

CUTTING EDGE



For members of the
Institute of Carpenters

Autumn 2025

STUNNING ABSTRACT TIMBER SHINGLES CLADDING USED ON A TRADITIONAL AUSTRIAN BUILDING IN BRAND

IN OUR HANDS: AN EMPOWERING PROJECT

We learn about the journey of the In Our Hands project so far, and why their work is so important and valued.

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Cover image: Stunning abstract timber shingles cladding used on a traditional Austrian building in BRAND

WELCOME

Welcome to the Autumn 2025 edition of Cutting Edge.

I hope you have enjoyed the summer weather this year and for those who went on holiday, had a relaxing break.

We have a great deal to tell you about in this edition – from the launch of the Duchess of Gloucester award to the latest Skills and Training news.

As always, any comments or suggestions for editorial pieces are welcome, along with your regular contributions to Glue Up.

Thank you once again for your continuing support. If you have any questions or need to contact the IOC at all, you can email us at:

info@instituteofcarpenters.com. Enjoy the read!

Denise

Denise Tabone, Administration Manager

September 2025

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Geoff Rhodes FIMMM MIOD | IOC President



Welcome to the Autumn Cutting Edge. Since last writing, we have been busy on many fronts – from the launch of a new national award supported by our Royal Patron, to expanding initiatives like Wood/Work and strengthening our strategic partnership with the NAS to support growth and sector engagement.

Following the visit in the spring, when our Royal Patron, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester KG GCVO, attended the tenth and final IOC Timber Industry College Hub event at Exeter College, we announced the launch of a new annual award – The Duchess of Gloucester Award for the Advancement of Skills within the Timber Industry, as awarded by the Institute of Carpenters.

Graciously supported by our Royal Patron, who is a keen advocate for the sector, this new award is set to recognise and celebrate organisations and individuals who are making an outstanding and measurable contribution to addressing the critical skills needs of the timber industry. Applications for the award must demonstrate measurable impact across the IOC's core values: Promote, Support, and Develop.

I am personally very proud that, in my final year as President – and following Cabinet approval and sign-off from The Sovereign earlier this year (based on advice from His Ministers), the IOC is now in a position to take this prestigious project forward on a national scale.

Entries must be submitted by 31 December. Judging will take place by a

selected high-quality judging panel in January 2026, leading to a presentation at our 2026 AGM and Members' Day, currently being planned to take place in April or May.

Moving on, we are now well into year three of our strategic partnership with the National Association of Shopfitters (NAS). Against measurable outputs, the Board continues to review the progress made so far as we work together with the NAS to deliver our four major projects: growing our membership dynamically, improving our communication strategy and processes, developing further our partnership and governance procedures, and embedding the IOC's vision and values to ensure they are consistently used.

The IOC is absolutely committed to nurturing and supporting new entrants to the sector, as clearly demonstrated by our latest CITB-supported and funded initiative. We are expanding our offer to include In-Work Support, amongst other things, under the name of Wood/Work. The website has been in development, and you can now visit it to find out more: <https://wood-work.co.uk/>.

Looking ahead, Wood/Work is likely to lead to a continuation of our roadshow type events held at various member Colleges across the UK. These events have

successfully brought together learners, guest speakers, and local businesses – all with the aim of inspiring the next generation.

A fresh regional structure is currently being looked at, and this will need member buy-in and support for this initiative to be successful. We encourage you to get involved and help to make this a success.

As previously reported, I attended the Timber in Construction Summit in London earlier this year, along with the Government's launch of the Timber in Construction Roadmap, where Environment Minister Mary Creagh CBE MP spoke about the "triple win" of building with timber and highlighted why it plays an important role in the Government's Plan for Change. As a result, we are actively participating in the 'Skills' working group, which is one component of seven areas being worked on.

Over the last quarter, I have also represented the Institute at Construction Leadership Council (CLC) meetings, as well as a host of other timber industry-related events.

Colleges teaching woodworking skills and their students continue to join the IOC, alongside other trained professionals and corporate members. Let us take this moment to give a warm welcome to them all.

I sincerely hope that you are starting to notice a wide variety of improvements and feel proud of what we are achieving, both individually and collectively.

In conclusion, I trust I can count on your continued support.

Enjoy the read!

Geoff Rhodes

FIMMM MIOD | IOC President



James Filus | IOC Director



“I reflected on the results of the recent membership survey, where members expressed a desire for more regional activity and additional membership benefits. Since that article, we have made meaningful progress in both areas.”

I start the process of writing each of these articles by reflecting on the last one; checking the theme to ensure I am not repeating myself, and whether there are any commitments that still need to be delivered on. As the time between editions feels like it is getting shorter, while the schedule is getting busier, it can be somewhat of a rollercoaster ride of emotions! The good news is that I need not panic.

In the last edition of Cutting Edge, I reflected on the results of the recent membership survey and noted that members had asked for more regional activity and additional membership benefits. Since that article, we have made meaningful progress in both of these areas.

We have announced our aim of establishing six regions and opened an

expression of interest for members who would like to help lead this initiative. I am very keen to deliver on this – not only because it was something you asked of the IOC, but also because I believe the current pockets of activity should be available across the United Kingdom. If you agree and would like to explore contributing, please consider completing this short form: <https://forms.office.com/e/DhbEWJA3A6>. Once we have a better sense of the level of interest, there will be further updates.

To add to our member benefits and, more specifically, in response to the request for a discounted insurance scheme, we have established a new partnership with CarpenterSaver. CarpenterSaver is part of a reputable group of insurers (TradesmanSaver), which has been trading for over 40 years and holds an impressive

Trustpilot rating of 4.7 out of 5, based on over a thousand reviews. They now offer exclusive rates for IOC members, adding even more value to your membership.

Access to all your exclusive membership benefits is available via Glue Up. These can be found in the “My Community” section under “Files.” You can visit My Community through a web browser, or – if you have not already – you may wish to download the My Glue app to your smart device for easier access.

The membership survey delivered a clear message: you would like to see more educational content from the IOC. This is the next challenge we intend to rise to – but it also raises the question: what kind of educational content are you looking for? With that in mind, I would encourage you all to consider doing one or more of the following:

1. If you have a gap in your knowledge or understanding that you would like the IOC to help address, please bring it to our attention – we will do our best to support you.
2. If you have a skill, tip, or piece of knowledge that you would like to share with your fellow members, please let us know and we will get the message out there.

