

ROOF OVERVIEW

The voice of roof training

Issue 8
Spring 2011



Heritage
CSCS cards



Slating and tiling



Asbestos
awareness



Single ply

... plus much more!



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

Editor's view

It's another bumper issue, with several new faces to our pages, so welcome everyone to Issue 8 of Roof Overview.

You'll see that the heritage sector features prominently throughout, from the latest on the sector's long-awaited CSCS cards (page 4), to the much-acclaimed specialist apprenticeship scheme in heritage roofing (page 14) and its wholehearted endorsement by a key supporter, the National Heritage Training Group (page 17).

Of course, there are our regular contributors, the roof training groups, who continue to provide excellent training courses at very affordable prices. The groups' training officers are to be commended for their dedication and determination to support their members in these difficult economic times.

Of course, the dilemma is always whether

or not to train when times are tough, and money is tight. There is no doubt, when reading through these pages, that the overwhelming response is that training will stand companies in good stead to move quickly forward when we finally come out of this recession.

The industry's key member federations and organisations are a huge source of support and advice, whatever the economic climate, and several of them feature in this issue.

We hope you enjoy reading these articles and look forward to hearing your news and views for the next issue.




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If it's right to use a ladder, use the right ladder and get trained to use it safely

Be ladder competent ... get a LadderCard. Completion of a Ladder Association training course helps provide the proof of competence demanded by the Work at Height Regulations. Courses are delivered only by Ladder Association-approved training centres.

- Ladder Association training delivers confidence and competence
- Professional training from the industry experts available nationwide
- Publications, products and website cover all aspects of ladder use



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Mobile access towers: advancing safety and best practice

Recognised and respected as the ultimate authority on mobile access towers, PASMA is a leading trade association in the working at height sector.

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 photo card as the only proof of competence when it comes to assembling, inspecting, moving and dismantling towers.

- Nationwide training through PASMA approved training centres
- Advice, information and guidance on tower use and safety
- Safety-related products including the PASMA Code of Practice



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– Ploughcroft Training –

Book now and save money!



Brighouse-based Ploughcroft is offering a 20 per cent discount on training courses booked before May 13.

A range of courses is available, including MCS accreditation, solar surveying, solar PV for electricians, solar PV for roofers, solar thermal for plumbers, plus many more.

The company's eco roof visitor centre boasts a specially-adapted training facility for solar installation expertise. It has a number of different roof types, from slate to tiled; it can also offer the unique opportunity of seeing a live solar system in action, complete with monitoring system.

All courses are available in its two centres: Huddersfield or Stoke.

Ploughcroft's pedigree as a training provider can be emphasised by the fact that the company has also worked with the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) and ConstructionSkills to develop a course for roofers looking to gain key competencies in solar PV and solar thermal.

For more information and a schedule of all Ploughcroft's training courses, visit www.ploughcroftraining.co.uk.

Green light given to eco roof centre

As Roof Overview reported in its last issue, final plans were under way for an official day at Ploughcroft's eco roof visitor centre.

And the event did not disappoint – guests from all walks of life, including the mayor of Calderdale, farmers, surveyors, as well as roofing contractors, attended the opening on February 4.

The day encompassed a whole range of activities, including advice from in-house experts on solar products and installation, a demonstration of the UK's first solar log system in action and the showcasing of environmental products by Ploughcroft staff.

One of the main features of the day was a talk

by a leading architect of the Eden Project, Michael Palwyn, who discussed how Britain can create a solar economy by moving away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy.

Based in Brighouse, near Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, the centre aims to raise awareness of environmentally-friendly and power-generating products that can be fitted to a roof. Open to industry professionals, schools, homeowners and environmentalists, the centre aims to educate people in the advantages of renewable technologies.

Ploughcroft's managing director, Chris Hopkins, said: "We are very excited to be opening our new centre to the public. It sets us apart from other solar companies in the north of England and shows customers our level of commitment to making solar become the leading form of sustainable energy in Britain."



"When visitors come to the centre, they'll receive advice from our in-house experts on solar products and installs, as well as being shown the UK's first solar log system in action and viewing the range of solar panels available for their install."

In addition, Ploughcroft will provide its award-winning solar and roofing training sessions at the Centre – the only NVQ-accredited solar roofing training centre in the UK.

The opening marks a further milestone in Ploughcroft's continuing success as one of Britain's leading lights in the promotion and installation of solar technologies.



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– Lead Contractors Association –

What's the point?

It all looked so promising – top-level decisions were taken to ensure only qualified workers could work in the heritage sector. But, two years later, there is still no final commitment to this quality standard initiative. Ray Robertson, secretary of the Lead Contractors Association, discusses his sector's frustrations and the risks involved to future initiatives if all their preparations have been in vain.

2009 – the major players in the heritage sector of the construction industry challenged contractors to sign up for an initiative which would spell the end of unqualified, inappropriately-skilled contractors working on national heritage sites.

For once, making sure a job was done the right way was being made a priority over trying to get the job done for the right (cheapest) price.

2010 – the members of the LCA rose to that challenge and more than 300 signed up (at a cost) to be recognised as heritage skills specialist leadworkers and receive the newly-conceived CSCS card, believing the major client base involved would be approving exclusive use of this carded workforce on heritage projects.

April 2011 – we are still waiting for a commitment to this quality standard initiative from the sector's major client group – English Heritage.

While all the right supportive noises have been made at various senior levels within English Heritage, what has been the biggest push in

recent times for meaningful recognition of the heritage specialist is in danger of failing, because of prevarication by the organisation that stands to benefit the most.

The problems at English Heritage have been widely documented, with the national economic crisis requiring drastic cut-backs in the public funding of its budgets, threatening widespread redundancies at all levels.

