymer tile factory, Trevilletts slate quarry in Cornwall, and Goldhill stone quarry in Gloucestershire.

## Courses galore available to group members

The following courses, also based at Littlehampton, are available to group members:

- ◆ Heritage NVQ Level 3 diploma in roofing, OSAT (funding available)
- ◆ NVQ Level 2 and 3 diplomas in roof slating and tiling, OSAT, (funding available)
- ◆ NVQ Level 2 diploma in hard and soft metal roofing, OSAT (funding available)
- ◆ NVQ Level 2 diploma in applied waterproof membranes, OSAT (funding available)

(These programmes are for experienced workers and are carried out through on-site assessment by experienced assessors).

- ◆ Upskilling courses, 35 days, five-day block/month, week beginning November 14 (funding available)

(Available for roofers with some experience looking to get an NVQ Level 2 in roof slating and tiling).

- ◆ Foundation course in roof slating and tiling, week beginning November 14

(A basic course which includes two units from the construction diploma Level 2).

- ◆ \*Lead Sheet Association basic welding and basic bossing course, weeks beginning December 5, February 6 2012 and March 5 2012
- ◆ Flat roofing courses (either CrysticROOF Premier System or Sealoflex Waterproofing System, one day per month – contact us for dates)
- ◆ Solar courses (installing collectors/panels), one day per month – contact us for dates.



The centre is accredited as a Health & Safety Test Centre and also offers a comprehensive range of \*health and safety courses and \*SMSTS courses.

\* The group has an opportunity to obtain some grant funding for training courses marked with \* from ConstructionSkills.

The chairman and the group training officer have developed a training need requirement, programme and venues for the delivery of this additional training, which has been submitted to ConstructionSkills for verification and approval.

If this funding is established, it will only be available until the end of March 2012, so please visit and monitor the website [www.rooftraining.co.uk](http://www.rooftraining.co.uk) for forthcoming events and venues.

## MP impressed with group training facilities

Nick Gibb, MP for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (pictured second from left), visited South Coast Roof Training recently, where he was treated to a display from heritage SAP candidates as they sized, cut and laid natural slates in various patterns.

He said: "The country is crying out for people with the skills to ensure our construction industry continues to provide a quality service. Training is key to this and companies like South Coast Roof Training Ltd, based in Littlehampton, enable people to acquire these skills from experienced and qualified tutors who have been in the roofing industry for many years. I hope they continue to thrive, providing ever more opportunities for people to access training in the roofing industry."

## Don't forget AGM date!

The group's annual general meeting takes place on November 17 at Sherfield Oaks Golf Club, Sherfield on Lodden, Hampshire, where there will be a talk entitled 'Extra profit from reduced energy' and an award presentation to the most outstanding trainee in heritage roofing.



Contact: Brian Middlemiss

South Central Independent Roofing Training Group  
15 Holland Pines  
Bracknell  
Berks  
RG12 8UY

Mobile: 07791 377559  
Fax: 01344 429071  
E-mail: [rooftraining@googlemail.com](mailto:rooftraining@googlemail.com)  
Website: [www.southcentralrooftraining.co.uk](http://www.southcentralrooftraining.co.uk)

– Institute of Roofing –



# Institute goes international (and is charter status also the way forward?)



**H**e may only have been able to address his members via videolink at the 2010 annual general meeting, but this year Institute of Roofing president Gordon Penrose (pictured) kept his audience enthralled by announcing major steps forward for growth and achievement.

With only a signature needed from executive officer Roger White to confirm the agreement, he told the AGM that the Institute was from that moment a member of The International Federation for the Roofing Trade (IFD), which accounts for about 150,000 operatives.

This exciting news was delivered to members and guests of the IoR at the 31st AGM, held this year on October 13 at Birmingham's impressive Botanical Gardens in Edgbaston. The location of these AGMs never disappoints – past venues include HMS Belfast and the National Railway Museum – and this year was no exception.

"Taking off my president's hat, I have been a member of IoR for almost 29 years," Gordon said.

"I remember very clearly when the concept of IOR was born and the gentlemen who were responsible for getting it off the ground. I feel that the time is now right to move up to the next level."

He confirmed that steps to achieve this level were already under way, as Roger White had been appointed executive officer and administration arrangements were being developed.

## Ticking the boxes

Another major step, he said, was to consider charter status, particularly as he had already made tentative enquiries and at this stage was pleased that the Institute ticked the majority of the boxes – with the exception of membership.

"For charter status there is a requirement at present of 5,000 members. I ask you: is this figure achievable?" he questioned the audience.

He continued with the benefits of international status, among other initiatives, to achieve the membership necessary to reach this magical number.

"This is my vision for the future: a strong and committed IoR, led professionally with a robust administration team in place, an increase in membership particularly from the younger

generation who we require for the future of the Institute and, hopefully in the not too distant future, chartered status," he concluded.

Attendance at the Institute's AGMs never fails to impress, given the distance many people have to travel, and chairman Martin Adwick was delighted with such a good turnout.

"It is this camaraderie and commitment that helps make the IoR what it is today – a body of roofing professionals respected throughout the construction industry," he said.

## Reviving regional activity

Martin told the AGM that when he took over as chairman last year, one of his aims was to re-kindle the interest in the regional meetings.

"It is at these meetings that our members can voice their opinions and tell the board members present how they want the Institute to develop and what they expect from it," he said.

"In my opinion, this is vital feedback to keep the Institute representative and active in a way that will benefit our members, and prevent the board of governors from becoming detached from the membership."

Over the past year, he continued, the Institute had been able to hold meetings in some of the regions where previously there had been none, and some regions had been able to hold as many as three meetings.

Most satisfying perhaps, was the first meeting of the Irish region which had not met for 18 years, but held its first in April.

About 25 members and guests had attended and as a result some of the guests had since applied to join the IoR. Even better, the Irish region had since held a second meeting.

Martin thanked governors Geoffrey Parkinson and James Slater who worked tirelessly to ensure the first meeting got off the ground.

He added that the Institute now had a regional subcommittee headed up by governor Guy Kilbey who, along with head office, was now working on supporting and maintaining this excellent start.

Other good news during the AGM included new methods of payment available to members, including credit and debit cards. Honorary treasurer Mike Kilbey (pictured on opposite page)



Contact: Roger White

The Institute of Roofing  
Roofing House  
31 Worship Street  
London  
EC2A 2DX

Telephone: 020 7448 3858  
E-mail: info@  
instituteofroofing.org  
Website: www.  
instituteofroofing.org

## - Institute of Roofing -



also announced that in order to drive down costs, the Institute intended to introduce electronic invoicing.

### Distinctly excellent

The Student of the Year award went to Lee Davey, of Somerset-based Davey Roofing, Slating & Tiling. Lee, who achieved the highest marks overall at distinction level, received a cheque for £250, a trophy and certificate. The award was sponsored by Sika Liquid Plastics Ltd and the company's roofing industry manager and IoR governor, Mike Bradbury, presented Lee with his cheque.

The Institute's AGMs never fail to entertain, and this year it was the turn of Simon Gulliver, plant collections manager

at the Botanical Gardens, to give a humorous yet informative talk about the gardens, the more colourful employees over the years, and topically, how the roofs of the glass houses play an important part in the wellbeing of the plants.

And don't forget – the Institute's 32nd AGM will be held on Thursday, October 11 at a venue to be confirmed.

### Learn from a distance!

Distance learning has been planned for some time and it is great news to know that the course is now up and running to enable successful candidates to gain a licentiate grade membership of the IoR. The programme has been developed in association with Leeds College of Building.

