

# The LEADER

The newsletter of the Lead Sheet Association  
Issue 2 ■■■ May 2009



## Plumbing qualifications – and courses – now available here!

**CONSTRUCTION trades have been hit hard in the current economic downturn but the team at East Peckham have been making sure that business is as brisk as ever at the training centre.**

With the recent developments in lead training keeping training demand high, the addition of a range of plumbing courses is proving extremely popular.

Training manager Nigel Johnston explained: "When the Lead Sheet Association took possession of the building in 2007 we had a blank canvas and an opportunity to

design a bespoke, state-of-the-art training facility.

"Indeed, part of the business plan and design layout at the time was to allow for additional courses such as plumbing. In today's climate many individuals in the building trade are looking to diversify and improve their skills, and plumbing is proving to be a popular choice.

"The combined lead and plumbing courses complement each other, giving greater efficiency in the way we use the training centre."

The courses currently on offer at the centre are as follows:



*Upskill and diversify: the new plumbing courses are very popular*

- ◆ Taster sessions
- ◆ City and Guilds 6129 technical certificate
- ◆ 6089 NVQ Level 2.

For further details please call the LSA on 01622 872432.

## Unique career boost for young leadworkers



*Learning the trade: an apprentice installs lead flashings round a chimney*

**IT is a first for the leadwork industry and the Lead Sheet Association is proud to be part of this exciting new training programme for young people.**

Training manager Nigel Johnston and his team have worked closely with ConstructionSkills to develop a specialist apprentice programme (SAP) in leadwork.

The preferred minimum age for entrants to SAP is 18, although the programme will allow for 16-year-olds to attend.

The two-year training programme combines attendance at the LSA training centre at East Peckham with on-site training and assessments. It leads to an NVQ Level 2 in metal roofing (lead) and Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) recognition.

Level 3 will also be available mid-2009. Apprentices automatically gain the City and Guilds 6055

leadworkers certificate.

On completion of the training the apprentices will be able to form and install lead sheet flashings, weatherings and roof details to a variety of roof finishes to conform with practice and standards of competence.

They will also be able to recognise and understand the hazards and safe working practices within this specialised industry.

Training manager Nigel Johnston added: "I am also pleased to confirm that this programme now qualifies for Learning and Skills Council (LSC) grant funding. The cost of the two-year apprenticeship is £4,995, but the grant payable directly to the employer is up to £5,700."

For further details please call the LSA on 01622 872432.

- **First SAP apprentice trains at East Peckham – page 3**

## In the spotlight

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**SIMON Wood joined the Lead Sheet Association training team in April 2008 and is responsible for the day-to-day delivery for all leadwork training courses.**

He qualified as a plumber in 1990 and has worked on many buildings such as Queens Estate around Regents Park, Tonbridge School, Bangor University, Wrotham Hall and Cobham College.

He also worked on Westminster Abbey for some seven years, where his first task was to work out the design of the roofs and supervise the ordering of materials. He was then appointed principle leadworker, which entailed overseeing the 25-year programme to replace all leadwork throughout the building.

Before joining the Lead Sheet Association Simon worked in a variety of instructing roles, including teaching metalwork to young handicapped adults.

He has made models of lead roofs for British Lead Mills to be shown at exhibitions in the UK and in Europe.

At the College of North West London one of his students won the national leadwork BEPEC competition and Simon achieved a grade 1 from Ofsted for his teaching before joining the LSA the following year.

## NVQ Level 2 – the experienced leadworker’s passport to success

**THE introduction of an NVQ Level 2 in metal roofing (lead and hard metals) is welcome news for experienced leadworkers and metalworkers who wish to achieve the increasingly necessary qualification in today’s construction industry.**

Because of this demand, the LSA is offering the NVQ to experienced employers and their workforce who are keen to upskill to a recognised qualification.

However, in these uncertain times, how much time and money does it cost the leadworker and/or their employer?

The perfect solution for the experienced leadworker is to achieve their qualification through on-site assessment and training (OSAT). An LSA assessor will visit the candidate at their place of work or on site to identify their existing skills, before developing an action plan to fill any gaps in their experience.

