

ROOFING

TODAY

Issue 88 May 2020



VIEW FROM THE TOP: JOHN SAYERS

From apprentice to
business leader.

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THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Mike Wharton explores the
industry's future dynamics.

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CASE STUDY: BURNLEY TOWN HALL

The construction of the
leadwork dome in
pictures.

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FRONT COVER

This edition's front cover shows a green roof terrace forming part of the penthouse above the Playhouse Theatre on the River Thames embankment in the West End of London.

Bridgman and Bridgman refurbished the sedum roof three years ago and now maintains it for the client. The Penthouse is used for numerous films shot in London.



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Roofing Today Magazine is published by Construction Media Publishing Ltd
 31 Seymour Terrace, Seymour Street, Liverpool L3 5PE
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Philip Johns Returns to SIG UK as MD

SIG, suppliers of specialist building materials has appointed Philip Johns as SIG UK Managing Director.

Responsible for overseeing the UK operation which includes SIG Distribution and SIG Exteriors, Johns previously worked at SIG for over 28 years in a number of senior leadership roles holding the position of Managing Director for SIG UK Exteriors before his move in 2014 where he became the CEO for MKM Building Suppliers. He re-joins SIG from his most recent position as Chief Commercial Officer with IBMG Group.

Commenting on his appointment he said “I am delighted to be returning to SIG after five years. The majority of my career has been spent within the Group in various roles and I have a strong allegiance for the organisation and the values it stands for.

“I join in challenging times for the industry, but I look forward to the challenge as we prepare to emerge stronger, with our primary focus on our customers.”



HSE Warns of Health Effects of Slate Cutting



Slate cutting and dressing should always be done in a well-ventilated, monitored area to protect workers, according to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

The HSE researched the health effects of cutting and dressing slate. They examined if the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) advice sheets, which provide guidance on controlling exposures to hazardous substances, are still current, practical and effective in controlling RCS dust generated during the processing of slate.

It looked at advice sheets SL4 and SL5 on the controls of respirable crystalline silica (RCS) when splitting and dressing slate.

Slate contains up to 40% crystalline silica. Exposure to silica particles small enough to

breathe in (RCS) can cause life-threatening conditions, including silicosis, lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

The study took measurements during slate splitting and dressing. It found, even with workers wearing RPE:

- ❑ RCS exposures for the operators of automated splitters and dressers approached the workplace exposure limit (WEL) for splitting,
- ❑ and were at or above the WEL for dressing.
- ❑ Packing and stacking of slates was a source of exposure.
- ❑ Cleaning can be a source of exposure to RCS

Implications

For roofers, the use of angle grinders is known to create greater amounts of fine dust than other methods of cutting and dressing slate.

The research states: “RCS has a WEL of 0.1 mg/m³, as an 8-hour time weighted average (TWA).

“There is no short-term (15-minute) limit and in these cases a figure of three times the 8-hour TWA limit is recommended as a guide.

“The principles of good practice in Schedule 2A of the COSHH Regulations require measures to be applied proportionate to the health risk, therefore employers should reduce exposure significantly below the WEL because of the serious risk to health posed by RCS.”



Two of the Best Young Roofers Selected at IFD Trials to Represent Britain

Two of the best-skilled apprentices in the UK were chosen after being put through their roofing paces at Hereford’s Centre of Roofing Excellence (CORE) in March.

The trials took place to select which roofing apprentices will represent the UK at the 28th World Championship for Young Roofers.

The World Championship, organised by the IFD, was planned to take place in Beijing in this year and has now been rescheduled for 2022.

Philip Houghton and Jordan Condren, who were joint winners at the 2019 Skillbuild competition for pitched roofing, will form the two-man team, which will be led by Will Emerton.

Will Emerton, of Emerton Roofing, competed at the last World Championships, and will train alongside the two young roofing apprentices, before deciding which should be the second man of the team and which the substitute. Philip Houghton is apprentice at Avonside Roofing

Braintree and trains with Easter Region Roof Training Group. Jordan Condren is apprentice at Hodgson Sayers and trains at Newcastle College.

Bob Richardson, NFRC’s Technical and Training Manager said, “It’s a shame that IFD 2020 has been postponed due to the Coronavirus. However, the selected UK team will be eligible for a place in the 2022 competition and I wish both Philip and Jordan the best of luck.

“Knowing the exceptional skills and quality of their tutors and mentors, Bob Coutts, Matt Timby and Andy Rowlands, and having witnessed Will Emerton’s skillset in the last world championships I know that the road leading up to the competition will be a fantastic and exciting learning experience for them.”

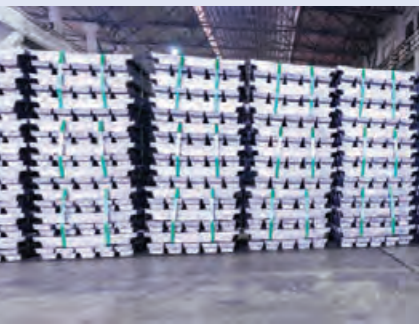
Senior Judge and Mentor Bob Coutts said, “All of the young roofers demonstrated skill beyond their years, and it was a close call to select two out of the five competitors.”

Three-Year UK Lead Cartel Probe to Continue

The investigation into a UK lead cartel has been extended again for another three months, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA).

The CMA first began its enquiries three years ago, starting in July 2017, and now says it will next update its findings in June 2020.

Last year, on 27 March, 2019, the CMA issued a provisional finding that three suppliers of rolled lead breached competition law by forming an agreement with each other to fix lead prices, share out customers between them, exchange commercially sensitive information and restrict the supply of rolled lead to any other company wanting to enter the market.



The companies provisionally found of forming the cartel are:

- ❑ Associated Lead Mills Limited
- ❑ Jamestown Metals Limited
- ❑ H.J. Enthoven Limited
- ❑ Calder Industrial Materials Limited

The investigation extends to the parent company of both Associated Lead Mills and Jamestown Metals Limited, which is International Industrial Materials Limited.

The parent company of H.J. Enthoven Limited’s, which is Eco-Bat Technologies Limited and Calder Industrial Materials Limited’s parent company Calder Group Holdings Limited are also part of the CMA enquiry.

In February 2020, the CMA issued a warning to the construction industry over price fixing, bid rigging and dividing markets following a number of high-profile cases. Saying that ignorance was no defence, the organisation urged construction firms to make sure they knew the difference between “cheating and competing”.

April Breaks Solar Energy Record as Pollution Drops

Clear Skies and cool temperatures helped UK solar to break the all-time peak generation record in April.

At around 12:30 on Monday 20 April, a peak of 9.68GW was recorded by Sheffield Solar live PV generation tracker, surpassing the previous record of 9.55GW set on 13 May 2019. At the time of the peak, solar was meeting almost 30% of UK electricity demand.

STA Chief Executive Chief Hewett said, “Ideal weather conditions and lower levels of pollution than normal mean solar is providing record levels of cheap, clean power to the grid. At a time when most of us are working remotely, we can say that solar is truly keeping the WiFi on.”

The UK is currently experiencing significantly lower than usual levels of pollution as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown. This has contributed to



Picture: Viridian Solar

clearer conditions, which, combined with relatively cool temperatures, provide optimal conditions for maximising solar PV efficiency. As the lockdown and good weather continues it’s likely more solar generation records will be broken.

The abundance of solar power on the grid has also contributed to the lengthiest coal-free period for the grid in 2020 so far, with more than 115 days passed at time of writing.

Kingspan Merger to Be Investigated Further

A further investigation of the proposed acquisition by Kingspan Holdings (Panels) Limited of Building Solutions (National) Limited, which is currently owned by SIG Trading Ltd will now go ahead, the Competitions and Markets Authority (CMA) has confirmed.

CMA believes that the creation of the merger might lead to a substantial lessening of competition within the foam sandwich panels market. If the deal went ahead Kingspan would only face serious competition from one other UK-based supplier, Tata Steel. Competition from suppliers of products imported from outside the

UK is also very limited, CMA reports.

The competition watchdog says it will now form a group to conduct a further in-depth Phase 2 investigation and report on the merger by 5 October 2020.



SPRA Appoints New CEO

The Single Ply Roofing Association (SPRA) Council has appointed Dr Ronan Brunton as Chief Executive Officer, succeeding Cathie Clarke, who steps down from the role in June.

Dr Brunton joined the SPRA team in August 2018, focusing on technical and quality issues and maximising learning emanating from the Hackitt Review. Prior to this, Ronan spent over 30 years in the flat roofing industry with both membrane manufacturers and roofing contractors in senior technical and commercial roles. Ronan's research interests include sustainability and business ethics in construction.



Martyn Holloway, SPRA Chairman said: "We are fortunate to have someone of Ronan Brunton's calibre and experience to step up to lead SPRA. I would like to thank Cathie Clarke for her exemplary service to the organisation over the last five years and her role in expanding its membership base, creating a real community spirit and growing its profile and influence. I know Cathie and Ronan share the same principles in terms of quality and collaboration and I am pleased that both will work together in the coming months to ensure a seamless transition."

Cathie Clarke said "I am delighted to be handing over the reins to Ronan and am looking forward to continuing with the handover. It was with a heavy heart that I tendered my resignation for family reasons. Quality, community and collaboration have been my watchwords since joining SPRA and I'm proud to have been involved with helping to shape the future of the construction sector in collaboration with our fellow trade organisations. Ronan is both passionate and enthusiastic about SPRA and the possibilities for the future. I am confident that he will further strengthen the organisation and the single ply industry, and I wish him and the SPRA Council all the best."

Cathie will step down as CEO at the end of June, and stay on in a limited capacity until the end of the year.

Construction T Level Go Ahead Despite Pandemic



The Department for Education has confirmed that T Levels will go ahead this September despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

The first three T Levels to go ahead include a T Level in Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction.

The vocational qualifications involve students spending substantial periods of time on business placement and concerns had been raised about whether the placements would be possible in the light of the virus risk.

However, the Government says it remains committed to continuing with the delivery of both T Levels and the T Level Transition

Programme in 2020 and 2021 as planned.

The T Level in Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction is designed to open up specialist careers in Buildings Services Engineering, Civil Engineering, Hazardous Materials, and Surveying and Design for Construction and the Built Environment.

A specialist T Level qualification in Roofing is planned to be introduced by 2023.

T Levels will be the technical equivalent to A Levels, and involve 80 per cent classroom-based learning, and 20 per cent on-the-job learning in industry.

Import of 266 Dangerous Ladders Stopped

A shipment of 266 dangerous ladders was stopped from entering the UK helped by the Ladder Association's newly opened Test & Research Centre.

The dangerous ladders were thought to have been destined for online sale to unsuspecting businesses and consumers.

The Ladder Association says the products could have compromised the safety of users and contributed to potential falls from height.

The suspicious shipment of ladders was intercepted by a Suffolk Trading Standards at Felixstowe in March. Trading Standards contacted the newly opened Test & Research Centre in Soham - a product testing centre, funded and supported by the Ladder Association - for assistance.

The two ladder products claimed to be compliant to EN 131 ladder standard but the

name and address of the producer and batch identification were missing- both offences under Regulation 7 of the General Product Safety Regulations1.

On further examination, Trading Standards had other concerns about the multi hinge-joint ladders and contacted the Test & Research Centre for advice.

The ladders were put through 'Critical Safety Fault Testing' and failed vertical load, strength and opening restraint tests.

John Darby, Test & Research Centre Manager said, "If you are importing ladders into the UK, it is good practice to verify what the manufacturer has told you. Independent certification, together with batch testing, give suppliers confidence in the supply chain, and would have prevented these dangerous products attempting to enter the UK."

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The Building Envelope Authority

UK Roofing Awards 2020 Finalists

The finalists shortlisted for the UK Roofing Awards 2020 have been announced.

The awards, hosted by the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) were planned for May 2020 but will now be on Friday 2 October 2020 at the Intercontinental Hotel, O2 in London.

Bituminous Hot Applied Liquid Waterproofing: Sponsored by Axter

Benson House—Protech Roofing Ltd working with Bauder Ltd
Brighton College—BriggsAmasco
New Waverley Station (Phase 2)—SPS Flat Roof Systems working with IKO PLC
The Forge—Noble House Services working with Radmat Building Products

Cold Applied Liquid Waterproofing

Basildon And Thurrock University Hospital—Breyer Construction working with Bauder Ltd
Droylsden Marina—Weatherwell Roofing Ltd working with Sika Plastic
Snowdonia Cheese—Weatherwell Roofing Ltd working with Sika Plastic
SW Mile Oak—Williams Roofing Contractors Ltd working with Polyroof Products Ltd

Heritage Roofing

Carickfergus Castle—Penrose Roofing 2014 Ltd
The Queens House—John Williams & Company
West Dean College (Phase 1)—Clarke Roofing Southern Ltd
Wythenshaw Hall—Fulwood Roofing Limited

Lead Roofing: Sponsored by Chandlers

Barton Mill Road—John Williams & Company
Nunykirk Hall—Redhead Roofing working with Calder Industrial Materials
South Quire Tribune—Full Metal Jacket Ltd
The Rear Dome—Clarke Roofing Southern Ltd

Mastic Asphalt

Private Residence Near Witney—Oxford Asphalt working with IKO PLC
Ratcliffe House—Sussex Asphalte Ltd
Rochester Close—Sussex Asphalte Ltd
Romany—Sussex Asphalte Ltd

Multi-discipline project > £250k

Heartspace University Sheffield—Protech Roofing
St Wilfrid's Hospice—Malone Roofing (Newbury) Ltd
Threemile Beach—Western Flat Roofing
West Dean College of Arts & Conservation (Phase 1)—Clarke Roofing Southern Ltd



Roof Slating: Sponsored by Cupa Pizarras

Broad Meadow Care Home—RS Miller Roofing Ltd
Coastal Road—Richard Soan Roofing Services
Hillsborough Castle Lower Visitors Centre—Penrose Roofing 2014 Ltd
River Dart Country Park—R Northcott Roofing Ltd

Roof Tiling: Sponsored by Marley

Callaways Lane—Richard Soan Roofing Services
Former Harpenden House Hotel—Contour Roofing (Essex) Ltd
Green Cottage—Richard Soan Roofing Services
Gundreda Road—Richard Soan Roofing Services

Sheeting & Cladding: Sponsored by EJOT

Acton TMU—TAC Projects Limited
Lady Bee Enterprise Centre—Kingsley Specialist Roofing working with SIG Design & Technology
Metroline—Survey Roofing Group
Neg Earth—SPV Group

Single Ply Roofing

Bell's Sports Centre—AIM Developments Ltd
Cathedral Yard—DFR Roofing working with Sika Sarnafil
Jeffery Street—Invictus Roofing Ltd
Library Refurbishment—Owlsworth Roofing Ltd

Small Scale Project < £25k

Cemetery Lodge—Contour Roofing (Essex) Ltd working with Watts Roofing Supplies
Crooksbury House—Roles Broderick Roofing Ltd
Holy Cross Priory—Invictus Roofing Ltd
Pangolin—Nigel Hayman Roofing working with Dreadnought Tiles

The NFRC will shortly be opening voting on the shortlist for the 'Industry Choice Award' sponsored by Radmat Building Products. Nominations are already open for the 'Local Hero Award' sponsored by SIG Roofing at www.sigroofing.co.uk/local-hero, and NFRC will soon be opening nominations for 'Young Roofer of the Year Award' sponsored by BMI.

NFRC CEO, James Talman said, "As always, we were pleased to see the quality of projects submitted, which made it a tough challenge for our reviewing panel to decide on the final shortlist. Congratulations to all the finalists and we look forward to revealing the winners at our rescheduled Awards Lunch on 2 October."