Chairman Martin Adwick said "Our exam papers have been mapped to a BTECH Level 3 and upon successful completion of this and the trade-specific modules, we can ensure that candidates will not only become a licentiate of the Institute of Roofing, but also achieve an academic qualification recognised by QCF.

"The first course will start in

January 2012 and already we have four candidates signed up for it. Once the course is established, we intend to start work on the associate exam, which will enable candidates to gain an associate grade membership of the IoR plus a BTECH Level 4, which is equivalent to a degree foundation course."

For information about the course e-mail [info@instituteofroofing.org](mailto:info@instituteofroofing.org).

### Institute sponsors NFRC award

The Institute is supporting the National Federation of Roofing Contractors by sponsoring its Safety, Health & Environment award. The presentation took place on October 28 at the NFRC's Scottish Roofing Contractor of the Year awards lunch, held at the Thistle Hotel in Glasgow.

Executive officer Roger White said: "Robust health and safety practice and an understanding of environmental issues relating to roofing and all associated construction methods are assets we are constantly promoting to our membership, so we are delighted to be sponsoring this award."



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– E H Smith Sustainable Products –

# PV or not PV?



Contact: John Cave

EH Smith  
Sustainable Products  
Haslucks Green Road  
Shirley  
Solihull  
B90 2NG

Tel: 0845 070 3406

E-mail:  
sustainableproducts@  
ehsmith.co.uk

Website: www.  
sustainablebuildingmaterials.  
co.uk

**Y**ou cannot fail to have noticed the huge uptake in solar PV systems over the last 18 months. Fuelled by the feed-in tariff, or Clean Energy Cashback Scheme, many organisations are looking at investing in the technology; as a result, the market grew by 1500 per cent last year, according to government figures.

From housing associations and local authorities to private investors, the opportunities are significant. But how well understood is PV as a technology in the UK?

Firstly, it isn't new. PV has been in use for over 40 years in its current form and has had widespread use in other countries. Germany, the world's largest market, has been installing on rooftops at scale for more than ten years and there is a lot we can learn...

Product choice is not straightforward. The technical performance of panels varies hugely and it is directly linked to the financial return that clients can expect. Along with the technicalities of inverter matching, quality of manufacture and

the robustness of the mounting structure, there is a whole host of things to consider alongside the price.

EH Smith has been involved in this market for the past three years, long before the feed-in tariff, and we have learned a huge amount along the way. Even with the impending cuts to the tariff, returns of eight per cent per year are still achievable and, although we may not see the explosive growth of the last 18 months, solar PV is here to stay.

We offer a range of PV training, from awareness at a strategic/investment level to technical sessions on inverter matching and product choice.

All of this is backed up by a significant stock-holding commitment to ensure that products are available on time.

Please contact John Cave by e-mail on [john.cave@ehsmith.co.uk](mailto:john.cave@ehsmith.co.uk) for further information. More information is available on our website [www.sustainablebuildingmaterials.co.uk](http://www.sustainablebuildingmaterials.co.uk).

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## – Midland Roof Training Group –

And now the **good news...**

**I**t was an event not to miss. For not only did the Midland Roof Training Group's annual general meeting offer its customary warm welcome, an excellent lunch and the opportunity to catch up with friends and acquaintances, there was more than the usual amount of news to take in.

The AGM took place on October 5, once again at the Royal Hotel, Ashby de la Zouch. About 20 members and guests attended, some of them from other parts of the country.



First of all, there were some changes at the top to be announced. Gary Lane of Lane Roofing is now chairman, with Gary Wills of Briggs Amasco taking on the role of vice-chairman. Bill Wood remains the group's treasurer.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian Deacon of Rio Asphalt, who stood down this year as the group's vice-chairman because of business commitments," said group training officer Livia Williams (pictured top right).

Ian has been part of the MRTG team for over 30 years and has worked closely with past chairman and founder member of the group, Ken Smith (EH Smith). On behalf of the group, Gary Lane presented Ian with two bottles of champagne as a token of appreciation for all his hard work and support (pictured above).

Probably the most exciting and positive news on the agenda was that ConstructionSkills has allocated the group £10,000 of funding, which will be spent offering members free and subsidised training.

"We would like companies and members to contact us no later than November 10, 2011, to let us know of any training requirements," said Livia.

"And don't forget – all training needs to be carried out before the end of March 2012."

Among the speakers was Paul Harper from ConstructionSkills, who gave an update on changes in funding and training

development plans. Information about this is available from Livia on request.

After his excellent presentation on the solar market at last year's AGM, John Cave (pictured below right) from EH Smith, returned this year with an entertaining and informative update.

Last, but not least, Livia would like to thank everyone who made the AGM a success, including sponsors the National Federation of Roofing Contractors, EH Smith and Roof Overview.



### Subsidised training

The group has been working hard to offer members a variety of courses to cover all training needs:

- ◆ November 10 – sustainability course – one day – £35 plus VAT per person
- ◆ November 10 and 11 – SSSTS course – £150 plus VAT per person
- ◆ November 15 – PV solar panel training – £215 plus VAT per person
- ◆ November 28 – December 3 – basic lead welding and bossing course – £550 plus VAT per person.



All the above courses qualify for claiming free training through the ConstructionSkills funding.

Another welcome piece of news is that between October 2011 and March 2012, ConstructionSkills has increased the day grant for training from £17.50 to £52.50 for all site safety plus training courses.

And finally, here is another exciting course on offer: January 2012 (to be confirmed) – specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP) in single ply. Watch this space!



Contact: Livia Williams

Midland Roof Training Group  
Dabell Avenue  
Blenheim Industrial Estate  
Bulwell  
Nottingham  
NG6 8WA

Telephone: 0115 927 1333  
Mobile: 07581 192584  
E-mail: lwilliams@midlands.rooftraining.co.uk  
Website: www.rooftraining.co.uk

– The National Federation of Roofing Contractors Limited –

# Roofing **students excel** at SkillBuild 2011



**A**nother year, another SkillBuild final – and as usual, some outstanding young roofers pitched their skills and wits against each other to compete for the top awards.

This year the competition took place on September 16-19 at Leeds College of Building where, once again, the NFRC managed the roofing category of the event.

High standards dominated every facet of the three-day competition. It was a hive of building trade activity, with 120 highly-trained apprentices from across the UK put through their paces. It was estimated that over 2,000 students from numerous colleges visited this very popular event.

The roofing category was split into three main disciplines: roof slating and tiling, roof sheeting and cladding and reinforced bituminous membrane.

Roof slating and tiling was jointly won by students Kevin Barker of Dodds Roofing Services Ltd and Stephen Harkin (pictured left) from D Harkin & Co Roofing Ltd. Third place went to Scott McGowan, MGL Roofing Ltd.

The Northern Ireland Roof Training Centre was thrilled that its second-year apprentice Stephen Harkin, who performed so well at the 2010 event, was able to go on to further success in this year's roof slating and tiling final.

First in the reinforced bituminous membrane competition was Samuel Hall (pictured below) of Russell Trew Ltd, while James Wynn of George

Brolly & Co (Roofing) Ltd took the runner-up prize.

The roof sheeting and cladding sector was won by Scott Lyons of North East Contracts Ltd, with Peter Kerr of Weatherproofing Advisors Ltd coming second.

"NFRC would like to thank all the competitors and tutors for their hard work and dedication throughout the entire competition," said technical and training officer Kevin Taylor.

"We are also grateful to the colleges who helped to facilitate the learning, as well as hosting the regional finals."