The leadworker then works to the plan at their own speed while the assessor monitors their progress

and provides ongoing support.

The whole process normally entails four to five visits over a period of less than six months to complete.

One of the key benefits of OSAT is that the process is carried out on site, therefore reducing the time away from the workplace. Other benefits include:

- ◆ Vital Construction Skills Certification Skills (CSCS) cards are achieved quickly and easily.
- ◆ Training only necessary where there are skills gaps.
- ◆ Easier route for employees with limited literacy skills.

The assessment process costs are covered by the Learning and Skills Council to upskill to NVQ Level 2 through OSAT in England, providing certain criteria are met.

If the individual or their employer is in scope to ConstructionSkills an additional grant can be claimed, appropriate to the grant year, upon the completion of the NVQ.

For further information please call the LSA on 01622 872432.

## Don't be caught short

**FITTING the wood cored rolls on a roof may not be your responsibility and could have already been installed by the carpenters or builders before you arrive on site.**

There have been instances where the rolls have not been fitted properly and left short of the roof or drip edge and leaks have occurred after the lead work has been fitted.

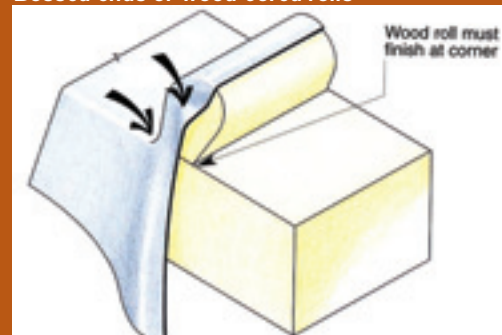
Leaving the roll short can create a small flat lap joint in front of the roll where water can penetrate into the roof.

This type of leak is

often intermittent and can also be related to wind-driven rain conditions.

So ‘don’t be caught short’ and always check that the rolls have been fitted properly before you install the lead sheet.

*Bossed ends of wood-cored rolls*



## LSA welcomes training group as approved centre

**THE Lead Sheet Association is delighted to take on board the South Wales & South West Roofing Training Group as an approved centre to deliver its five-day basic leadwelding and bossing course.**

The group's training officer, Zan Nye, said: "It is very gratifying to be officially recognised as an LSA-approved centre as we have worked closely with Nigel and his team for a number of years."

The training is carried out by Alan Lander at the group's training centre in Exeter. Alan has run this course for several years, as well as day-release training in roof slating and tiling.

Zan added: "A recent leadwelding and bossing course resulted in excellent feedback from the delegates."

"They benefited greatly from the personalised training, said that they would recommend it to

others and that they would like to attend other courses to improve their skills."

The next five-day basic leadwelding and bossing skills training in Exeter will be held on June 9, 10, 11, 17 and 18.

Please telephone 01395 224695 for further details or see the website on [www.swales-swest.rooftraining.co.uk](http://www.swales-swest.rooftraining.co.uk). A further course will be held in September – dates yet to be confirmed.



*Enthusiastic: leadwelding and bossing trainees at the training centre in Exeter*

## LSA training courses

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

- ◆ Basic bossing.
- ◆ Basic welding.
- ◆ Basic bossing and welding
- ◆ City & Guilds 6055 leadworker certificate modules 1, 2, 3 and 4
- ◆ Advanced City & Guilds leadwork certificate module 5
- ◆ Decorative lead casting
- ◆ Seminars/continuous professional development (CPD)
- ◆ Supervising leadwork
- ◆ Conservatory installers
- ◆ Merchants seminars
- ◆ Taster days/ leadwork awareness
- ◆ Estimating
- ◆ National Vocational Qualification (NVQ)
- ◆ Specialist Apprenticeship Programme (SAP)
- ◆ Plumbing teachers
- ◆ Plumbing taster sessions
- ◆ Plumbing City and Guilds 6129 technical certificate
- ◆ NVQ Level 2 6089 in plumbing.



*New for 2009: plumbing courses*

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

## New SAP is up and flying

**WHEN Bobby Dimond started his first day's training at East Peckham, little did he know that he was about to make a small piece of history for the Lead Sheet Association.**

For he is the first apprentice on the new specialist apprentice programme (SAP) in leadwork, the two-year course which gives young people a flying start in their chosen career.

