

# The LEADER

Issue 7 ■■■ December 2011

The newsletter of the Lead Sheet Association

NSAC

City & Guilds  
Approved Centre

CITB Construction Skills



LEAD SHEET ASSOCIATION

## Scottish leadworker wins prestigious new award

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

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

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

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

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



deserves this award.

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

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

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

Entries are now invited for the Young Leadworker of the Year award 2012.

Following the success of this year's competition and as part of the Lead Sheet Association's long-term commitment to improving standards of leadwork, the competition is now open to all UK contractors.

Entrants must be no more than 25 years old on the closing date of entries, March 31, 2012. Six finalists will be selected and invited to the LSA's training centre in East Peckham for a two-day assessment.

**For an award application pack please call 01622 872432 or e-mail [info@leadsheet.co.uk](mailto:info@leadsheet.co.uk).**

## Help stamp out mindless lead theft

**IF you agree that the theft of lead and other metals must be stopped, please sign the e-petition on our website [www.leadsheet.co.uk](http://www.leadsheet.co.uk).**

The LSA has recently stepped up its campaign to stamp out this

type of mindless crime, not least in promoting the signature of the Government's e-petition which, if it collects 100,000 signatures, could lead to a parliamentary debate on the subject of lead theft. The petition calls for an amendment to the Scrap Metal Merchants Act 1964 to prohibit cash

transactions and make all payments via cheque or directly in to a bank account.

In just two months almost 50,000 people have signed the e-petition, with numbers increasing daily. You can make a real difference by adding your name!

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

# Rush for clean energy raises concerns for lead sheet

**WITH the recent rush for renewable energy, photovoltaic (PV) solar panels are increasingly being fitted to new and existing lead sheet roofs.**

Various concerns have been raised by specifiers and leadworkers over some of the fixing methods being utilised by a number of installers of the panels. While some of the

proprietary bracketing, fixing and support systems are well engineered, it appears that they may not allow for sufficient thermal movement of the lead sheet, raising concerns over the long-term performance of lead-covered roofs where these proprietary bracketing systems have been fitted.

In the past the LSA has typically advised on the use of a simple raised

timber support block system, capped with lead sheet to allow for supporting and fixing typical hand rail systems and other mechanical equipment to roof structures.

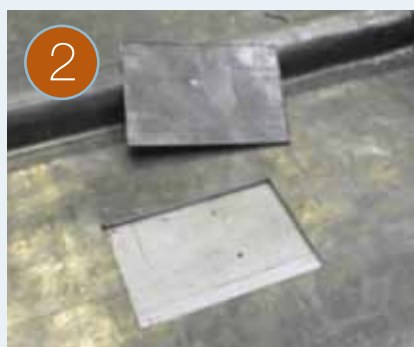
The approach shown in the pictures could also be used to allow solar panel fixing systems to be secured to a lead roof without interfering with the thermal movement of the lead sheet.



1  
Pre-formed, shaped lead slate made with allowance for thermal movement, a minimum of a 75mm upstand and 50mm flange for lap welding to the roofing bays.

The pictures indicate a typical sequence for installation, and the following points should also be considered:

- ◆ The number and size of support blocks required may vary, depending upon the type of solar panel being installed. Advice should also be sought on the fixings required for the blocks to secure them to the substrate to provide stability and resistance to wind pressure.
- ◆ Support blocks should also be positioned to accommodate for drainage to either side of the support and away from any cross joints in the leadwork, ie steps or laps.
- ◆ Bracketing/support system for the solar panels would be secured through the top of the capping into the block, and a watertight seal should be formed between the brackets and fixings penetrating through the lead capping.
- ◆ Sealing products should not be detrimental to the lead sheet or bracketing system and fixing products; advice from manufacturers should be sought.
- ◆ Suitable hot work permits and fire safety precautions should be in place and the work carried out by a competent leadworker.



2  
Support block shape cut out centrally, preferably within the top third of the roofing bay and underlay retained where fitted.



4  
Lead slate welded in position. Hot work permits and fire safety precautions should be used.



3  
Support block secured to the roof structure, allowing 6mm gap for thermal movement when used on pitched roofs. Increasing the gap to 10mm would be advisable.



5  
Lead capping piece with allowance for thermal movement where support rails/brackets can be fixed.

# Have mobile rig, will travel

**DISTANCE is no object when the Lead Sheet Association gets a request for training – even when it takes longer to travel to the venue than it does to deliver the course!**

For the second time this year, general manager Nigel Johnston made the 1,400-mile round trip from Kent to Stornoway, which takes 16 hours each way, to run a two-day course held at Lews Castle College.

The course was organised by Iain Wilson, conservation officer and project manager for the Townscape Heritage Initiative. It was well attended by plumbers, builders and roofers.

The training started on the first morning with a session covering the theoretical aspects of lead design and specification. Nigel then moved into the workshop for the afternoon session, demonstrating the correct setting-up and shutting-down procedures of oxy-acetylene equipment, before the delegates were instructed and practised a number of basic welding exercises.

Day two involved further practical exercises in the use and fitting of lead in a variety of construction project applications, but the session was tailored to suit each individual candidate's ability and experience.