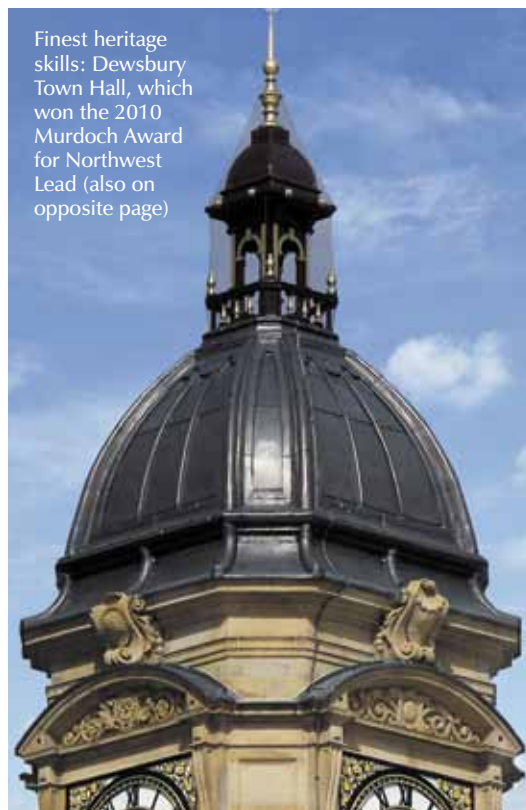
Of course this is a painful and difficult time for many organisations and businesses, including English Heritage, but also including all those contractors, suppliers and manufacturers involved in UK construction.

The National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) has been supported by ConstructionSkills, the union UNITE, and the National Heritage Training Group member craft organisations, in rapidly developing the heritage skills CSCS card initiative.

Once again, specialist leadwork has been at the fore as the craft which was first in achieving the required 'critical mass' of qualified cardholders registered for heritage work, and is now being used as a test case in challenging English Heritage to make their own commitment to quality standards.

The NHTG, flanked by UNITE and the Lead Contractors Association, is seeking urgent talks with English Heritage at the highest levels to persuade them to act now to announce a change in procurement policy to exclusively use heritage skills specialist leadwork CSCS cardholders on English Heritage projects and thereby:

- ◆ Recognise the overall commitment of the craft sector to maintaining quality standards
- ◆ Recognise the specific commitment of the specialist leadwork sector in rapidly achieving a critical mass of registered contractors
- ◆ Send a message to all craft trades that supporting this initiative will be a worthwhile and justified commitment
- ◆ Remove the threat of untrained, unqualified, inexperienced and insufficiently-knowledgeable tradesmen from vulnerable heritage projects
- ◆ Prioritise historically-correct working practices and long-term value for money over short-term, cut-price expediency
- ◆ Protect and preserve today's heritage for future generations.



Finest heritage skills: Dewsbury Town Hall, which won the 2010 Murdoch Award for Northwest Lead (also on opposite page)



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– Lead Contractors Association –

Despite our frustrations, the LCA believes English Heritage will eventually do the right thing, perhaps simply because any alternative course will put the integrity of the entire heritage sector at risk.

The ground is therefore already being prepared for those that did not register for the heritage skills card during the 'grandfather rights' window which closed in September 2010, yet may have skilled and experienced craftsmen who will

be prevented from working on heritage sites.

In conjunction with the Lead Sheet Association, the LCA is pressing ConstructionSkills to recognise an experienced worker practical assessment (EWPA) route to gaining a nationally-recognised Level 3 qualification in heritage skills which would then enable contractors to apply for their heritage skills CSCS card.

As well as providing the EWPA

assessment venue, the LSA's general manager Nigel Johnston is also exploring the potential for providing an on-site facility for the 'Health & Safety – Working at Heights' test, thus providing a more convenient single venue to process applicants and minimise the time lost from site.

Once again the leadwork sector has taken the initiative, as we always will do when there is the opportunity to press others to recognise the level of quality standards which we have worked so hard to achieve and are determined to maintain.

The standards of the leadwork sector – our years of policing, quality control, comprehensive reference literature and technical support – are the envy of every other roofing trade, but it comes at a long-term price, both financially and in terms of commitment.

There is a very real danger that if this craft skills initiative stalls, we risk the prospect of our built heritage being vandalised and iconic buildings, such as the dome at St Paul's, being covered in a lead sheet look-alike in the future because all the traditional lead craftsmen have disappeared.

There is also the danger that when English Heritage and others next seek support from contractors for future important 'initiatives' they risk being met with a simple response:

“What's the point?”



– Lead Sheet Association –

It's not only lead training we're great at!

Did you know that the Lead Sheet Association offers excellent training in more than leadworking skills?

The state-of-the-art training centre in East Peckham, Kent, has been delivering courses in plumbing over the past few years and employment take-up following this training has been very good.

Current training now combines theory and practical as one course – City & Guilds 6189-11 diploma in plumbing and heating – as the industry decided that this was a preferred alternative to the former technical certificate obtained at the college, followed by the NVQ gained on site.

General manager Nigel Johnston said: “Training is open to everyone over the age of 19 who is either employed or looking for work.”

Students can choose between a full-time course over eight weeks, or a more flexible option which takes up to 18 months, followed by on-site assessments.



Key benefits of training with the LSA include very small numbers on each course, so trainees can learn on a one-to-one basis. An interest-free flexible payment schedule is also available.



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– London & Southern Roofing Training Group –

Excellent feedback on our courses

Directors – you must face up to your safety responsibilities!

Senior management personnel are legally required to take responsibility for the health and safety of their staff, but this whole area can present quite a problem.

That is why the group regularly runs a one-day course which clearly outlines these responsibilities

and training at very competitive rates.”

Glowing review for safety training scheme

It isn't only the directors' safety responsibilities course that has been receiving accolades. The site management safety training scheme has been

well attended and delegates have found the training excellent, as Mark Notridge of Kinsley Roofing reports:

“I was recently enrolled on a site management safety training scheme course with the London & Southern Roofing Training Group by my company, Kingsley Roofing.

“Having not been on any formal training of this kind and for this duration, I was, to say the least, apprehensive – five days of health, safety and welfare!

“However, my fears were unsubstantiated as we enjoyed a superb venue at Gatwick Manor Royal, Crawley, a lecturer who put us all at ease, and exceptional refreshments throughout the course.