Kevin added that special thanks were also due to the companies for allowing the competitors to take time off in order to compete and who also gave further valuable training and support at their own expense. In particular, Weatherproofing Advisors Ltd kindly allowed another of their employees to enter the roof sheeting and cladding final – who happened to be the second-highest heat scorer – after a competitor had to pull out at the last minute.

"Finally, but by no means least, we are immensely grateful to all the manufacturers who once again provided materials, logistics, prizes and their time: Cladding Services (Eastern) Ltd, Hambleside Danelaw, IKO, John Brash, Klobber, Sandtoft, SFS intec, SIG Roofing Supplies and Tata Steel," he said.

The Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers was once again a proud supporter of



Contact: Kevin Taylor

The National Federation of Roofing Contractors Limited  
Roofing House  
31 Worship Street  
London  
EC2A 2DY

Tel: 020 7638 7663  
Mob: 07736 680300  
Fax: 020 7256 2125  
E-mail: kevin.taylor@nfrco.co.uk  
Website: www.nfrco.co.uk

## – The National Federation of Roofing Contractors Limited –

SkillBuild, and will be presenting Kevin Barker and Stephen Harkin with the Mason Elliott Award for roof tiling and slating next year at their annual awards.

### Solar's the word at InstallerLive

October 16-19 saw the National Federation of Roofing Contractors head up the aptly-named NFRC Roofing Solar Zone at InstallerLive 2011, held at the NEC in Birmingham.

In what is traditionally a heating and plumbing show, NFRC was asked to exhibit in order to help encourage all the necessary trades to work together to achieve the optimum solar installation, thus outlining the importance of the roofing contractor. This was achieved by running a series of live solar demonstrations over the four days, aided by the boundless enthusiasm and support of our associate members.

Ploughcroft managing director Chris Hopkins, with assistance from his staff,

gave lively and practical demonstrations of the Solarcentury roof-integrated PV C21e tile system, Viridian Solar Clearline integrated solar thermal system.

Mount Solar provided a PV mounting kit demonstrating best practice and just why roofing contractors are invaluable to solar installations.

NFRC was also supported by Sandtoft Roof Tiles Ltd, who provided Calderdale Tiles and KoraTech Underlay, and John Brash & Co Ltd for the JB Red fully-graded battens.

The solar rig was built to NFRC's specifications by Cladding Services (Eastern) Ltd who also kindly provided the logistics for the rig and all materials. The rig was built not just for this event and others like it, but also to facilitate solar training for roofers where required, and its next home will be the East Midlands Roofing College in Nottingham.

As the event was successful for NFRC in terms of interest for other trades working with our members – several of which have already been contacted – and contractors wishing to join, it is likely that NFRC will be involved in next year's show. Watch this space!



## – Single Ply Roofing Association –

# Single ply SAP moves forward

**T**he new specialist apprenticeship programme for single ply roofing will launch early in 2012 with a pilot based in the East Midlands.

Thanks to strong support from local employers, there are enough candidates to start the two-year programme, which culminates in achievement of the NVQ Level 2 for applied waterproof membranes – single ply roofing.

Candidates will also be offered product-specific training by the employer's preferred membrane manufacturer, the so-called 'ticket' that meets the requirements of the Single Ply Roofing Association. Off-site training will be delivered at the East Midlands Roofing Centre in Bulwell, Nottingham, while ConstructionSkills National Specialist Accredited Centre (NSAC) in Leicester will provide the assessment centre role.

Trainers have been selected because of their wide and long experience, not only on the tools, but also in delivering high quality training at membrane manufacturers' own training centres.

If the pilot proves successful in the early phase, SPRA will offer the SAP from other training centres – especially those managed by regional roofing training groups – chosen for their location and facilities. The structure of the apprenticeship is designed to avoid block release and maximise the productivity of candidates for their employers, for example by allowing suitably motivated and organised candidates to complete their product training at an early stage in the process.

Single ply roofs are systems of deck, vapour control, insulation, waterproofing and ancillary components. Manufacturers from each of these sectors will provide complementary training and demonstrations on a strictly generic basis.

Employers interested in registering possible candidates in 2012 and beyond should contact Eve Erentz at Single Ply Roofing Association on 0115 914 4445 or eve@spra.co.uk, or e-mail from the website at www.spra.co.uk.



Contact: Jim Hooker

Single Ply Roofing Association  
Roofing House  
31 Worship Street  
London  
EC2A 2DY

Telephone: 0115 914 4445  
Mobile: 07908 789454  
Fax: 0115 974 9807  
E-mail: jim@spra.co.uk  
Website: www.spra.co.uk

– PPL Training –

# Keeping up with solar changes



**A**lthough York-based PPL Training was set up initially to specialise in plumbing and electrical training, managing director James Booth has always had a keen interest in sustainability issues.

The exceptional growth in interest in the renewable market means that PPL now has up to three courses covering different aspects of sustainability at any one time. The range of courses is quite exceptional, as is the company's accreditations, as PPL believes in offering courses that are recognised nationally.

Business development director Robert Soderstrom has seen a significant change in the nature and range of courses delivered by PPL in the last few years. He considers one of the business's key strengths to be the depth of knowledge and industry experience of its individual tutors who are involved in the development of new courses, which reflect changes and practices in training requirements.

One example is the increased focus on electrical safety on solar installation courses. He said: "Recently there have been changes to the way panels are manufactured and voltage has been increased to work better in the UK market.

"The recommended configuration has changed and voltage increased to make units more efficient to UK conditions; the most common 25v panels are now being replaced by 45v panels and therefore the risks and potential for arcing present an increased threat to installers."

Paul Seddon, PPL training manager, has provided Roof Overview with a few best practice guidelines as follows:



## Working with PV – avoiding electric shocks



Photovoltaic panels can generate electricity when they become exposed to light, and while one panel on its own is usually below the safe voltage level, multiple panels, connected in series or in parallel, can present a real danger. Panels generate direct current (DC) when light shines on them. An arc may be produced when connections are separated. Cover panels with a light-proof cloth, then move the modules.

- ◆ Keep all connectors clean and dry
- ◆ Use insulated tools, gloves, etc
- ◆ Do not use damaged panels, and do not attempt repairs on panels
- ◆ Do not mark the rear of panels with sharp objects
- ◆ Follow installation instructions closely
- ◆ Transport modules in an upright position
- ◆ Carry modules carefully, do not use connectors as handles
- ◆ Do not stack or load equipment on panels
- ◆ Store panels in a dry ventilated area.

## Customer care and post-course support

PPL offers a range of over 100 courses to meet the needs of its client companies, and training teams have an extremely high level of knowledge in their individual areas of specialism.

Advice on courses as diverse as CSCS training and preparing for MCS certification, confined spaces and working at heights, coupled with support for learners after they have attended courses, make this a complete and comprehensive service. If you need advice, come to PPL – a company who can offer a solution to meet your individual company needs.



Contact: Robert Soderstrom

PPL Training  
PPL House  
95 James Street  
North Yorkshire  
YO10 3WW

Tel: 0845 260 0966  
E-mail: robert.soderstrom@ppltraining.co.uk  
Website: www.ppltraining.co.uk

## – Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

# I must have **the best** job in the world!

*So says Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group training officer Denise Cherry, and to prove it, she has written a diary to provide Roof Overview readers with an insight into her role*

**O**n a day-to-day basis my role as training officer includes visiting companies to help them improve their businesses through training. Sometimes it is really hard; people just don't have the time, money or inclination to train. Other times, such as the last few months, it is a really great job, with the group being able to source funding to deliver courses that offer affordable training on issues of real interest to member companies.