"The two courses we've held so far this year have been a great success and well worth the long journey," said Nigel. "We are organising a third visit for the beginning of next year."



## More funding for OSAT courses

**The LSA has been successful in obtaining additional funding to carry out on-site assessment and training (OSAT) for the Level 2, specialist leadworker and Level 3, heritage leadworker courses.**

The list of the criteria to achieve funding is as follows:

- ◆ Companies must be in-scope to ConstructionSkills
- ◆ Companies must be registered in England
- ◆ Funding also applies to self-employed, providing they are working for an in-scope company
- ◆ Funding will be on a 'first come – first served basis' until ConstructionSkills confirms that all funding has been allocated
- ◆ Registrations can be taken immediately
- ◆ The candidates' assessments must be completed before July 31, 2012
- ◆ Candidates must NOT have another related NVQ in construction to gain the funding
- ◆ Eligibility is subject to confirmation.

## LSA training courses

**WE can offer you training and qualifications in the following:**

- ◆ Basic welding
- ◆ Basic bossing and welding
- ◆ City & Guilds 6055 leadworkers certificate modules 1, 2, 3 and 4
- ◆ City & Guilds leadworkers certificate module 5
- ◆ Specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP) NVQ Level 2
- ◆ On-site assessment and training (OSAT) NVQ Level 2/3
- ◆ Specialist apprenticeship programme (SAP) heritage leadwork NVQ Level 3
- ◆ Estimating for leadwork seminar
- ◆ Specifying leadwork seminar
- ◆ Merchants seminar
- ◆ Supervising leadwork seminar
- ◆ Continuing professional development service (CPD)
- ◆ Fire safety
- ◆ First aid
- ◆ Mobile training.

**For course length and costs please visit the website at [www.leadsheet.co.uk](http://www.leadsheet.co.uk).**

## Oops!

**Apologies to Vince McKee for printing an incorrect telephone number in the last issue of the LEADER. The correct number is 01622 739179.**

# English Heritage backs CSCS heritage skills card

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

A pilot programme is now running, in which only contractors holding the CSCS heritage skills specialist leadworker card will be engaged to work on significant EH projects involving lead sheet.

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

Having achieved such a positive result for leadworkers, the challenge is now there for other craft trades to follow suit and achieve the required 'critical mass' of heritage skills card holders for their sector.

LCA chairman Nigel Miles said: "We have been campaigning for years for the craft skills of the specialist lead contractor to be recognised in providing the best long-term value for money.

"The heritage sector is hugely significant and it is essential that only skilled and experienced craftsmen are used where leadwork is concerned."

**Further information regarding the CSCS heritage skills specialist leadworker card can be obtained direct from the LSA on 01622 872432**

or at [info@leadsheet.co.uk](mailto:info@leadsheet.co.uk), the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS), or the LCA on 01342 317888 or at [info@lca.gb.com](mailto:info@lca.gb.com).



## LSA partners BSIA to combat lead theft

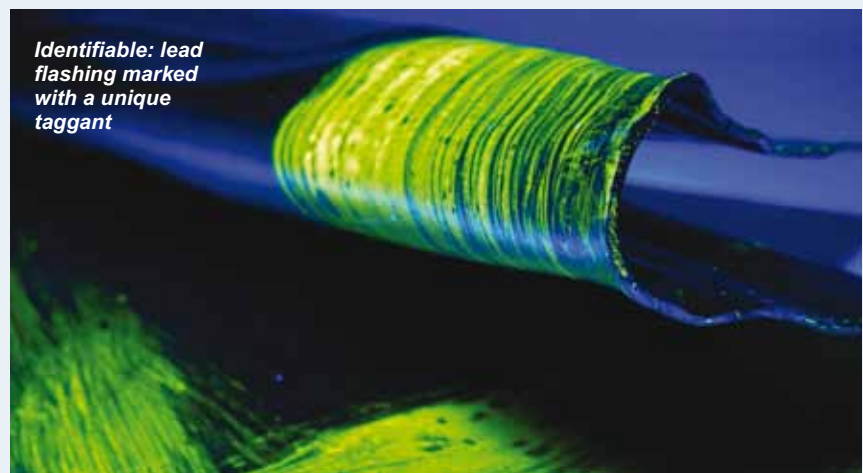
**THE LSA is working closely with the British Security Industry Association (BSIA) to promote the wider use of security and alarm systems.**

A series of press releases and articles have been distributed to advise churches and the managers of historic buildings of the ways in which

they can protect their metal roofs.

LSA chief executive Doug Weston said: "We also support the use of DNA agents which will give lead an identity, and help the police to identify stolen property and the thieves responsible.

"This is not a victimless crime, and we will do all we can to support the drive to eradicate it once and for all."



*Identifiable: lead flashing marked with a unique taggant*

**Would you like to advertise your business to thousands of potential customers?**

**For a space in the next issue, please contact Nigel Johnston by calling him on 01622 872432 or by e-mail at [nigel@leadsheet.co.uk](mailto:nigel@leadsheet.co.uk).**

**Rates are extremely reasonable!**

**News and views? Please send your comments and ideas to Nigel Johnston, Lead Sheet Association, Unit 10, Archers Park, Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Kent TN12 5HP.**

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