2019 Roof of the Year: Ludgate House, in the Fully Supported Metal category, by Richardson Roofing Co Ltd.

Fully Supported Metal

Copper Dome Ludgate House—Full Metal Jacket Ltd
Nithurst Farm—Roles Broderick Roofing Ltd
Solum Walthamstow—Richardson Roofing Company Ltd
The Yards—Roles Broderick Roofing Ltd

Green Roofing: Sponsored by Fakro

IKEA Store, Greenwich—Bridgman & Bridgman
Lagg Distillery—Greenroof UK Ltd working with Bauder Ltd
Lakeside YMCA—Cumbrian Roofing Solutions Ltd working with Sky Garden Ltd
Noah's Ark Children's Hospice—Bridgman & Bridgman

Rainscreen: Sponsored by EJOT

Meridian Water Station—TAC Projects Limited
Paradise Street Student Accommodation—Longworth Building Services
Physical and Recreational Training Facility—Malone Roofing (Newbury) Ltd
The Foundry—Malone Roofing (Newbury) Ltd

Reinforced Bitumen Membranes: Sponsored by Sika Ltd

El Alamein War Memorial—The Complete Roofing Company Ltd
Isle of Bute Discovery Centre—Geo. Brolly & Co (Roofing) Ltd working with DM Roofing
Midland Hotel—Ronald G Graham Roofing & Building
Windmill Lane—Eclipse Roofing & Waterproofing Ltd



Postponed to
Friday 2nd October

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Construction Workers with Symptoms Can be Tested for Coronavirus

Testing for coronavirus has been extended to construction workers with symptoms, who are working and who cannot work from home.

Construction workers can also arrange tests for their household members.

It takes an average of 5 days to show symptoms after being infected by coronavirus but it can take up to 14 days, according to the World Health Organisation.

Tests can be applied for by following the links from the government site and can be home tests, tests at drive through Regional Test Centres or at mobile units operated by the armed forces.

The coronavirus tests are most effective if performed within 3 days of the onset of symptoms. They have an average accuracy of 70%, with 30% of tests reportedly giving a false negative result according to the World Economic Forum.

Those testing positive (or continuing to have symptoms) must self-isolate and stay at home for 7



days and household members must stay at home for 14 days.

Construction re-opening

The tests are becoming an increasingly important part of the government's strategy to control the outbreak of Covid-19 and avoid another rise in cases. This is particularly important for the construction industry at this time as many contractors, merchants and manufacturers are re-opening.

Housebuilders including Taylor Wimpey, Persimmon, Barratt, Vistry Group (formerly Bovis) are introducing a phased re-opening of sites where social distancing can

be maintained. Ibstock has partially reopened and some roofing merchants are re-opening in May.

Many roofing contractors have remained available for essential emergency work, while others have continued on site while maintaining safe social distancing practices in line with the CLC Safe Operating Procedures (SOP).

Some contractors have introduced daily Toolbox Talks to remind site workers of the safe distancing rules to maintain 2m apart. Others have introduced an online course that workers have to undertake before going on site.

Breaking the rules

However, CLC guidance for construction workers based on Public Health England (PHE) advice has been criticised for allowing work which breaks social distancing rules. The SOPv3 advice says when workers have to work "face to face" within 2 metres of each other workers should: "Keep this to 15 minutes or less where possible".

Unite Assistant General Secretary Gail Cartmail said, "Testing alone will not stop the spread of this deadly disease. It is imperative that construction workers are able to continually socially distance.

"The dangerous PHE guidance must be withdrawn and the Health and Safety Executive must step up to the plate and insist on procedures that require workers to social distance on sites at all times to reduce risks of infection."

Unite has set up a Construction Safety Hotline to report unsafe construction work on tel. 0207 622 2442 or email construction@uniteunion.org.

NARM Rooflighting Homeowner Campaign Follows Complaints

The National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers (NARM), has developed a new campaign targeting homeowners and self-builders.

NARM's Marketing Chairman Ian Weakford said, "Recently, we have received a number of complaints relating to sub-standard glass rooflights which have either been sourced from a questionable supplier, or fabricated by a non-specialist builder. Many of these have come from homeowners or self-builders, who have experienced problems with these installations.

"In some cases, there have been instances where safety of individuals both inside and outside their homes, has been severely compromised. For this reason, we have extended our marketing efforts



to reach out to these groups with information and advice to help them avoid these issues."

The new campaign includes homeowner sections on the NARM website; an information booklet called 'Getting Rooflights Right: What to ask your builder or architect', a display at the National Self-Build & Renovation Centre; and print and social media.

Kingspan's April UK Sales Halve



Kingspan Group has reported an April UK sales drop of more than 50% of its insulation and building envelope products.

The company says that the lockdown did not significantly impact most of the first quarter. It saw a pickup in UK orders and encouraging trends generally following a tough second half of 2019.

In a trading update, the company said its global sales in April dropped by 35% compared to the same month last year reflecting the full or partial closure of markets worldwide.

Insulated Panels sales in the UK continued to lag in the first quarter

of the year after poor performance of the previous quarter. Global sales were down 2% in Q1.

Insulation Boards sales were down 8% in the first quarter, with Kooltherm sales modestly ahead offset by softer PIR activity in the UK. Activity in Ireland was well down in the early part of the year particularly in residential.

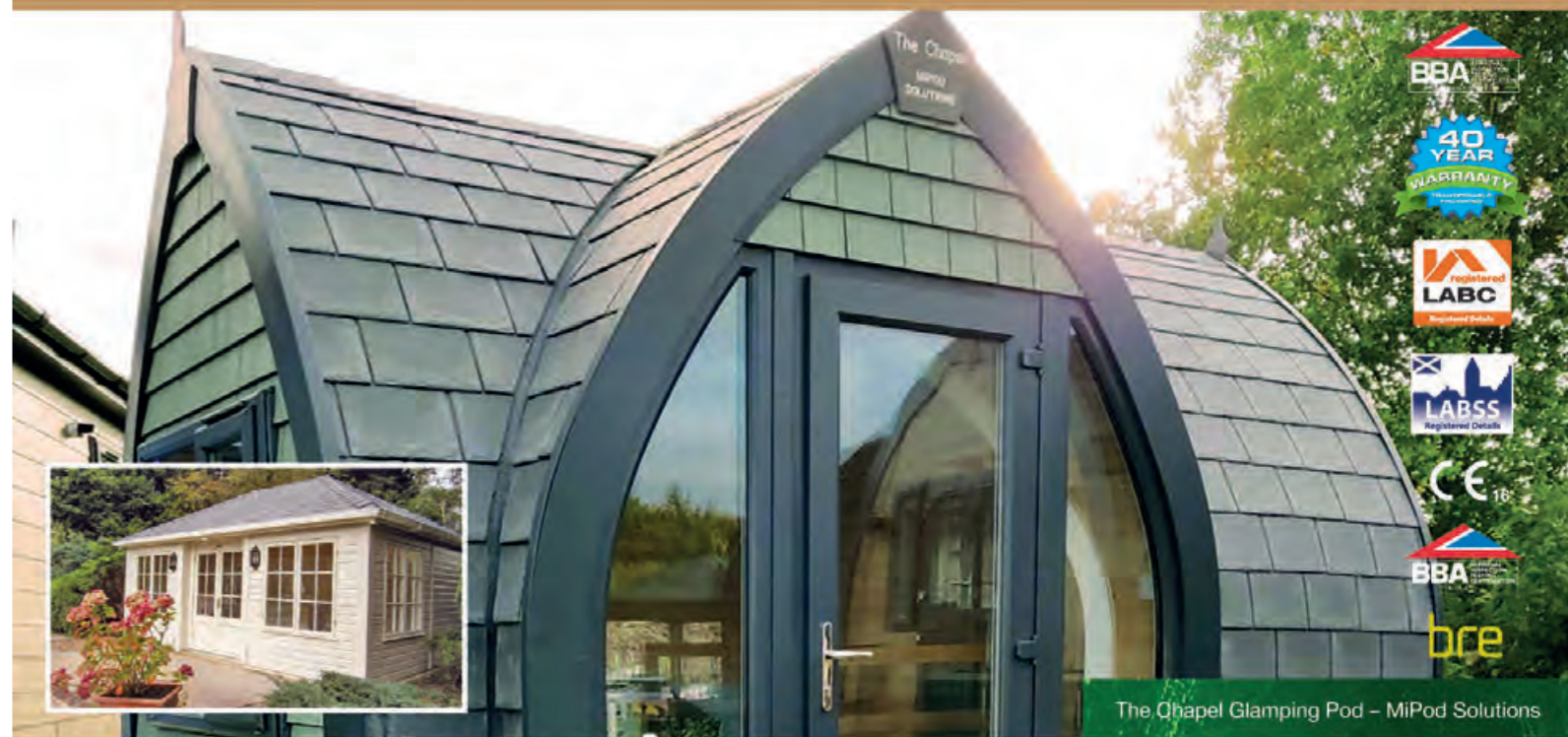
Light & Air sales were up 1% in the first quarter.

The company says it expects to record a result close to breakeven overall for April, normally a profitable month, and that this trading run rate is expected to persist through the coming weeks at the least.

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6



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- BRE testing for wind-driven rain found TapcoSlate Classic to perform much stronger than all equivalent materials tested
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- Authentic slate appearance – combines the beauty of slate with modern technology
- No sorting, clipping or drilling
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- Can easily be heated and moulded into place – copper rivets can be added for extra durability/shaping
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PLUM | 706

BRICK RED | 709

CHESTNUT BROWN | 712

COACHMAN MIX | 790

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John Sayers: From Apprentice to Business Leader

From a young age, starting work as an apprentice, John Sayers' career has always been in construction. Today, he manages over a hundred employees at Hodgson Sayers, the award-winning roofing, fencing and metalwork contractors, based in the North East of England. Here, John tells Roofing Today about how he got started in roofing and worked to become a successful business leader.

John Sayers' father, who was the owner of a construction company in the North East, originally suggested that his son gained experience in the industry. "At the time I'd left school and I was at a loose end," recalls John. "My father said come in and see if there's any areas you think you can add value. I started doing various elements including roofing and then progressed into management."

Although not always easy, John Sayers quickly progressed through the ranks, developing a variety of leadership skills from the outset of his career. "There was a challenge every day, meeting different people, operating in different environments, I seemed to progress into management in a seamless way."

Clear vision

This wealth of experience, working at every level, provided John with a strong sense of what does and doesn't work in roofing. As a result, John has a clear vision of what management style and approach he wants to take.

"I've seen the way people deal with each other and talk to each other at every level, and the way management treat each other, as well as employees being poorly dealt with. They probably didn't have the training they should have had in the past. The construction and roofing industry was a macho environment, it was accepted as normal. It's only looking back that you realise how poor it really was. The outputs you got and the quality you got were probably a direct result of that culture."

"Now, I'm trying to do the opposite, trying to treat people with fairness

and equality. Whether you're speaking to a trainee or a director, there should be no difference in how people interact and treat each other. That's part of my mantra in business."

John adds, "Getting more women into the industry will help. The more we can do to change the dynamics, the better it will be for the industry at large."

When John's father suffered ill health and his business deteriorated John had to move on, joining an established roofing contractor called Hodgson Allan, headed by Billy Hodgson. "It was about 20 years ago and a much smaller business then, of about 25 people. I started over again, beginning as a tradesman and gradually worked through senior management roles and became managing director."

Reputation for quality

Billy Hodgson was active in the business and still is as Executive Chairman. His forward-thinking attitude and commitment to always seeking to improve things is very much in line with his John's approach. John says, "In that respect he and I were on the same page. We both always wanted to strive to do things better, be the best at what we do, create that excellence; and always have a reputation for quality. It was a natural progression for us to put ideas together, win opportunities and grow the business."

From a traditional, domestic customer base, the company expanded to working for local authorities and housing associations, hospitals, private housing associations and blue chip



Whether you're speaking to a trainee or a director, there should be no difference in how people interact and treat each other. That's part of my mantra in business."

companies in the region, including utilities. John explains, "We wanted to move into the public sector and the utility industry because there's better continuity and longevity of work so you can build a long term relationship."

The key to this success - the company's competitive edge - is difficult to define, John admits, because the industry at large is fixated on price: "You've always got

to respect that. You've always got to understand that. But it's not just about the money: it's price plus quality, plus other benefits, like community support. We try to get that message out there, that we can give you more. We're never going to be the cheapest but we will give you the best value. You've got people who are trained, you've got apprentices coming through, you've got the whole business delivering for the client."

It's a pattern John says has been repeated in the business; developing a good relationship with clients which means they go on to ask you to fulfil other contracts. Another case coming from the utility industry stems from its drive to modernise, and Hodgson Sayers is playing a part in that by supplying modular buildings and installing security fences.

Growth in the industry

And it's not just the customer base that's expanding; Hodgson Sayers has recently opened an office in



L-R Billy Hodgson, David Crank (2019 Skillbuild bronze medal winner), Newcastle College Tutor Alan Bessford, John Sayers, and Jordan Condren 2019 Skillbuild gold medal winner. Jordan has now been selected as part of the GB team participating in the next World Championship for Young Roofers competition.

Nottingham to deliver contracts in the south. Further areas of growth remain focused on roofing, which John describes as the core element of the business: "In both pitched and flat roofing we continue to invest in additional resources to cope with the work we're getting, in training and our apprentices."

"We're doing more work, but we're also using more digital technology, more design using CAD drawings. It's a direct consequence of what the client wants and how the industry is changing to offer more. As the pressure on price is downwards, productivity has to go up, you've got to deliver better. You've got to use technology to help you become more efficient. It's certainly where we are at and where we see the growth in the industry. It's very exciting."

Successes with apprentices

Hodgson Sayers has offered apprenticeships for many years, even before it became standard practice. John describes the crucial role they play in developing a business, "You've got to have a continual process of refreshing and

As the pressure on price is downwards, productivity has to go up, you've got to deliver better. You've got to use technology to help you become more efficient.

renewing your workforce to be dynamic. Obviously, we've had some great successes with apprentices winning gold and bronze at Skillbuild and competing internationally, representing Great Britain. But it's more than that: the people you see behind those apprentices are people to be proud of. It's a joy to interact with them."

Met with a young person thinking about a future in roofing John says a critical question to ask is: "What do they want to get into roofing for? Do they want a job, or a future? The way I look at it, roofing is a door. An apprentice can start as a roofer; get his apprenticeship to become a tradesman, but if they've got other attributes they can become a supervisor, a site manager, a manager, a managing director. Why not? All they've got to do is put the

effort in. If they've got that dedication and enthusiasm and the willingness to learn, then we'll support them."

Challenging times

The dedicated and positive approach that John has is apparent, even during challenging times when the company has had to adapt and respond to difficult situations. As John recalls, in more recent years there's been some financial challenges and restriction for Hodgson Sayers:

"We've been investing heavily in projects outside traditional roofing in security products, specifically digital electronic locks designed for businesses in the utility industry to manage their assets because they are not marked. They needed security doors that we have designed and made them, and also

digital locks which we're in the process of using an innovation fund with Northern Power Grid to develop and install on utility sites."

"It hasn't been part of our core development but it's something we believe in and are passionate about. It required investment to get it to where we are at the moment. Part of that investment has pushed us in the red temporarily but that was to be expected."

The current crisis has created more challenges for the company with the outbreak of coronavirus. However, John's positive and flexible attitude is unflinching. "We've found Zoom a fantastic bit of software! I can see us continuing to use that after coronavirus. Adopting new technology will benefit us. There's a little bit of a silver lining there."