Is there a problem with free training? Well, yes, people don't always believe you. There's an old Yorkshire saying 'you don't get owt for nowt' and sometimes companies look at me as though I am mad. I can see them thinking 'well, there must be a catch', and this reticence takes a little getting over. But when people appreciate that the group really is able to offer these courses, either free or greatly reduced, then the real benefit comes.

My contribution to this edition of Roof Overview looks specifically at a few of the businesses I have worked with recently, and offers examples of best practice in developing new markets, surviving the downturn, and business longevity, including details of how these businesses make training an integral part of their operations. Over the centre pages I have also included an outline of some of the courses offered by the group with full or part funding.

This is, by no means, an exhaustive list of the work carried out by a training officer, but it covers some of the highlights over the last six weeks.

## 15 September 2011 – regional roof training group meeting

YIRTG hosted the bi-annual meeting of the regional roof training groups in Leeds. It is always good to meet and share ideas and experiences with other groups, and this meeting saw the election of Brian Middlemiss as chair, and I was elected vice-chair of the group for the next two years. Following the meeting, members went on to SkillBuild at Leeds College of Building.

## 15 September 2011 – SkillBuild

A Yorkshire lad took joint first place in the roof slating and tiling category!

Leeds College of Building was represented by Kevin Barker, whose work was excellent; I watched

as he pointed the verge, and was really impressed by the care he took with his work. It's a real credit to the college and to the YIRTG member company, Dodds Roofing Ltd, that Kevin has been encouraged to develop his skills to this level. Third-year apprentice Kevin (who also represented the college at SkillBuild in 2010) is following in the footsteps of his older brother Josh, who won the silver medal at SkillBuild in 2008.

## 22 September 2011 – Dying to Work

I attended ConstructionSkills' offices in Morley, where the National Construction College delivered an overview of its occupational health modules in lifestyle, noise, vibration, (take a deep breath) respiratory, protecting the largest organ – skin, and musculoskeletal disorders. I was very impressed by the interactive nature of these courses, which go under the title of Dying to Work.

## 27 September 2011 – additional funding from ConstructionSkills

ConstructionSkills will make up to £10,000 available to training groups to offer **free** training to group members. YIRTG committee members decided that this funding should assist companies with some of the essential courses that are difficult to find funding support for, including manual handling, abrasive wheels, safe working on roofs, tower scaffold and access systems.

## 29 September 2011 – UKATA asbestos awareness – monthly for £20 per person

The group has decided to work with an associate training provider to deliver courses on a regular monthly basis, at a cost of just £20 per delegate. This offer is initially on trial for three months and requires courses to be fully booked to be viable past the new year, so please consider this course, (delivered in Wakefield) for your regular asbestos awareness training.

## 30 September 2011 – commitment to training

This is a big 'shout out' for Westwood Roofing Ltd of Morley, who are continuing to invest in training,



Contact: Denise Cherry

Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group  
20 Britannia Mews  
Pudsey  
West Yorkshire  
LS28 9AS

Tel: 0113 347 0645  
Mobile: 07971 232645  
Fax: 0113 298 7344  
E-mail:  
denise@yirtg.org.uk  
Website: www.yirtg.org.uk

– Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

# Fully funded and subsidised tra

We are lucky to have funding from the ConstructionSkills Growth Fund for the sustainability project, and an extra £10,000 grant from ConstructionSkills to offer free training. This, together with funding from the Skills Enhancement Fund for Yorkshire companies, and courses subsidised from the roofing group funds, means that we are able to offer a wide selection of courses to our members.				Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	12
Course	Days	Cost	Location										
Abrasive Wheels	0.5	Fully Funded	Hull										
Asbestos Awareness	0.5	£20 – Subsidised	Wakefield										
Asbestos Refresher	0.5	£15 – Subsidised	NWRTG										
Competent Roofer	1	£135 NWRTG	Preston										
First Aid	1	Fully Funded	Wakefield										
Lead Bossing and Welding	5	£125 – Subsidised	Bolton College										
Management Course (NFRC)	9	Fully Funded	Wakefield										
Management Course (NFRC)	9	Fully Funded	Preston										
Manual Handling	0.5	Fully Funded	Hull										
Manual Handling/Abrasive Wheels	1	Fully Funded	Batley										
Manual Handling/Working at Height	1	Fully Funded	Ilkley										
PV Opportunities	0.5	£15 – Subsidised	Castleford										
Roofers Sustainability	1	£35 – Subsidised	Leeds										
Roofers Sustainability	1	£35 – Subsidised	Nottingham										
Scissor and Boom	1	Fully Funded	Wakefield										
Solar Installation	1	Fully Funded	Brighouse										
Solar Installation	1	£35 – Subsidised	York										
Solar Installation	1	£35 – Subsidised	Castleford										
SSSTS	2	Fully Funded	Sheffield										
SSSTS	2	Fully Funded	Wakefield										
SSSTS	2	£225 – Offer	Wakefield										
Surveying for Solar	1	£35 – Subsidised	Castleford										
Tower Scaffold	1	Fully Funded	Wakefield										

despite having suffered substantial losses due to the insolvency of three major clients.

Westwood had arranged a training session for all their staff on asbestos awareness and abrasive wheels – both booked and paid for before I learnt of the free training opportunities. Director Simon Foster says: “Training is important, and I want our teams to maintain the highest skill levels and qualifications. I think this is a prime reason we have kept our business going through these difficult times.”

### 3 October 2011 – Jarvis & Womack

I like to get a feel for how a business works so I can advise effectively on training initiatives, and when I visited Jarvis & Womack recently, I asked director Mark Mitchell how long the business had been going. “Since 1870,” he said. “Surely you mean 1970?” I said, but no, it was indeed true, established more than 140 years ago! Obviously my next question was about how the business had managed this quite exceptional feat.

Mark attributed this continuity of work to personal care on every contract, his management team and the quality of workmanship offered by his workforce.

Perhaps one of the key elements of the sustainability of this business is its ability to adapt and work across a number of markets, from high quality heritage work to the emerging solar market, and Jarvis & Womack have already fitted hundreds of panels.

The company has a policy of getting things right first time, and training staff through the traditional apprenticeship



## – Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

### 5 and 6 October 2011 – a roofer's guide to sustainability

These were the first two courses run under this project, delivered in Doncaster and Boroughbridge, to offer coverage throughout the region. Delivered by John Middleton of the National Construction College, these sessions were very well received by delegates who booked a whopping 64 days' further training through the sustainability project and NFRC projects, plus some additional free training.

It is a real benefit to meet company decision-makers face-to-face to explain the range of courses and offers available to them.

### 11 October 2011 – competence in solar installation – project changes

At the sustainability course I learnt from John Middleton about the proposed requirements for installation of solar panels contained in PAS3030, a BSI consultation document.

This recommends that to show competence to install collectors under the Green Deal, operatives should hold two NVQ units: QCF298 – installing solar collectors to roofs in the workplace, and QCF 281 – installing components for warm roof construction in the workplace.

I immediately called Leeds College of Building to discuss changes to the competence in solar installation project, to incorporate the unit on warm roofs.

Following project redrafting by the college and special consideration of the amendments by the Skills Enhancement Fund, the college is now offering on-site assessment of these units at a cost of £250 per candidate (available to candidates already qualified to NVQ Level 2 or 3).

I am delighted that I became aware of the draft guidelines in time to restructure this project, and for the amazing work of the college and the funder to effect changes for the benefit of our members.

### 13 October – IoR AGM

I was lucky enough to be able to go to the Institute of Roofing annual general meeting in Birmingham. Presentations were interesting and I had a good opportunity to talk to executive officer Roger White, and chairman Martin Adwick of Batley Roofing Ltd. We have since arranged a joint meeting of the

training group and the IoR on Tuesday, December 6 under the title 'Looking forward to 2012'.

