

# ROOF OVERVIEW

The voice of roof training



PASMA



Heritage



FASET



Solar

Issue 4  
Spring 2010

... plus much more!

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

– Prefabricated Access Suppliers’ and Manufacturers’ Association –

# Tower training from **PASMA**: the industry **standard**



**A**dvancing safety and best practice throughout the UK and Ireland, the Prefabricated Access Suppliers’ and Manufacturers’ Association (PASMA) is one of the fastest-growing trade associations in the work at height sector and is recognised and respected as the ultimate authority on mobile access towers.

A founder member of the Access Industry Forum (AIF), its training courses are widely acknowledged as the industry standard and almost every workplace now insists on the PASMA photocard as the only proof of competence when it comes to assembling, inspecting, moving and dismantling towers.

More than 50,000 delegates are trained each year through a nationwide network of approved and

audited PASMA training centres.

Liaising closely with all the key players, regulatory authorities and standards-setting bodies in the work at height sector, it is the voice of the tower industry and, as such, plays a leading role in helping to shape its future development and direction.

A major publisher of safety-related products, PASMA’s website provides access to a complete range of best practice guides, technical guidance notes, information posters and pocket cards. It is also a unique source of reference for anyone owning, using or supervising the use of towers.

Don’t miss PASMA in the AIF Knowledge Base and Access Industry Village at the Safety & Health Expo, May 11 – 13 2010, at the NEC, Birmingham.

## PASMA training courses

- ◆ Work at height (essentials): a course for anyone who knows little or nothing about working at height. This half-day course provides fundamental information about the safe use of mobile access towers, plus an insight into the use and application of all the principal types of access equipment.
- ◆ Standard course: a one-day course involving both written and practical assessments. Covers tower assembly, stability, safe use, repositioning, inspection, care and maintenance, dismantling and current legislation. The essential qualification for anyone using mobile access towers.
- ◆ Supervisory course: a ‘must do’ course over one day for managers and supervisors responsible for overseeing the work and safety of operatives on site. Designed to ensure that work at height using mobile access towers is properly planned and organised, it also covers tower inspection and maintenance.
- ◆ Low level access: recently revised, a half-day course for anyone who needs to work from a maximum platform height of 2.5 metres. Covers the safe assembly, dismantling and relocation of low-level access units and includes a practical assessment session for all delegates. Also includes PASMA’s new low-level access DVD: ‘Accidents can happen even at low level’.

More information can be obtained at [www.pasma.co.uk](http://www.pasma.co.uk).



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– Single Ply Roofing Association –

# Training is the key to success

**D**irector of the Single Ply Roofing Association (SPRA), Jim Hooker FloR, explains how responsible and principled training within this roofing sector has progressed over the years, resulting in a specialist apprenticeship programme currently being developed.

In 1988, when the Single Ply Roofing Association set its current criteria for membership, single ply was on a dramatic growth curve – just think of projects like Stansted Airport, Stockley Park and the National Indoor Arena – and was soon to become the default choice in new-build flat roofing.

Ten years later, in 2008, it had exceeded six million sq m per annum and pushed further into refurbishment and the private residential sector. Inevitably as the market matured, fringe players were sucked in, even though the seven SPRA membrane manufacturers still account for around 70 per cent of the action. How does this impact on those founding principles?

Because products and systems vary, training and controlled supply of product are crucial to quality output from the industry. Training is the primary responsibility of the manufacturer, who must provide a course with supervision and assessment in a properly-serviced, off-site facility.

To many parent companies of SPRA members based in Europe and the US, these rules can appear over-strict, but they have been vital to the success of the technology in a sceptical UK market. Those who pass the course must be assessed on site before receiving a photo-ID card which has a maximum life of five years. The membrane manufacturers must maintain a database of all trained installers, whether they are working for a registered contractor or a labour-only company. An installer who has a 'ticket' for one product will have to either complete a new course or detailed assessment before they can obtain approval to install another product.

It could be argued that controls on training and supply should be relaxed; wouldn't that reduce manufacturers' and employers' overheads? Tempting maybe, but the rules governing the manufacturer-contractor are designed to ensure manufacturers maintain a 'cradle-to-handover' and

The new extension to ExCel Exhibition Centre in London's Docklands. This vast facility will be home to the Ecobuild 2011 exhibition and will play a supporting role for the London 2012 Olympics.



beyond interest in their product and its installation. Supply to anyone and you have a recipe for reduced standards, dissatisfied customers and denigration of a flat roofing sector that has done much to clean up its historical image.

So what about generic single ply training? Surely there's a role for a foundation course? SPRA worked with Eastern Region Roof Training Group to develop such a course back in 2004 and a pilot was run at ERRTG when demand was generally low.

In response to a recent survey which identified increased and solid demand from employers for new entrant training in many areas, contractor representatives from SPRA's governing council are drafting a new specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP). This course will include basic skills and health and safety training, generic modules on roof system installation but will also include specific product training – to be delivered by manufacturers – in year two.