"I feel very positive about the industry and that we'll continue to improve. We've just got to get through this crisis and the sooner we can get back down to it the better." ■

The Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the Construction Industry

Mike Wharton, CEO of Complete Roofing Systems explores the ramifications of the pandemic for our industry and considers whether current events might act as a wrecking ball on the supply chain status quo.

With the tragic events of the coronavirus pandemic still very much unfolding and with no definitive resolution in sight, what does the future hold for the industry?

Many main contractors have furloughed significant percentages of their workforce. Their margins, historically being between 1.8% and -0.5%, mean that an interruption of the sort we are seeing will likely spell an end to some major names in the industry, government support or not.

The PM or CM business is not reliant on scorching the earth of the subcontractor for their income, a tactic employed widely in the industry. A further benefit is the ongoing relationships between the people involved. The CM/PM will generally remain the same, certainly when on multi-year frameworks and this gives subcontractors, managers and suppliers a comfort in understanding the ways and nuances of each other by working together over time. Strong personal relationships can be created which adds further value to the delivery of the project, and a passion and

The whole industry won't be immune from the huge risk from weaker main contractors' lack of liquidity.

leaning even more heavily on the subcontractor to essentially finance the works.

For how long will subcontractors tolerate that house-of-cards-type relationship and the insolvencies it can lead to?

A lesser number of more stable and liquid main contractors will benefit from an industry reboot, and subcontractors will want to work with those firms, potentially creating strong alliances, assuming the supply chain is treated appropriately. Will we see the whole main contractor space rationalise, with takeovers of not just one another, but of some supply chain subcontractors short of cash but required to finish projects?

A further and potentially major issue is that there is likely to be a squeeze on the capacity in the market of trade credit insurance on main contractor to subcontractor debt, and down the line, subcontractor to supplier debt. How many subcontractors are going to take on board open risk on any project if bad debt protection is not available? Will it be a time where subcontractors cry enough, and stand firm on no retention, liquidated and ascertained damages (LAD) clauses, and transfer of materials ownership clauses in favour of main contractors despite those materials not yet being fixed or paid for? The risk involved in engaging with many main

contractors post Covid-19 may be significant, whether on the client or subcontractor side. The industry could face a situation where the insurers themselves strangle an uplift in trade, creating a self-fulfilling prophecy of reduced credit terms, less work, less cash leading to insolvencies.

Another possibility may be that the large buyers change their strategy even further and employ subcontractors directly. Will they create their own construction departments rather than property management?

In the roofing industry specifically, the next few months will surely see many markets consolidating: the rooflight sector, trade merchants – with smaller players being taken out, and in the tile industry, especially the larger firms supplying housebuilding, which was starting a downturn even before the coronavirus. For subcontract labour, the impact may be felt with a downward pressure on rates and the IR35 update isn't going away. Of course, the whole industry won't be immune from the huge risk from weaker main contractors' lack of liquidity.

Lord Mendelsohn's Late Payment Reform bill is likely to come back for a further reading in due course, and there is more and more pressure on retention removal from the likes of Build UK together with the wider elements of payment reform. Legislative change could be a huge benefit to subcontractors, but legislative change is not enough. We know a total rebuild of construction procurement is required, and Covid-19 may well be the initial wrecking ball. As a main contractor, construction manager, subcontractor or buyer, what's your strategy for when the reboot comes? ■



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The requirement for construction will continue of course, but will a reset mean large buyers of construction may seek alternative procurement methods? The security of employing a project management (PM) or construction management (CM) business to look after their needs rather than a main contractor? The former often see the value in the supply chain, and with the ultimate client paying the bills, the relationship all the way down the chain can be so much more collaborative with each party, when working in this way.

commitment built from the security of getting paid on time, and importantly, the appropriate, contractually agreed amounts.

Most, if not all, subcontractors have suffered from many main contractors' small margins or negative margins, leading to late payment, under payment, re-measures, lack of approvals of day works and applications etc.. It's highly likely that the working capital of a number of main contractors is going to be precariously weak, leading to the real possibility of those firms

BS 6229:2018: What You Need to Know About Thermal Performance

Since the publication of BS 6229:2018, concerns have been raised about guidance relating to the thermal performance of inverted roofs. Sarah Spink, CEO of the Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA) discusses the issues raised and clarifies key points.

BS 6229:2018 - 'flat Roofs with continuously supported flexible waterproof coverings' – Code of Practice was published in November 2018. It sets out guidance and recommendations on current best practice in the design, construction and maintenance of flat roofs.

The 2018 standard updates a version published in 2003 and reflects the huge growth of the flat roof industry in recent years, including changes driven by Building Regulations and fire requirements, as well as new materials and systems.

Concerns have been raised about notes in the new standard relating to the thermal performance of inverted roofs and blue roofs.

In response, the LRWA has taken stewardship of an insulation subcommittee called the Specialist Technical Group (STG). The LRWA did this because we represent manufacturers who provide inverted roof systems into the market and polystyrene insulation manufacturers currently do not have a representative body.

The STG has been discussing and mediating concerns, so can now clarify the main issues raised and best practice.

How moisture affects inverted roofs' thermal performance

An inverted roof is one where the primary waterproofing is installed directly onto the structural deck with the thermal insulation placed above the waterproofing membrane and finished with paving, ballast, hard landscaping, a green roof and/or a blue roof. Installing thermal insulation over the waterproofing places specific demands on the design and performance of the roof

and its insulation.

Moisture has two effects on the thermal performance of inverted roofs:

1. Moisture absorption reduces the thermal performance of the insulation material.

This is addressed by using a moisture correction factor, which is applied to the declared thermal conductivity (λD) of the insulation. This produces the design thermal conductivity (λU) figure that must be used in the calculation for thermal transmittance (U-value). Contractors and specifiers should always refer to the manufacturer's datasheet for further information.

2. Rainwater reaching the waterproofed roof deck has a cooling effect.

The rainwater cooling effect is dependent on the volume of rainwater that reaches the waterproofed deck and must be accounted for in U-value calculations. To restrict how much water can pass through the system, a membrane called a water flow

reducing layer (WFRL) is loose laid over the thermal insulation prior to installation of the chosen surface finish.

What BS 6229:2018 states about thermal performance

Where inverted roofs are designed and installed to achieve zero falls, the roof should be constructed to avoid backfalls or ponding and promote free drainage.

BS 6229:2018 states poor workmanship, specifically the installation and detailing of the WFRL, as a reason for inverted roofs potentially achieving a worse than expected thermal performance. However, if manufacturers' installation instructions are followed, the WFRL will perform as intended.

The Standard attempts to compensate for higher volumes of water reaching the roof deck than were designed for, by proposing a 10 per cent increase in the insulation thickness. This proposal is contained within a note that supplements the main text.

The foreword of BS 6229:2018 clearly states that notes, "...give references and additional information that are important but do not form part of the recommendations."

However, many specifiers have viewed the note proposing the insulation increase as compulsory and this has caused confusion across the construction industry.

The impact on U-value calculations

In the main text, BS 6229:2018 is clear that U-value calculations should continue to be carried out in accordance with the combined method detailed in BS EN ISO 6946:2017. The method includes a correction to be applied for rainwater cooling in inverted roofs.

Insulation systems, including a WFRL, are tested according to the method in ETAG 031 Guideline for European Technical Approval of Inverted Roof Insulation Kits, to establish the percentage of rainfall that can enter into the system. This value - known as 'f' - as well as the local average rainfall for the building location ('p'), is used to establish the correction.

The British Board of Agrément (BBA) has chosen not to implement the suggested 10 per cent insulation thickness increase in its product certification for inverted roof systems featuring thermal insulation and a WFRL. This is because it fails to take into account the significant variance in the rainwater cooling effect across the UK, which depends on project location.

For the purposes of product certification, the BBA applies a minimum 'f' value of 2.5 per cent, to account for rainfall entering the system. As rainfall volumes vary significantly across the UK, so does the magnitude of the U-value

correction and consequent increase in insulation thickness needed to compensate for it.

Within the note in BS6229:2018 there is a reference to 'until further evidence and test data is made available' because it has been acknowledged that both the 10 per cent (BS6229:2018) and 2.5 per cent (BBA) figures are arbitrary and not based on scientific data.

What BS 6229:2018 states about inverted blue roofs

Where a blue roof water attenuation system is proposed over an inverted roof construction, BS 6229:2018 states the thermal insulation in inverted blue roofs is 'regularly saturated'. However, this is not based on any proven testing and not representative of the way blue roofs perform.

The guidance also says that when calculating the thermal performance of a blue roof, the value of 'f' should be used for a system without a WFRL - either 0.75, or 1.0 if square-edged insulation boards are specified rather than boards with



profiled edges. In reality, in almost all circumstances, the specific combination of insulation and WFRL should be installed together in an inverted, blue roof design.

The flat roofing industry's response

The LRWA and BBA is working together to develop a new test method to determine a realistic 'f' factor and develop an industry standard for WFRL installation.

The BBA has proposed an enhanced

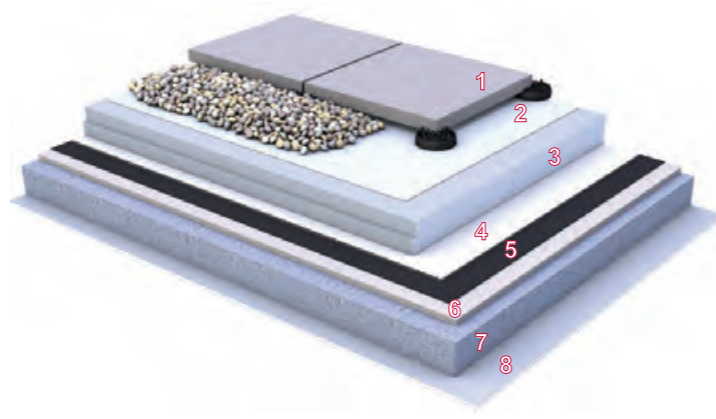
test based on the method in ETAG 031 which includes more typical roof features, such as the likely locations for rainwater penetrating the insulated system. The test proposal has also been designed to potentially examine the effect of water flow attenuation in a blue roof design.

Whilst this testing is carried out and the results analysed, the decision on whether, and how, to address potential thermal performance issues should be made by the specifier.

An additional 10 per cent increase in insulation thickness on an inverted roof is not mandatory. Thermal insulation manufacturers should be able to explain the values used in any U-value calculations they produce, as well as offer guidance on WFRL installation.

Where an inverted roof is designed to act as a blue roof as well, consultation with both the insulation manufacturer and blue roof system supplier is recommended to ensure all parties understand the system build-up.

The LRWA has published further information to help clarify BS6229:2018 in a new guidance note (15) (<https://www.lrwa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2019-12-Guidance-Note-15-Clarification-of-BS-6229-regarding-thermal-performance-of-Inverted-and-blue-roofs.pdf>) which is now available on its website. ■



- 1 Ballast or Slabs on Supports
- 2 Water Flow Reducing Layer (WFRL)
- 3 Rigid Thermal Insulation
- 4 Drainage Layer (optional)

- 5 Liquid Waterproofing Layer
- 6 Screed to Falls
- 7 Structural slab/deck
- 8 Internal Finish



LRWA
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The Water Flow Reducing Layer is an Essential Component in an Inverted Roof

Joan Ferrer, Technical Sales Manager at Ravago Building Solutions discusses how the water flow reducing layer (WFRL) is central to the thermal performance of an inverted roof system as determined by ETAG 031.



The inverted roof principle is easy to understand. Placed on top of the waterproofing membrane, the insulation is easy to install and provides simpler access for repairs to the concrete deck. A very common feature in modern buildings, inverted flat roofs offer architects some design advantages given their ease of use for Green Roofs and Blue Roofs.

Declared lambda is a measurement of thermal capability and is included in the product's Declaration of Performance (DOP). This takes account of aging of the material, so that the thermal performance is known over the building's lifetime. This set of testing and rules is contained in EN ISO 10456 and is part of the CE Marking of the XPS under EN 13164.

How is the moisture conversion factor calculated?

The WFRL plays an important role in an inverted roof system and is not to be confused with a waterproofing membrane. Loose-laid on top of the insulation material, the WFRL reduces the volume of cold rainwater that reaches the roof's waterproofing layer which

explanation of this calculation process can be found in BBA Bulletin 4 Issue 6.

ETAG 031 also details a process to use generic fx values without the need to carry out the WFRL testing, these values being much higher to allow for an extra safety factor, depending on the roof build-up and the edge profile of the insulation used.

The correct use and installation of the WFRL in an inverted roof system is therefore crucial for desktop U-value calculations to be realised. Further guidance on the correct procedures was recently published in Guidance Note 14 from the Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA).

Installation

Proper installation of the insulation is also essential to ensure that an inverted roof will perform as expected. Third-party assurance schemes such as Agrément Certificates are a vital source of information and should not be perceived as a mere tick box exercise when specifying materials for your project. These Approved Bodies make sure that the current standards are followed and properly explain best practice for a build up.

The often overlooked WFRL has a key role to play. It may look like a piece of paper, but it has a lot to say. ■

Notes

¹ 200mm concrete deck, 7.5mm waterproofing membrane and project in London

References

ETAG 031:2010 Guideline for European Technical Approval of Inverted Roof Insulation Kits – Part 1

EN 13164:2012 Thermal insulation products for buildings – Factory made extruded polystyrene foam (XPS) products – Specification

EN ISO 10456:2007 Building materials and products – Hygrothermal properties – Tabulated design values and procedures for determining declared and design thermal values

BBA Bulletin 4 Issue 6 – 2015

Extruded polystyrene (XPS) insulation boards are the best solution for inverted roofs due to their unparalleled levels of low water absorption and the high compressive strength of the boards.



Extruded polystyrene (XPS) insulation boards are the best solution for inverted roofs due to their unparalleled levels of low water absorption and the high compressive strength of the boards. Thermal performance is also exceptional, Ravatherm XPS X 300 SL from Ravago Building Solutions has a declared lambda of 0.031 W/mK, requiring just 200mm of insulation to achieve a U-value of 0.15 W/m²K.¹

How does the water flow reducing layer impact U-value calculations?

It is important to understand the difference between declared lambda and design lambda and their intended purposes.

However, once the insulation is used within an inverted roof system, there are corrections that need to be considered as part of the calculation. ETAG 031 (European Technical Approval Guideline for Inverted Roof Kits) requires that a design lambda must be used for U-value calculations, which includes the moisture conversion factor where the WFRL has a pivotal role.

The moisture conversion factor needs to be accounted for because in an inverted roof the insulation will be partially exposed to the elements. Some rainwater will have contact with both the insulation and the concrete deck thus affecting the thermal performance of the whole system.

temporarily affects the rate of heat loss from the roof. ETAG 031 Annex C outlines a test to measure WFRL performance measuring the proportion of water that passes through a build-up.