### 14 October – major solar gains

A visit to an active training group member is always a pleasure, and Dodds Roofing Ltd, or rather, Dodds Solar, is an outstanding example of a company which has not only embraced new technologies, but become a regional market leader. Graham Dodds does not do things by half; his apprentices are prize-winners, his company has been MCS-accredited for over a year, and he was one of the first companies to sign on for the YIRTC/Leeds College of Building solar competence programme to ensure his teams have the skills required to take the company on the next steps towards the Green Deal.

Dodds Solar is currently installing in excess of 2,500 panels per month, equating to over 550kWp – producing enough electricity to power over 150 homes for a year and offsetting 284 tons of CO2.

Graham said: "We made our reputation in the roofing industry and because of our experience over 15 years and our commitment to training we were able to apply our skills to solar. I suppose it has given us an edge over many solar PV installers who don't have this background.

"As part of this major change in emphasis, all those who currently work in the Dodds roofing division will be retrained on the solar PV technology and equipment. These are very exciting times for us. The business is growing fast, but we will always look to give all our staff the very best in training opportunities."

As a long-standing group supporter, Graham has agreed to share his solar experiences with group members at the next group/IoR meeting in December.

### 17 October – solar installation

The first of the solar installation courses to run through the sustainability project took place today. Eight delegates completed this course at PPL Training in York.

### 18 October – green roofs

Coincidentally, today I visited two companies both involved in installation of green roofs, Batley Roofing Ltd and Controlled Roofing & Cladding, who worked on Harrogate International Conference Centre, where parts of the

aluminium roof were covered with locally-sourced sedum and wild flowers.

If you would like to know more about green roofs, the NFRC has a current project delivering training on planting green roofs.

### 20 October – Leeds College of Building awards

This was a treat; the event featured Jarrod Best, managing director of GMI Construction, who gave an inspirational speech, emphasising the benefits of commitment and hard work. I have asked for a copy of the speech to go on the group's website, as it shows just how much you can achieve if you have confidence and take the opportunities offered. The other key highlight for me was the presentation of awards to so many young roofers.



### 25 October – review of the ConstructionSkills strategy – breakfast meeting

### 26 October – solar focus group and meeting with IoR – London

### 28 October – solar surveying

This is the first of two surveying courses held through the sustainability project, running at the offices of Stroma in Castleford. Stroma is also delivering solar installation courses and solar opportunities courses on behalf of the group, and Stuart Oakes of Stroma will also speak at the YIRTC/IoR meeting on December 6.

### Summary

In the six weeks covered I have made at least 12 visits to eight companies, attended 11 meetings and five training courses, and in between all this I arranged the schedule of 25 courses over the centre pages – I'm shattered!



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- Part P Installation of fixed low or extra low voltage electrical installations

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- City & Guilds 2399 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) design, Installation and Maintenance
- City & Guilds 2399 Solar Thermal Installation and Maintenance
- City & Guilds and BPEC Heat Pump Installer



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– Birkwood Plant Training –

# All the **qualifications** you need under one roof

**O**n-site assessment and training is not new, but it isn't often you can find your training requirements (or most of them) under the same roof.

Although originally focused on plant training, in recent years Birkwood has developed its NVQ portfolio to include roof sheeting and cladding, applied waterproof membranes, and roof slating and tiling.

Director Sally Ramskill applies a rigorous standard of selection to all her assessors, in that they must have significant industry experience, and Sally's four roofing assessors each have over 20 years' site experience.

So if you need qualifications to back up your on-site experience, give Sally or office manager Tina a call – Level 2 qualifications can be offered free, partially funded, or at cost, depending on individual circumstances.

Even if you already have one Level 2 qualification, you might still be eligible for further funding to achieve a qualification in sheeting and cladding or plant operations.

Individual NVQ units are available to holders of plant operations qualifications, with each additional unit costing just £150 (Yorkshire companies only).

Birkwood also has funding to assist Yorkshire companies to help their employees achieve management qualifications at QCF Levels 3, 6 and 7.



Contact: Sally Ramskill

Birkwood Plant Training  
Birkwood House Farm  
22 Weeland Road  
Wakefield  
WF4 1 LN

Tel: 01924 860444  
E-mail: Sally@birkwoodplant.co.uk  
Website: www.birkwoodplant.co.uk

– London & Southern Roofing Training Group –

# All change at the top

**T**he group has a new chairman – Mark Notridge of Kingsley Roofing.

Mark takes over from Terry Peck, of Capital Roofing, who has completed his term of two years. A founder member of the group, Mark has a wide knowledge and experience of working in the roofing sector.

The changes were announced at the group's annual general meeting which took place on October 13 at the National Construction College South in Erith, Kent.

"We are very grateful to Terry for his hard work and loyal service to the group during his term of office," said group training officer Brian Middlemiss.

"We are certain that Mark will endeavour to support and influence not only changes to the training delivery and group members' requirements, but that he will also influence the sector and industry's standards for education and training.

"He has the backing of us all and we wish him success as our new chairman."

## Possible training funding

The group has an opportunity to obtain some grant funding for training from ConstructionSkills.

The chairman and the group training officer have developed a training need requirement, programme and venues for the delivery of this additional training, which has been submitted to ConstructionSkills for verification and approval.

If this funding is established it will only be available until the end of March 2012, so please visit and monitor the website [www.rooftraining.co.uk](http://www.rooftraining.co.uk) for forthcoming events and venues.

## Brian's achievements are rewarded

One of roof training's leading lights has been honoured by the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) for his achievements in the construction industry.

Group training officer Brian Middlemiss FCIQB, who is also training officer for South Central Roof Training Group and proprietor of Nimrod Training & Assessment Providers Ltd, has received this year's recognition of achievement award by the CIOB.

A committee member for the Surrey Centre, Brian has been a member of the CIOB for over 30 years, working at a centre, branch and national level.

At a branch/centre level, Brian has been a committee member for 15 years and served as chair on three separate terms. He has aided the progression of local members by conducting continuing professional development (CPD) seminars to prepare candidates for their professional review.

Brian served on the professional membership panel between 1996 and 2004 and on the policy and resources committee in 2006-07. He also served on the southern regional council.

In more recent years, he has prepared and run the annual Surrey Centre building quiz and has also been instrumental in the staging of the Surrey Centre's 'Keen to be Green' exhibition, run in conjunction with Woking Borough Council. He also took a lead role in the organisation of the very successful 175th anniversary charity dinner at Epsom Downs racecourse.

He is a leading consultant in the many aspects of specialist roofing, predominantly in the area of health and safety, and continues to present seminars, in particular at the Access Industry Forum and the Health and Safety Expo at the Birmingham NEC.



**London & Southern**  
Roof Training Group

Contact: Brian Middlemiss

London & Southern Roofing  
Training Group  
15 Holland Pines  
Bracknell  
Berks  
RG12 8UY

Mobile: 07791 377559  
Fax: 01344 429071  
E-mail: [rooftraining@googlemail.com](mailto:rooftraining@googlemail.com)  
Website:  
[www.rooftraining.co.uk](http://www.rooftraining.co.uk)

– Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association –

# LRWA - for our **future roofers**

**T**he Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA) has announced the launch of its unique apprenticeship programme, specialising in training future roofers how to expertly install liquid waterproofing systems.