Does this exclude colleges from training in this sector? No. While the primary responsibility still rests with membrane manufacturers and roofing contractor employers (who will provide much of the modular training), colleges and regional training groups will be vital in supplying properly-accredited, local, health and safety, access, tooling and other complementary elements.

Colleges also have a role in providing assessors for the SAP and for the assessment of the experienced workforce through on-site assessment and training (OSAT) and experienced worker practical assessment (EWPA), both leading to NVQ Level 2 in applied waterproof membranes – single ply roofing.

A single-ply trained installer with SPRA member Hathaway Roofing completes a hand-welded detail.



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– Confederation of Roofing Contractors –

# Do you have the backing of a **trade association**?

**T**here are around 39,000 roofing companies trading in the UK, yet less than ten per cent belong to a recognised trade association.

Allan Buchan, chief executive officer of the Confederation of Roofing Contractors (CORC), explains here why he believes it is essential in today's commercial climate to be a member of a bona fide roofing trade association.

If you specialise in the roofing industry can you afford not to have the backing of the most recognised trade association in the UK that the public trust?

Many roofing companies that I have spoken to belong to a trade association that has nothing to do with roofing. What on earth are they thinking; do they really believe that by showing a logo it makes them look good, even if the logo does not relate to their trade?

Other companies have stated that they have traded for many years without belonging to a trade association, and have survived. I agree that some companies can, and will, survive alone, but surely

they would prosper more if they were affiliated to a roofing trade association?

Some associations quote ridiculous membership fees; the Confederation of Roofing Contractors (CORC) charges an annual fee of just £320, which works out at less than 88 pence per day. For that fee, members can enjoy many benefits, including the opportunity of offering their customers a fully insured ten-year back-up warranty which comes into force should the contractor cease trading.

If you are working in the roofing industry, apply for membership today and enjoy having some of the stress taken from you.



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– Midland Roof Training Group –

# New training officer leads group forward

**T**he group's positive start to 2010 with the appointment of Livia Williams as group training officer has continued its momentum with a number of extra courses and initiatives.

The recession seems to have lessened its hold as enquiries are on the increase for a number of courses, including safety at heights, harness training and scaffold inspection.

The on-site assessment and training (OSAT) and experienced worker practical assessment (EWPA) routes are also proving popular. "We are delighted to have secured OSAT funding for our members and have already signed up a number of NVQs from Level 2 to Level 4," said Livia, an ongoing A1 assessor with 11 years' industry experience, as well as a degree in computers and business administration.

"We also have some OSAT and EWPA funding for the Training for London project, which may be of some interest for the training groups covering this area."

Livia is keen to secure a full intake of roof

sheeting and cladding apprentices for the September start at the National Construction College Midlands. She is also focusing on school leavers through visits to schools and young people events, including attending the National Apprenticeship Service Week event at the Bulwell Academy in Nottingham.

And on June 23 the group will be taking part in VQ day at the Royal Horticultural rooms in London. A celebration of vocational qualifications, the exhibition brings the top 12 providers of vocational education together.

"The group will attend the event alongside J Wright Roofing and Bulwell Academy, supporting the young students to demonstrate what an education/employer partnership really looks like," explained Livia.

And with a number of potential high profile guests attending, including the Prime Minister, the event can only bring some welcome awareness of the group and its commitment to roof training for all ages.



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## – Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme –

# Funds now available to boost **traditional** skills

**D**uring tough economic times, training is often the last priority for a contractor. The future is often more about survival and less about upskilling for current employees and taking on new staff. And for individuals, the opportunity to get their foot in the door with a contractor is subsequently even more difficult.

Since 2007 the Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme has been offering a boost for training to contractors and individuals respectively, to help them develop their businesses and hands-on traditional building skills within the built heritage sector.

By recruiting and placing enthusiastic individuals in variable length, work-based placements with a reputable contractor, the scheme supports excellent on-the-job training opportunities for people who want to work in the sector and helps companies find individuals who want to, and can learn, alongside their more experienced and skilled craftspeople.

Financial support for placements is provided either for craftspeople with transferable skills and knowledge already working in the main construction industry, or people who want to change their career.

Trainees are funded up to £15,000 per year (pro rata), thus relieving the placement host of the financial burden of taking on a trainee. Work placements can be as short as a month and as long as 18 months, depending on the existing skills of the trainee and the order book of the contractor. The business benefits from a keen and committed individual who wants to learn and, in time, will be a useful pair of hands.

The scheme – which is primarily funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (£1,400,00), with further financial and technical support from English Heritage, The National Trust, ConstructionSkills, Cadw and the National Heritage Training Group – supports a broad range of buildings skills. These include traditional roofing – thatching, leadwork, stone, slate and tile. But so far only £82,500 of the £1,119,000 training budget has been invested in roofing.