The fraction of water measured is the drainage factor (f) and there is a general acceptance that 2.5% should be used as a minimum factor, even when the test result is 0, as this is not a waterproof layer. When combined with the standard factor for increased heat loss (x) of 0.040 Wday/m²Kmm this results in a correction factor of fx=0.001 to be applied to the declared lambda to calculate the design lambda. Effectively, 1mW/mK is added to the declared value. A thorough

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A Big Year for UK Green Roofing



Chris Bridgman, Managing Director of Bridgman and Bridgman

This is a big year for green roofing in the United Kingdom. In January 2020, the Green Roof Organisation (GRO) became an independent Trade Body. With a newly elected Board that combines vast knowledge and expertise from across the industry, GRO is working to update the GRO Code, which serves as a guide for behaviour and standards based on good practice in green roofing, and also updated fire risk guidance. These publications are aimed at architects, specifiers, planners, contractors and end users and advocate urban greening which, now more than ever, is so important to our everyday lives. The inaugural World Green Roof Day will be celebrated online on the 6 June 2020 - as people are asked to share images and videos of green

roof projects on Twitter and Instagram using the hashtags #WGRD and #WGRD2020. Anyone in the UK or from around the globe is invited to participate in this celebration of gardens in the sky. Why not take part in the six-for-sixth challenge? All you need to do is share six green roof project photos or videos across social media on the 6 June - visit worldgreenroofday.com to find out more. As well as looking forward, 2020 presents an opportunity to look back at the green roofing industry over the last 20 years. In the year 2000,

Dusty Gedge, a GRO Board member, inspired by a trip to Switzerland, introduced a green roofing methodology to London. This was the start of what would become a high-growth industry poised to tackle climate change and encourage new habitats for wildlife, where so much had been lost or destroyed by development and expansion. Dusty Gedge is a well-respected thought leader and champion of green infrastructure and represents the UK around the world on green roofing and wall matters and is President of the European Green Roof and Wall association.

WORLD GREEN ROOF DAY 6 June 2020

Share images and videos of green roofs

#WGRD #WGRD2020

Green roofs (living roofs) and green walls (living walls) have, over the last decade, become the most obvious manifestation of urban greening in the UK. In London, this has been driven by the ambitious and pioneering Living Roofs and Walls Policy (G5 Urban Greening), which was first introduced into the London Plan in 2008. Since then, green roof and wall uptake in both large and small developments has increased annually across London. A leader in urban greening The city is now regarded as a leader in urban greening, in terms of policy, planning and design, as well as in the overall number of green roofs being installed. However, urban greening policy and practice will need to be developed further. It is imperative that new approaches, such as biosolar roofs (green roofs combined with photovoltaic arrays)

and blue green roofs (green roofs that can store stormwater), become part of the standard range of urban greening measures planned, designed, managed and integrated into the wider green infrastructure network, to make the cities of the future more sustainable. The drive to make the world's urban spaces greener is a relatively recent phenomenon. Some cities, such as Linz in Austria, have had green roof policies for more than 40 years. However, most cities began developing urban greening policies and/or incentives only in the last 20 years. This makes London, which has had a policy in place for only 10 years, a relative newcomer on the urban greening stage. The growing market can be measured through the London Living Roof Report 2019 [\[https://livingroofs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/LONDON-LIVING-ROOFS-WALLS-REPORT_MAY-2019.pdf\]](https://livingroofs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/LONDON-LIVING-ROOFS-WALLS-REPORT_MAY-2019.pdf) that serves as a useful review of the development of

This year sees the launch of the full Lantra green roof training suite, which will offer training and assessment in the installation and maintenance of green roofs.



green infrastructure. The 2020 London Living Roof Report will highlight even more exciting developments in the capital and the UK market - keep an eye out for this being launched later in the year! Finally, this year also sees the launch of the full Lantra green roof training suite, which will offer training and assessment in the installation and maintenance of green roofs. Topics covered include blue roofs, biosolar, pitched, shaped and curved roofs as well as maintenance regimes and techniques. The training is open to architects, specifiers, estimators, installers, contractors or complete newcomers. This is that only training suite that allows candidates to work towards a LISS/CSCS card in green roofing. For more information and to find national training providers, visit Lantra.co.uk |||

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Free Green Roof CDP presentation available

Typical Green Roof Construction
This diagram is an illustration only and demonstrates the range and types of products available for a green roof installation.

Have Your Say on the Future of Blue Roof Design

Blue Roofs have become increasingly popular in recent years, in response to sustainable urban drainage requirements and as part of the growing awareness of the impact of climate change on built environments. Here, Ben Hickman, Technical Director of CSSW.London explains the new research taking place into blue roof design and how you can help contribute to it.

The Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) is coordinating research and launching a survey to gain industry input on producing guidance for the design and construction of blue roofs.

As many Roofing Today readers will be aware, there has been considerable discussion surrounding blue roof design particularly regarding zero falls roofs and problems of deflection. Other points at issue are the durability of product components on blue roofs and their maintenance and repairability. There is currently no dedicated standard for blue roofs, yet blue roofs have become increasingly popular as part of sustainable

urban drainage (SUDs) and more built environment professionals are looking to blue roofs to slow the passage of water from the roof and reduce flood risks.

The NFRC produced some Technical Guidance on Blue Roof Design and Construction in 2017. However, there remains some critical points of differing opinion and various blue roof manufacturers can offer conflicting advice. This can make the procurement process difficult.

Confidence in design

It is critical that blue roofs are designed and constructed correctly to avoid roof failures and for this growing sector to be successful.

Without comprehensive guidance on how to design a blue roof currently existing anywhere in the world, designers cannot have full confidence in the life expectancy of their blue roof.

To have your say on the future of blue roof design please go to
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RoofingToday>.
For more information email emma.fryer@ciria.org or ben@cssw.london.



This survey is important. The guidance coming out of this research will set the direction of future blue roof design. Your input will help make that guidance the best it can be.



I'll be leading the waterproofing element of the blue roof research. Coming from a background in basement waterproofing I have become particularly involved in podium decks (buried basement roofs). This is often the most suitable place for a blue roof system but it is also the confluence of sub structure and superstructure, basement waterproofing and roof waterproofing.

With additional understanding derived from post-graduate research in this area, as well as some expert witness work on a failed blue roof, I am part of a team which includes Dusty Gedge, founder of Livingroofs.org and the Green Roof Organisation (GRO); and Malcolm Waring an expert in rainwater drainage and storage. An interdisciplinary practice called Woods Hardwick is leading our team and Carl Harrop of Watershed Engineering will be the main author.

Inviting all construction professionals to respond to the blue roof survey (it takes about 15 minutes to complete) will allow us to get broad input from across industry so that we can see many perspectives on the various issues. This will help us pick up on any key areas which need particular attention. It will also confirm (or otherwise) the consensus we think is emerging within industry, and make more obvious those areas which lack agreement.

Case studies

In particular, we really need some good case studies and I'd love to receive some good responses on that.

This survey is important. The guidance coming out of this research will set the direction of future blue roof design. Your input will help make that guidance the best it can be. ■■■

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Will Blue Roofs be the Answer to Britain's Flooding Problem?

Amidst all the stress of the coronavirus pandemic, social distancing and lockdown, it's easy to forget that several areas of the UK were already devastated by flooding before the crisis took hold. What's more, it would seem that we can now expect flooding to be a regular occurrence for thousands of people. Whole communities are being affected by unprecedented levels of rainfall, combined with poor planning in terms of building, constructing barriers and dredging rivers, as well as a lack of joined up thinking, writes Justin Pitman, Sales Director for Proteus Waterproofing.

With overwhelming evidence that increased rainfall is going to be a major feature of winter weather in the UK, action needs to be taken now.

Britain is depressingly a long way behind its continental neighbours when it comes to managing water and excess rainfall. German cities in particular are several years ahead of us in the number of green roofs that seem to feature on almost every building.

Impressive roofs

These impressive roofs slow up the release of rainwater, encourage plant growth, attract birds and insects, and generally make a positive impact on the environment. Green roofs come into their own when rain first begins to fall, significantly reducing excess rainwater which can overwhelm sewers and storm drains.

While green roofs make a significant contribution to managing excess rainwater, in isolation they are really just a metaphoric drop in the ocean, particularly in the UK. At this time there are simply not enough of these structures to make a significant impact.

Government legislation would help to encourage building owners to go green, but even then, many existing flat roofs were not built to take the additional weight needed to accommodate plants, irrigation components and the other products needed. That is why many are turning to a different solution – the blue roof.

There are, of course, still weight restrictions with blue roof projects – water by its very nature is heavy, and in layman's terms, a blue roof is effectively the equivalent of an empty swimming pool. It fills up when it rains and slowly releases the water back into the sewerage system, usually over a 24-hour period, allowing drains to be better able to cope.

This has become increasingly more important as town planners are

restricting the amount of rainwater leaving a construction site via the drainage system. This can be limited to 5-10 litres per second, per hectare, the flow rates are the same for regional greenfield sites as part of a sustainable drainage policy (SuDS).

As with green roofs, going blue usually requires a bespoke design which building owners and specifiers should first check with suppliers. Proteus will work closely

with them to ensure that the roof complies and meets the demands dictated by SuDS.

This is particularly important, as from the 6 April 2015 it became compulsory for sustainable urban drainage systems to be considered in local policies and decisions on planning applications relating to major developments. This is to ensure that systems for the management of water runoff are implemented, unless demonstrated to be inappropriate.

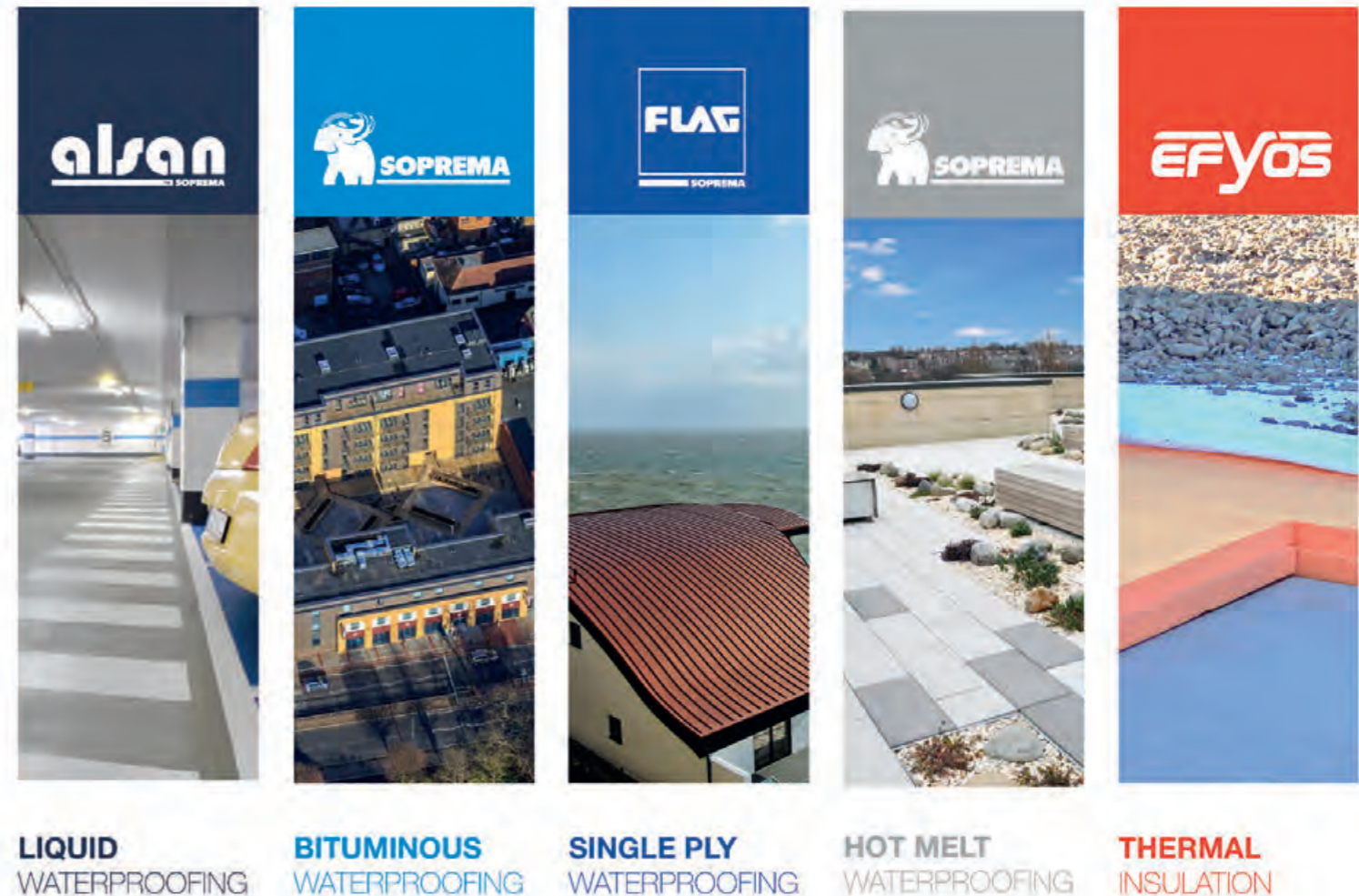
Conceptual turnaround

In the past, roofs were designed to allow water to run off as quickly as possible, which is why a blue roof is something of conceptual turnaround. It means if you are holding water on a roof, you have to be very sure that the waterproofing membrane you employ is up to the job.

To meet this challenge, Proteus Waterproofing has developed a blue roof build up system which incorporates a seamless, waterproofing membrane that's BBA certified to last the lifetime of the substructure on which it is installed.

Its seamless finish means that there is nowhere water can penetrate. This is imperative because egress of water from any part of the roof can spell disaster for the building structure below, and if you are holding back the equivalent of a small swimming pool, it would be a major problem. ■■

Proteus can offer advice and expertise to support your blue roof installation, no matter how large or small. Just give us a call.



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Why Training is an Essential Investment for Flat Roofing Contractors

With an increased industry focus on safety and high-quality installation standards and a stronger end-user awareness of these issues, specialist training is more important than ever before, argues Adrian Buttfress, Managing Director of EPDM rubber roofing specialists, Permarmor UK.

For me, the reputation of the roofing industry – and flat roofing, in particular – has always been inconsistent. Historically, the industry has been marred by non-professionals offering low budget, quick fixes to unaware consumers. However, both rubber EPDM and the wider flat roofing industry is full of experienced, highly skilled professionals – something we need to shout about and do more to encourage across the board.

To boost this reputation and the great work that is being done daily, as well as preventing potentially damaging performance issues, contractors should make the most of the training and technical assistance that's on offer throughout the industry.

Even the most qualified and experienced roofers should keep on top of continuing professional development (CPD) to enhance their skills in an everchanging sector and, in turn, help to raise industry standards.

This is something my team is well positioned to comment on, as Permarmor operates the Firestone RubberCover National Training Centre. We're very proud to have trained nearly 5,000 people over the past 16 years.

Getting to know your materials

In a report published in February 2018, the Chartered Institute of Building found that 54% of its members believed qualifications were purely "tick box exercises" that placed too much focus on the process, rather than the product itself.

This further reinforces my opinion that, as an industry, we need to

As an industry, we need to push for anyone purchasing roofing products to fully understand their capabilities and how they are used, to support the highest possible installation standards.



push for anyone purchasing roofing products to fully understand their capabilities and how they are used, to support the highest possible installation standards.

A common example of how a gap in education impacts standards relates to the code on the EPDM roofing membrane, which highlights when a product is genuinely branded. Often, installers and consumers remove this seven-digit serial number, but it reveals a lot of information that could come in handy further down the line.

The unique code tells us that the product has been manufactured by, for example, Firestone for the European market, along with the date it was made and on which shift – allowing us to cross reference it with quality control. Incidentally, we have never seen a Firestone membrane failure in all the time we have been a distributor.

It's also important to ensure the adhesive you're using during the installation process is genuine. I've seen cases where an adhesive has failed, and it's turned out that the product used wasn't authentic. In some cases, a Firestone label has been plastered over a cheap adhesive to try and pass it off as genuine. Training can help you identify whether a product is real or fake.

Furthermore, traceability is becoming something of a hot topic, particularly in the commercial sector, following Grenfell. Because of this, we always advise contractors to only use quality materials with a CE mark and BBA certificate – and insist they see this certificate from their supplier. Again, these are valuable pieces of information to make contractors aware of, as they are likely to be the ones asked for proof of certification if a fire or warranty claim is required.

