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Introduction to CAGE

The Construction Action Group of Employers works with Schools and Colleges to inspire young recruits into the Construction Industry. The activities of CAGE raise awareness about the need for future professionals and technicians, as well as craft and manual operatives, in the industry and makes a special effort to support school links.

Our Mission Statement:

"An independent training group, CAGE aim to become the main employer link between Education and the Employment Service Providers for Recruitment and Training in the Construction Industry in North Nottinghamshire".

Chairmans Report

I want this report to focus on positive issues and ways in which we can "Thrive, rather than Survive" in the current economic climate.

Many companies have used the slow down to invest in staff training, using the spare time they have and the abundance of funding that was now available for NVQs etc. Before Christmas we were told that most of the funding was to cease. There has been a turnaround and indeed substantial funding is still available for SME businesses. If you want to know about this pop along to our next meeting, in which a full brief will be given.

The clock is still ticking on the funding streams and we do not know when the pots will run dry. Get in early and get the money and grants you deserve. Everyone should use this opportunity to ensure that the high quality staff they still have in position will have some loyalty to them when times improve. Consider training agreements to protect your investment but remember that staff will kick back if they feel too restricted or bound by terms and conditions.

This is an important time to look to the future and ensure that as a company and as an industry as a whole we have the high levels of skill we need to exceed that of our competitors. There has never been a better time to recruit highly skilled workers at a competitive salary package. There is also a huge amount of young talent in the apprentice pool currently held by Construction Skills and local colleges.

To enable us to move forward it is important that CAGE North Notts update our members on funding and grant opportunities. Too often we only tap into those provided by Construction Skills but there are many other sources out there. In the forthcoming months I propose to continue to strengthen strategic alliances directly with the funding providers to receive prompt and precise information on upcoming and current funding. This information will be then distributed to the membership so that use can be made of it before "the pot runs out", a saying we hear too often from advisors etc.

Current initiatives you should be aware of are "Leadership & Management Advisory Service" – up to £1000 of funding. Please contact your current advisors who should be able to guide you on these. If you, like me, get little or no response then please contact me directly and I will gladly point you in the right direction.

Finally, I would like to make a plea for additional members to sit on the Steering Group. I understand the pressures of time etc. and as such our meetings are now held bi-monthly. If you would like to hear more about CAGE, our activities, raise your Company Profile and to see how you can make a difference to your industry in the local area please come along to one of our meetings or call our co-ordinator for more information.

Simon Meadows
Sterling Services/Chair

Welcome New Members

TBL (Midlands) Ltd – originally established in 1948 as Tomlinson Brothers (Hucknall) Ltd, is a family-run business which transferred ownership to the 3rd generation of Tomlinson in 2005 when it became formally incorporated as TBL (Midlands) Ltd. They are a leading company in the East Midlands region, specialising in the repair of structural damage to properties.

0115 968 0500

'ISSL' is a relatively new scaffolding company but what makes 'ISSL' different is the wealth of experience on offer. 'ISSL' is not only 100% committed to providing an excellent service to existing and future customers; we believe reliability and high standards should be the industry norm.

Operating a 24 hour, 7 day service (including emergency call outs), and having a fully trained, competent and Construction Skills registered workforce, 'ISSL' can offer scaffold solutions for any project; from a new extension to a city tower block.

Tel: 01623 870688

ALD Group – are one of the largest Floor Screeding, Plastering and Drylining contractors in the East Midlands area and have been in business since 1974. They are a family company whom holds quality of service as its main focus. They offer a specialist and professional service.

Tel: 0115 965 7940

Andy Maile is an Associate Member of CAGE supplying Utilities to homes and businesses. The Utility Warehouse provides over 350,000 customers throughout the UK with substantial savings on a wide range of utility services including home phone, mobiles, broadband, gas, electricity and non-geographic numbers.

The Utility Warehouse Discount Club is operated by Telecom Plus PLC, a major British company, listed on the London Stock Exchange.

You may not have heard of the Utility Warehouse before – that's the secret to saving lots of money ! The company does not advertise in the national press or on TV. Instead, it relies on personal recommendation; satisfied customers letting their friends, family and colleagues know about the savings they have made.

Tel: 01623 700345

Whycliff Services Limited – is one of the largest UK service organisations of its kind, having extensive experience within the multi services and power system sectors of the mechanical and electrical construction industry. The company's expertise covers mechanical, electrical, instrumentation, building services and related design, engineering, construction, commissioning and specific manufacturing disciplines

01623 721721



Are you thinking about an apprentice, need an extra pair of hands, have an ageing workforce or worried about the looming skills shortage? But worried that you don't have the recruitment resources, work commitment, payroll system, type of work or support you need? For over fifteen years this was me!