“The course itself was not all plain sailing and in parts was quite demanding, but enjoyable, and if something is worth having it's worth working for.

“All the delegates on the course agreed that it is one of the best courses we have attended and we have all learnt a great deal, which will assist us in our roles on site.

“I can recommend this course to any other delegates who are wondering if it is suitable and value for money. If you have any responsibilities for safety on site, this course is a must.”

Regular courses

The following are another three of the group's many regular courses – please contact Brian for your training requirements.



and the regulations they must meet. And from the many comments received from delegates, it's clear to see why. The following is what MGI Home Improvements director Mike Goldbroom had to say:

“As a director of a relatively recently-formed company, I found the course invaluable in highlighting the roles and duties of a company and its directors, the pitfalls of writing a safety policy, the current terminology when completing a health and safety questionnaire, the procedures for auditing, reviewing and monitoring health and safety and the benefit of a proactive safety culture.

“The course has been of great benefit to our all-round understanding of health and safety. From this course, one of our directors has now enrolled on the forthcoming site management safety training scheme (SMSTS) course.

“I would recommend that other members of the group take full advantage of the facilities provided by the London & Southern Roofing Training Group, who can provide support, advice

London & Southern
Roof Training Group

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– London & Southern Roofing Training Group –

Working safely at heights

The Working at Height Regulations cover all industries and all areas, not just construction. The one-day course provides basic information on safe working practice for work at height. It covers what working at height is, duties of working at height, fall protection hierarchy and personal protection.

Objectives

By the end of the course all delegates will be able to:

- ◆ List the four hierarchical levels of control while working at height
- ◆ Produce a risk assessment for working at height
- ◆ Recognise various fall prevention measures
- ◆ Recognise the associated personal protective equipment required
- ◆ Identify duty holders under the Working at Height Regulations 2005.

Asbestos awareness

This formal half-day training session identifies the hazards and risks of asbestos through highly participative group and individual exercises.

Objectives

By the end of the session all delegates will be able to:

- ◆ Name the three main types of asbestos that was used
- ◆ Identify where asbestos may be present
- ◆ Explain the procedures to be followed should asbestos materials be discovered
- ◆ List the health concerns from exposure to asbestos
- ◆ Specify the procedure for removing non-licensed materials
- ◆ State the procedure for the disposal of asbestos-containing materials
- ◆ Demonstrate the procedure for personal protection and decontamination.

Abrasive wheels

This half-day formal training session identifies hazards and risks through highly participative group and individual exercises.

Objectives

By the end of the session all delegates will be able to:

- ◆ Understand the requirements of the provision and use of work equipment regulations
- ◆ Identify hazards arising from the use of abrasive wheels
- ◆ Recognise the standard markings British Standards/European Norm
- ◆ Understand the methods of testing functions of components and the mounting procedures
- ◆ Methods of dressing abrasive wheels
- ◆ Adjustment of guards and rests.

– Confederation of Roofing Contractors –

We are supporting **roof training** all the way

This year the Confederation of Roofing Contractors (CORC) is stepping up its support of roof training by sponsoring awards for two regional roof training groups: Eastern and London & Southern.

“The standards of roofing skills can only be

maintained and improved if roofers are correctly trained and qualified, and we are committed to supporting training across the board,” said CORC’s chief executive officer, Allan Buchan.

The same high standards are demanded of every member of CORC. All applicants must be

prepared to put their business under scrutiny. The application, although straightforward, is comprehensive and insists on proof of competent work, as well as trade references.

Benefits of membership include advice on drawing up a method statement, terms and conditions, guarantees, and running a business.

Based in Brightlingsea, Essex, Allan and his team (pictured) are available every day either in person or on the end of a telephone line to members and non-members alike.



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– Institute of Roofing –



Going green for this year's AGM

The Institute of Roofing always tries to hold its annual general meeting at interesting and unique venues, which in recent times have included the new Wembley Stadium, National Railway Museum and HMS Belfast.

This year is no exception, with the announcement that the 2011 AGM will be held at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses.

Situated in Edgbaston, Birmingham, and designed by J C Loudon, a leading Victorian garden planner, horticultural journalist and publisher, the Botanical Gardens are set in 15 acres of some of the most exquisite and beautifully-landscaped formal gardens in Britain.

This unique setting will be the perfect location for what will be the Institute of Roofing's 31st AGM. It will be held on Thursday October 13 in The Garden Suite and followed by a buffet lunch.

Further details and invitations will be issued in due course, but keep logging on to the IoR website, www.instituteofroofing.org, for the latest updates and other IoR events.

- ◆ Improving internal communication by organising regular Skype conference calls for the board of governors, in addition to their quarterly meetings at Roofing House.
- ◆ Planning and overseeing the introduction of the IoR members' newsletter – Editorial – as part of her role on the PR committee.
- ◆ Researching and implementing the facility to enable members to pay their annual subscriptions by credit or debit card.
- ◆ Helping to re-establish and encourage IoR regional meetings, including attendance at many.

Chairman Martin Adwick said: "On behalf of the IoR board of governors, I would like to thank Carol for all her hard work and dedication, and wish her well."



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Carol moves on to pastures new

After over two and a half years at the Institute of Roofing as secretary to the board of governors, Carol Dukes is leaving at the end of April 2011 to pursue other opportunities.

During her time at the IoR, Carol has been instrumental in helping the organisation move forward in many significant areas, including:

- ◆ Radically updating the accounting system by moving this on to the industry-standard SAGE package.



– Institute of Roofing –

Regional round-up

All regions, with the exception of two, have held meetings during February, March and April.

Eastern region has been particularly enthusiastic in its get-togethers, this year holding two in as many months.

The first took place at the Ipswich-based premises of Eastern Region Roof Training Group Ltd on February 22, where Gary Southgate of Tata Steel gave a presentation on Part L 2010.

Chris George of Kingspan continued the Part L theme just two weeks later at the Associated Lead Mills training rooms in Hoddesdon.