As always, you can reach me at:

james.filus@shopfitters.org. We will find a way to reward your call for knowledge, or your desire to help others.

James Filus

IOC Director



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Fellow

- Chris Thomson (Lanarkshire)
- Mark Bradshaw (Northampton)
- Kevin Sullivan (Suffolk)
- David Whitfield (Devon)

Member

- Robert Stewart (Berkshire)
- Joris Sloodmaekers (Essex)
- James Adam-Smith (East Sussex)

Licentiate

- Danny Green (USA)
- Ben Askaroff (East Sussex)

Associate

- Luiz Inocente (Cheshire)

Student

- Jamie Matthews (Co Antrim)
- Blair MacKinnon (Stirlingshire)
- Ahmed Shakir (West Yorkshire)
- Lewis Asenso (Suffolk)
- Kai Horn (Suffolk)
- Jayden Talbot (Suffolk)
- Harry Jervis (Essex)
- Kian Leonard (Essex)

- Kane McLoughlin (Essex)
- Jack Sims (Essex)
- James Proctor (London)
- Sib Trigg (London)

College

- Chelmsford College
www.chelmsford.ac.uk

Do you know someone who works in wood trades who isn't a member of the IOC? All it takes is one short moment to send them a quick email point them to www.instituteofcarpenters.com to find out more and tell them why they should join. So, go on, take that moment now and encourage some more members to join! Likewise, if you know someone already in membership who deserves to be upgraded, please do let us know.

Do you have any college contacts in Northern Ireland and Scotland? If so, we would very much like to hear from you at: info@instituteofcarpenters.com.

IOC'S NEWS

- The IOC has launched its prestigious Duchess of Gloucester Award to elevate timber industry skills. Further details can be found on page 12
- At the July 2025 board meeting **Gary Smith** was nominated to replace **John Taylor** as IOC Vice President. Gary accepted and this was endorsed by the Board.
- Members are reminded to ensure they know our Code of Conduct. Whilst it is rare, a member has recently been removed from the Institute for bringing the IOC's name into disrepute.

OBITUARIES

- Colin Bell FIOC (County Durham)
- Trevor Eveleigh FIOC (Essex)
- Mary Jefferies (Bristol)
- John Wakley FIOC (Devon)

HSE NEWS AND GUIDES



- To view the latest news on Health and Safety at Work visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/ys3aer8e>
- To access HSE free leaflets on health and safety law visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/2b2ufrnp>

INDUSTRY NEWS

- The Theft of Tools of Trade (Sentencing) Bill had its second reading in early July. The purpose of this Bill is to amend current sentencing guidelines, to impose harsher penalties for the theft of tools used in trades. To find out more visit: <https://tinyurl.com/cn9yt3hp>
- The latest Builders Merchant Building Index (BMBI) report, published in July, shows builders' merchants' total value sales in May were unchanged (0.0%) compared to May 2024
- The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Q2 2025 UK Construction Monitor offers a mixed but cautiously optimistic snapshot of the nation's construction sector with twelve-month expectations pointing to a modest growth ahead, particularly in infrastructure. To read more visit: <https://tinyurl.com/4b4x3wmv>
- Furniture Makers' Company offer free and confidential support round the clock to anyone who needs help. Text 'COMFORT' to 85258
- Construction Industry Helpline: 0345 605 1956 or text HARDHAT to 85258. Providing financial and emotional support to the construction community and their families: <https://tinyurl.com/mdjprft8>

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES 10 NEW CONSTRUCTION TECHNICAL COLLEGES

The Government has named 10 specialist Construction Technical Excellence Colleges to train more than 40,000 future builders, bricklayers, electricians, carpenters and plumbers by 2029 as part of the public commitment to construction and building 1.5m homes during this parliamentary term.

Backed by £100m of fresh funding, the newly-designated construction college hubs will operate on a “hub and spoke” model, partnering with local training providers and employers. The selected Colleges are, as follows:

Region	College
East Midlands	Derby College Group
East of England	West Suffolk College
Greater London	New City College
North East	City of Sunderland College
North West	Wigan and Leigh College
South East	North Kent College
South West	Exeter College
Cross-regional	Bedford College
West Midlands	Dudley College of Technology
Yorkshire & Humber	Leeds College of Building



The IOC supported several Colleges through their application and is delighted to see that half of those selected are active members of the Institute. Our congratulations to those who applied and were successful.

CUTTING EDGE EDITORIAL COPY DEADLINES 2025/2026



Edition	Editorial copy deadline
Winter 2025	31 October
Spring 2026	30 January
Summer 2026	1 May
Autumn 2026	31 July
Winter 2026	30 October

Please submit text and images separately and provide images in as large a file size as possible, otherwise they may be of poor print quality. All content must be submitted by close of play on the copy deadline to: info@instituteofcarpenters.com.

We cannot guarantee that content received after the copy deadline will be included in that edition. Any content not included, will be kept for a future edition of Cutting Edge. Wherever possible, we will try to incorporate all images supplied into your articles, however, due to the space available, this is not always possible.

 Keep in touch on Facebook. Search for the Institute of Carpenters

 <https://twitter.com/loCarpenters>

 @IoCarpenters

 Student Instagram account: wood-students-ioc



FREE TO ALL MEMBERS

James Filus, Director, takes a look at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) approved e-learning training courses which are now available on EdApp via Glue Up.



The National Association of Shopfitters (NAS) is excited to announce the launch of a brand-new series of Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) approved e-learning courses, developed in direct response to member feedback. These courses — designed to support safety, wellbeing, and professional development in the shopfitting and fit-out sectors are now live on EdApp and accessible through Glue Up, completely free for all IOC and NAS members and their teams.

A member-led journey

This suite of training did not happen overnight. It is the result of our members speaking up, and the NAS, with support from CITB, taking action.

Under the leadership of **Amanda Scott**, NAS's Skills Lead, we worked in partnership with CITB to shape the course content to reflect the real-world challenges faced by our industry. The talented **Beverley Pearce**¹ from Consilium ESG brought these ideas to life by

developing engaging and practical content. Final refinements were led by myself and **Joe Harris**, Business Development Executive at NAS, who ensured each course was clear, useful, and ready for rollout.

Now, in 2025, we are proud to present these high-quality, accessible e-learning training courses, approved by RoSPA and tailor-made for shopfitters and interior contractors.