“We’ve had some great successes, but we have more funding and can offer more opportunities,” said scheme manager Clara Willett. “The project currently has funding until the end of 2011, so now is the time to think about whether your company could offer a work-based training placement. We are desperate for stone or tile roofing companies to offer opportunities because this is an area we have yet to fund.”

The £1.7 million scheme has already funded

76 trainees throughout England and Wales and has been granted additional funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and its partners to continue offering a further 60 placements.

The scheme has invested £52,000 in thatching and has so far helped four thatching trainees. Dafydd Driver (pictured below) was on a 12-month placement with Alan Jones of Pembrokeshire Roofing and Thatching Services gaining his NVQ Level 2, and now works alongside him.

“I’ve really enjoyed the [placement] experience. I have vastly progressed in my craft skills since I started and have a portfolio of my work and progress for the last year,” he said.

£30,000 has been invested in two leadwork trainees. Wez Blyth (pictured right) has almost completed a 12-month placement at Lincoln Cathedral, who also funded him to undertake some training at the Lead Sheet Association. He has just been employed on a two-year contract to work at the cathedral, something he never thought would be possible.

“I can’t quite believe it, but I’m now beginning to see that my career in leadwork is a reality,” he said.

The scheme encourages its trainees to gain their CSCS card and NVQ Level 3 heritage skills qualification which will stand them in good stead for future employment in the heritage sector. Most of the trainees continue working in the sector (80 per cent), many for their placement host (31 per cent).

Certainly this initiative and funding is proving worthwhile for all involved. Master thatcher, Adam Nash, who hosted a placement to Will Ford, sings the scheme’s praises: “It enabled me to take on another apprentice without being crippled by a huge wages bill, which in turn has helped me grow my business even in these difficult times.”

This scheme is making a difference to people, contractors and the sector and Clara would be delighted to hear from you if you are thinking about on-the-job training.



## TRADITIONAL BUILDING SKILLS BURSARY SCHEME

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– London & Southern Roofing Training Group –

# Three of the best launch SkillBuild heats

**T**he first heat of SkillBuild 2010 took place on April 22 with a strong representation from London and Southern Roofing Training Group.

Three first-year apprentices put their skills to the test at the National Construction College South at Erith, under the watchful eye of senior roof slating and tiling instructor Alan King.

Winner of the heat was Lance Marsh of Coomber Roofing, Brighton, who completed the rig with an hour to spare.

In second place was Dale Wright (pictured), who ran out of time with only two valley cuts and three slates left to put on. James Jordan of Swift Roofing, Kent, finishing third, also ran out of time with three-quarters of the rig completed.

Alan said: "The standard of work was very high and it was a good learning experience for all the boys, especially James, who has only had 12 weeks' training at the college. At 17 years old he will be all the better for the experience in next year's competition."

They now have to wait to see how they shaped up until after the other regional heats have taken place.

The top nine from all the regional heats go through to the final in Bangor, North Wales, in November, so fingers crossed they all make it through!



Health and Safety Executive (HSE), will be run during June at the Greenwich centre if sufficient numbers are interested. The cost for members will be £75 including buffet lunch, tea and coffee.

Call 07791 377559 or e-mail [rooftraining@googlemail.com](mailto:rooftraining@googlemail.com).

## Basic lead bossing and welding

This course is run on a regular basis and includes:

- ◆ Part 1: bossing to basic shapes: corners, flashings aprons and penetrations, run over two days
- ◆ Part 2: welding to basic shapes: corners, aprons and penetrations, run over three days
- ◆ Combined bossing and welding course, run over five days.

All lead welding courses are held at Capital Roof Training, Greenwich.

## Basic lead bossing and welding

Also available is the management and technicians training course, which leads to the Institute of Roofing (IoR) associate member examination. The course will be run one day a week for 20 weeks, at the end of which the delegates will take their associate Institute of Roofing examination.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for those people wishing to obtain a qualification in a supervisory/management role, or upgrade from licentiate grade," said training officer Brian Middlemiss.



## Abrasive wheels

Are your operatives in need of refresher training?

The group is delivering the safe use of abrasive wheel training at Capital Roof Training, Greenwich, on Thursday May 27 between 12.30 and 16.30. This half-day course costs members £65 per person, including certification and ID card.

## Asbestos awareness

One of the group's most popular courses is the half-day asbestos awareness course, which runs throughout the year. Course content is as follows:

- ◆ Asbestos – what is it?
- ◆ Where is it?
- ◆ What I need to do.

The next course takes place on May 20 at Capital Roof Training, Greenwich. Cost to members is £60 per person, and includes certification.

## Emergency first aid

This one-day course, which replaces the first aid appointed persons course and is accepted by the

**London & Southern**  
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– Institute of Roofing –

# Support grows for regional meetings

**R**oofing organisations in the North West recently came up with the idea of sharing a roofing convention for the large number of people with this common interest.