The benefits of using a full system

Taking a full system approach – consisting of a membrane, adhesive, tape and primer – also aids traceability. Industry proven systems have been designed to work together, making the resulting performance reassuringly predictable. In a difficult and competitive market, this type of guarantee can go a long way to strengthen reputation.

The single system solution is hardly a revelation considering that the problem of unreliable results clearly stems from over using a mix of products. But it's important that it's reiterated and heard clearly by the industry – particularly because there are stockists out there that think they offer a full system but, in a few cases, I've seen differently.

Training programmes not only cost money, but they also mean spending time off site. Because of this, many roofing contractors see training as an expense, rather than an investment.

However, as I've argued, untrained employees and construction professionals will, inevitably, lack the knowledge to get the most out of the products they're working with. This ultimately means they are less likely to install a system that's fit for purpose.

The industry's failure to consistently deliver quality installations is an issue that impacts on the reputation of the sector. And, at a time when the industry is facing a challenging time, it's vital to build a better and safer future for our trade. ■

For further information on Permarmor UK visit www.permarmor.co.uk.



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Keeping Up with Graeme Millar, President of the International Federation of Roofing Trades

Graeme Miller took over the Presidency of the International Federation of Roofing Trades (IFD) in September last year. In post for the next three years, Graeme, who is also a former President of the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) and Director of roofing contractors Bain and Irvine, is keeping a diary of his main activities during his term of office.

Here, Graeme reports on his first activities after taking up the post and reflects on some important themes and developments for the roofing industry.

My first task after becoming IFD President in Edinburgh was to call a board meeting. The meeting took place in Berlin and was attended by all board members.

Present at the meeting was myself, Graeme Millar. As President and Head of Technical, I oversee all roofing commissions: Waterproofing (flat), Pitched, Façade, and Health, Safety and Wellbeing. It is likely we will add a metal commission during my three-year term.

Walter Bisig. Walter is the immediate past IFD President and from Switzerland. He is my head of finance and works directly with Detlef Stauch, our current General Secretary.

Armands Liede. Armands is the board member responsible for marketing, working directly with our marketing commission, which is

chaired by Sabina Sejew from Fakro Europe. Armands is from Latvia.

Gerhard Freisinger. Gerhard is from Austria and is the board member responsible for training and monitoring. He works closely with the German Roofing Federation Training Group where they have developed the passport for qualified roofers. This is particularly relevant now that the UK government have highlighted their upcoming rules on immigration.

Henrik Mosegaard- Johansen. Henrik is Danish and now heads up Velux rooflights in Germany. Henrik is the board member responsible for partner members. He chairs the Partner Members meetings and brings their concerns to the board. He also handles sponsorship and works closely with the marketing commission.

The meeting was organised to

confirm our various board roles and provided me with as the new President to set out my strategy for the next three years. The meeting was also important as we arranged an interview for a replacement for Detlef who will be retiring in June after over 20 years with us as our General Secretary. This is a significant and emotional change for us as Detlef has become a confidante and good friend to all of us.

I mention this meeting as a general introduction to a very active board, which is successful in my view because there are only five of us!

As M.D. of my own company for 33 years and effectively working as a committee of one, moving to a

small, but busy, board is ideal. When I was President of the NFRC we would regularly have 15 people at the board meetings. This became difficult to chair and to be frank was unwieldy. I should also mention that the European way of attendance at board meetings is so much more relaxed and therefore more enjoyable than is common in the UK.

A further meeting of the board was held in Amsterdam in early December. All board members were present and historically this is the Christmas board meeting where our spouses and partners are invited to attend. This gives us all the opportunity to socialise and exchange gifts - a very European thing also.

We also arranged a meeting with the Dutch Federation which has reinvented itself as a new building envelope federation. After discussions on a canal boat, we cemented the IFD/ Dutch Federation relationship moving forward. The Dutch have so much to

give in relation to their technical knowledge, particularly in the area of facades.

My first technical meeting on the 14 January took place in Roofing House in London. Thank you to the NFRC for hosting us. The meeting was the Pitched Commission and it was expertly chaired by Colin McCorquodale from Archibald McCorquodale & Son Ltd in the UK.

Climate change

We decided at the meeting that the pitched roofing commission would concentrate and lead on the topic of climate change. This will be a two-year consultation, with the commission providing guidance to our membership on all aspects of what the roofing industry can do to assist in reversing climate change, which currently has worldwide support. It is an international issue and it is right that the IFD, as an international organisation, takes the industry lead on this. All of our other technical commissions will have a voice in the guidelines for our membership, which we will provide at our congress in Marburg, Germany (2021). I should add that our Façade commission has met twice since September continuing their fantastic work on tolerance guidelines for the industry with the Health, Safety and Wellbeing commission meeting once.

Dach en Holz

The end of January included my first visit to the Dach-en-Holz Roofing and Timber exhibition in Stuttgart. This is an enormous spectacle taking in 10 separate exhibition halls. Anyone who has even the slightest interest in roofing should attend this exhibition at least once in their lifetime! The Velux stand for example was effectively a two-storey house! It was a pleasure to meet up with our German colleagues, our friends from the United States (NRCA) and it was also good to spend some time with



Dach en Holz: Anyone who has even the slightest interest in roofing should attend this exhibition at least once in their lifetime!



Graeme Millar with Steve Revell at the IRE in Dallas.

James Talman (NFRC) - all in an effort to cement the IFD's relationship with member organisations.

International Roofing Expo

The following week, I travelled to



Graeme Millar congratulates Gordon Penrose on his 60 years in roofing.

Dallas at the invitation of the NRCA, America's foremost roofing federation. The event was the International Roofing Expo (IRE). Whilst this was, again, a wonderful event, it did not have the size of

Stuttgart which belied the expectation that everything is big in Texas. The NRCA, as is the case in the UK at the NFRC, and here at the IFD, is concentrating on introducing accreditation into the industry. We all have so much to learn from each other as we raise the profile of our industry, particularly in the domestic and residential market. I also spent time in Dallas with the current NFRC President, Steve Revell, which provided a bit of fun within some hectic meeting times.

Beijing 2020

For the last four years, we have been working closely with the Chinese Waterproofing Association in relation to the organisation of the World Championships for Young Roofers in Beijing this 27-31 October 2020.

The recent outbreak of the Coronavirus in China, now affecting many more countries, has resulted in us calling a board meeting about this, in Reading at the offices of BMI. Top of the agenda will be how we decide on the way forward for this event and whether we need to postpone in light of the current health crisis, which at time of writing is not considered a pandemic.

NFRC Scotland Dinner

Lastly, my wife, Norma and I have just returned from a very successful NFRC Scotland Dinner dance at the Dunblane Hydro Hotel. A wonderful evening was had by all and thank you to the NFRC Scotland for the invite.

It was great to meet up with past presidents of the NFRC (Alex Owens and Gordon Penrose); and of course, the presentation to Gordon Penrose (also an ex-President of IFD) for his 60 years in roofing was the highlight to me. Well done Gordon! III



The European way of attendance at board meetings is so much more relaxed and therefore more enjoyable than is common in the UK.

The Route to Roofing Success

Dave Maginnis is Managing Director at roofing and waterproofing specialists, Briggs Amasco. With nearly 40 years' managerial experience in the roofing industry, Dave joined the company in 1989 and helped to establish its reputation throughout the UK as a commercial leader in its field. In this feature, Dave discusses the routes to success, the challenges, and how the roofing industry has changed during the previous decades.

The first step I took to ensuring my tenure as BriggsAmasco Managing Director was a successful one, was to put the right Senior Management team in place. Then it was about us as a company setting the highest industry standards in terms of project delivery and customer service.

The demand for excellence has to come from those at the top in order for it to become the culture throughout the organisation. It's certainly been the case at BriggsAmasco. We've spent a lot of time honing our health and safety practices. We regard it as a specialism, and directly employ our own health and safety advisors across the country. At the same

management is the backbone to the development of any business.

Challenges

Different challenges emerge each year, the current coronavirus being one example. Who could've foreseen it? It pays to be flexible enough to deal with each challenge and adapt to the ever-changing circumstances around you.

One of the few ever-present issues for us, others in the supply chain and the industry as a whole is payment cycles. We tend to work with the construction industry's larger companies; as such we're able to circumnavigate the payment issue to some extent. By establishing good relationships with these firms and the senior

High-profile projects

BriggsAmasco's growing reputation as a leading commercial roofing company has led to us being selected to carry-out a number of prestigious projects in recent years. We waterproofed buildings in Stratford, east London which formed the athletes' Olympic Village during the London 2012 Games.

We also completed a huge, £7m refurbishment at Birmingham's New Street railway station. Westfield shopping centre sites in Stratford, Shepherd's Bush (west London), and Derby were also waterproofed by BriggsAmasco, as well as London's British Museum, and schools across the UK.

We're currently supplying a mix of waterproof roofing: mastic asphalt, built-up felt roofing, hot-melt, single-ply, lead, and green roofs, for an exceptional project at Battersea Power Station in south-west London.

We're on phase two of the eight-phase project that is designed to transform the derelict 39-acre power station site into a thriving mini-city containing more than 4,000 homes, retail stores, restaurants and bars, a six-acre park, and a community theatre. It's an honour to be involved with such a project, and testament to the excellent reputation we've garnered throughout the construction industry.

Changes

Of the industry changes which have taken place during my time at BriggsAmasco, the huge improvements in health and safety are perhaps the most significant.

There have also been some superb innovations such as the use of electrical hot-melt machines, as opposed to propane gas, which have done much to improve

It's a decision most contractors will have to make: 'do we stop doing business with companies which regularly delay payments, and risk getting less work in the short-term whilst we look for other customers?'

time, we've invested heavily in training and upskilling our workforce from our on-site roof installation teams, to office customer service staff. Employees are the company's most valuable asset; their personal fulfilment is key to benefitting the business as a whole. Bringing through 'new recruits' is another enabler to success; they help keep things fresh by creating a new dynamic. Some may even bring new ideas, which are always welcome to hear.

Personnel issues aside, in the roofing business there are commercial decisions to make in terms of risk on a daily basis. It's my job as managing director to meet these issues head-on. Risk

people who work there, it means we're able to steer clear of the organisations which refrain from playing by the rules, so to speak. It's a decision most contractors will have to make: 'do we stop doing business with companies which regularly delay payments, and risk getting less work in the short-term whilst we look for other customers?' In my opinion, it would be the correct course of action to take to ensure a business's long-term stability.



work processes. Such equipment has been vital to raising safety standards and improving the industry's carbon footprint due to the reduced fuel output. The evolution of cold liquids, hot-melt and traditional bituminous materials has also come a long way in the past 40 years.

From an IT perspective, the use of apps has helped progress on-site operations. Providing operatives with tablets means safety reports and the like can be filed instantaneously. Whilst the development of 3D and 4D modelling means architects and engineers can design and plan more efficiently for the benefit of all those involved in the building process.

The future

If we can get people to pay the building supply chain on time, then we can get to a situation where retentions – which means



Briggs Amasco is currently supplying a variety of roof waterproofing to the extensive Battersea Power Station project in London.

contractors can hold back on paying up to 5% of a contract's value until completion of our works, followed by a further 12 months defects

liability period – can finally be abolished.

Under this current system, it can

take up to two years to receive full payment for a project. But what happens if the paying company goes out of business during that time?

There's been a lot of well-intentioned talk by the government and industry bodies about taking steps to have the retention system abolished, but not a great deal of tangible benefit.

Advice

For those looking to progress their business in the way BriggsAmasco has, I'd say investing a significant percentage of profits back into the company is absolutely key. Whether it involves staff, new equipment or premises, that investment will count towards creating a long-term sustainable business. III

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Keeping Your Head Above Water

While the impact of COVID-19 on the UK roofing sector is yet to be fully understood, contractors still face having to cope with project delays when normal services resume - whether it's as a result of the virus or the weather. From understanding the importance of continued communication, to allocating resources effectively, DFR Roofing's Director, Andy Pilkington shares his approach to limiting the impact of challenging external factors on clients, the workforce and business growth.



The roofing industry is no stranger to a crisis. Yet it has always been regarded as one of the most resilient construction sectors, successfully weathering a recession, numerous construction downturns and the threat of Brexit. Before the spread of COVID-19, the industry was already facing one of its biggest challenges yet. The past year has seen some of the wettest weather on record, plaguing the sector with delays and missed build deadlines.

Likely a sign of things to come, as the impact of global warming becomes more apparent, the unpredictable weather has meant that some contractors are dealing with project backlogs of up to, and over, eight weeks. While the promise of dryer months lies ahead, for many contractors this provides an opportunity to play catch up, rather than securing new contract or business opportunities.

Communication is king

When facing delays, the importance of continued communication is paramount, and there is often nothing worse than a ringing phone with clients chasing project updates or site start dates. Delays are inevitable, whether it's as a result of the weather or from a temporary closure, and clients appreciate honesty and transparency. If there is a delay tell them why; for example, while obvious, many won't know that leadwork, singly ply and liquid systems cannot be installed during prolonged periods of bad weather.

The preferred method of responding to project delays is to foresee them happening. However, while weather patterns may be relatively predictable, the onset of the coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated that serious issues can arise with no warning.



Forecast those jobs which will likely be affected by changing external conditions and make contact with clients as soon as possible to let them know how your business is responding to the situation.

Remaining in constant contact with your team, as well as those in the build supply chain, will help you to respond to an issue quickly, ensuring swift and appropriate action can be taken to limit the business impact.

A proactive response is essential, and this should be applied across every area of the business to ensure effective organisational management. Forecast those jobs which will likely be affected by changing external conditions and make contact with clients as soon as possible to let them know how

your business is responding to the situation. If appropriate, share this message across your company channels, whether it's social media or on your website, as well as sending clear directives to clients, contractors and partners so they can plan and adjust build timescales accordingly.

Prioritised to perfection

It is vital to prioritise your most important jobs, whether it's on sites which are subject to a strict build programme, or those which require a reactive or emergency response. If a job is going to be delayed by the

weather or other factors, re-allocate your resources and staff to improve overall business efficiency. Even within limited options, prioritise the work which can be completed; whether it's staff training, or elements of slate or tile work, and by re-allocating the workforce appropriately, you can make the best use of their skills.

While a seemingly obvious task, forward planning weather conditions can be a big help when it comes to strategic business and financial planning. By doing so, you can ensure materials are ordered ahead of dry periods, as well as confirming proposed start dates with clients. However, it is still necessary to ensure that clients understand and agree contractually that work is subject to weather conditions; particularly for jobs taking place in winter months.

Clients also need to understand the safety considerations of working in wet or windy weather. While it's tempting to press on with completing a job, the wellbeing of the workforce should be the most important consideration when making a decision, regardless of the deadline.

Every project presents new risks, and strategic planning and effective resource allocation can go a long way in protecting your business for the long term, ensuring your workforce and growth is safeguarded as much as possible. Despite the start of 2020 proving difficult for all, the roofing industry continues to be one of the strongest sectors in construction, weathering its fair share of storms, big and small, and with effective management, teamwork and commitment it will continue to reign supreme amongst trades. III

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Communicating in a Crisis

Jessica Shailes, MD of The Ideal Marketing Company explains why and how companies should communicate during the Covid-19 crisis.

Although we are all facing the challenges of the Covid-19 crisis together, the ramifications for each individual business are unique.

The situation in the construction industry is particularly challenging due to the lack of clarity around how the industry should operate, the difficulties of implementing social distancing, cancelled contracts and supply chain problems.

Don't forget to update this message as and when your situation changes. As the lockdown gradually shifts, many businesses are relying on their online presence to update on their services and clear messaging will keep you in potential clients' minds as the crisis transforms into new ways of doing business.