Meanwhile, Scottish region held its first meeting of the year on March 3 at the Q Club in Glasgow, timed to take place before the arrival of members for their pool evening.

One of the main items on the agenda was to encourage more members to meetings, which will in future be more roofing-orientated. The next two meetings will take place on Thursday June 2 and Thursday September 1, at venues to be confirmed.

Regional funds are very low at present so sponsorship of future meetings will be essential. SIG will sponsor the September meeting, with a presentation on the new Part L / Part J Building Regulations and their impact on the roofing industry.

The Birch and Bottle in Stretton was the venue for the North West region's meeting on March 14. Just two days later, the Midlands region met at the Marley Eternit Roofing Training Centre, Burton-upon-Trent, organised by IoR regional director James Slater and attended by chairman Martin Adwick and 25 others, four of whom were guests interested in becoming members.

The main theme for the evening was an interesting presentation by UK Siphonx on siphonic roof drainage. There was so much interest from the floor that the presentation had to be curtailed to try and keep to the programme and allow other items to be discussed!

Regional meetings for the first four months finished on April 7 in Ireland – the first to be held here in over 20 years.

Carol Dukes said: "We are building up a pool of guest speakers that regions can call upon to invite to their meetings if

they are unable to arrange a speaker for themselves.

"We have analysed the response to our questionnaire and it seems that generally we are getting the format and timing of the regional meetings correct.

"However, we welcome members' comments and suggestions about how to improve anything relating to these meetings and making them more popular."

CSCS management card benefit to all members

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

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

THE INSTITUTE OF ROOFING
IoR
Roofing (Construction) Professionals

The nationally recognised and respected organisation for roofing professionals

– Redland –

Top training courses for roofers

At Redland we offer a wide variety of training courses for roofers, including:

- ◆ NVQ Level 2 in slating and tiling via the experienced worker practical assessment (EWPA) route
- ◆ Institute of Roofing (IoR) licentiate course
- ◆ Pitched roof estimating
- ◆ NVQ Level 2 sheeting and cladding via the experienced worker practical assessment (EWPA) route



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– Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

Specialist award for very special roofers

One of Yorkshire's leading roofing companies has won Construction News' specialist roofing award.

Geoff Neal (Roofing) Ltd took this prestigious title for the renovation work Geoff and his team carried out on a church last year. They were selected as principal contractor for major roofing renovation on St Nicholas's Church, a largely Norman building which was modified in the 13th century, in the village of Wetwang.



The project involved removing, and then replacing, the church's existing lead roof, together with ancillary leadwork.

The judges described Geoff Neal Roofing as 'a stunning example of a medium-sized company that is

looking to the future and achieving excellence in all the key areas – a first class roofing company'.

The business has grown and flourished through three generations of the Neal family. Managing director Geoff Neal's father, George, set up the original roofing business in the 1940s, and today Geoff's son Oliver is employed as contracts director.

Speaking about this award-winning contract and other recent projects, Geoff said: "Leadworker Carl Tumman, who achieved a silver award from the Lead Training Academy, and estimator and health and safety manager Adam Gontarek, have had a particularly positive effect on winning new business and delivering outstanding workmanship."

Geoff added that the company's smartest decision over the past 12 months has been to successfully apply for heritage CSCS cards for its employees. "As a result, we are now one of the few companies in the region to carry these cards," he explained.

"This industry recognition of our specialist skills has enabled the company to expand the services it can offer and bid for new types of work."

A past chairman of the training group, Geoff is totally committed to training. This year his company training is likely to include three candidates on special apprenticeship programmes – proof indeed that continued training keeps your business at the top of the tree, even in uncertain times like these.

Pathway to Construction – student placements required

The Pathway to Construction initiative aims to support full-time (slating and tiling) students to take up work placements with local companies, and offers a financial incentive (£65 per week) to these companies for supporting the students.

The scheme, supported by the National Confederation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) and administered by ConstructionSkills, offers a transitional route from full-time student to apprentice.

Participating roofing companies have the advantage of a work-ready and knowledgeable trainee who has completed one year's study, and who can complete up to 16 weeks' work experience with the company who will undertake to consider the student for an employed apprenticeship position during this time.

To be eligible, companies must expect to have a vacancy for a second-year apprentice following the trial period. They must also provide the student with a site mentor who will work with the student to complete a full range of roofing tasks while on site.

After recruiting the student on to an apprenticeship, the company will benefit from all the funding assistance available to companies supporting apprentices, including a generous allowance for completion of the diploma and NVQ Diploma.

Contact group training officer Denise Cherry on 07971 232645 for further information.



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– Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group –

Heritage roofing SAP is coming to Yorkshire

Please contact Denise to register your interest for the special apprenticeship programme in heritage roofing.

SMSTS courses help roofing companies improve their business

Denise recently completed the site management safety training scheme (SMSTS) course, together with Jane Penny of Leeds-based Inner City Roofing

Jane came top of the class, achieving 100 per cent in the course end test. “We both enjoyed the course and feel it will help us to confirm our knowledge with regard to legislation, site set-up, risk assessments and method statements,” said Denise.

“I thought we were setting a trend, until I



spoke to Andrea (pictured below) at Sothall Roofing Ltd of Sheffield, who had taken the course almost six years ago. However, she will have to complete it again because she has missed the six-month window to renew the course.”

Andrea began her repeat course in April, taking advantage of the funding available in Yorkshire and Humber, which offers courses at £250.

She said: “Working in the administration side of Sothall Roofing, part of my role is to assist the surveyors and contract managers with the risk assessment and method statements.

“I decided to do this course to give me a better understanding of health and safety on construction sites, and to gain more knowledge in these areas.”

Andrea added that she is also responsible for training of the



Top marks: Denise (left), Jane and Birkwood’s SMSTS trainer Darren Lycett

company’s operatives, and the course emphasised the need to keep the roofers up-to-date with training and current legislation.

“I found the first course very useful and covered the areas I had expected, and much more too,” she said.

“However, I’m really glad to be taking the course again, as there have been so many changes in the past six years.”