The IoR, National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) North West Region and the North West Region Roof Training Group all met up on March 18 at the David Lloyd Fitness Centre near Chorley.

Members of the three organisations – over 80 present in total – involved themselves in each other's business and were able to share ideas and best practice.

Wayne Bagnall, specialist safety adviser, trainer in asbestos and demolition safety and a leading authority in the field, was guest speaker for the IoR, holding the audience with his informative presentation on the subject.

The region's next meeting is to include a presentation from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

## London and Southern

Training officer Brian Middlemiss welcomed group and IoR members to the meeting at Fleming Park Leisure Centre in Eastleigh on February 24.

Among the many items on the agenda were a number of ways in which increased awareness and membership of the IoR in the region might be achieved.

Carol Dukes (IoR) has since been liaising with the training group's centre at Capital Roofing in Greenwich to standardise the courses and costs where possible.

Discussions also took place on the IoR's plans to develop a scheme whereby licentiates, associates and members will be able to undertake on-site assessment and training (OSAT) in construction contracting operations 4 (CCO4) with funding available through ConstructionSkills.

The next meeting is being held on May 13 at South Coast Roof Training, Littlehampton, when

a presentation on photovoltaic and solar energies launched at Eco Build will take place.

## Midlands

Guest speaker Keith Roberts of Roberts Consulting addressed the second meeting of this regional IoR group with a presentation on improving the reliability of the roofs we design and build.

About 20 members and their guests from throughout the region attended the meeting which was hosted by the National Construction College Midlands.

IoR vice-chairman Martin Adwick said: "With this second meeting we are beginning to establish our presence here.

"We would like to achieve this throughout all our regions, although we recognise it will take time. Our members have indicated that speakers such as Keith, who present on a roofing topic which is interesting and informative, will encourage more existing and prospective members to these meetings."

If anyone who would like to present a particular topic or can suggest any ideas for presentations, please contact Carol Dukes.

Other regional meeting dates are as follows:

- ◆ South West – Holiday Inn, Taunton, May 18.
- ◆ Scotland – date and venue to be arranged.

## Set sail for the AGM

Last year it was all about trains; this year's annual general meeting, on October 14, takes on a nautical theme with HMS Belfast as the venue.

Owned and managed by the Imperial War Museum, HMS Belfast is permanently moored between London Bridge and Tower Bridge.

"We hope it lives up to last year's venue at the National Railway Museum – some members travelling from the regions may like to combine the trip to the AGM with a short break in London," said Carol.



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– Ploughcroft Training –

# Solar training wins prestigious award

**P**loughcroft has received another award to add to its already impressive list.

Chris Hopkins and his team received the Yorkshire and the Humber Microgeneration Partnership Awards 2010 for best business initiative at a presentation ceremony in York last February.

Chris said: "We are delighted to receive this award for our role in the design, development and roll-out of a solar roof training course.

"For the last three years we've been working very closely with the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) and ConstructionSkills to produce this course, which has now been delivered to over 100 companies nationwide."

Ploughcroft has also become the first roofing company in the UK to gain Microgeneration

Certification Scheme (MCS) accreditation for solar installations, allowing its customers to benefit from the feed-in tariff set at 41.3p per unit. Once a company becomes MCS-accredited it is able to carry out the full solar installation itself.

The company has now developed a suite of solar roof training courses, including solar surveying, solar sales, solar access, and a guide to MCS accreditation and many more.

Chris said: "We have recognised the urgent need to help the roofing industry move into the microgeneration sector.

"I believe competent roofers are already equipped with most of the skills needed to carry out the full solar installation; the extra courses we have designed will help roofers move into this market nationally."



**Ploughcroft**  
Solar Roof Training Courses



## Solar Roof Training Courses around the UK

### Benefits of upskilling into solar...

- Training in new technologies
- Upskill your staff
- Qualified solar installers in demand
- Extra services to clients
- Demand for solar is growing
- £££ access to the rapidly expanding solar market

### Courses available...

#### NFRC solar course

Ploughcroft working with the NFRC to provide thermal and PV solar panel training for roofers

#### Solar PV for roofers

Upskill roofers to install various photovoltaic solar panel systems

#### Solar surveying

Surveyors looking to upskill into surveying for solar panel systems

#### Solar sales

All you need to know regarding selling various types of solar systems, feed-in tariffs, and payback periods

#### Solar on-site training

Delegates working on a real-life active solar photovoltaic system

#### Solar Dec and PASMA

Solar Dec access system training for solar panels – PASMA-accredited mobile access tower training

#### Solar working at height and manual handling

Due to the nature of the work and weight of the systems, these two courses are an essential part of a solar installer's training

#### Guide to MCS

Easy step-by-step guide to achieving your MCS accreditation



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– Fall Arrest Safety Equipment Training –

# Stay safe with the industry experts

Since safety nets were first introduced, Fall Arrest Safety Equipment Training (FASET) has been the trade association and training body for the international safety net rigging and fall arrest industry.