“Many apprenticeship programmes neglect to dedicate adequate time and emphasis on training for liquid applications,” said Terry Wain, LRWA technical secretary. “We cannot ignore the fact that



liquid roofing is a growing market and at the LRWA we feel it is our responsibility to ensure our future roofers have the necessary skills to work in this fast-paced and competitive market.”

The LRWA apprenticeship course covers all aspects of roofing, but with a particular emphasis on liquid applications and the technical and practical aspects of using the differing chemistries within the liquid roofing industry.

The course will also include all the relevant health and safety issues associated with roofing, basic first aid, scaffold safety, and asbestos awareness. The LRWA is working in conjunction with ConstructionSkills and began its first course in October.

The LRWA course consists of approximately 25 days of classroom/workshop instruction over a period of 24 months, with the remaining instruction completed on site. On completion of the apprenticeship programme each candidate will achieve an NVQ Level 2 qualification, which will enable them to obtain a CSCS card.

For more information on the LRWA, its new apprenticeship programme, or how to become a member, visit [www.lrwa.org.uk](http://www.lrwa.org.uk).



Contact: Terry Wain

Liquid Roofing and  
Waterproofing Association  
Roofing House  
31 Worship Street  
London  
EC2A 2DY

Tel: 020 7448 3859  
E-mail: [info@lrwa.org.uk](mailto:info@lrwa.org.uk)  
Website: [www.lrwa.org.uk](http://www.lrwa.org.uk)

– Werner –

## Leading ladder company launches trade range in UK

**F**rom November 1, 2011 trade professionals in the UK will have a complete new range of fibreglass and aluminium ladders to choose from.

In what promises to be the most significant event in the ladder market for years, Werner®, a leading global manufacturer of ladders, is launching over 100 different products that it intends to make ‘the trade choice’.

Belper-based Abru Limited, the UK’s largest ladder specialist and manufacturer, will market the range. A leading member of the UK Ladder Association, Abru was acquired by Werner® in April 2010.

The line up, says Werner®, has safety, quality and durability built into every product. Innovation-led, it comprises stepladders, combination ladders, loft ladders, extension ladders, roof ladders and work platforms.

The health and safety benefits of fibreglass have led to this material accounting for 50 per cent of the US market and the new Werner® range will include fibreglass swingback and platform stepladders, which, consistent with the rest of the range, will be

available as either ‘trade’ or ‘industrial’ and comply with all the relevant UK and European standards, in particular BS EN131.

Importantly for the safety-conscious UK market, it also boasts the unique Lock-In System™ that accepts a range of accessories designed for convenience and to boost safety and productivity when working at height. The accessories – which store and cater for anything from power and hand tools to paint sprayers and paint – substantially reduce the number of trips required up and down a ladder.

By offering a customisable system to make the ladder better suited for any job, the user experience is more rewarding, easier and, most importantly, safer. The Lock-In System™ can revitalise and revolutionise working practice, claims Werner®.

Responding to the findings of its own pre-launch market research, the new Werner® range comes in distinctive blue and yellow packaging with clear, easy-to-follow information about classifications, treads, reach height and maximum loads.

More information is available at [www.wernerladder.co.uk](http://www.wernerladder.co.uk).



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– Lead Contractors Association –

# English Heritage backs CSCS heritage skills card

**A** landmark decision by the English Heritage (EH) executive board has sent a clear message of support and endorsement for the CSCS heritage skills card.

The board has agreed to modify its procurement rules by launching a pilot programme with immediate effect, whereby only contractors holding the CSCS heritage skills specialist leadworker card will now be engaged to work on significant EH projects involving lead sheet.

This positive response to a proposal submitted by EH conservation director Bill Martin marks a successful conclusion to a long-running campaign by the Lead Contractors Association (LCA), supported by the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) and the union UNITE, to have the specialist craftsman formally recognised and endorsed by the UK's leading heritage client organisation.

In welcoming the decision of the executive board, Bill said: "The ongoing care and maintenance of the nation's historic environment relies on the existence of properly trained, experienced craftspeople and also contractors who recognise the importance of these qualities in their workforce.

"English Heritage has always been committed to promoting and supporting appropriate training initiatives and emphasising the need for client groups to be clear about the skills required to address their particular needs.

"One way to recognise the achievement of these skill levels is the CSCS heritage skills card. However, the take-up of these cards across the sector is, so far, disappointing and with one or two notable exceptions, falls far below what could reasonably be expected to form the basis of a sensible tendering requirement, for example.

"The specialist lead roofing sector, however, is one of the exceptions and has, in our opinion, progressed to the point where we have been able to promote the holding of the card as such a requirement.

"Our recent decision to require the provision of CSCS heritage cards for any craftsperson working on lead roofing projects on our estate to a value of £75k and over, is testament to this great progress."

## Pilot programme

Nigel Miles, new chairman of the LCA, welcomed

the pilot programme, which will run until 2015.

"We have been campaigning for years for the craft skills of the specialist lead contractor to be recognised in providing the best long-term value for money. The heritage sector is hugely significant and it is essential that only skilled and experienced craftspeople are used where leadwork is concerned," he said.

"The backing of English Heritage by this landmark decision finally provides formal recognition for the specialist leadworker, and we hope to now work with EH to quickly lower the minimum value so that, by the end of the pilot programme in 2015, the requirement for CSCS heritage skills cardholders can be applied to all refurbishment projects, as well as any repair and maintenance involving lead sheet of any significance."

## Commercial incentive

The decision also provides encouragement and a direct commercial incentive for other heritage crafts that now have the challenge of reaching the required critical mass of cardholders in their own sector, in order to be similarly recognised by English Heritage.

Paul Simons, chairman of the National Heritage Training Group, challenged other craft trades to quickly follow the leadworkers' initiative.

He said: "This has been an objective of the NHTG since a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed in March 2009 by English Heritage, ConstructionSkills, ourselves and the all-party Parliamentary Arts and Heritage Group, committing to recognising craft skills through the heritage skills CSCS card.

"The leadwork sector, led by the LCA, has very much been at the forefront of our campaign since the MoU was signed and I congratulate them on their efforts, which I am delighted to see finally rewarded by this significant decision.

"They have proved that a commitment by a sector to the heritage skills card will be ultimately recognised by heritage decision-makers and the challenge is now for other crafts to take advantage of this initiative. We have been working hard with other trades and I know some sections of stonemasonry and ornamental plastering are close to achieving the critical mass required, with roof slating and tiling not far behind.

"The preservation of craft skills and knowledge is essential for the future of our built heritage, but this can only happen if demand for those skills is maintained by those charged with



Contact: Ray Robertson

Lead Contractors Association  
Centurion House  
36 London Road  
East Grinstead  
West Sussex  
RH19 1AB

Telephone: 01342 317888  
Fax: 01342 303200  
E-mail: info@lca.gb.com  
Website: www.lca.gb.com

## – Lead Contractors Association –

maintaining our historic properties. I now look to other national organisations, such as the National Trust, CADW and Historic Scotland, as well as government and local authorities, to follow the precedent set by English Heritage.”

As further support, the Heritage Lottery Fund has indicated that, while it is unable to make the card a mandatory requirement for its grant programmes, it has agreed to raise awareness of the CSCS heritage skills card and to promote its importance in the Fund’s guidance for grant applicants.

Further information regarding the CSCS heritage skills specialist leadworker card can be obtained direct from the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) or through the Lead Contractors Association.

### Regent lions roar NDM to third Murdoch Award success

Described by managing director Nigel Miles as a ‘once in a lifetime’ project, the spectacular leadwork involved in the refurbishment of the Regent Palace Hotel

in London has won the Murdoch Award for NDM (Metal Roofing & Cladding) Ltd for a record third time.