The new 2025 series of e-learning training courses include:

- Fire Safety
- Asbestos Awareness
- Ladder Safety
- Working at Height Awareness
- Manual Handling
- Wood Dust Management

Additional free courses also available on EdApp

In addition to the new 2025 series, a number of other important workplace training courses are available on EdApp, free for members:

- Construction Site Welfare
- Cyber Security for Staff Responsible for IT
- Cyber Security for Business Owners and Managers
- Better Business Writing
- Working Safely with Display Screen Equipment

These courses, whilst not part of the RoSPA-accredited 2025 suite, are prescribed, organisation approved, and equally valuable for developing professional standards and ensuring a safe, modern workplace.

Access all courses today

To enrol, simply log into your Glue Up account² and follow the link to EdApp to start learning. It has never been easier to upskill your team and raise health, safety, and business standards across your organisation. ◀

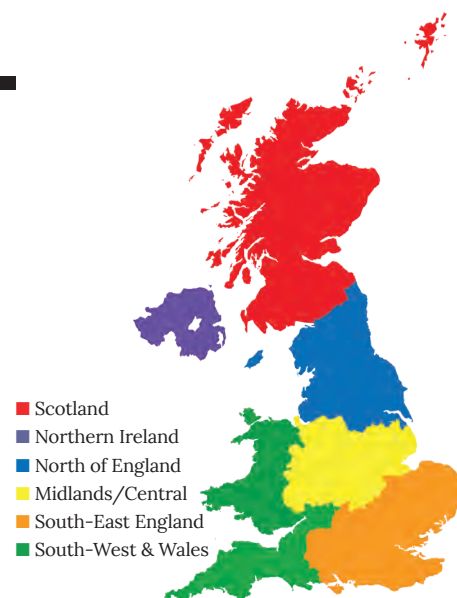
Source

1. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/beverley-peace-56070919/>

2. <https://tinyurl.com/f6xdmfr3>

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

The IOC recently announced on Glue Up its plans to establish six regions, each hosting an annual member event and student competition. Each region will be led by one lead college member, one lead member (minimum MIOC), and one IOC Board member. Additional support is welcomed.



The annual member event and student competition would be similar to the IOC's Timber Hub events and the Merlane Trophy. The aim is to ensure this sort of activity takes place consistently across the country.

The regions are being proposed on the following basis:

1. Scotland – Red
2. Northern Ireland – Purple
3. North of England – Blue
4. Midlands/Central – Yellow

5. South-East England – Orange

6. South-West & Wales – Green

A map of the proposed regions can be found below:

This is not a fixed proposal, but we do need to balance the number of regions with the aim of ensuring consistency and successfully launching the initiative.

The expectation is that the leadership of each region will consist of one lead college member, one lead member (MIOC minimum), and one IOC Board member. Additional

support will be welcomed. The leadership term is expected to last 12 months, which will enable other IOC members to take on these roles in the future.

At this stage, the IOC is gathering expressions of interest to understand the appetite from our membership to help deliver this aim. If you would like to take part then please provide your details using this form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/DhbEWJA3A6>

Any questions on this initiative can be directed to: james.filus@shopfitters.org.

WORLD CLASS MANAGERS

Do not miss out – 10 fully-funded places available on the World Class Manager training programme for aspiring leaders.

For the third year running, the NAS is funding 10 places on the World Class Manager (WCM) course run by The Global Growth Institute.

This course is perfect for middle tier managers or those who are already progressing in their career and looking for further development.

As part of our commitment to members, we are looking for 10 nominations from IOC and NAS Members. If you know someone

who is setting out on their leadership path and would benefit from this course, please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2dmrctz4> and fill in the form.

For those who do not want to join this cohort and instead wish to work at a slower pace in their own time, you can apply to join and receive a reduction in cost through the IOC.

WCM was launched in 2016 and is now operational in 18 countries. It is a technology-enabled platform of



development for managers featuring a mix of video, workbook and assessment. It is also CPD certified from London.

It is being used by some of the world's leading organisations including HSBC, BBC, ACCA, Allianz, and is helping 1000s of managers improve their management capability; it is also helping organisations overcome geographical and financial barriers to developing their entire management population.

“We serve so many important stakeholders, who in turn impact on our nation's health and well-being. Great management is key to all of this and World Class Manager assists us by building this collective management strength,” commented the Royal College of Physicians.

CARPENTERSAVER: ADDING COMPETITIVE INSURANCE

An exclusive partnership for IOC members – CarpenterSaver who offer trusted, affordable insurance for the carpentry trade.

CarpenterSaver is an insurance offer specifically designed for the carpentry trade and is part of the Tradesman Saver group, which has been providing insurance solutions since 1984. CarpenterSaver offers affordable policies on all critical forms of trades insurance, from public and product liability, legal costs, and financial loss, typically rolled into one comprehensive policy.

Reviewers on Trustpilot¹ are overwhelmingly positive about Tradesman Saver, with a 4.7/5 rating from over 1,100 reviews. One commenter said: “I have used Tradesman insurance for the last couple of years, and they always come out top in price and ease of

getting quotes.” Another simply said: “Really easy process.” It gets even better for members of the Institute of Carpenters (IOC).

IOC members can now access an exclusive quote for a policy covering Public Liability, Financial Loss, Products Liability, Legal Expenses, and Accidental Death.

The average saving for IOC members, on top of already “very competitive prices”, is over 15%.

Optional, additional cover is also available to suit members’ needs, including Tools and Equipment, Employers’ Liability, and Professional Indemnity. **James Filus**, Director, said: “The 2025 membership survey contained a clear message – add further

membership benefits, including competitive insurance. We continue to work hard to add additional membership benefits and this exclusive partnership with CarpenterSaver takes our offer even further.” IOC members can access their membership benefits, including the exclusive link for a quote from CarpenterSaver. This can be found in Glue Up in the My Community, Files folder. ◀

Source

1. <https://uk.trustpilot.com/review/www.tradesmansaver.co.uk>

CarpenterSaver

COMPETITIONS

DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER AWARD

The IOC is proud to announce the establishment of The Duchess of Gloucester Award for the advancement of skills within the timber industry.

Graciously supported by our Patron HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, this annual Award is set to recognise and celebrate organisations and individuals who are making an outstanding and measurable contribution to addressing the critical skills needs of the timber industry.

Unlike traditional project-based prizes or competitions, The Duchess of Gloucester Award will honour sustained impact. Nominations will be rigorously assessed against quantifiable evidence of the difference nominees have made in meeting skills demands, particularly vital at a time of high demand for more skilled workers across the construction sector.