Committed to building, maintaining and expanding knowledge and best practice, it represents all the leading manufacturers and installers in this specialist sector – companies with proven knowledge and expertise.

A collective protection system, and increasingly specified on sites both large and small, safety nets are used to save lives and reduce injury on site by absorbing energy from a falling body. As such they are subject to stringent inspection and maintenance routines.

FASET’s national network of approved and audited training centres provides the only recognised route for anyone wishing to install, inspect and maintain safety nets, or obtain a FASET CSCS safety net rigger card. Accordingly, the card is now recognised and respected as an essential qualification by main contractors and site management.

**Insist on using a FASET member**

- ◆ Proven corporate experience and expertise
- ◆ Approved products to industry standards
- ◆ Recognised testing and maintenance regimes
- ◆ FASET-trained safety net riggers



## CSCS safety net rigger card



- ◆ Definitive proof of competence
- ◆ Only from FASET-approved training centres
- ◆ Covers installation and maintenance
- ◆ The industry standard qualification

The FASET CSCS safety net rigger card is independently recognised to meet all the latest industry requirements. Holding the FASET card gives operatives a clear distinction in terms of knowledge, skills and competency – a distinction increasingly demanded by responsible site owners and managers.

Properly skilled and up-to-date, FASET riggers are quickly becoming the automatic choice in both the UK and overseas.

FASET training is only available from the association’s authorised network of training centres. These employ expert tutors who have been assessed to have the necessary skills, qualifications and experience to become ‘FASET-approved’ trainers.

For details of the various training routes and centres visit [www.faset.org.uk](http://www.faset.org.uk).

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– Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

# All change at the top

**N**ew faces and different roles – that’s the team now leading the group as it builds on previous successes and continues to support all sections of the roofing industry across Yorkshire and the Humber.

The group’s officers were elected at the annual general meeting held in March.

This is the line-up of the group’s officers:



## Chairman – Terry Chiswell

Terry (pictured) is programme leader for roofing occupations at Leeds College of Building (LCB), where he has worked for 12 years. Responsible for the roofing apprenticeship programme, he is a qualified roof slater and tiler and also holds a qualification in applied waterproof membranes.

Terry has been involved in the roofing industry since he was 16 years old and ran a roofing company before moving to LCB to pass on his knowledge and experience to others. A Fellow of the Institute of Roofing, Terry has a special interest in health and safety and holds the NEBOSH certificate.

## Joint vice-chairman – Dominic Cleminson

Treasurer of the training group for five years, Dominic now moves to the position of joint vice-chairman. He runs Bradford Roofing Contractors Ltd, a medium-sized family company established in 1969, which has built a sound regional business base across Yorkshire carrying out all types of slating and tiling work, including heritage.

Dominic has been with the business 28 years, and attended Leeds College of Building where he gained an HND in building studies. He is a member of the Institute of Roofing.

## Joint vice-chairman – Geoff Neal

Geoff has worked in the roofing industry since he was 15 years old, when he began his apprenticeship in roofing when he worked with his father. He has comprehensive roofing and business experience including working in the Middle East. He now runs

Geoff Neal Roofing in York, a successful business with an excellent reputation. Geoff is a Fellow of the Institute of Roofing, vice-chairman of the NFRC (Yorkshire & North East) and a heritage roof master registered with the NFRC.

## Treasurer – Peter Rogerson OBE

Peter is another apprentice trained roofer who has a distinguished history in supporting roofing, with almost half a century of experience in the industry. Peter has always had a keen interest in training and business support and he has held the roles of deputy chairman of ConstructionSkills, president of the NFRC, and is a national honorary life member of the NFRC. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Roofing.

## Plenty for everyone at AGM

Record numbers turned up to the AGM not only to elect the new officers but also to listen to a variety of presentations by the guest speakers.

Sophie Norton (National Heritage Training Group) advised the audience on how to obtain the CSCS heritage card, while John Pegg (ConstructionSkills) gave an excellent presentation on heritage NVQs.

Astra Training’s Mick Aston delivered his talk on methods of roof access, while group training officer Denise Cherry presented the group’s achievements over the past year, as well as talking about the way forward for the next 12 months.

## Highlights from annual report 2009–2010

The group has had many successes over the last year, having increased group membership by five per cent to 105 members.

The number of members actively engaged with the group has also increased. Since the last report, the number of members receiving assistance with funding, training plans and taking up courses has increased from 25 per cent to 35 per cent.

Denise said: “The group has a target to increase this figure up to 50 per cent of its membership over the next 12 months.”

The range of courses subsidised by the group over the past 12 months has included:

- ◆ Asbestos awareness
- ◆ Working at heights
- ◆ PASMA
- ◆ Manual handling
- ◆ Leadwork.

These courses have an average cost of just £30 per delegate; as a result 13 companies (86 learners) have benefited from them. A further 14 learners have taken up management training and qualifications, including the site management safety



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## – Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

training scheme (SMSTS), and NVQ Level 4 in site management at subsidised cost through associate members.