It leads to an NVQ Level 2 in lead and Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) recognition, as well as the City & Guilds 6055 leadworkers certificate.

Sixteen years old at the time, Bobby was only just old enough to join the programme, but thanks to the LSA and his employer, Southern Counties Roofing Contractors Ltd, he started the first of his six modules in December 2008.

"The staff at the centre are very supportive and Nigel and Simon make the training really interesting," he said.

"I look forward to my time there and then to be able to go back to work and practise what I've been doing on my course."

Bobby works at Essex-based Southern Counties as part of a two-man team with his 'mentor', a family friend who encouraged Bobby to join the company after leaving school.

Of course, none of this training would be possible without the backing of Southern Counties, who took Bobby on last year for a three-year apprenticeship.

Senior office accounts manager Jenny Crossley said: "We fully support the training programme with the LSA and believe that it is a great way for young leadworkers to begin their career."

"I struggled to find the right college course for Bobby as leadworkers courses are not recognised under the context of roofing, and the LSA was the only college offering exactly what we required."

Nigel said: "Bobby is conscientious, hard-working and quick to learn."

"He has all the makings of a first-class leadworker."

# Acetylene cylinders – to use, or not to use?

**THE Lead Sheet Association has been receiving an increasing number of enquiries on the use of acetylene gas and whether it has been banned from use, particularly as some building sites have not allowed the use of the gas for welding or steel-cutting purposes.**

Although local fire brigades – the London Fire Brigade in particular – have had a raised awareness campaign over the dangers of the gas and the disruption it can cause if the cylinders either catch fire or are involved in a fire, a total ban is not yet in force because of its effect on existing working practices.

## Assessing risk

Businesses, including those that use acetylene, are required to comply with key laws that include:

- ◆ Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres regulations 2002. This requires businesses to assess the risk of work activities with dangerous substances and to eliminate, substitute or reduce the risk as far as reasonably practical.
- ◆ Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This requires a responsible person (typically the business owner) to carry out a fire risk assessment.

This assessment takes into account the impact that a fire involving a cylinder might have on surrounding premises and people. The order became law in October 2006

Businesses should, therefore, assess the risk prior to carrying out the welding task.

Where leadworkers are concerned, the main type of equipment used is small portable welding packs. These allow the bottles to be removed from the site at the end of the working day to a safe storage area. The type of welding blow pipe used for lead welding also has an influence on the risk assessment, as the event of a blowback occurring in the welding torch is most unlikely, and would be further reduced by the use of flashback arrestors.

## The way forward

The LSA is currently working with BOC Gasses – who are presently undertaking trials into alternative welding techniques – to help eliminate the use of acetylene in highly populated areas where an exclusion zone would have a high economic effect on the local community.

Visit [www.london-fire.gov.uk](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk) for further information and a downloadable acetylene cylinder information leaflet.

# Open day brings in new trainees

**WHAT better way to find out about a training centre than to have a look round and chat to the staff.**

Since the centre's open day last November, several individuals have subsequently signed up for the courses of their choice.

Training manager Nigel Johnston said: "Anyone who is interested doesn't have to wait for us to hold an open day to find out more about us – we're happy to show them round throughout the year."

Please call 01622 872432 to arrange a visit.

# Inspiring location offers leadwork courses

**THE beautiful setting of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum is home to the introduction to leadwork courses for specifiers and contractors, as well as the advanced leadwork course.**

"We are pleased to run these mobile courses with the museum," said training manager Nigel Johnston.

"The two-day introductory course is designed for those with little or no experience of working with lead sheet and will provide a basic understanding of the theoretical and practical application.

"The three-day advanced course is a natural progression from the introductory course, leading on to the decorative aspects of working with lead."

Students make the patterns to make a planter or hopper head to their own design, which they can purchase afterwards.

The next introduction to leadwork training course takes place on April 23-24, and the advanced leadwork course is being held on June 17-19.

For further information please contact Rebecca Osborne on 01243 811464.

**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 [training@leadsheetassociation.org.uk](mailto:training@leadsheetassociation.org.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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