Applications for the Award will demonstrate measurable impact across our core values of promote, support, and develop. Example areas of impact include, but are not limited to:

- **Promote:** Engaging and attracting young people to the sector; creating and/or enhancing careers in wood

- **Support:** Initiatives to retain talent in the sector; enhancing the wellbeing of individuals working with wood

- **Develop:** Training in basic skills or modern methods of construction; sustaining traditional carpentry or heritage skills.

Applications may be submitted by any individual, collegiate, corporate or reciprocal member of the IOC or its partner, the National Association of Shopfitters (NAS).

Only one prestigious award will be made each year, with at least one highly commended application also being recognised, celebrating those making a significant difference to the industry’s skills landscape.

Discussing the judging panel, **Geoff Rhodes**, IOC President, said: “The panel will be made up of myself, **James Filus**, Director, **Peter Travis** and **Stephen Powney**.

Peter, has had a successful career in advertising. In 2005, he formed his own marketing consultancy, plustravis, which has



Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Gloucester, and Geoff Rhodes, President of the IOC at the IOC's tenth, Timber Industry College Hub event. P: Exeter College/Rob Coombe

since developed numerous TV and print ad campaigns across the UK, Europe, and the US. Among his many award-winning projects was the Timber Trade Federation's Think Wood campaign. Stephen, is the editor of two highly respected international timber trade publications, TITJ and WBPI.

“The IOC anticipates a final judging panel of five people, so this is still a work in progress as we identify one more suitable candidate.”

Details on how to apply for this prestigious award, eligibility guidelines, and key dates can be found on the Institute of Carpenters’ website: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8ttazj>. ◀

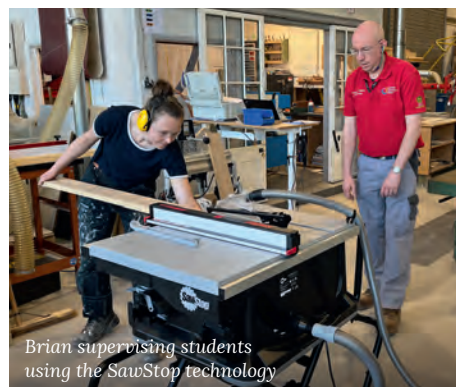
FROM HAND TOOLS TO HIGH TECH: 30 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION IN CARPENTRY AND JOINERY

Brian Tunbridge, Tutor at West Suffolk College, discusses the advancements in technology in your toolkit from Festool's exoskeleton to Battery technology.

If you have been in the trade for a while, you will remember the days when your toolkit was pretty simple: a hammer, a pump-action Yankee screwdriver, and a handsaw you had to sharpen yourself. That was the reality not so long ago — and while those trusty tools still hold a place in our hearts (and toolboxes), the carpentry and joinery industry has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past 30 years, thanks to advancements in technology.

Today, the tools we use are smarter, faster, safer, and — let's be honest — cooler than ever. Walk onto any site or into a workshop, and you will see carpenters comparing their gear with the same enthusiasm others reserve for sports cars or smartwatches. It is not just about utility anymore; it has become trendy to have the latest, most advanced kit.

One of the most significant advancements in safety has come from **SawStop technology**. This ingenious system detects skin contact with the blade and stops the saw within milliseconds, preventing life-changing injuries. In a trade with inherent risks, this type of innovation is nothing short of revolutionary and has quickly become a benchmark in workshop safety.

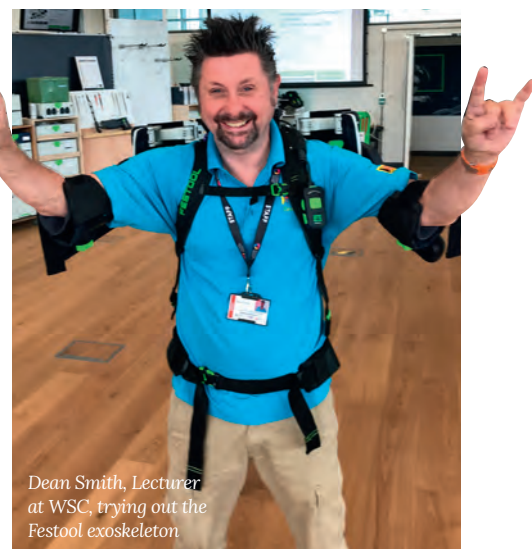


Brian supervising students using the SawStop technology

Ergonomics and physical health have also been addressed through innovations like **Festool's exoskeleton**, designed to support the upper body and reduce fatigue during overhead work. While still a relatively new addition to most carpenters' gear, it points to a future where wearable tech may become standard issue — particularly as the industry aims to extend careers and reduce strain-related injuries.

Bosch's laser phone-linked technology is another game-changer, turning your smartphone into a precision measuring tool. With this setup, carpenters can take accurate digital measurements on-site, automatically generate floorplans, and instantly share data with clients or team members. It eliminates guesswork and reduces the margin for error, streamlining workflow and boosting professionalism.

Health and safety regulations have also driven improvements, particularly around dust extraction. The introduction of **M Class dust extraction systems** has significantly improved site safety by reducing exposure to hazardous fine dust particles. These systems are now a legal requirement in many settings



Dean Smith, Lecturer at WSC, trying out the Festool exoskeleton

and are helping safeguard respiratory health across the industry.

Even lighting has seen a dramatic upgrade. Gone are the days of lugging halogen work lights from job to job. Now, **LED technology** provides compact, bright, and energy-efficient lighting solutions that are safer, cooler to the touch, and easier to position — vital for precision work and dark winter days.

None of this would be possible without the huge leap forward in **Battery technology**. Modern lithium-ion batteries offer longer run times, faster charging, and more power than ever before, making cordless tools not just viable, but often preferable. Today's carpenter can carry out an entire day's work with a fully cordless setup — something unimaginable three decades ago.

In short, technology has driven the carpentry and joinery trades into a new era. We are working more efficiently, more safely, and with greater accuracy. The tools we use now are as much about enhancing wellbeing and precision as they are about getting the job done. While there will always be a place for the hammer and handsaw, it is safe to say that the future is looking sharp — laser sharp. ◀

Brian Tunbridge FIOC



TIMBER CONSTRUCTION EUROPE (TCE) GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Showcasing UK efforts in woodworking skills, training frameworks, government strategies, and student and college support at the TCE General Assembly in Austria.