The group now has an interactive website including a discussion forum where members can comment on industry developments. Please visit the site at [www.yirtg.org.uk](http://www.yirtg.org.uk).

### Fingers crossed for NFRC award...

Congratulations to group member Ashtree Roofing of Wakefield for being shortlisted for the NFRC award in roof slating and tiling for the Brookhouse Crescent Development in Wakefield (pictured).

Ashtree Roofing Ltd is a family-run business and a well-regarded employer in Wakefield, usually employing around 30 people at any one time. The company has an excellent internal training structure and many of its staff are apprentice-trained. It has a policy of supporting its staff through NVQ qualifications and the company is 100 per cent CSCS-carded.



### Recruit a top apprentice with our help

The group continues to assist members with recruitment of apprentices and is developing a pre-apprenticeship training programme so that companies can utilise the skills of potential apprentices over the summer months.

The programme includes health and safety, working at heights, PASMA, asbestos awareness and roofing skills, together with product familiarisation and new technologies.

“This is an excellent opportunity for companies to recruit their apprentices early and ensure they are safe, confident and roof-aware when they start work,” said Denise.

### Training courses

#### June

Lead burning – Leeds College of Building

#### September

Institute of Roofing (IoR) – Leeds.

Environmental management courses to be arranged – date and location depending on demand.



## – Redland –

# PV course is re-launched

**T**hirteen years on... and Redland has launched its latest version of the photovoltaic (PV) solar panel course it started a decade ago.

After re-launching the new product at Eco Build, the Redland Training Resource Centre is offering contractor training for its new range of panels.

“Now that the feed-in tariff is available, there will be a demand for the correct installation of this kind of product,” said technical training manager Terry Fearfield.

“We can draw on many years’ experience of this type of installation, as our original solar panels were launched back in 1997, and we’ve been training ever since then.”

Redland PV tiles are fully integrated into the roof, offering a unique guarantee that covers weather-tightness of the junction between panel and roof tile.

The current course covers the installation of four of the seven product lines in the range, plus:

- ◆ How does PV work?
- ◆ Terminology and components

- ◆ Design considerations
- ◆ Different types of installation/panel.

Course costs are £59 plus VAT, which includes all materials, tea, coffee and a buffet lunch.

Also available:

- ◆ NVQ Level 2 roof slating and tiling (via the experienced worker practical assessment (EWPA) route). Dates are available throughout 2010
- ◆ Institute of Roofing licentiate course (slating and tiling) – ten days over ten weeks, starting in May.

For further information, contact the Redland Training Resource Centre on 01285 863545 or at [training@redland.com](mailto:training@redland.com).



**MONIER**

**Redland**

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– South Central Independent Roofing Training Group –

# Want heritage roof training? Look no further than us!



**A** new dedicated training rig is being developed and constructed at South Coast Roof Training for heritage roofing work. This includes upskilling training, swept and laced valleys, etc, and for training towards the heritage NVQ Level 3.

For further details contact group chairman Mike Fildes on 0845 678 0065 or at [scrtlimited@tiscall.co.uk](mailto:scrtlimited@tiscall.co.uk), or group training officer Brian Middlemiss on 07791377559.

## It's a first!

Students attending the centre at South Coast Roof Training in Littlehampton have achieved their Level 2 construction diploma in roof slating and tiling.

As a result a series of foundation courses in roof slating and tiling are now under way at the training centre. These courses are designed as a stepping stone to the Level 2 diploma.

Mike said: "Currently we have several candidates undertaking NVQ Level 2 and Level 3 via the on-site assessment and training (OSAT) route.

"Although Train to Gain funding has all but dried up, there is still an interest and willingness to achieve these qualifications."

## Youngsters get a taste of roofing

Mike recently met with the education department for West Sussex with a view to offering vocational training for 14-19 year olds, one day a week, at the Littlehampton centre. If successful, this could be offered to other areas.

## The benefit of training plans

The group has been using and developed training plans for over four years now.

Why? Training plans give you the benefit of identifying and developing the skills and knowledge of not just site operatives, but of the entire workforce.



Planning and programming these training needs in advance gives the team confidence and a feeling of understanding of when training is to be delivered. Budgets are agreed and grants in place before any training begins, so there is no need to keep sending claim forms in on every separate training occasion. Grants are paid quarterly and audited at the year end.

Training plans have the added benefit of being available for presentation to existing or potential new customers when proving your commitment towards training and developing a competent workforce.

Don't worry about getting started; if you require any help to produce your training plan, assistance is always available from group training officer Brian Middlemiss and the company development adviser Michelle Malone, training and development manager at Malone Roofing.

## Important news on CSCS black cards

Managers who hold a black CSCS card obtained through industrial accreditation must renew these cards prior to the expiry date. If not, they will have to achieve an NVQ Level 3 or 4 or be a member of a professional institute (such as the Institute of Roofing) to obtain a replacement.