Creating a strong online presence is something that often gets neglected, so now is a good time

of them inappropriate - that appeared from many brands at the beginning of lockdown. People felt patronised and irritated by yet another message from a faceless corporate CEO telling us they are 'Here for us at this difficult time'. That message jars when people are facing losing their livelihoods - or even their homes.

Instead, it's important to really think about how you can demonstrate trust and value by

At a time when you are unable to provide a fully normal service, it's crucial to switch your focus from promoting your company to appropriate brand building.

In times like this, it can be tempting to sit tight - after all, we have no influence over the crisis. However, the truth is, it's now more important than ever to communicate with customers.

Managing expectations

By now, ideally you will have let your clients know whether your business is temporarily closed or operating at reduced capacity. It's vital that this is communicated across all channels including:

- ☐ Website
- ☐ Email signatures and auto-reply
- ☐ Phone answering services
- ☐ Social media accounts
- ☐ Blogs and videos

Brand building

Every business wants to give its customers what they need. While it may be frustrating that this may not be possible at the moment, it's important to remember that what you say as a business during this time will be remembered.

At a time when you are unable to provide a fully normal service, it's crucial to switch your focus from promoting your company to appropriate brand building. Many people complained about the range of marketing emails, some

defining your vision and values. This can be done by creating customer personas, which allow you to identify and understand the clients you typically serve and those you would like to attract.

Building trust now will create brand loyalty in the long run and ways of doing this include:

- ☐ Community engagement - can you afford to give anything away at a reduced rate to keyworkers or the vulnerable?
- ☐ Free advice - can you provide press or blog content on subjects like roof care and identifying roof damage that needs immediate attention?

As the writer Maya Angelou said, "I've learned that people will

forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Staying positive

Anxiety is the enemy of creativity and there is no escaping the fact that these are anxious times. However, when focusing on brand building, try the following:

- ☐ Have 'C-word' free periods where you stay away from the news.
- ☐ Replace 'No, because' with 'Yes, if...' For example, reframe 'No I can't quote for that job', to 'Yes, I can if we follow safe operating procedures'.
- ☐ Earmark some time when you would normally be out at work as a brand building opportunity; getting people to know, like and trust your company brand takes time - it's a good time to make a start.

The importance of advertising

History shows brands suffer when they see advertising as an expense instead of an investment during recessions. It is worth getting as much exposure as possible so that you are at the forefront of people's minds as the economy restarts.

In the aftermath of Covid-19 competition will be tight and attitudes will be different. Whatever the new normal looks like, recovery will not be instant. However, the actions you take now will ensure it is easier and quicker. ■

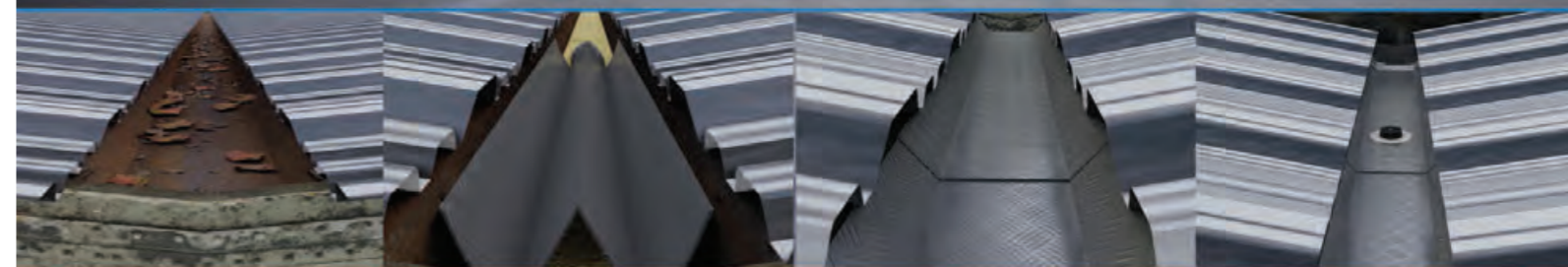
Jess Shailes is MD of full-service marketing agency The Ideal Marketing Company
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Supporting Each Other in Times of Adversity

Stuart Hicks, The Institute of Roofing (IoR's) CEO, offers practical advice on how the association can help individuals during times of uncertainty.



This year marks the 40th anniversary for the IoR and like many organisations, we had a lot of events, CPDs and regional meetings planned in the diary. With the COVID-19 outbreak, we've had to become flexible as a sector and adaptable to change.

The Institute was established in 1980 with the fundamental aim of encouraging and supporting continual learning and career development for those with supervisory, management and ownership roles within the roofing industry - and that aim continues today.

This important educational role has never been so vital as we experience

some extraordinary times in roofing and construction, and as a nation.

What does the IoR do?

So, how can the IoR advise businesses and help individuals in this time of crisis, and beyond?

The IoR is a membership organisation open to anyone in the roofing sector from contractors to manufacturers, merchants and distributors to roof surveyors, consultants and a wide range of support services. We offer individual members a clear, structured path towards management careers in roofing by achieving industry recognised professional qualifications. This is done by

building on existing knowledge, offering sector-specific courses and CPDs and leads to professional status as an Associate member, or higher-level status of the IoR.

Our CPD events are currently on hold, but our benefits package provides access to a host of certified online training courses, many of which are free to members.

What are the benefits of becoming an IoR member?

Whether you're an apprentice, someone new to the industry, still in training, or an established manager or business owner, there are enormous benefits to joining the IoR as we work to help individuals

achieve recognised professional qualifications.

Joining the IoR enables individuals to use the status of membership with qualifications after their name. Our members are also eligible for a Professionally Qualified Person CSCS Card, provided they have passed the 'Health, Safety and Environment Test for Managers and Professionals' within the last two years.

How can I access online training?

Members of the IoR receive one free online learning course a year, which cost £25 +VAT each normally. These courses cover anything from

manual handling, asbestos awareness and working at height, to data protection, conflict in the workplace and LinkedIn for business training.

Our online benefits portal of training and e-learning options can only be accessed by members, but we encourage them to share the information and knowledge using the tools from the portal with colleagues, family and friends. However, even if you're not a member, anyone can sign-up and undertake an online course by visiting our website.

Times are tough – why does training matter?

It makes more business sense to invest in employees, as well-trained and knowledgeable teams reflect the business and can enhance the reputation of the company. But yes, times are tough, and so it is about maintaining that level of quality staff and investing in your people - vital for long-term business success. You need to be able to rely on your workforce – and that can happen if they are treated well, with respect, and are recognised for their skills.

Even if job security is uncertain as a result of the pandemic, it's important to use this time wisely to upskill, think about training goals, qualifications you can add to your CV, and access the free information and guidance out there from trusted sources like industry associations. Anyone who devotes their time to

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training and upskilling – no matter what age or level they work at in their career – should be regarded as an expert in their field and therefore trusted to deliver that certain level of performance. It is like gaining a badge of excellence that can open doors.

There are a number of roofing associations – how is the IoR different?

Every association has its place in the industry, and our job is to ensure we provide the right support, knowledge and best practice promotion to our specific target audience and beyond. What's different about the IoR is that our members are not companies - they are individuals looking to further their career. For us, it's not just about roofing skills, but knowledge and professionalism.

It's also worth remembering that not everyone who works in roofing works on the roof. The IoR covers the entire scope of the roofing industry. Anyone from a manufacturer to distributor to contractor can tap into the qualifications offered by the Institute and carry their career forward.

How can the IoR help me?

Access to information, guidance and training is more readily available now than ever. Throughout 2020, we are improving our marketing communications, target media and social media presence and updating the website, to ensure people know they can come to the Institute for professional qualifications, further learning opportunities, guidance and information.

We are focusing more on our regions and keeping our members fully updated with industry changes throughout these uncertain times. Although our CPDs and regional events are currently on hold, we encourage members and other professionals to talk to one another remotely, network online and introduce the benefits of our membership to the wider construction industry. This will be a way forward to ensure more effective communications across the entire chain, and hopefully help contribute to the development of the UK roofing sector.

Looking to the Future

In times of adversity, it is important not to panic, but to think logically

about future planning for your own success as an individual, and the security of a company.

There are many questions being raised about what constitutes an 'essential site' or safe working environments. To help our industry, we have created a Corona Virus Advice webpage on the IoR website, with access to various government and industry sources that are regularly updated.

As with any working environment, we would recommend that the health and safety of all workers is considered as part of your risk assessment, and method statement, and any action required is both communicated and acted upon by those responsible.

There is no umbrella organisation in roofing, so we have to work together to ensure we deliver the best possible guidance and support for anyone working in this field. Trade associations and federations are increasingly working collaboratively to achieve this, standing together during this difficult period for the benefit of the industry.

In these unprecedented times it is important that we do what we can to keep our members informed of the latest information and advice available from the official sources. ■

www.instituteofroofing.org

Stuart Hicks, CEO



Stuart's experience in roofing spans more than a decade, previously working as UK Marketing Manager for liquid roofing and waterproofing specialists, Kemper System, before taking on his role as CEO of the IoR.

Stuart was also proactively involved with the Liquid Roofing & Waterproofing Association (LRWA) for nine years as marketing chair, becoming chair in 2019 after serving on the board for 12 months. With nearly 30 years of professional marketing experience, he led new initiatives at the LRWA, such as the redevelopment and launch of the website, spearheaded the production of a digital members' pack and corporate video, as well as the planning and organisation of the inaugural LRWA Awards & Gala in 2017, which is now in its fourth year.

Ian Letham – Chair



Ian has been a prominent member of the IoR for more than 15 years, serving as a Board member since 2004 and was appointed Chair in 2017.

He has worked in the construction sector throughout his entire career, specifically in roofing supply and fastenings, and is currently director of his family business, Saucer Solutions Ltd, in Glasgow.

Ian received his Fellowship of the Institute in 1999 and is one of the longest serving members of the IoR Board to date.

Matthew Fry – Vice Chair



Matthew has been heavily involved in the IoR since gaining his Fellowship membership in 2009 when he worked as a sales manager for flat roofing manufacturer, Liquid Plastics.

Working within the building and refurbishment sector for 30 years, he has undertaken project manager, contracts manager and sales manager roles in a number of high-profile companies.

Matthew was operations director at the IoR for five years until he stepped down in 2019 and remains a very active member of the Board.

Matthew is also involved with the Independent Roof Training Association Scotland, promoting skills and professionalisation in the roofing industry across the region.

Alex Owens – Honorary Treasurer



Alex has been a Governor and Fellow member of the Institute for more than 23 years.

In his role of Honorary Treasurer, he oversees the financial aspects of the IoR. Before this, he was Chair of the IoR for four years.

In 1997, Alex was the first member to attain full Fellowship member status, following successful completion of the Institute's examination and assessment programme.

Alex has extensive knowledge of the roofing sector, and he believes his recognition as a member of the IoR has enhanced his progression and success in the roofing industry.

Detailing Chimney Back Gutter Flashings

Continuing his series on roof detailing, this month John Mercer, Roofing Consultant turns his attention to chimney flashings.



Chimneys situated entirely within the roof slope (as opposed to being adjacent to the ridge, verge or eaves of a roof) require side abutment flashings, a top abutment flashing and a back gutter flashing to weather the junctions between roof tiling and the chimney walls. There should also be a damp proof course (DPC) to restrict water penetration through

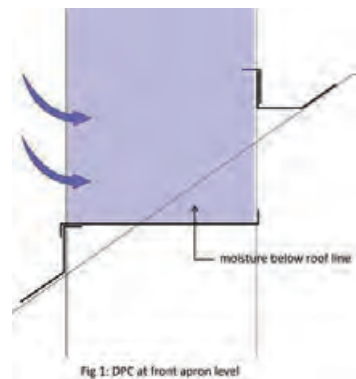


Fig 1: DPC at front apron level

Regardless of whether the DPC is set at front apron or back gutter level, there will be an area of chimney brickwork that is at risk from dampness permeating below the roofline. This may not matter where the building is relatively sheltered and the moisture does not impinge as far as the living areas of a building (for example, a home with an uninhabited loft space). But if the loftspace is inhabited, or the roof pitch is quite low, or the site is extremely exposed, then it may be prudent to position the DPC level with the back gutter upstand and extend the front apron and side flashing upstands up the chimney walls to meet the DPC (see fig 3).

Chimney back gutter

The role of a chimney back gutter, or, for that matter, any flashing that occurs where a projection occurs in a roof slope, such as a wall or roof window that will interrupt the flow of water as it runs towards the gutter, is to capture and divert water around the chimney or projection.

the brickwork. I discussed side abutment flashings in my previous article and this month I will consider back gutters.

Position of the chimney DPC

Chimney DPC's are generally lead trays set horizontally within the chimney brickwork. The DPC will prevent rainwater that penetrates the chimney brickwork above the DPC from permeating lower than the DPC. The DPC tray is usually fitted level with the top edge of the front apron flashing (see fig 1) but it can also be set level with the top edge of the back gutter flashing (see fig 2).

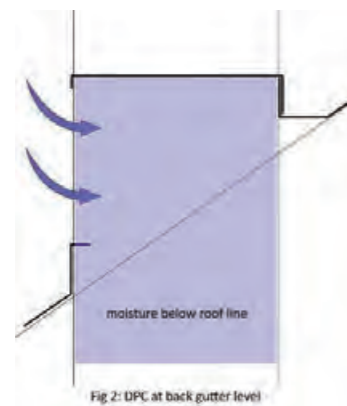


Fig 2: DPC at back gutter level

The quantity of water to be collected will depend upon the area of roof draining into the back gutter and the length of the back gutter. The width of the chimney or projection may be quite narrow but can be several metres wide. The wider the projection the deeper and wider the back gutter will need to be to collect the rainwater. Large volumes of rainwater from a back gutter should not be discharged back onto the roof. Point loads of water, particularly on lower pitched roofs, may overwhelm the roof tile head and side laps and the chimney side flashings. In these instances, it may be necessary to install internal outlets or open lead gutters to channel the water away to the eaves.

Where a chimney is positioned at a gable wall, consider draining the water from the back gutter into a hopper, rather than onto the tiling. Alternatively, create an upstand in the lead lining to prevent water spilling over the gable wall.

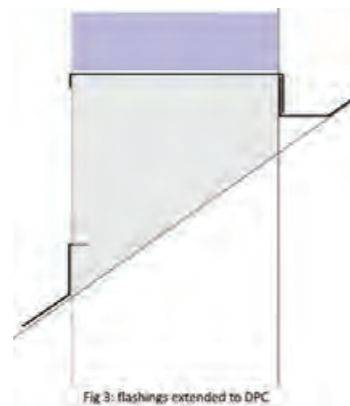


Fig 3: flashings extended to DPC

Regardless of whether the DPC is set at front apron or back gutter level, there will be an area of chimney brickwork that is at risk from dampness permeating below the roofline.

For a normal domestic-sized roof, the lead needs to be wide enough to provide a minimum 100mm upstand against the back of the chimney, a 150mm clear gutter width and approximately 225mm to extend up the roof slope, over the tilt fillet and end in a welt. The length of the lead should be enough to extend the width of the chimney plus 225mm at each end for shaping the corners and lapping over the roof tiles.

The gutter lay board must be positioned so that the water running out of the back gutter onto the roof slope has a minimum 50mm width at each side of the chimney. The position of the support board will depend upon the pitch of the roof and the height of the tile profile. The height of the tilt fillet will depend upon the profile of the tiles and the pitch of the roof and must be set so that the tiles behind the back gutter lie in the same plane as the tiles on either side of the back gutter.