In June 2025, IOC President **Geoff Rhodes** and NAS Skills Lead **Amanda Scott** attended the TCE General Assembly, held in Brand, Austria. This ran from 12-14 June and included attendees from across Europe.

Geoff and Amanda delivered a joint presentation on behalf of the UK, highlighting current work, progress, and initiatives being taken in tackling the skills shortages in woodworking skills. They also highlighted the important wide-ranging work of the IOC and NAS, as well as the NOS Competency Framework Development, alongside the Government's Timber in Construction Roadmap.

Topics covered at the event included developments linked to future Youth & Student exchange possibilities based on recent UK-EU negotiated agreements, new UK forestry planting policies and the IOC's Mentoring Champions and new Wood/Work Scheme to support FE Colleges and students entering employment in our sector.

To find out more information about Timber Construction Europe visit: www.timber-construction.eu/en. ◀

▲ Excellent examples of Austrian craftsmanship in using wood in construction in the BRAND village community

► Stunning abstract timber shingles cladding used on a traditional Austrian building in BRAND



IN OUR HANDS: AN EMPOWERING PROJECT

Located in Steyning, West Sussex, In Our Hands is a project with a simple, but inspiring mission: To empower women and gender diverse people through carpentry, building, and DIY. We caught up with **Georjie Adams**, Director, course facilitator, and founder of In Our Hands, to learn about the journey so far and why their work is so important and valued.



Georjie Adams,
Director, course
facilitator, and founder
of In Our Hands

They say that necessity is the mother of invention. In Georjie's case, the necessity was finding affordable accommodation, and the invention was a "Tiny House" – inspired by house trucks seen when travelling in New Zealand.

Despite having trades in the family (Georjie's Dad was a builder), working with her hands was not something that had previously been of interest. All that changed when putting the Tiny House together. Georjie's friends were understandably impressed with the finished project but could not imagine achieving something similar – even though Georjie had no prior carpentry experience herself. This was the initial spark that started the In Our Hands project.

Fast forward to today, In Our Hands runs several workshops for beginners, creating a safe

space for learners to develop their skills and, importantly, make mistakes. Georjie credits the positive start to her personal journey with wood to not having anyone looking over her shoulder telling her she was doing it wrong. That same sense of trial-and-error Georjie faced when building the Tiny House is now a feature of the workshops – which are process, not product driven – with those attending designing and making their own items from reclaimed timber, using modest tools, while being both supported and encouraged.

This approach to teaching is clearly working. In Our Hands finds itself oversubscribed, with a waiting list for its most popular workshops. The Building Basics session, which takes roughly one day in the classroom, is one such workshop. It operates on the principle of "pay what you can" so regardless of your income, the workshop is available and inclusive to all. There is also the option for those more fortunate to "pay it forward". This has been made possible through grant funding and donations from organisations such as the Lottery Community Fund, the People's Postcode Lottery, and the Sussex Community Foundation, amongst others.

It is a well-known fact that construction has a resource problem. More people are needed to meet the existing labour demands – that is without factoring in the Government's ambitions to accelerate homebuilding and

deliver 1.5m new homes. Attracting more diverse labour could be a solution, and while In Our Hands is not yet equipped to create site-ready workers in its current form, it can certainly help break down the barriers and inspire the future workforce to take the first steps toward a career in the sector. On a more modest level, it could help you hang a shelf. ◀



Your support for the project would be greatly appreciated. This could come in the form of sponsorship for a particular workshop, a tool for the machine room, or simply a donation. For more information about In Our Hands and for details on how to contact Georjie if you would like to offer your support, please visit: <https://www.inourhandsproject.org/>. You can also listen to our full discussion with Georjie using this link: <https://on.soundcloud.com/OtlaGWQqjZX9Yzw1H6>.





NEW 8-MONTH FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP

With multiple high level changes taking place, you do not have to navigate them alone. **Amanda Scott**, NAS/IOC UK Skills Lead, reports on the latest change — the 8-month Foundation Apprenticeship (FA).

Love it or loath it, it is here, and with it comes a whole new range of criteria, eligibility, and funding changes for both employers and education providers in our sector. I am more than aware that some may view this as a plaster over the wound of our skills crisis; whilst others might say it is aimed at the Housebuilding Sector and Tier One Contractors — a potential quick fix and way for the Government to tackle its own housing crisis and affordable housing build targets. To create a sense of balance, you could say that Foundation Apprenticeships (FAs) benefit our employer membership as they get to see the foundation apprentice in work-based settings, while the apprentice receives extra support. Employers also benefit from accessing a broader talent pool of young learners than they might otherwise do.

Despite any critical appreciation, as of August, the FAs for on-site trades has landed.

Here is what the Government reform means for industry:

- Rules slowing down the training of workers in key industries like construction have been changed. Employers will now be able to decide whether adult learners over the age of 19 when they start their apprenticeship course will need to complete a level 2 English and Maths qualification (equivalent to GCSE) to pass it.

It does not mean that apprentices will not be assessed on core English and Maths skills relevant to their occupation, but it does mean that apprentices will be able to focus more on their paid work. The minimum duration of an apprenticeship will be reduced to 8 months.

Secretary of State for Education **Bridget Phillipson**, said: “Businesses have been calling out for change to the apprenticeship system and these reforms show that we are listening. Our new offer of shorter apprenticeships and less red tape



Amanda Scott, NAS/IOC UK Skills Lead

strikes the right balance between speed and quality, helping achieve our number one mission to grow the economy. Skills England will be a major driver in addressing the skills gaps needed to support employers up and down the country and I look forward to working with the new leadership.”

The Foundation Onsite Trade Apprenticeship – Overview of the role

Onsite construction trades relate to bricklayers, carpenters, joiners, and plasterers. Onsite construction work is found in both the new build and refurbishment construction sector. Project size will vary, ranging from domestic repairs to larger contracts for homebuilders, commercial and retail developments.

This FA requires a minimum 187 hours off-the-job learning (OTJ). Upon successful completion, the apprentice will be competent in the knowledge, skills and behaviours outlined in this standard. Someone who completes some or all of this content will be part-way through a journey to a more specialist occupation. Taking another apprenticeship after this one is one way of progressing to an occupational competence-based qualification such as the Level 2 Trailblazer Apprenticeship. On completion, it is anticipated that the CSCS will issue FAs with an industry placement card.

Mapped to occupational standards, the Foundation Apprenticeship will cover:

- Technical Knowledge
- Technical Skills
- Employability Skills and Behaviours.