Sponsored by Associated Lead Mills as part of its commitment to quality in metal roofing, the Murdoch Award is an annual competition organised for its members by the Lead Contractors Association. The winning project is effectively the very best of the best.

Any refurbishment project requires careful attention to the existing detail, but this was taken to the extreme at Regent Palace, with the demands of restoring eight lion cartouches which decorated the corner of each mansard.

Each single cartouche was 1.160m high by 1.250m wide and three dimensional in section, with the timber and lead generally weighing a combined 300kg per cartouche.

A total of 5m<sup>2</sup> in Code 7 lead sheet (178 kgs) was used

for each cartouche and, while from a distance they appear to be identical, from close-up it can clearly be seen that each lion’s face is slightly different around the mouth and jaw.

“These beasts are quite magnificent and it has been a privilege for us to work on them,” said NDM operations director Chris Deady.

“I think they have been beautifully restored and it is a tribute to the skills we have in our staff that I believe we have exceeded the very high standards demanded by the architect, Donald Inshall.”



## – Lead Sheet Association –

# Scottish leadworker wins prestigious new award

**T**he eagerly-awaited Young Leadworker of the Year award has found its first winner north of the border.

The award, jointly-sponsored by the Lead Sheet Association (LSA) and the Lead Contractors Association (LCA), was lifted by 24-year-old Bryan Campbell of Edinburgh-based D Blake & Company.

He and three other finalists pitted their skills and knowledge against each other during a two-day competition on September 13 and 14 at the LSA’s training centre in East Peckham in Kent. Each competitor produced some very good work, but the panel of four judges – Nigel Johnston and John Woods (LSA), and Nigel Miles and Vince McKee (LCA) – agreed that Bryan was the worthy winner.

John said: “We were impressed by the high standard of work, but Bryan’s stood out for the technical expertise that he demonstrated.”

Malcolm Thomson, managing director of D Blake & Company, said: “Bryan is an enthusiastic and talented worker and a genuinely nice young

lad who thoroughly deserves this award.

“We like to keep all our employees very highly trained to stay at the top end of the market.

“This award is a great thing to set up as it gives youngsters a target to achieve and, being a national competition, opens their eyes to what goes on in other parts of the country.”

LSA chairman Joss Campbell presented Bryan with a set of tools worth £500, a £3,500 training bursary and a copy of the Rolled Lead Sheet Manual. The three runners-up – Kevin Mackie (also of D Blake & Company), Jack Edwards (Full Metal Jacket) and Tristan MacGregor (O’Brien Roofing & Leadwork Ltd) – each received a copy of the manual and a three-day personalised training course.

The Young Leadworker of the Year award will now be run annually and open to all leadworkers, irrespective of whether they are members of a trade association.

Details will be published on the LSA website [www.leadsheet.co.uk](http://www.leadsheet.co.uk).



Contact: Nigel Johnston

Lead Sheet Association  
Unit 10  
Archers Park  
Branbridges Road  
East Peckham  
Kent  
TN12 5HP

Telephone: 01622 872432  
Fax: 01622 871439  
E-mail: [info@leadsheet.co.uk](mailto:info@leadsheet.co.uk)  
Website: [www.leadsheet.co.uk](http://www.leadsheet.co.uk)

- North East Roof Training Group Ltd -

# Protect the environment with our free training



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North East Roof Training Group Ltd  
c/o Matthew Charlton (slaters) Limited  
Chareway Lane  
Hexham  
NE46 3HW

Tel / Fax: 0191 5281988  
Mobile: 07771 802096  
E-mail: nertg@btconnect.com

**W**ith ConstructionSkills offering up to £10,000 to training groups to provide free training to members until March 31 2012, we are working with the Environment Academy to offer the following courses:

Higher programme for business efficiency for environmental sustainability – this course is delivered over two and a half days and has five workshops as follows:

- ◆ Environmental management systems
- ◆ Compliance with environmental legislation
- ◆ Resource efficiency and waste minimisation
- ◆ Energy management and carbon foot printing
- ◆ Sustainability and corporate social responsibility, giving companies the opportunity to complete either individual or all five workshops.

IEMA environmental awareness for business and industry online course – this course takes delegates through relevant environmental legislation such as site waste management planning and environmental permitting, as well as site-



specific issues such as pollution prevention and spill response procedures.

The Environment Academy has applied for funding for training which will come into place in April 2012, so if we are successful with our application for funding, companies will have the opportunity to go on to further training at a reduced rate through the Environment Academy.

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Brightlingsea, Essex. CO7 0BX

Telephone: 01206 306600  
E-mail: enquiries@corc.co.uk  
Website: www.corc.co.uk

## – Ploughcroft Training –

# Dragons ignite solar explosion

**H**ow many of us tune into BBC2's Dragons' Den and watch, with sharp intakes of breath, the sheer bravery of the business 'hopefuls' as their presentations are chewed over and spat out, figure by figure, dream by dream.

But not our Chris, or Solarman, as he is now known (he has the trade mark on the title). Ploughcroft's leader and self-styled entrepreneur stood his ground, his figures added up, his ideas made sense, and he gained the support of not only one, but two, Dragons – Deborah Meaden and Theo Paphitis.

"It was fantastic to have the opportunity to meet such successful entrepreneurs," said Chris.

"Through their backing and bank of contacts both in the UK and across the globe, we're looking forward to achieving major success with Ploughcroft in the renewable energy market. Everyone at Ploughcroft is very excited to be involved with two excellent business minds who are also household names, like Deborah and Theo."

Since that life-changing moment which Roof Overview reported on last issue, Chris's business has increased in a way he could not imagine. "Then we had 20 staff; now we have 60," he said. "An estimated five million people watched that episode of Dragons' Den, and since then our turnover has tripled, with signs that the increase is here to stay."

Chris is well known for his enthusiasm, drive and ambition, and Ploughcroft's meteoric rise from ordinary building company to a leader in 'green credentials' in five years has attracted the attention of industry-wide businesses. But in the last month or so, he has been surprised and honoured by the invitations he has received from key figures and organisations.

"At the Green Apple awards held by the Green Organisation on November 14 at the House of Commons, I have been asked to speak on Ploughcroft's development over the last five years, and how we, as a company, power our own premises by renewable energy," he said.

## Green skills

"I have also accepted a formal invitation from Mark Prisk MP, Minister for Construction, to join the Green Construction Board to represent the



Picture courtesy of NFRC Limited

whole of the SME sector for roofing and building. The Green Construction Board has been set up to de-carbonise current building practice, promote sustainability and establish green skills, towards eventually establishing a completely sustainable construction framework."

Chris has also been invited by the Builders Merchants Federation to speak at its annual conference next June, advising which products to stock that can be guaranteed renewable and sustainable to tie in with the government's Green Deal.

On the training side, Ploughcroft has a suite of ten solar courses for roofers and construction workers to help them move into renewable energy. They are available in conjunction with the South Central, Midland and East regional roof training groups and at other centres in Kingston-upon-Thames, Leamington Spa, Stoke, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, and of course, Ploughcroft's head office near Huddersfield.

"All our trainers are former hands-on tradesmen, not text-book tutors, who are qualified to deliver Ploughcroft courses," said Chris.

There may have been all the excitement of Dragons' Den and subsequent invitations from high places, but normal business has been carrying on throughout these stimulating times. Ploughcroft supported the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) at its stand at the four-day InstallerLive exhibition which took place at the NEC, Birmingham, in October.

Chris and his staff gave lively and practical solar demonstrations, emphasising the need for all trades to work together and the importance of the roofing contractor.