Improving Standards in Flat Roofing

Built-up felt roofing (RBM)

Improving awareness – a guide to good practice

23 May – Wakefield – £95

A one-day course presented by Bob Cooper FlOR

The courses are designed to provide a basic understanding of the various components, complexities, design criteria, and correct methods of installation that constitute properly-installed built-up felt roofing systems. Each course consists of a choice of subjects, including:

- ◆ **Flat roofing – the basics**
- ◆ **An introduction to reinforced bituminous membranes**
- ◆ **The application of built-up roofing**
- ◆ **Flat roof surveys – problem-solving and specifying**
- ◆ **The manufacture of roofing felt**

◆ **Safe use of bitumen boilers and gas torches on site**

The course will be of benefit to all those involved in flat roofing.

To inexperienced roofers, it will provide the knowledge essential for them to understand the materials and methods of application involved in their day-to-day work.

For experienced flat roofers, it will act as a refresher or upskilling course to remind them of what constitutes good practice when installing built-up roofing systems, and raise their awareness of the materials they use.

– Midland Roof Training Group –

Neville reaches a milestone birthday

The group would like to send special wishes to Neville Harris on the celebration of his 80th birthday.

Neville has been a keen supporter of the group for over 35 years and continues to be an active committee member.

“We are grateful for all his hard work and experience supporting roof training and look forward to working with him for many years to come,” said group training officer Livia Williams.

Below are the group’s training highlights and key events so far this year:

- ◆ SkillBuild heats are taking place at the National Construction College Midlands – good luck to all our competitors, and hope to see some/all of you at the finals!
- ◆ Come on, all you employers – the National Construction College Midlands is currently organising an intake of roof slating and tiling advanced apprentices, so do take advantage of this excellent opportunity.
- ◆ Following on from its open day in April, East Midlands Roofing College is currently enrolling apprentices on to the May roof slating and tiling course.

- ◆ Congratulations to all those individuals/companies who were successful in the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) health and safety awards.

- ◆ It’s another string to our bow – the group is now able to offer basic leadworking courses accredited to the Lead Sheet Association.

- ◆ In these difficult economic times, it is good to know that the group still has funding available to deliver NVQ Level 2 and 3 on-site qualifications, so please show your interest now before it runs out.

And finally – SMSTS courses are available now, very reasonably priced at £550, on a day-release basis.



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– Airborne Environmental Consultants Ltd –

Asbestos training: learn with the experts

Don't forget – 10% discount for roofers when you book on one of our courses!



Contact: Madeleine Heyes

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Airborne Environmental Consultants Ltd (AEC) work closely with the North West Roofing Training Group and have trained many of the members to UKATA CAT

A and B (asbestos awareness and non-licensed asbestos removal training), as well as providing them access to a UKAS laboratory for asbestos analysis and water absorption testing.

AEC have opened an office in Rainham, Essex, and would like to provide the outstanding service received by members in the north west to those of you in the south of England.

For further details of our training courses and the ten per cent discount applied to the roofing industry please contact Madeleine Heyes on 020 3384 6175, or e-mail madeleine.heyes@aec.uk.net and quote ROOFING.

Spotlight seminar moves south

Not to be missed! Following several years of successful spotlight seminars throughout the north of England, AEC are hosting a ‘Spotlight on Health & Safety – Healthy Workplaces: Good for you, Good

for Business’ in the south of England, at our London office (see panel for address), on Thursday June 23 to celebrate the launch of our new southern office.

Seminars include topics such as ‘avoiding disturbing asbestos’, ‘don’t let fire be your exit’ and an update on the new ‘BS 8580:2010 water quality – risk assessments for Legionella control’. With guest speakers from the HSE and UKAS, the information and experience gained from this free event will be invaluable to you and to your business.

For more information please contact Madeleine Heyes on 020 3384 6175, or e-mail madeleine.heyes@aec.uk.net.



– East Midlands Roofing College –

East Midlands celebrates its very own roofing college

It took three long, hard years to get there. But the official launch of the first-ever dedicated roofing college in the East Midlands proved that every step of the way had been worth the effort.

The Bulwell-based East Midlands Roofing College (EMRC) received a massive seal of approval from councillors, businesses and North Nottingham MP Graham Allen at the ceremony on April 13. Representatives from educational establishments, roofing firms and other supporters attended the celebrations, together with the apprentices themselves who are gaining vital skills.

The college – brainchild of Jason Wright, managing director of J Wright Roofing – opened its doors in January to 11 young people keen to start on roofing careers.

In May it will welcome another dozen young people ready to learn roofing skills.

Graham Allen said: “I would do anything to have more people like Jason Wright across Bulwell. This college will give more young people the right start to their careers. It will give them more opportunities to become qualified in the roofing sector. We need these skills for the future.”

As the only roof training provider of its type in the East Midlands, the college is already attracting a huge response from youngsters keen to train in their chosen career. Co-founder of the college, Livia Williams, said: “Not only do we have some talented, enthusiastic individuals being trained here, but we have many apprentices keen to learn their skills here.

“For every place we offer, 22 young people apply, which shows how important this college is.”

Apprentice Kurtis Newbury, 20, was so keen to get a job with J Wright Roofing and an apprenticeship at the college, that he approached

Jason in the pub. Having left school aged 16 with GCSEs in mathematics and English, he didn’t know what he wanted to do.

He said: “I’m really enjoying the course so far. It’s a really great opportunity and Jason is a fantastic mentor. Seeing what Jason has achieved since he was an apprentice is a great way of seeing where we could be in 20 years. This is a long-term career for many of us here and we want to get as much as we possibly can out of this.”

Jason came up with the idea for the college because he was so frustrated that his own young apprentices had to travel miles to a Birmingham roofing college.

He said: “Skills are the lifeblood of the roofing industry and we knew we had to play our part in keeping the industry alive. We have had a great start, but we need the support of local roofing and construction companies to send their apprentices here for training.

“We need the support of employers, especially in the coming year. Apprenticeships are a crucial first step in the employment of young people.”