For further details please contact group training officer Brian Middlemiss on 07791 377 559 or at [rooftraining@googlemail.com](mailto:rooftraining@googlemail.com).

## New facilities at Ash Vale

Group members now have great new training facilities at Ash Vale, where the following courses are available:

- ◆ Working with sustainable timber shingles
- ◆ Basic lead flashing
- ◆ Introduction to single ply roofing
- ◆ Introduction to green roofing
- ◆ Paslode impulse training on IM350 model
- ◆ Installation of solar collectors
- ◆ Safety courses.

## Group training courses

As well as those courses mentioned above, the group runs regular courses as follows:

- ◆ Asbestos awareness
- ◆ Abrasive wheels
- ◆ Safe working at height
- ◆ Basic lead bossing
- ◆ Health and safety
- ◆ PASMA tower scaffold
- ◆ Safety harness
- ◆ Manual handling.



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– Eastern Region Roof Training Group Ltd –

# Milestone for group as SkillBuild comes East

**T**he group is pleased to announce that SkillBuild is coming to the Eastern Region for the first time!

Course lecturer Colin Wombwell has selected four of our own slate and tile apprentices. They are first-year apprentices Billy Jennings (JK Roofing Ltd) and Nathan Mayes (pictured, GHB Roofing), and second-year apprentices Jake Rounce (M Hagarth Roofing) and Laurie Maund (ILM Mouldings).

Group manager Clive Coote said: "This is a major milestone for the group; we hope to continue having the East represented in future SkillBuild competitions, our ultimate aim being one of our apprentices winning the overall event."

## New service proves a winner

After listening to our members cursing the amount of time they spend on health and safety and not really understanding the legislation, the ERRTG took the decision to offer a management of health and safety service.

Since then we have successfully steered members through the nationally-recognised Construction Health and Safety (CHAS) award, with others currently going through the same process. We offer all aspects of managing companies' health and safety, from policies and risk assessments to full site audits.

We are delighted that staff member Angela Clarke has recently achieved her NEBOSH qualification and has since gone on to achieve the Institute of Occupational Safety environmental award. We certainly see this new service as heading towards our main objective of being a 'one-stop shop' for our valued members.

## Heritage lesson

As part of a BB2's primetime Mastercrafts series, our own lecturer Colin Wombwell has helped propel the art of thatching to new heights, by competing for and winning the accolade of 'best apprentice' in his specialist field.

With more than ten years' experience in the trade, Colin decided to take the plunge and learn a new specialism. As part of the show he undertook an intensive six-week apprenticeship in thatching, learning many of the skills needed to start a career in a trade that has unfortunately been diminishing over the decades.

Under the guidance of Matt Williams and David Bragg of Rumpelstiltskin Thatching Company, Oxfordshire, Colin worked under intense scrutiny, getting to grips with the theory, practical and physically very demanding challenges of thatching.

## ERRTG at the Suffolk Show

On June 2 and 3 we will be featuring live roofing demonstrations at our county show. This is a first for us, and one where we hope to portray our services to some 180,000 visitors.

Two apprentices have been chosen to demonstrate natural slating, and we are extremely grateful to Welsh Slate Penrhyn Quarry who had already kindly donated slates for our apprentices.

We are delighted to announce we have Matthew Williams and David Bragg, who both featured in the Mastercrafts programme, attending both days to demonstrate traditional long straw thatching to a mock roofing rig.

"This is a major coup for the group; I am sure it will attract many visitors to our stand to watch the art of laying the thatch. Over the two days we will be displaying our services and hope to recruit some new apprentices and members," said Clive.

## All change!

We decided to update our image and have consequently redesigned our logo. We feel it is now more dynamic and better aimed at the Eastern Region. We will be slowly moving our old logo from our website and stationery.

## New staff member

As a deliverer of apprenticeships we felt we had to lead by example, so are delighted to have employed an apprentice ourselves.

We have just enrolled Megan on to a two-year business administration NVQ Level 2 course with West Suffolk College, and are sure you will find her extremely helpful when dealing with your queries.

## Felt roof apprenticeships?

Do you have a younger member of staff you wish to enrol on to a felt roofing apprenticeship course in the East? If so, help is here!

We are looking for between ten and 12 apprentices to enrol for a September start. This is a new discipline we are eager to deliver, and really hope we can attract enough students to make it work.

The course will be day-release as opposed to block. If you have a potential student or would like help with recruitment of a student, please speak with Clive on 01473 744412.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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– National Metal Training Group –

# Show us **your metal** – enrol on new SAP



Contact: Graham Cashin

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Website: www.metalrooftraining.co.uk

**W**ould-be zinc and copper workers can now learn their trade by taking part in a brand-new specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP), thanks to the hard work of the National Metal Training Group (NMTG) and the assistance of Nigel Johnston of the Lead Sheet Association (LSA).