"We can provide training for companies to have all the competencies required to meet the microgeneration certification scheme (MCS) criteria, an essential qualification for everyone wanting to play a part in the solar industry," he said.



Contact: Joe Hennessy

Ploughcroft Training  
Thornhillbeck Lane  
St Pegs Mill  
Mill 2  
Brighouse  
West Yorkshire  
HD6 4AH

Tel: 01484 723344  
Fax: 01484 723355  
E-mail:  
info@ploughcroft.co.uk  
Websites:  
www.ploughcrofttraining.co.uk  
www.ploughcroftsolar.co.uk  
www.ploughcroft.co.uk

– South Wales & South West Roofing Training Group –

# New SAP now available

**T**he South Wales & South West Roofing Training Group is pleased to announce that it will be running a specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP) in roof slating and tiling.

Due to start in November, this is the first SAP the group has run for roof slating and tiling.

The programme of training and NVQ assessment will lead to an NVQ Level 3, when a heritage gold CSCS card can be obtained on successful achievement of the NVQ. Trainees must currently hold an NVQ Level 2.

It is likely that the programme will consist of 30 days of off-site, classroom and workshop training to cover three modules of learning, followed by on-site training and assessment. This intensive course does require a commitment from the trainees and their employers to make the most of this opportunity to gain a qualification and specialist training.

## Pitched roofing SAP

This apprenticeship training is available to anyone who is new to the roofing industry and wishes to learn the right way of working with slates, tiles,

shingles, leadwork and solar collectors, etc.

This extensive course is scheduled to commence on November 15 2011 and does require a commitment from the trainees and their employers to make the most of this opportunity to learn. The reward for their effort is that throughout the programme, the trainees will be working towards achieving their QCF Level 2 NVQ diploma in roof slating and tiling.

For in-scope companies, both programmes will be funded by grants from ConstructionSkills but apprentices will need to complete the programme within schedule to ensure entitlement to the grants.

Anyone wishing to know more about these fully-funded qualification opportunities should contact the group on 01395 233667 or by e-mail at [swrtg@btconnect.com](mailto:swrtg@btconnect.com).

The training group is also pleased to announce that it is working hard to put together a comprehensive package of free training events, which will be funded by the £10,000 grant provided by ConstructionSkills.



Contact: Martin Rickard

South Wales & South West Roofing Training Group  
Unit 8C  
Mill Park Industrial Estate  
Whitecross Road  
Woodbury Salterton  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX5 1EL

Telephone: 01395 233667  
E-mail: [swrtg@btconnect.com](mailto:swrtg@btconnect.com)  
btconnect.com  
Website: [www.swales-swwest.rooftraining.co.uk](http://www.swales-swwest.rooftraining.co.uk)

– Wales National Roofing Training Group –

# Two years old and **looking good**

**W**hat a great way to celebrate two years in business!

ConstructionSkills has agreed a proposal to stimulate training in the industry by offering training groups £10,000 each, to be spent by March 2012. Certain conditions apply, and your company must be in-scope to ConstructionSkills.

Group training officer Lesley Hughes said: "I will be arranging various courses funded by this money, but would love to hear from you, as an in-scope Welsh company, on how you would like to spend this funding."

Over the last year we have been able to offer our members IOSH and ILM courses which have been 70 per cent funded by the Welsh Government. ConstructionSkills also offered reduced prices on the site managers safety training scheme and site supervisors safety training scheme courses which were quickly filled, and we will have more similarly-funded courses next year.

Following a request for Saturday training we are now offering various courses on Saturdays. Our first course took place on Saturday October 29 at the training room in Caerphilly, and included a

free bacon roll. We are also working with a local college to try and set up an NVQ Level 2 in roof slating and tiling.

Through a scheme led by Carmarthenshire County Council, there are £12,800 bursaries available for anyone who has experience of working as a roofer, or an NVQ Level 2 or similar in roofing, to attend a 12-month placement programme due to start at the beginning of September 2012.

After successfully completing the programme they will attain an NVQ Level 3 diploma in heritage skills (construction) – roof slating and tiling occupations.

For further information on the scheme, which covers Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, please contact Helena Burke on 01588 824271 or e-mail [hburke@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:hburke@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) and mention WNRTG.

Other courses on offer include UKATA asbestos awareness and working with non-licenced products (pictured), working safely at heights, manual handling, abrasive wheels, PASMA, first aid, basic leadwelding and bossing, and risk assessments/ method statements, to name but a few!



Contact: Lesley Hughes

Wales National Roofing Training Group  
Unit 16-17  
Western Industrial Estate  
Lon-y-Llyn  
Caerphilly  
CF83 1BQ

Tel/Ffon: 029 2088 6640  
Mobile: 07817 641984  
Fax/Ffax: 029 2088 6640  
E-mail/E-bost: [training@wnrtg.co.uk](mailto:training@wnrtg.co.uk)  
Website/Y wê: [www.wnrtg.co.uk](http://www.wnrtg.co.uk)

# Construction Credit Insurance Policy

*designed especially for the subcontractor*

## Benefits include:

- First and second half retentions protected against non-payment
- Work certified, but not paid, protected against non-payment
- Unfixed materials and goods off site, protected against non-payment
- Pay when paid, protected against non-payment
- And much more protection offered against non-payment

We can also assist in the collection of outstanding retentions, both old and new.



Would your company like to have the certainty of getting paid in the event of a main contractor either going 'bust' or 'defaulting on payment'? If yes, then read on...

## Jarvis; Rok; Connaught... who's next?

Insolvencies and bad debts are increasing at an alarming rate. However, your company can be protected against the impact of a bad debt, and at the same time enjoy the many benefits that a construction credit insurance policy, specifically designed to meet your budget and needs, can bring to your company. Our recommended policy will pay out within 28 days from the date you submit your claim form.

Backed by an AA-rated and experienced construction credit insurer, your company will be protected from the moment you agree your contract with the main contractor, until you receive your second half retention. This policy has been designed to fit around the construction sector (with all the peculiarities which are inherent within the construction sector) and therefore unlike other policies currently on the market, our recommended policy will not force the subcontractor to change their current business procedures.

This is an exciting policy and you will also benefit from our free offer as follows:

- As part of a quotation, our specialist insurer will investigate any ten contractors that you may have concerns about, in terms of their credit-worthiness.
- Free copy of our 'Guide to the construction industry and how to protect you company against bad debt/ non-payment'.
- Free references from some of our many customers that are benefiting from this insurance policy.



## Interested?

Then please call Lance Attwell on 01342 302566 or register your interest by visiting our website [www.statuscreditconstruction.co.uk](http://www.statuscreditconstruction.co.uk) and leaving your details – we will get in touch with you.



[www.statuscreditconstruction.co.uk](http://www.statuscreditconstruction.co.uk)



# Need any more information on issues raised in this magazine?

Please contact your local roof training group or the following contributors to this issue:



rooftraining@googlemail.com



jim@spra.co.uk



rooftraining@googlemail.com



nertg@btconnect.com



info@instituteofroofing.org



robert.soderstrom@ppltraining.co.uk



info@lrwa.org.uk



enquiries@corc.co.uk



bradbury.mike@uk.sika.com



denise@yirtg.org.uk



enquiries@wernerco.co.uk



info@ploughcroft.co.uk



sustainableproducts@ehsmith.co.uk



s.oakes@stroma.com



info@lca.gb.com



swrtg@btconnect.com



lwilliams@midlands.rooftraining.co.uk



Sally@birkwoodplant.co.uk



info@leadsheet.co.uk



training@wnrtg.co.uk



kevintaylor@nfr.co.uk