Safety Plus Construction Ltd was formed to solve these issues for you. We take all the hassle out of taking on an apprentice. We offer a flexible alternative to the old fashioned way. We offer a simple 'try before you employ', 'pay as you go' solution to meet your business needs.

We currently have apprentices available for placement within your company, in maintenance operations and general construction operations. Just give me a call (Simon Meadows) on 07595 895212 to find out more.

Taking an apprentice placement is now cheaper and easier than you think, call us now to find out how you can benefit.

College scores in region's construction competitions



Students from colleges across the Midlands got their grips with bricklaying, furniture-making, plastering and tiling yesterday during the UK's largest construction skills competition (5 April).

West Nottinghamshire College hosted the regional heats of this year's SkillBuild, which is aimed at finding Britain's best trainee tradesperson. Students from seven other colleges in the region battled it out in a range of craft-based challenges.



West Notts saw three of its own students receiving awards in the bricklaying and painting and decorating competitions. Securing first place in the senior painting and decorating competition was 20-year-old James Evans from Sutton-in-Ashfield.

James said: "Today's competition was challenging and I had a tricky design

plan to follow but I felt I had done well throughout the day. I am a bit nervous about going to the finals but quietly confident too!"

James has secured his place at the UK final in September at Leeds College of Building, where he will be in with a chance of winning the coveted title of Britain's most talented construction trainee.

In the new entrant bricklaying section, 20-year old Michael Gamblin from Stanton Hill took second prize. Meanwhile 18-year old Brandon Nettleship of

Mansfield scooped the 3rd prize in the new entrant painting and decorating competition.

Associate director of learning for construction and building services at the college, Julian Walden, said: "We're very proud of all of the students who competed on the day and they all worked incredibly well in this competition.

"The success of all the students is a testament to their ability and dedication, and also highlights the importance of the vocational training and skills taught at the college within the construction and building school of learning. It was an honour to host this prestigious event and I'd like to thank all the staff who supported competitors from each college for their enthusiasm, commitment and dedication."

SkillBuild has been running for more than 20 years and is an opportunity to recognise the importance of trainees and their skills. Entry to SkillBuild 2011 is free and open to apprentices and full-time students, covering a wide range of crafts including bricklaying, carpentry, joinery, furniture making, painting and decorating, plastering and tiling.

Outstanding competitors from this year's competition could potentially be selected to represent the UK at the next international WorldSkills competition.



A recent major reorganisation within CITB Construction Skills has resulted in changes to the local CSkills team which you need to be aware of.

The – 'old' Apprenticeship and Advisory Departments have now combined to produce an Employer Services Team whose responsibility is to fulfil the needs of construction employers, apprentices, parents, colleges, schools, training groups and construction careers within the local area.

The – 'new' team now consists of:

Catherine Canning – Company Development Adviser (07879-431188 for general, business and grants assistance)

Jo Watson – Local National Construction College Coordinator (07768-033016 for NCC courses)

Lee Driver – Apprenticeship Officer (07788-995504 for apprentices, Webs Training and NCC)

Ian Chambers – Apprenticeship Officer (07843-344446 for apprentices West Notts & North Notts Colleges)

John Corrigan – Apprenticeship Officer (07771-570338 for apprentices NCN Basford Hall College)

Rhian Lawton who is the new Construction Careers Adviser (07879-431190 for careers, schools liaison within Notts, Lincs & Derbys).

Alan Jackson is the local Area Delivery Manager Notts, Lincs & Derbys (07740-073114 alan.jackson@cskills.org).

Please contact any of the above if you need assistance.

CAGE Open Evening – 13 April

CAGE North Notts were very fortunate to have the opportunity of listening to a presentation from Michael Pace of Andrew & Co LLP Solicitors, based in Lincoln and Newark.

Michael is the head of motor law and personal injury and has 23 years experience as a lawyer dealing with road traffic law and accidents. He is a former driving instructor as well as serving for 7 years as a traffic police officer.

The presentation covered the objectives of managing road risk at work, statistics, fleet management, health & safety, policies and example offences.

We thank Michael very much for his time and his number is 01522 781466 if anybody wishes to contact him.

CAGE (North Nottinghamshire) Construction Action Group of Employers

The website is now live and can be found at

www.cage.org.uk

Please feel free to let Tracey have anything you would like to be included on the website, articles, features, news, photographs, by emailing tracey@cage.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

CAGE members meetings - all members are most welcome to attend, please email to confirm attendance in advance: enquiries@cage.org.uk
All meetings will be held on Wednesdays at 3.00pm unless stated:

13 July

30 November

24 August

12 October

North Nottinghamshire Liaison Group (NNLG) quarterly meetings - will be held on Wednesdays at 2.00pm with buffet at 1.30pm:

13 July

12 October

CAGE Annual General Meeting - 12 October 2011