Ideally, the tiles should be set out so that a full tile course can be positioned behind the chimney back

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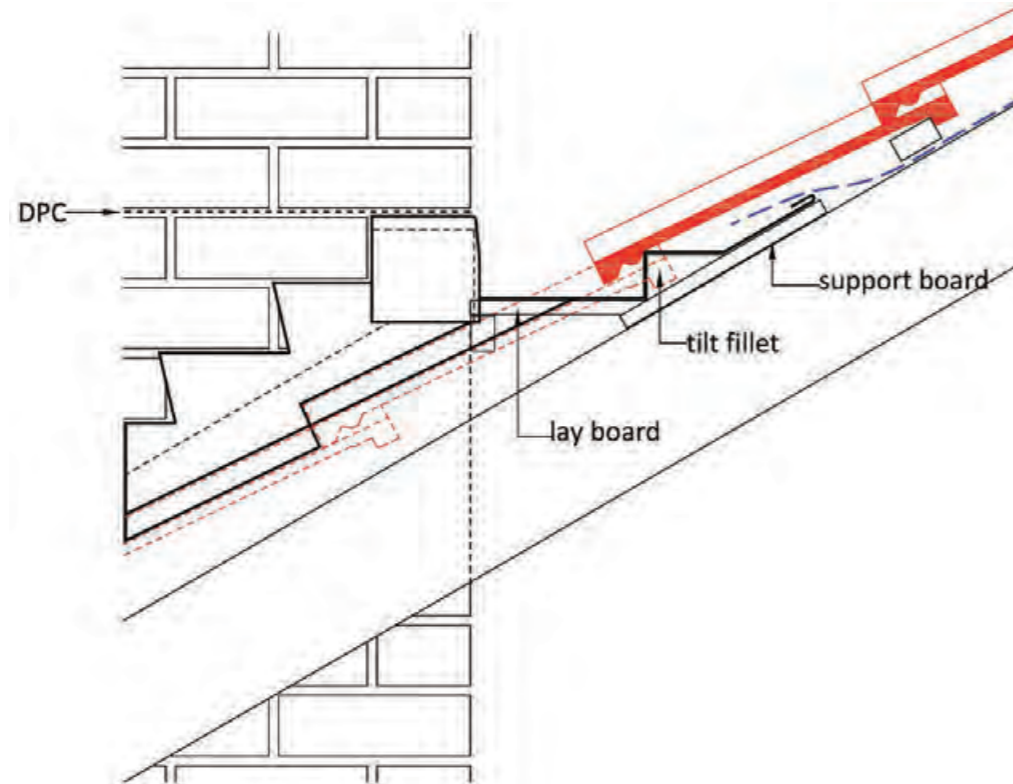


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• If gutter. If this is not possible, then a short, cut tile course will be necessary directly behind the chimney.

In summary

- ❑ Position the DPC at either front apron or at back gutter level, depending on the roof pitch, exposure of the site and whether the roof space is inhabited.
- ❑ Consider extending the front apron and side flashings up to the DPC at back gutter level where dampness in the brickwork is to be avoided.
- ❑ Avoid shedding large volumes of water onto the tiling at each side of a wide chimney or other projection.
- ❑ For further information on constructing chimney flashings, see the Lead Sheet Training Academy (LSTA) manual. ■■



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Case Study: Burnley Town Hall

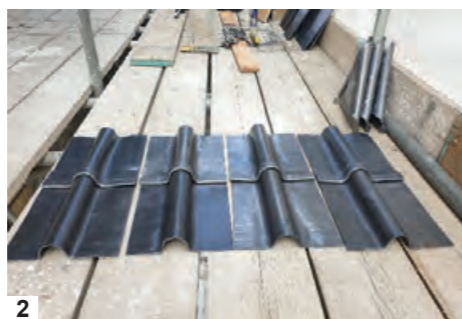
For this issue I thought I would include a case study from a job I was invited to complete for UK restoration services last June. The project was a large scale restoration of the entire roof area of Burnley Town Hall, however in this study, I will focus on the clock tower installation and take you through some stages of the leadwork I undertook there.



Stewart Rowles, Owner of ChurchCastle and Cottage



1 & 2 The uppermost part of the clock tower was entirely restored and all of the framing and structure was completely reinstated in new timber. The old roof had failed in several places and unfortunately the work was of a poor standard originally which had shortened the life of the upper part of the timber structure and much of it had perished from water ingress.



3 Finished skirt with the sections installed, and straps spaced out around the skirt area, the roof was now ready for the larger sections to be installed.



4 & 5 The curve on the upper section was fairly abrupt and a lot of care and attention was needed to follow the radius without causing detrimental stress to the lead sheet.



7 & 8 Fabrication of upper apron. Note that each component was individually made and dressed in place. All components were then tack welded and removed for complete welding. I felt that this was the most sensible course of action as bossing this particular detail would have caused unwanted thinning of the lead.



6 Upper section bays installed. All upper sections installed and ready for the capping apron detail to be installed.



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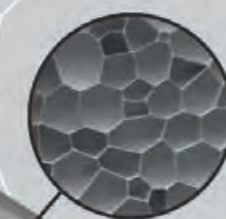
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9 & 10 Acorn section fabrication. The original plan for the top crowning acorn detail was a plain, simple lead cap, with no additional ornamentation. This seemed a shame as the final section of the roof looked bland. I was able to convince the site managers to let me add some additional flair to the acorn and set about creating a fishscale detail.



11 & 12 Having set out a plan, the round base of the acorn was clad in lead, and a series of 8 tapered sections of lead were added to the acorn and welded in place.



13 & 14 Now the acorn was ready for the fishscale details to be added and a decorative hip detail incorporated.



15 Acorn added and final trimming and welding completed.



16 & 17 The completed roof, with scaffolding removed. The roof took a total of 7 days to complete and was a very enjoyable project to work on.

Riveting Made Easy with Makita

Leading power tool manufacturer Makita has added two new rivet guns to its power tool range. The DRV150Z and DRV250Z include Makita's innovative LXT battery technology and brushless motor for maximum efficiency. The DRV150Z and DRV250Z are both powered by Makita's 18V LXT batteries, which offer industry-leading run times and charge times, improving on-site efficiency. LXT means that the DRV150Z and DRV250Z benefit from anytime charge (without the need to drain down) and minimal self-discharge and the battery indicator lights makes it simple for operators to monitor how much charge their tools have, improving operator productivity. The machines are compatible with Makita's 5Ah and 6Ah LXT batteries. Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita, said: "The combination of cordless and brushless technologies makes Makita's new models up to 50% more efficient than alternative machines. The DRV150Z and DRV250Z have been designed to ensure that operators can keep working for longer. There are no concerns about the tool overheating due to friction in the motor or the batteries losing charge too quickly or taking a long time to recharge." To find out more about Makita and its wide range of products please visit www.makita.co.uk.



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Apollo Roofing Solutions Appoints New Procurement Manager

Apollo Roofing Solutions, part of the Apollo group, the UK's largest privately-owned liquid adhesive, sealant, primer and coating manufacturer has welcomed Mark Turland as its new Procurement Manager. Mark joins Apollo at an exciting time as the business continues to drive forward its ambitious strategy for growth and is responsible for streamlining the purchasing process for services, materials and equipment across the business. Commenting on Mark's appointment, Apollo M.D. Ian Cornelius, said: "It's important for us that we use suppliers who can meet our high standards and are in sync with the business' core values. We're delighted to have Mark on board and confident that with his input we can continue to improve our customer experience." Mark joins Apollo with a background in procurement within the chemical industry looking for a new challenge. Mark said: "It's early days in my new role but it's obvious that I've joined a business that is 'on the up' and values its employees. With the support of a proactive team, I'm looking forward to consolidating supply routes to boost business performance whilst maintaining the best quality products for customers." For more information about Apollo, its products and services contact tel. 01827-54281 or visit www.apollo.co.uk.



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CUPA PIZARRAS' Heavy 3 Replicates Traditional Appearance

CUPA PIZARRAS' Heavy 3 slate has been selected to deliver the traditional look of Scottish slate for the redevelopment and extension of the historic Kingshouse Hotel in the Glencoe area of the Scottish Highlands. Natural slate was specified for the roof to provide a continuation of the style of the original building and to match with the inn building that would be retained. CUPA PIZARRAS' Heavy 3 slate was chosen for its close resemblance to the traditional Ballachulish slate, which was produced locally between 1693 and 1955 and was used on the roof of the original Kingshouse. The dark grey, seven to eight millimetre thick CUPA PIZARRAS Heavy 3 slates closely replicate the colour and thickness of the original Scottish slates, as well as the characteristic pyrite crystals often visible on the surface. Catherine Cope, Associate at Covell Matthews Architects explained: "We had specified CUPA Heavy 3 on previous projects where we needed a replacement for traditional local slate and knew it would provide the look we wanted." The new Kingshouse Hotel opened to the public on 8th February 2019. For more information visit www.cupapizarra.com/uk.



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Roofgiant Launches Velux Window Selector Tool

Trying to decide which VELUX window is suitable for a project can be hard at the best of times, which is why online roofing merchant Roofgiant has developed a tool to help customers do just that. The VELUX window selector has been developed to guide customers through a simple five step process, encouraging them to choose the size, finish and glazing options they require. At the end, a single window or a small selection of windows will be presented, leaving them with a simple choice of which one to buy. The tool was developed using the knowledge of Roofgiant's roofing experts combined with the expertise of their web development team. Elaine Gardner, Commercial Manager, said: "We know how difficult it is for people to understand which window they require, and we also know that VELUX is a well known brand when it comes to roof windows. We decided to develop this tool so that customers can choose and checkout online without needing to speak to our sales team." Roofgiant have already seen an increase of 40% for sales of VELUX windows and expect that number to rise as more and more customers come to their website to use the tool.



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InVerg™ the New Roofing Solution- Available Now!

Hambleside Danelaw have always conducted extensive research, design and testing to provide the best dry-fix solutions to roofers and house builders alike, in order to ensure efficient roof weatherproofing, and confidence in durability. Continuing this reputation of innovation and exceptional quality of product, Hambleside Danelaw have done it again launching InVerg™, a game changing dry-fix solution to the plain tile market. InVerg™ is a patented*, never-before-seen, interlocking dry-verge system, suitable for most machine-made single and double cambered clay and concrete Plain Tile types. The verge units consist of 2 blades that slot in-between the corresponding course of plain tiles, preventing weather ingress and carrying out any excess water and debris down the channels and out at the eaves, minimising staining of the verge and gable end. "The InVerg™ design allows for a streamlined outer appearance of the verge units; with a stepped edge and smooth lap joints, the verge units rest discretely in line with the edge and course of the tiles.," comments Paul Lambert, Field Technical Support. The unique system includes two distinctive components, the InVerg™ units and the Eaves Bracket, designed exclusively to securely start the system from the eaves. *Patent Pending GB1911327.3



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Fixfast Initiatives Seek to Raise Standards

Fixfast, a leading manufacturer and supplier of fasteners, has launched two major initiatives to support the correct specification of fasteners for the building envelope. Architects and contractors can access a comprehensive technical support service providing guidance on project-specific fastener selection and testing. Complementing the new service, a highly-detailed Specification Guide can be downloaded by specifiers as useful reference material. Both initiatives have been introduced to encourage more consistent and improved specification of building envelope fasteners, and therefore enable the construction of better, safer, and longer-lasting buildings. Against a construction industry background of increased scrutiny on building product safety and quality, Ken Lynes, M.D. of Fixfast, explains "Although a small detail, it's critical that the right fastener is used for the right building application. The consequences of a building or its sub-systems failing could be very serious. In addition to the obvious impact on public safety, using the wrong fastener could compromise the building's whole-life value, and introduce the risk of litigation for the people involved in creating it." The Specification Support Service promises responses to queries within 48 hours, access to Fixfast's dedicated Technical Support Team, and advice on what fastener will meet the required system specification. Visit www.fixfast.com/SpecificationSupport.



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Slate: A Versatile Material for Every Build

Roofing contractors are used to ensuring that the systems and materials selected meet a wide range of installation, performance and aesthetic requirements. Here Julian Gomez, Director of Marketing at CUPA PIZARRAS looks at how natural slate can make a positive impact on residential projects.

With a lifespan of up to 150 years and little to no maintenance required, natural slate offers a practical and aesthetically appealing roofing solution the popularity of which has endured for many centuries. In its early use, slate was often chosen for the construction of castles and churches due to its weather resistance. Natural slate was expensive and its installation labour intensive, so only the very wealthy could afford to use it.

shapes, slate is also ideal. Natural slate can be easily cut to a wide range of shapes and sizes meaning it can adapt to many pitches and designs.

One of the unique characteristics of slate is the variety of thicknesses, colour variations and textures that are available. In the past, these characteristics have often been intrinsically associated with certain geographical locations. For instance, Scottish slate was

Natural slate also offers a multitude of benefits for projects with an environmental focus. During the production process, slate is solely extracted, moved and cut. There are no artificial chemicals or additives involved and only water is used to keep the slate wet during production. The simplicity of its production process, which does not require the use of any furnaces, makes it an ideal sustainable option for any project. Furthermore, in the case of CUPA PIZARRAS, after use,

While slate cladding can be installed using traditional timber batten methods, at CUPA PIZARRAS, we offer CUPACLAD® - our own natural slate rainscreen cladding system range. Rainscreen cladding has a double-wall construction, which uses an outer layer to keep out the rain and an inner layer to provide thermal insulation, prevent excessive air leakage and carry wind loading. Combining traceable, handcrafted natural slates from our own Spanish quarries with stainless steel fixings and aluminium alloy brackets, the patented CUPACLAD® system is designed to meet the highest technical requirements of the construction industry.

With both its visible and invisible fixing options, CUPACLAD® installation is simple thanks to the regularity and flatness of the slates, which are carefully selected to offer flawless installation and performance. Slate supplied for CUPACLAD® invisible fixing systems is always provided pre-holed at the required position to speed up the installation process. It is available in a variety of slate shapes and combinations for the creation of striking and unusual façade designs for modern builds.

Although slate has a long and established history as a building material, its design possibilities and environmental credentials mean it is an ideal modern choice for a wide range of projects. Extremely versatile, natural slate production is evolving to ensure easy installation methods as well as product ranges that can meet diverse design aspirations allowing it to make a positive impact to any residential project. ■

For more information, please visit CUPA PIZARRAS website: www.cupapizarra.com/uk.



Nowadays, natural slate is a popular material choice due to its resistance to adverse weather conditions, and also its non-combustibility. In addition, natural slate can add real character to both modern- and heritage-style builds. Natural slate can create a sleek and uniform aesthetic that has the added benefit of being uncondusive to unsightly fungus or moss growth. From a design perspective, with the growing trend for unique pitched roofs that incorporate complex

traditionally thick and blue-black in colour with a coarse-grain, while Welsh slate had a purple hue, a fine grain and a slimmer thickness. Now, leading manufacturers such as CUPA PIZARRAS produce a variety of slate with varying characteristics from different quarries. For example, our Heavy 3 slate has a very similar material make-up to traditional Scottish Ballachulish slate which is no longer mined, making it the ideal replacement on Scottish heritage projects.

the quarry is always fully restored and covered with hydro-seeding native plants.

Slate as cladding

In addition to its use on roofs, the versatility of slate means it can also be used as a cladding material on residential projects. Again, due to its durability, light weight and resistance to adverse weather conditions, slate is an extremely hardwearing cladding solution - that is also attractive aesthetically.

In addition to its use on roofs, the versatility of slate means it can also be used as a cladding material on residential projects.