Despite the economic downturn, EMRC was built with financial support from J Wright Roofing and a £40,000 grant from the East Midlands NTI Catapulting Kids Further! Programme funded by the East Midlands Development Agency (emda).

The college offers apprenticeship training for 16- to 18-year-olds and those who are 19 years and over. Any roofing company across the East Midlands can send their apprentices to the college for instruction in roof slating and tiling Level 2, advanced apprenticeship in roof slating and tiling, and heritage roofing apprenticeships Level 2 and 3. The college is looking to establish the first Diploma in Roofing in the East Midlands.

Jason, who himself started out as a roofing apprentice before setting up his roofing company in 1991, and Livia, are passionate about training and supporting young people.

J Wright Roofing has been operating a successful apprenticeship scheme for more than 12 years. Over the past 15 years, J Wright has had about 30 apprentices – most of whom have stayed with the company.

Livia is the training centre co-ordinator and there are two assessor/tutors, one administrator and one internal verifier. Livia has achieved the A1 assessor qualification and she is now working towards the internal quality assurance qualification.

Livia said: “Roofing is a dying trade and if more isn’t done to nurture young people and encourage them to take on roofing skills, the roofing industry will suffer.”



Enjoying his role as instructor: Ashley Kennie



Big moment: Graham Allen and Jason Wright celebrate the college’s open day with apprentices Jayden Newbury and Kurtis Newbury

EAST MIDLANDS ROOFING COLLEGE
EXCELLENCE IN TRAINING

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– South Central Independent Roofing Training Group –

Positive response from heritage pilot

At last – the heritage specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP) in roofing is up and running, and South Central Independent Roofing Training Group is leading the way in delivering this milestone course.



The SAP, which leads to an NVQ Level 3 in heritage roof slating and tiling, was launched at South Coast Roof Training on March 24 at its training centre in Littlehampton.

The course consists of 30 days' theoretical knowledge and practical experience on specially-designed and built rigs in the workshop, followed by assessment to complete the NVQ.

Group training officer Brian

Middlemiss attended the launch and chatted with the delegates while they worked on the rigs to complete various assignments involving laced valleys, swept valleys, eyebrows, etc.

"It is a long time since I have witnessed so much interest and enthusiasm from delegates on a course, and much of this credit must go to Richard

Jordan, of Jordan Heritage Roofing in Derbyshire, who delivered the pilot scheme," he said.

"They told me that they had carried out similar works on site but now had the knowledge and confidence not only to carry out the work correctly, but to explain the process and construction methods to the end-users and other members of the team.

"One delegate told me that after completing his apprenticeship and having worked on site for many years, he had never learnt as much as on this course – praise indeed!

Future courses will be led by South Coast Roof Training tutors Yusof Abdullah and Peter Cullingham.

"We have already received many enquiries from companies interested in undertaking this course," said Brian.

The next course will start in June, with places limited to six delegates, who must already possess an NVQ Level 2.

Safety has never been more important

Safety and welfare on construction sites have never been more important than now, and any circumstances or incidents which demonstrate inadequacies in these areas can have devastating consequences.

With recent prosecution focusing on the management of health and safety, and with record fines resulting from the new corporate manslaughter act, the group is focusing on

providing the current training requirements.

In addition to the courses on directors' responsibilities for training, and the site management safety training scheme (SMSTS), these requirements will be covered in training for site supervisors in May, at a venue to be confirmed in Hampshire.

"At the moment we are waiting for an exact number and location of delegates to choose an appropriate venue," explained Brian.

"There's no getting away from it – management, from supervisors upwards, must take responsibility for the health and safety of employees working for them."



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– South Central Independent Roofing Training Group –

Are your site supervisors safety-aware?

The Construction Skills site supervisors safety training scheme (SSSTS) was devised to assist site supervisors and site foremen in developing knowledge, awareness and understanding of their legal, moral and social responsibilities in respect of health, safety and welfare on construction sites.

Brian said: "The SSSTS course – Site Safety Plus – is one of the most highly respected qualifications for persons who are responsible for the supervision of construction activities, such as construction, building maintenance, or facilities management.

"Many employers insist that all their site managers hold the certificate and we advise you to attend this course as soon as possible if you haven't already done so."

This two-day course, which requires a minimum of six delegates, will be run on consecutive days at the most convenient local centre. The cost is £210 per person.

Asbestos awareness

Can your operatives prove competence in

asbestos awareness, or are they in need of refresher training?

The group's half-day course in asbestos awareness offers vital knowledge on this potentially life-threatening material.

Abrasive wheels

The group's half-day training sessions on the safe use of abrasive wheels are limited to 12 at any time, so book your place now to avoid disappointment. You can't be too careful with any machinery that you may have to handle.

Prometric testing centres

Health and safety testing for CSCS is now available at South Coast Roof Training. Appointments out of hours or on Saturdays can be arranged by calling 0845 678 0065.

Qualifications in lead occupations

We are pleased to advise that in conjunction with South Coast Roof Training we are now able to offer lead-worker NVQs through on-site assessment and training (OSAT). However, no Train to Gain funding is currently available.



– Nimrod Training & Assessment Providers Ltd –

A safe pair of hands

Health and safety has never been more important than it is today. There are constant reminders in the media of the devastating consequences to people, and to businesses, when companies fail to meet legislative requirements.

Fortunately, most employers are conscientious when it comes to making the workplace a healthy and safe place for their staff. And one of the best in the business is Nimrod Training & Assessment Providers Ltd for delivering excellent health and safety training.

That's because Nimrod proprietor Brian Middlemiss not only has excellent qualifications in health and safety, his experience in this area is very difficult to match. His credentials include:

- ◆ Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building
- ◆ Associate member of the Institute of Safety and Health (Tech IOSH)
- ◆ Certificate in Construction Health and Safety (NEBOSH)
- ◆ Certificate to teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector.

Brian has recently been admitted in to the Institute of Learning, which now allows Nimrod to deliver additional accredited courses.

He is also a member of the Thames Valley Branch of the Institute of Safety and Health so all things considered, you know you're in safe (and healthy) hands when you call upon him for advice and training.