The full break down and assessment methodology can be found here:

<https://skillsengland.education.gov.uk/foundation-apprenticeships/FA0003>

Foundation Apprenticeship eligibility, rules and funding

Considered a new model for young people, the FAs are a new entry route for young people or those with additional needs. They come with unique sets of funding conditions and rules.

Who is eligible?

- Young people aged 16 – 21
- Some aged 22-24, including those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and Care Leavers
- Individuals in or recently released from prison.

Key Features:

- Apprentices can do a FA at the same or lower level than a qualification they already hold, if it develops new knowledge, skills, and behaviours
- Maths and English remain required, but the assessment is not mandatory before completions
- Incentive payments: up to £2,000 in total is available to providers and employers for eligible learners, plus an additional £666 progression payment for those who go on to a higher-level apprenticeship.



Sector impact

For our sector it means critical changes will impact how apprenticeships in England and Wales are delivered, assessed and funded from August. Here is what it means for FE colleges, training providers, employers and apprentices with the new rules applying to any apprentice starting on or after 1 August.

What has changed?

- Prior Learning must be assessed and recorded. When prior experience shortens the programme, providers must show the reduction in both content and cost
- The minimum eligibility for apprenticeship funding now stands at 8 months or 187 off-the-job (OTJ) training hours
- If an apprenticeship has no prior learning, they must receive the full published OTJ training hours for that standard
- Programmes can be delivered flexibly across any timeline (so long as they meet the 8-month minimum), without affecting the OTJ hour requirements.

This change offers greater agility in designing apprenticeships tailored to individuals' starting points, it also means robust initial assessments and clear documentation are more important than ever.

The Department of Education (DoE) has also removed the distinction between full-

time and part-time apprenticeships when it comes to OTJ training delivery. Providers must ensure planned training is realistic based on working hours.

OTJ training hours – New Standard by Standard requirements mean that the 20% rule is being phased out and marks a shift in policy. From August onwards each apprenticeship standard will have its own published minimum OTJ training requirement – while most will remain close to the 20%, it will provide consistency.

I am on hand to aid, represent and guide you through the changes. Do not hesitate to reach out with any concerns, thoughts, and feedback regarding the new FAs, and more broadly, on any of the major changes our sector is currently navigating.

amanda.scott@shopfitters.org ◀

Many significant and further high-level changes are underway, and we are on point representing you. The Government also announced a new set of end-point assessment reforms (EPA) currently underway. In the next edition of Cutting Edge, we will report on our deep dive updates and skills leadership navigation.

CRAFTING A CAREER: THE CONTINUED JOURNEY INTO CARPENTRY AND JOINERY



Victorious: Laura is declared the winner at her charity boxing match



The 14m of linear seating

We recently sat down with **Laura Humphreys**, Apprentice, and her mentor **Neil Addyman**, Operations Director at Deanhouse Interiors, to discuss the progress Laura has made in her carpentry and joinery journey since the last time we spoke.

It has been a while since we checked in with you (October 2024). What have you been getting up to?

I have been continuing with my Level 3 qualification as well as working at a 'top flight football club' – I can't say which one, as there is a Non-Disclosure Agreement in place. There, I am installing a cover to go around some metal framing, and also doing some refurbishment of the hospitality suites.

Any new challenges to overcome?

I am working more on my own now. If there is a problem, I have to try and work it out myself. I like this responsibility, along with being accountable for resolving issues on site. Recently, I have been working on re-doing all the cladding at the training ground of the 'top flight club'. We need to make sure it looks smart – but also safe in case players make contact with it.

What has been your best experience since last year?

Outside of work, I took part in a charity boxing match! Deanhouse Group sponsored me,

and I won by a knockout, raising £360 for the charity Mind – our target was £300, so I was delighted to beat it. I am hanging up my gloves for now, but would definitely consider doing it again. The training was hard and long!

How is your course going?

College is going well, and should be completing before January 2026. As part of the assessment process, I have completed a staircase and included 14 metres of linear seating in my portfolio. This seating was part of the hospitality work at the football club.

What stands out about your Level 3 course so far?

I have learned a lot more than I did at Level 2. You are doing similar tasks, but in a more advanced way. For example, the staircase I built at Level 2 was straight, whereas at Level 3 it was a kite winder staircase. The task has more complexity and depth, and there are greater expectations on learners. Accuracy is key – I find myself triple-checking to make sure everything is right. It's all about measuring and then check, check, check again.

What advice would you give to yourself a year ago? You seem much more confident today.

I am just focused on keeping going. It is not always easy being the only girl, but everyone at the Deanhouse Group has made me feel really welcome. I switched jobs in the past year, so I was quite nervous about joining the business – but I am glad I did. Maybe the boxing helped with that confidence!

We will check in with Laura again once she has completed her course. If anyone would like to support Laura in raising more funds for Mind please visit her JustGiving page at: <https://tinyurl.com/mwvt7e5d>. ◀





CONSTRUCTION SKILLS MISSION BOARD

A look at the new Construction Skills Mission Board created to lead a £625m drive to boost construction skills.

The first meeting of the newly established Construction Skills Mission Board was held on 26 June. The meeting was Chaired by **Mark Reynolds**, Co-Chair of the Construction Leadership Council. The Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Rt Hon **Angela Rayner** MP, also joined the first meeting, alongside other Ministers, representatives of the supply chain and training organisations.

The Board was established to support the Government's commitment to invest an additional £625 million in construction skills, in order to help deliver a national infrastructure and construction pipeline worth £725 million, as well as building 1.5m new homes, and retrofitting an additional 5m.

Specific initiatives and actions

These will be developed to deliver the mission, while supporting the Government to

shape, develop and deliver skills policy. The actions will focus on five key areas to drive increased recruitment. They are:

- Confidence to employ and invest
- Clear new entrant pathways
- Access to provision and support to train
- Funding that works
- Reliable and rewarding careers.

The Board will work with industry bodies, such as the Institute of Carpenters and the National Association of Shopfitters, to ensure these actions and initiatives are rolled out across the sector and we will continue to update our members on future developments.

At the launch of the Board, Mark Reynolds said: "The Construction Skills Mission Board represents a new partnership between industry and Government, working together to find industry-led, collaborative solutions to delivering the workforce of the future. I am delighted that we have seen such strong

support from Ministers and some of the most important leaders in our sector and I hope everyone will play their part in the delivery of this essential mission."

Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Secretary Angela Rayner said: "Building 1.5 million homes takes investment, skills, and a Government that is ready to roll up its sleeves to deliver and that is exactly what we are doing. Our Plan for Change commits to delivering the biggest boost for affordable and social housing in a generation, which we have backed with a £39 billion investment over ten years. We are working hand-in-hand with industry to recruit thousands more workers into skilled construction jobs, and thanks to our Make Work Pay reforms we will ensure these jobs are more secure and better rewarded."

To find out more about the Construction Skills Mission Board and their initiatives and actions visit: <https://tinyurl.com/yfw9z8mx>. ◀

NEW STARTERS WHO STICK. THAT IS WOOD/WORK

Starting a new job can be tough — new people, new tools, and no clue where anything lives. That is where Wood/Work, the new in-work support programme from the IOC and NAS, comes in.



There is nothing quite like someone's first day on the job. New people. New routines. New tools. No idea where anything lives (the only familiar thing is the tea) and somewhere in the middle of all that new and unknown is a brand-new starter, doing their best to get it right.

That is Wood/Work at work — That is our vision

Launching across the UK in September with partner IOC college members, Wood/Work is the new in-work support programme from the IOC and NAS. Supported by CITB, it is specifically designed to help new starters stay, progress, and succeed in their first carpentry or joinery job.

Remember when you first started? Those first few weeks can be tough. Whether your apprentice is straight from college or returning to work, Wood/Work is there to support them from day one.

A simple idea

Skilled, confident workers make stronger businesses. You know yourself — when it works, it works. It is also true though that too many good people drop out of their first job in the trade. Often not because of the work, but because they are not sure what to expect, who (or how) to ask for help, or how to handle the odd hiccup without thinking they are not cut out for it.

For the employer, it is not an easy decision to invest time, effort and wages into someone new and can feel like a gamble. You want them to learn, stay, and become a real asset to the team — but will they? That is exactly what

Wood/Work is built for. Wood/Work makes sure a good start becomes a great first year, giving new starters space to ask questions, learn new things, and stay on track.

New starters get structured support during their first year in work

New starters will receive a short online induction, regular check-ins with a dedicated college support contact, and bite-sized learning — from payslip know-how, to handling tools, time, and tricky conversations. It also builds on the legacy and learning of the IOC Mentoring Champions' project and through Wood/Work, our mentors are there for those who want them. It is friendly, practical, and built around real-life success in real-world workshops.

Wood/Work means your new starter arrives with structured support already in place.

They know what is expected. They have had extra employability prep before setting foot in your workshop and are part of something that helps them grow, stay, and encourages them to ask for help if they need it.

Wood/Work is the glue between college, learner and employer — each doing their part, joined up and working together. We would love to see Wood/Work become a sign that someone believes in themselves and the craft. A sign that someone is not just looking for a job, but ready to work in joinery and carpentry, and serious about sticking with it. We think this can shape the future for the next generation.

Want to bring Wood/Work to your apprentices or new starters? We would love to hear from you! If you are a college, student or employer, head to www.wood-work.co.uk and fill in the contact form. ◀

Just starting out in your first carpentry or joinery job? This is for you.

Thinking about or applying for your first job?

Wood/Work helps you get work-ready with our "Getting Work-ready" modules. Once you have landed that job, you will be ready for it, and we make sure that the info you receive from Wood/Work grows with you. You can go to www.wood-work.co.uk now, fill in the contact form, and we will help get you work-ready.

Already found a job or started your first job in the last six months?

Congratulations! What are you waiting for? We are right here — you know what to do to get as much or as little support as you want. Go to www.wood-work.co.uk now and fill in the contact form!

Wood/Work is the secret sauce made specifically for new starters and their employers in the wood trades. A sign that someone is ready to work in joinery and carpentry, and serious about sticking with it.

Support. Sustain. Succeed. That is Wood/Work at work.



THE COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK FOR SITE CARPENTRY AND FIRE DOOR INSTALLATION

We take a look at the Competence Framework for Site Carpentry and Fire Door Installation, which has been released and is now published for industry consultation and feedback.

What are Competence Frameworks?

Competence Frameworks set out and define the core competence requirements for individuals across the built environment. They are made up of a Route to Competence and a SKEB document (Skills, Knowledge, Experience & Behaviour) and an Implementation Plan

- The Route to Competence highlights the qualification routes available for individuals to achieve a level of competence.
- The SKEB statement lists the skills, knowledge, experience and behaviours (SKEB) required to obtain competence in the role(s) covered by the framework and shows the training available to support those competencies and any re-validation requirements.
- An Implementation Plan, is a programme and timetable for each occupation to achieve full compliance with competence framework requirements, including delivery of the necessary training and assessment infrastructure.

Why is a Competence Framework needed for the construction industry?

As the Building Safety Act comes into effect, individuals are required to prove that they are competent to do the job they are on-site to do, so it is imperative that we have competence defined for all (in scope) roles.

CITB supports Sector Lead Group 10 (SLG 10), a subgroup of the Industry Competence

Steering Group (ICSG), to consult with industry to develop Competence Frameworks.

Competence Frameworks will help improve competence by providing clarity and consistency across the industry with links to accredited qualifications and approved training.

From standardising competence and identifying the qualification landscape, an implementation plan will be produced which will help address any gaps identified by the consultation process and the defining of the Competence Framework.

Competence Framework Development

CITB's collaborative approach with Sector Lead Group 10 (SLG 10) supports the strategy for the development of standardised Competence Framework's, improving coordination amongst the sectors to avoid gaps and duplication across the Built Environment.

CITB offers industry the opportunity to be involved in Competence Framework

development, by either being part of a working group or contributing through online surveys.

Working Group (WGs) requirements and typical timescales:

- Industry experts familiar with the occupation
- Meet approximately once or twice a month (virtually)
- Face-to-face meetings if preferred by working groups
- Meetings can be from one to three hours (in agreement with the working group)

On average, Competency Framework reviews run for six months. Digital Offline consultation (through email or survey) is offered for people who are time limited but want to be part of the consultation and have their say.

A further 30-day online review and feedback period will be available at the end of the consultation. ◀

We are committed to providing you with regular updates on this.

For in depth information on the Competence Framework and why it is important, you can visit the CITB's website for further information <https://tinyurl.com/nh35efdp>.

The Site Carpentry and Fire Door Installation Framework can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/49545wpc> and the form to provide feedback can be accessed at citb.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/AJ25_10SC. You are also welcome to contact Amanda Scott, UK Skills Lead at the IOC and NAS with any questions at amanda.scott@shopfitters.org.