Made to Order' Radius Gutter from Rainclear True Cast or Mitred

Sometimes you need to replace a radius gutter (guttering that follows the shape of a circular roofline) on a conservation or renovation project and it needs to be 'like for like'. The original pattern for 'sand casting' of that specific Cast Iron radius gutter may be long gone, but we can use the pieces you still have to create new 'patterns' and cast new matching radius gutters for you. This is known as a 'True Cast' Radius Gutter. In another case you may be allowed to replace the original Cast Iron radius gutters with Cast Aluminium. If so, we can arrange for a new pattern to be made from the pieces that need to be replaced and/or from measurements and calculations from plans of the current roofline. If the project calls for a more contemporary style of gutter, we can 'cut and mitre' (welding together segments of machine mitred gutter to achieve a given radius) lengths of extruded or pressed aluminium gutter to create the curve necessary for your roofline. The friendly, knowledgeable team at Rainclear Systems are happy to offer technical advice and quotations. Visit www.rainclear.co.uk tel. 0800 644 44 26 or email sales@rainclear.co.uk.



Up To £70 Boost with VELUX® Rewards Scheme This Spring

Installers, builders and homeowners across the UK and Ireland can now benefit from an extra rewards boost this spring, a traditionally busy time for home renovation projects, thanks to VELUX®. The scheme provides customers with an opportunity to earn rewards each time they buy a VELUX roof window, flat roof window, sun tunnel, blind or selected combination flashings throughout the year. However, for this March and April only, VELUX is giving away an extra rewards boost by offering £35 of rewards for every white painted roof window and £70 for every VELUX INTEGRA® electric or solar roof window purchased. If you purchase 10 VELUX INTEGRA roof windows, you will be entitled to £700 worth of rewards that can be redeemed at a range of retailers and restaurants including M&S, Argos, John Lewis, Halfords and Tesco. The last day customers can submit a claim is 15 May 2020. Richard McArthur, marketing manager from VELUX said: "There's a host of rewards to take advantage of. Sign up now and you could earn literally hundreds of pounds worth of rewards for purchasing VELUX products." To receive rewards from VELUX, upload your invoice at www.velux.co.uk/rewards.



Polyfoam XPS Achieves New ISO Standard

POLYFOAM XPS has achieved the newly launched ISO 45001 international standards for Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems. The manufacturer of extruded polystyrene has been approved and certified to the standard following an external audit from Bureau Veritas Certification. The achievement reflects the robust systems that are in place at the Polyfoam XPS headquarters in Hartlepool that prevent work-related injury and ill health, and proactively improve its occupational health and safety performance. Stuart Bell, M.D. of Polyfoam XPS, said: "The continuous development of our management systems underpins this achievement and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to improve all aspects of our business. "We are rigorously audited to maintain accreditation to all our certified standards. This ensures we can continue to provide a professional service that meets our customers' requirements, and that we can identify and reduce operational risks within our business." ISO 45001 replaces OHSAS 18001 in March 2021. For more information about Polyfoam XPS visit www.polyfoamxps.co.uk.



A Roof with a View: CUPA PIZARRAS' Complete Smithy Cottage

Smithy Cottage, an unusual, cruciform shaped new-build property in Warrington, has recently been constructed using CUPA PIZARRAS' CUPA 2 natural slates. Selected for uniformity, longevity and aesthetics in-keeping with the surrounding properties, the CUPA 2 slates were used for the roof of the property which unusually incorporated atrium glazing and inlaid solar panels. The eye-catching home was designed by Fasciato Architects who had been tasked with creating a contemporary, single storey home. Ian Scullion, Associate at Fasciato Architects comments: "We decided to use a natural slate for the roofing material to achieve a balance with the brief whilst also making the house feel homely and appropriate to its context." Having initially decided to look into slate as the most suitable solution, Ian met with his local CUPA PIZARRAS representative, attended a CPD presentation and was intrigued with the products on offer. "We were impressed with CUPA PIZARRAS' reputation for producing quality, traceable roof slates and we were also pleased with help given to us by the area representative at the time," Ian commented. "The final finish of the roof is smooth and sleek, with both the slate selection and the workmanship exceeding our expectations." Visit www.cupapizarra.com/uk.



Innovative LIQUIROOF Insulation Boards Available Exclusively

To support their range of liquid waterproofing products, SIG Design & Technology are working with EAP to exclusively supply their innovative LIQUIROOF insulation boards. This partnership combines their expertise on both the insulation and waterproofing under one package. LIQUIROOF interlocking PIR boards deliver a super-flat surface ideal for liquid and flat roofing systems. Liquid waterproofing coatings are typically between 1.25 to 2mm thick meaning even the most minor imperfections in the substrate surface can create alignment issues and stress points on the outer surface coating. LIQUIROOF fully supported PIR insulation boards interlock on all 4 sides, from top to bottom, to create a strong and solid surface with no raised edges, misalignment or gaps. Faced with a lightweight 8mm OSB 3 panel on the topside, LIQUIROOF panels are designed for use on old or new boarded structures. The polyurethane rigid foam insulation core provides maximum insulation with minimum panel thickness. The serrated edges on the boards slot together easily to cover large uneven surfaces and with minimised alignment time are quick to install. SIG Design & Technology offer a wide range of liquid waterproofing systems to suit your project with warranties available from 10 to 25 years. Visit <http://bit.ly/LIQUIROOF>.



Polar Protection from High Performance Membranes

High-performance products from the A. Proctor Group, experts at solving condensation, airtightness and energy efficiency problems in buildings have been selected for use in the construction of a British Antarctic Survey building. The BAS Signy Cummins Hut is designed to provide a fully fabricated, fit for purpose hut, which can be easily erected to provide short-term accommodation for two British Antarctic Survey operatives to carry out incredibly valuable research in extreme polar conditions. Main Contractor, Mike Robinson of Rothwell Robinson, Manchester explained. "In light of the extreme temperatures involved, we approached the A. Proctor Group who carried out a full condensation risk analysis. Following the risk analysis, the recommendations adopted included Roofshield® for the roof and Procheck® 500 as a VCL for the walls." The products reliable performance has been demonstrated in the toughest locations around the world. Its characteristics allow even very complex pitched roofs to breathe, without the need for air gaps or secondary venting. Procheck 500 is a strong reinforced polyethylene vapour control layer, for use within roof and wall constructions to prevent warm, moist air escaping from inside the building and condensing within the insulation. Visit www.proctorgroup.com, email contact@proctorgroup.com or tel. 01250 872261.



Keeping Building Envelopes Safe While You Stay Safe



Many construction sites have been forced to close prematurely to support the challenge to reduce the spread of Covid-19. In the light of this, A Proctor Group has issued the results of tests conducted last year that show contractors can be confident that their buildings are left protected from the elements. Whilst most membranes are weather resistant for three months, the best advice is to cover as quickly as possible with the primary water shedding layer. This is an accurate action to take, as in extreme cases of weather water ingress may occur. The three main characteristics which are important to the long-term protection and performance of the roof or wall are MVTR (Vapour Permeability), water holdout and airtightness. Proctor Group membranes have been tested quarterly for 12 months during 2019, with all of the above factors tested periodically. The results showed the membranes' main attributes are robust enough to maintain performance in all categories, preventing the expense of stripping and replacing when sites open again. While all appreciate that Breathable Membranes are designed for temporary protection, it is comforting to know the building is kept safe while you keep safe.

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Sika Sarnafil Protects UK's First Dedicated Centre for Stroke and Dementia Research



Sika Sarnafil's single ply roofing membrane has been installed on the UK's first dedicated centre for stroke and dementia research at the University of Oxford, providing a long lasting waterproofing solution for this impressive building. The facility required a robust and fully integrated waterproofing system that would accommodate roof penetrations, walkway and PV requirements. Sika Sarnafil, the UK's leading single ply roofing manufacturer, was specifically requested for the project by the University of Oxford and came on board during the early design stages to help Oxford-based architect firm fjmt with the specification. Sarnafil G410 12 ELF in Lead Grey along with Sarnavap HD were chosen to weathertight the concrete slab room. Due to an uneven and rough surface, a system had to be specified that would overcome this problem. Roofing contractor Vertec liaised with Sika Sarnafil and opted to mechanically fix the single ply to overcome this. With support from Sika Sarnafil, who oversaw the project, offering advice and knowledge throughout, Vertec was able to get the roof weatherproofed on schedule. For more information tel. 01707 394444, email sarnafilroofing@uk.sika.com or visit gbr.sika.com.

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Leadax Sets the Example for Making the Circular Economy Work for Cities

Global circular economy leader and CEO of Leadax, Roeland van Delden presented his closed-loop strategy that is already impacting cities worldwide, during the Futurebuild exhibition in London. Sustainable companies like Leadax, are developing circular products that use waste as a raw material to create and produce recyclable and sustainable waterproofing building materials. Features such as cost price, quality, capital and scalability are important to change the way our economy works, however as Mr van Delden described in his presentation, it is all about mindset and being creative. "Just do it" was the main advice he gave. His idea of modifying PVB-waste to reuse for circular building materials like Leadax was a bold move, but it works extremely well. PVB is the foil that is used in laminated glass (e.g car windows or safety glass). Large amounts of polyvinyl butyral (PVB) waste are being buried every year, up to 1,500,000,000 kilos each year in Europe alone and Leadax is using this waste to create their sustainable building materials. Mr van Delden concluded that he is excited about Leadax vision for the future and the role it will play in developing a global circular economy. Visit www.leadax.co.uk or www.cromar.uk.co.uk.

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Freefoam Announces 30 Year Anniversary

2020 is a significant year for Freefoam Building Products, with the company marking 30 years of trading. In 1990 founding M.D. Tony Walsh set up an extrusion plant in Cork, Ireland, with one co-extrusion line. With a vision to provide the growing home improvement market with high quality, long lasting, low maintenance PVC fascia and soffit, to replace traditional timber products, the business grew into a leading manufacturer in Ireland. Since those humble beginnings Freefoam has become a broad pan-European business, with manufacturing operations in Ireland and the UK together with distribution in continental Europe. Tony Walsh, now Chairman, remarked: "Throughout 2020, we will be looking back at where we started, what we have achieved, and what our plans are for the future" Today Freefoam Building Products employs over 300 team members across three locations. Manufacturing facilities consist of 30 extrusion lines in Ireland and the UK, producing PVC-U and PVC-UE fascia, soffit, gutter and cladding. Aidan Harte, M.D. explained "We are looking forward to the future, with further expansion planned for our site in Northampton this year, ongoing investment in training and development for our team members and growth strategies in place for our European markets" Visit www.freefoam.com.

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Snickers New Stretch Work Shorts – Comfortable and Lightweight

Work Shorts for the flexible working environment - designed to deliver superior comfort and freedom of movement. Fabric, Functionality and Fit are hallmarks of Snickers Workwear, it's the innovation and fabric technology in the design of the new Stretch Shorts for men and women that really set these new garments apart. These new AllroundWork and FLEXIWorkshorts are great for working in the warmer months. Delivering superior flexibility and comfort, these lightweight work shorts come in a body-mapping design and a range of new colours including Hi-vis options. Made from a self-ventilating stretch fabric with Cordura reinforcements for all-round mobility and durability, they're packed with comfort and functionality and specially designed for the fast-paced professional who's always on the go for delivering top class work on site. For professional tradesmen and women who rely on their gear in demanding environments, Snickers Workwear Work Shorts are a must for everyone who wants the ultimate in cool comfort this summer. To get more information on what's right for you in the Snickers Workwear range, visit www.snickersworkwear.co.uk email sales@hultaforsgroup.co.uk or tel. 01484 854788.

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Makita Expands CXT Range with New Ratchet Wrench

Makita's new cordless ratchet wrench is a versatile, compact and lightweight tool suitable for use across a wide range of applications and ideal for accessing tight spaces. With a number of innovative features included, the WR100DZ has been designed to ensure optimum efficiency and operator productivity. The WR100DZ ratchet wrench utilises Makita's CXT Compact eXtreme Technology (CXT), making this an ultra-compact and lightweight (1.0kg-1.2kg) machine, suitable for extended use. The inclusion of a LED job light meant that the WR100DZ can light up the project space and aid working in restricted, dark spaces, maximising productivity. For ease of operation, the WR100DZ includes a variable speed trigger to easily control the speed and a trigger lock which prevents the trigger from being accidentally pulled, which also improves operator safety by preventing the tool from being accidentally turned on. Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita said: "The WR100DZ has been designed with ease of operation in mind; the inclusion of CXT means its compact, lightweight design improves handling in tight spaces and overhead applications and enables operators to use the tool for extended periods of time with minimal fatigue and with maximum control." Visit www.makita.co.uk.

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See the Whole Picture with VELUX STUDIO Window

Leading roof window manufacturer VELUX® has launched its new STUDIO window, which is the first roof window to boast three sashes in one frame. The innovative, one-frame design features two VELUX centre-pivot roof windows on either side of a fixed unit to bring in even more daylight and offer a wider, more impressive view. By utilising a solar conversion kit, VELUX STUDIO can be remotely operated via VELUX INTEGRA® technology, offering greater flexibility to homeowners who want better control of their indoor environment. The VELUX STUDIO window offers a number of unique benefits to the trade, including:

- It's easy to order as only one product code and one flashing package are required to order
- The innovative one-frame module follows a standard installation process so you can save time and get the job done in one day
- Having three glazing units in one integrated solution makes installing multiple windows a whole lot easier

Grant Sneddon, product manager for VELUX, said: "In comparison to a similar triple combination VELUX roof window installation, VELUX STUDIO's all-in-one mechanism provides a more cost effective solution and brings in 23% more daylight." For more information, visit www.velux.co.uk/studio.

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Easi-Dec Roofline Provides Cost Efficient Alternative to Scaffolding

Easi-Dec, the working at height safety specialist, has supplied an 8m Roofline System to JAL Building Contractors Ltd to provide the team with confidence that when they access multiple rooftops in a housing development in Manchester, they are safe and secure at all times. The company provides all aspects of new build and refurbishment works to main contractors and is currently working alongside Great Places Housing Group and Knauf to provide cavity wall insulation and remedial works to solar panels on social housing projects in Manchester. The team was impressed by the fast delivery time, with the system arriving the next day after ordering it. John Chester, Director of JAL Building Contractors Ltd comments: "We swiftly received training from Easi-Dec, which was professionally delivered on site and included in the purchase price." Great Places Housing Group and Knauf have been very impressed with the system whilst the JAL Building Contractors team has been working on their properties. They are pleased that by using the Easi-Dec system, no fixed scaffolding has to be erected and left up overnight, which can present various safety and security issues. Visit www.easi-dec.co.uk tel. 01767 691812 or email info@easi-dec.com.

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The Clement Conservation Rooflight is a replica of a Victorian original. Designed to lie flush with the roofline and in keeping with the character of your property, it is the only conservation rooflight that is available from stock in two profiles – for slate or clay tiles - to ensure the best finish.

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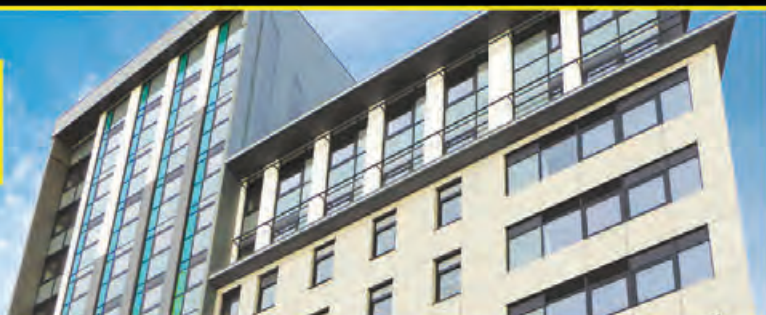
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