An active member of the Surrey branch of the Chartered Institute of Building, Brian has a wealth of experience outside health and safety.

Keeping the Nimrod team busy is training in safety harnesses, working at heights, hot works, risk assessments, abrasive wheel training and manual handling, plus lots more.

If you're worried about having to attend a certain course on a certain date, that's not a problem as far as Brian is concerned. "We provide 'tailored' courses for many clients and will provide on-site or in-house training to suit timescales and workloads," he said.

Convinced that Nimrod might be just the team to help you and your business through these tricky times? Then give Brian a ring – you won't be disappointed.



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– Capital Roofing Co Ltd –

Not only the name is Capital

Why is Capital Roofing such a well known name in and around London?

For some, it is because of the company's dedication to training; others swear by the excellent products; many local people have benefited by its commitment to helping others.

The roofing contracting company was founded in 1968 by Eric Peck, and is today run by his two sons, joint managing directors Terry and Gary. Terry's son Tom is the third generation to work for the family business and is already showing all the skills and work ethics expected of 'Team Peck'. He won first prize in the reinforced bituminous membranes section at last year's SkillBuild competition, improving on his excellent performance from the previous year

and becoming 2010's British champion.

Gary's son, Terry, is also making a name for himself in the family business. He received an award for his participation in the IFD World Championships as part of the team from Great Britain in which he took part on two consecutive years. Terry specialised in the flat roofing category at the awards which were held in Budapest and Prague.

However, it is through Capital's dedication to training that many people will have met the team. Training is at the heart of Capital Roofing's strategy, as mirrored by its mission statement 'Look to the Future'. Terry is also current chairman of the London & Southern Roofing Training Group.

In 2003, the company built its own dedicated training centre, which is used not only for training its own staff but is in wide demand from the industry's recognised institutions.

Capital Roofing can offer many courses, including introduction to lead, lead bossing, lead welding, solar panel installation, first aid, abrasive wheels, slating and tiling, felt, asphalt, liquid, manual handling, and many more.

"We were delighted to be recognised for our commitment to training three years ago when we won the prestigious Flat Roofing Alliance's training



We've made it: Terry and Gary at the end of a charity climb

award," said Terry. "Since then we have also achieved recognition from the National Federation of Roofing Contractors, and its chief executive Ray Horwood said that 'the commitment and enthusiasm is always evident, from the directors through to every member of the team'."

While training has always been one of Capital's top priorities, product development is also high on the list. Always one step ahead, it has now developed its own liquid waterproofing products called Cap Roofseal and Cap Roofseal Plus.

Cap Roofseal is an acrylic roof repair system that has many advantages, the best being that it is impervious to water immediately after applying it to the roof surface. Cap Roofseal Plus has fibres added during the manufacturing process, making it an ideal product for roof overlays and repairs.

The products have been in use for the last five years and accelerated tests have been carried out to ten years, with no cracking or signs of wear.

Terry said: "Cap Roofseal has already been used by several London local authorities, schools, housing associations and churches. Housing associations are particularly pleased with the product because of its flexibility, durability and aesthetically-pleasing appearance – it really does do what is says on the tin!"

Capital Roofing is also well known for supporting youth sport and charitable activities. They have walked, run, climbed and played in many races and events to raise thousands of pounds for charity.

And perhaps Terry's favourite is sponsorship of Bexley Football Club, which began when they intervened and saved this 125-year-old club from extinction some 15 years ago. With the help of such companies as Capital Roofing, the club now boasts youth teams from eight years of age to senior teams.

No wonder Nick Rainsford MP described Capital Roofing as 'a beacon of light'. There is little doubt that Terry and his team will continue to shine and lead the way for a long time to come.



Watertight: a recently-completed project at Grosvenor Place, using Cap Roofseal



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– National Heritage Training Group –

Historic roofing in the 21st century

The most significant development in roof training for many years, the heritage specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP) in roof slating and tiling has recently run a pilot course, and such is the success, it will be available nationwide within a few months.

The programme looks at the craft skills and knowledge required to repair, replace and maintain the thousands of roofs covered using traditional and often locally-sourced materials.

It is a positive development which validates the research commissioned by the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) to identify and quantify the lack of traditional building craft skills required to maintain the rich UK historic building stock.

Richard Jordan, of Jordan Heritage Roofing, who has been at the forefront of putting this programme together, is passionate about its influence on re-kindling roofing skills vital to maintaining and repairing the nation's pre-1919 buildings.

"We are trying to re-establish traditional techniques and certain skills that have been lost over time and through modern build," he said.

"New-build techniques are essential in themselves, but they do not address the requirements for older buildings, which need the understanding of the original construction materials and the techniques and skills to reproduce them."



Traditional skills:
lime mortar to a clay plain tile verge

The 30-day training programme is followed by on-site assessment which leads to a Level 3 qualification in heritage roofing. Materials vary from random slate to stone slate and clay tiles, which trainees use in repair, relay and replacement tasks, together with lime mortar, for bedding and torching.

Richard is keen on taking apprentices on site visits, for example to quarries, where they can see

for themselves how slates are produced and their development over the years.

"They need to understand the extraction and differing materials in local quarries," he explained.

"The programme also covers the history of



Fact-finding: visit to a Cornish quarry

roofing, including the availability of materials, methods of use, tools and ancillaries. Differing details, especially outside the current day requirements for materials and legislation, are also high in the programme agenda."

The programme has the backing not only of the NHTG, but also of key federations, such as the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC).

Paul Simons, chairman of the NHTG, said: "Traditional roofs are one of the main features which give historic environments specific uniqueness, regional character and provide a sense of identity.

"The content of this programme was put together by individuals with a desire to improve and enhance existing training provision and extend the knowledge and craft skills of young and experienced roofers alike.

"Having proved the value of this course, the NHTG will look to provide further support to initiate further delivery across the UK to accommodate additional roofing materials. We will provide all areas with appropriate training to help maintain traditional roofs and protect our valued historic environment, and secure the cultural and economic value provided by our historic built environment."