The first course will begin on June 28 2010 at the LSA training centre in East Peckham, Kent.

Grants are available for qualifying apprentices up to a generous £5,700 (this will be reduced after September 2010).

The apprenticeship, which has been designed with the Metal Roofing Contractors Association (MRCA), encompasses 30 days 'off-station' training being delivered in five-day blocks over a two-year period, which will also include on-site assessment.

NMTG managing director Graham Cashin said: "This is the first apprenticeship qualification that has been made available to the hard metal industry.

"It fulfils a dream that I have had since the 1980s to put this specialist trade firmly on the specialist trade map, and I am proud to be a part of it."

Opportunity exists to enrol on the first hard metal SAP for 2010 – potential apprentices should register their interest today in order to take advantage of the maximum grant available and benefit from this opportunity.

Please contact Claire Iacovou on 0203 004 9934 for further details and start working towards your goals in life.



– National Skip Hire Association –

# Choose NSHA for **reputable** skip hire



Contact : Mark Williams

National Skip Hire Association  
Association House  
22d Victoria Place  
Brightlingsea  
Colchester  
Essex  
CO7 0BX

Telephone: 01206 307107  
Email: info@nsha-uk.co.uk  
Website: www.nsha-uk.co.uk

**T**he National Skip Hire Association (NSHA) was formed in order to protect the public as well as skip hire operators from rogue traders that unfortunately give the trade a bad reputation.

The only trade association for skip hire companies in the UK, the NSHA has members covering the whole of the UK and will only accept bona fide contractors as members. Each has been vetted and has agreed to carry out its business practices by the association's Code of Practice.

The NSHA also operates a brokerage for the general public and businesses supplying skips anywhere in the country, giving the customer peace of mind in the knowledge that they are dealing with a reputable skip hire firm.

If any roofing company or training organisation requires a skip for either commercial or domestic use, at competitive prices, please contact Mark

Williams on 01206 307107. He will arrange delivery to all areas of the UK.

The NSHA accepts payment by cheque or all major credit cards. Online ordering will be up and running within the next four weeks.

Skip hire companies wishing to become a member of the NSHA should contact Mark Williams on 01206 307107 or e-mail info@nsha-uk.co.uk.



– J Wright Roofing –

# High hopes for new training facility

**I**t's great news for roofing companies in the East Midlands – a state-of-the-art roofing college has been set up to ensure that the industry can recruit youngsters with the relevant skills.

The college is the brainchild of Jason Wright of J Wright Roofing, who believes that the centre will boost jobs and help bridge the skills gap.

Jason is no stranger to running a successful business – the origins of J Wright Roofing began when he himself was made redundant as an apprentice. Determined not to be beaten at such an early stage in his career, he borrowed £1,000 from his grandad, bought a van and some equipment and with his friend (also redundant), drove round the Nottingham area targeting local firms for work.

The business grew and grew, Jason rented and then bought some premises, took on his own employees... and the rest, as they say, is history. Today there are some 40 employees on the books and no subcontractors. Over the past 15 years the company has employed around 30 apprentices and only two have left to go and work elsewhere.

Working alongside Jason for the past ten years has been Livia Williams, who is the company's financial director as well as playing an active role in Jason's plans for the business. They are both pictured (top and bottom) in the new centre.

"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."

Plans are for the new centre to take around 48 students a year from roofing companies across the region.

"East Midlands region is crying out for a training facility like this," explained Jason.

"It is time for a quality facility to cater for apprentices of the roofing trade in Nottingham and the surrounding areas. I am delighted that, despite all the economic downturn, we have managed to open the new training facility and support the industry."

East Midlands Roofing College is an accredited centre which delivers roof slating and tiling and heritage apprenticeships, and also NVQ Level 2 and 3 in roof 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.

In September this year the college will have the first intake of apprentices for Year 1 slating and tiling. "Because employers' views were taken into consideration when designing the apprenticeship programme, it will run on a day release rather than block-week release," said Jason. "We want to ensure we work closely with employers and encourage them to put apprentices on courses and carry on training."

The college is deeply involved in working with young students from the local academies, delivering taster days and work experience, as well as promoting careers in the roofing industry and encouraging young apprentices.

However, developing the college hasn't prevented Jason from leading the company forward in its own right.

With a particular interest in heritage work, he recently won an award for his work at the law courts in Birmingham and he has been busy on developments at Nottingham Trent University.

In addition, the company has won its first overseas contract for the British Embassy in Jamaica.

Not bad considering it is all down to determination and grandad's £1,000 loan...



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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: Middleton School, Milton Keynes is an exemplar of modern school construction under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. The multi-geometry roofs comprise 30-year durability single ply membrane on high-performance insulation supported by a profiled metal deck. The job was completed by SPRA member Voland Roofing with Leadbitter Construction as main contractor. (Photo courtesy of SPRA)

# News, views, comments and questions?

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

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