Following the successful pilot, the NHTG is keen to see this SAP in roof slating in tiling take place nationally.

"It will open doors to many roofing contractors whose skills will preserve our nation's heritage – we cannot afford to let this opportunity pass the roofing industry by," Paul said.



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– Single Ply Roofing Association –

SPRA manufacturers lead single ply training

The latest survey of SPRA membrane manufacturers shows that collectively they account for at least 75 per cent of total UK output in terms of area.

With this command of the market comes responsibility for maintaining quality, so it is not surprising that training and manufacturer control of the training database are top priorities.

Off-site training

Manufacturers must:

- ◆ Have their course and off-site facility approved by SPRA
- ◆ Only supply product to companies employing trained installers
- ◆ Maintain a database of individuals supplied with product training cards
- ◆ Make a recorded inspection on an approved pro-forma of all commercial work where a warranty is to be issued.



Approved: off-site training at Flag-Soprema

In the private residential market, all products must be traceable and inspection must be on an appropriate random selection basis, backed up by contractor self-certification.

Training on the job sounds tempting, but not if you're the building client! Besides, it cannot replicate the range of operations and details which are covered by a fully planned and developed course programme.

It is simply not acceptable to issue training certification if the trainee has only used mechanical fasteners and not adhesives, or if they can only weld an internal corner but not a pipe collar.

There is also a health and safety implication and potential for claims of negligence where training is carried out on the roof. Of course, there is ample scope for monitored progress after completion of training – a bit like the green L plate – and here again, the manufacturer has a role to play.

SPRA welcomes supplementary training and



Useful: Sika Sarnafil training support vehicle

product updates using mobile facilities, but fully supervised training must be provided off site. Mobile units can be highly cost-effective because installers avoid travelling, yet can carry out practical tasks, such as application of new products, or learn about practical implications of major new developments, such as the Building Regulations Part L.

Colleges

Single ply roofing is a collection of unique, proprietary systems with manufacturers responsible for training. The SPRA Design Guide is the industry standard. So where does that leave college-based training?

Colleges play a vital role in delivering complementary training, such as health and safety or access equipment, but they are unlikely to offer generic single ply courses for some time because of the obligation on manufacturers.

In contrast, facilities operated by regional roof training groups will be key to the delivery of the specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP) for single ply roofing around the regions.

Existing skills

And what about the existing trained workforce? SPRA is fully committed to the QCF (NVQ Level 2) as the benchmark of skill attainment at installer and small gang supervisor level, hence the inclusion of assessment against this qualification at the end of the two-year SAP which will launch later this year.

Want to get trained?

The first contact should be the manufacturer, to apply for a training course. Full details of contacts can be found at www.spra.co.uk or phone 0115 914 4445.



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– Single Ply Roofing Association –



Are you serious about Single Ply?

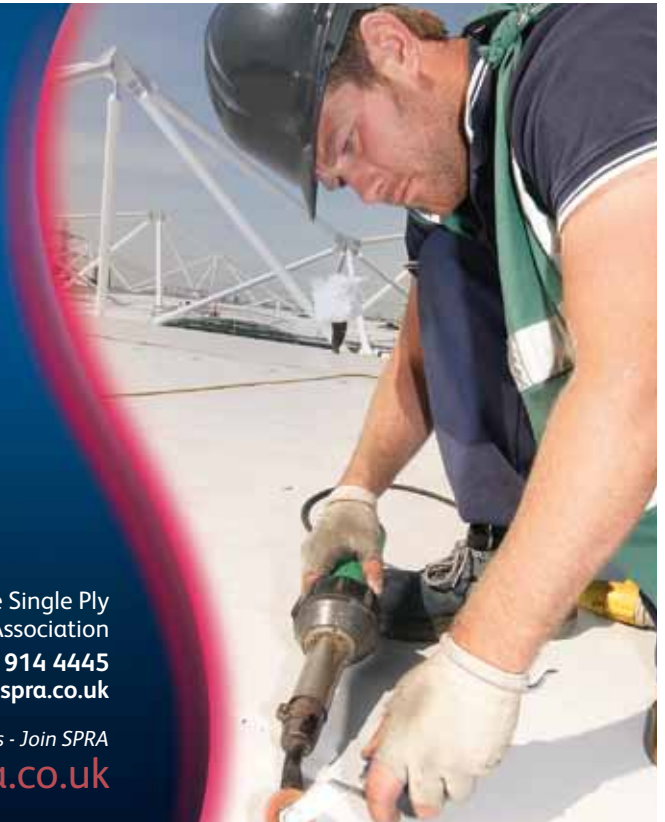
Working with a major membrane manufacturer?
Using a manufacturer trained fitter?
ISO9000 certified?

Are you getting:

- Recognition by main contractors & clients
- Publicity features on your projects
- Discounted training & advice services
- Training & safety advice
- High quality technical updates

Contact the Single Ply Roofing Association
0115 914 4445
enquiries@spra.co.uk

Build your business - Join SPRA
www.spra.co.uk



ZERO APPLICATION / AUDIT FEE OFFER - MARCH TO JUNE 2011

– The Green Roof Centre (on behalf of Life+ Project) –

The Green Roof Code and the Green Roof Guide for the UK



The UK Green Roof Best Practice Code has arrived, facilitated by the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC), paid for by the European Commission Life+ Fund, and written by the members of the Green Roof Organisation (GRO).

The GRO Green Roof Code (www.greenroofcode.co.uk) clearly sets out how to design, specify, install and maintain intentionally-vegetated roofs in the UK.

In parallel with the GRO Code is the Green Roof Guide (www.greenroofguide.co.uk). This free tool holds the same information as the GRO Code, but includes far more guidance and suggestions on how green roofs can be included in projects.

No matter what the size of the green roof project, these two new tools will help improve the standard of green roofs in the UK.

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Front cover: the solar market is becoming big business in today's renewable energy environment, and Ploughcroft is one of the leaders in training and installation of solar photovoltaic panels.

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