MATERIAL SCIENCE FOR WOODWORKERS - IRON AND STEEL CONTINUED

The late **Brian K. Hodgson** discusses early ironmaking which grew from simple methods to advanced furnaces using coke and was pioneered by Abraham Darby I. Progress was slow but accelerated in the Age of Enlightenment; steel and new materials then revolutionised building and engineering.

Introduction

In the previous edition, we studied the early iron manufacturing processes, which were based on the discovery of the power of heat and how this could change minerals into metal. This marked the beginning of two significant developments and must have occurred several times in multiple locations, or the making of iron could not have been so widespread throughout the world and periods in history.

Alchemy is often perceived as belonging to the realm of the occult — or perhaps more truthfully, the domain of those who do not see the world, particularly the scientific world, as the majority of us do. The alchemist is typically concerned with the transformation of one material into another, a power often regarded as a supernatural gift. Again, this legend or myth is almost universally held at some stage of various civilisations' development, and continues to influence our modern storytelling. It is woven into contemporary myths such as J K Rowlings' Harry Potter adventures and, perhaps less explicitly, in the writings of Sir Philip Pullman¹.

This power to transform materials is seen as reaching its peak in the changing of lead into gold. Lead is much more common as a metal than gold; gold, as discussed in a previous issue, has intrinsic value because of its rarity and beauty. It almost seems inevitable that the desire to change a base metal like lead into gold is a scam waiting for the gullible — but without our current knowledge of atoms and molecules, we may ask: why not believe this?

We have backtracked a little in our knowledge and now know that some elements can undergo a transformation, such as the decay of carbon isotopes. If isotopes of an element can change, can changing an element also happen? The answer is, of course, yes!

Back to less fanciful outcomes of transforming. In metallurgy, we are not changing elements; rather, we are changing the states in which that element can exist. This is like the way H₂O exists — as a crystalline form, such as in ice and snowflakes, as a liquid in running water, and as a gas in the atmosphere — changing from liquid to vapour (steam), and then to a true gas.

The changes in mineral ores to metal are more complex but follow the same basic principles, combined with chemical reactions. The latter is not required in the changes to H₂O.

Next developments in the manufacturing of iron and steel

We move on from these extensions to the accidental transformation of mineral to metal and can see man adapting these processes to produce the metal required. The early processes (as mentioned in the Summer 2025 edition of Cutting Edge), produce just a few kilos of iron per charge. To use that method for large quantities was impractical, as more labour and energy would be needed. It is at this stage that man learnt to harvest waterpower. All these larger workings need to be beside a river, stream, or a man-made stream called a leat². As many of these could be taken from a river, they could be spaced out so that the full head of water could be maintained.

Three different processes could be spread out downstream, and sometimes multiples of each process were used. These workings were:

- **The blast furnace:** This is where the ore and scrap are melted together with charcoal and, to act as an aid to the chemical process, a flux limestone is added. The load of ore, charcoal and limestone is called a charge.
- **The finery:** The pig iron, named from the casting of large pieces with runnels leading to several smaller pieces, were moved to a finery (rather like a blacksmiths forge), but

with two sources of blown air — one to feed the fire and a second playing on the metal to help it give off carbon. This process helps turn the cast iron pigs into wrought iron rods and flat sheets and is called decarburising.

- **The chafery³:** This, in the middle to large sized plants, had several hammers. Again, they were driven by waterpower, causing several cams to lift and drop big hammers to flatten the iron. Sometimes springs were involved to give extra power to the dropping hammer.

You can imagine that if each of these components needs water, then the multiple runoffs or leats take up a certain length of the river, and space is needed for the used water to run back into its source. This is why the actual ironworks were spread out along the riverside.

These power hammers can reduce the thickness of a slab of wrought iron to about a minimum of 20mm square; rods smaller in section require the use of a slitting mill. Slitting mills were in use in Flanders around the 15th century — it was in the 16th century that they were established in England. It is claimed that they could produce rods about 6mm square and larger, supplying the blacksmith with his stock.

Charcoal and coke

It was discovered in prehistory that wood, as such, did not produce the desired effect when used in the furnace to make iron; it did not produce the right heat or supply the carbon to make cast iron.

Although the metal of choice in the Middle Ages was wrought iron with minimal carbon content, charcoal still provided better-controlled heat. It was soon discovered that wood that had already been burned possessed the properties of sustained combustion, with a minimal amount of oxygen. The slow, oxygen-starved burn of charcoal produced superior iron.

Wood itself was at a premium — large planks were needed for ship and house building, with some 2,000 trees being used on a large house. Small pieces of wood and off cuts were needed for repair work and fuel. As a result of these factors, suitable timber for making charcoal became scarce. By the 1600s, the use of coal had gained momentum but was an untidy burner — besides producing carbon, it also produced sulphur, which is detrimental to the production of iron. So, in the 1700s, experiments were carried out to lose all the unwanted elements in coal and produce a particulate⁴ free burn.

Experiments were carried out to create a cleaner fuel, still based on coal, and a similar way to that of turning wood to charcoal was discovered. This method consisted of making large beehive-shaped stacks of coal, covering them with damp earth, and starting a slow burn. To start this process, coal-to-coke burning required greater temperatures, both to ignite and to sustain the burn. This was achieved by having more than one ignition point and changing the shape of the furnace.

Abraham Darby I (The ironmaster)

A dynasty that was very much involved in the development of the furnace and production of quality cast iron was the Darby family, who set up an iron works at Coalbrookdale, Shropshire. Abraham Darby I (1676–1717) established the ironworks there in 1708. It started as a very small concern, with nothing to foreshadow the greatness still to come. A year later, Darby began experimenting with processed coal, creating his own form of coke — the year 1709 is now widely accepted by industrial archaeologists as the first time coke was used for this purpose. It had already become a fuel of choice for malting, where the removal of sulphur and particulates made better malt for brewing.

These developments in the early 18th century were carried out by a series of small, redesigned improvements and by early to mid-18th century:

- **Wrought iron:** The iron of the blacksmith was made primarily by making cast-iron and then decarburizing it
 - **Cast iron:** This was made in the furnaces and run out into moulds. For some, this seemed a type of halfway iron, only to be used to make wrought iron. Darby's work showed you could have quality cast iron. This was proved by the making of the Iron Bridge at Coalbrookdale, the world's first cast iron bridge (see image below)
 - **Steel:** Which was still made in small quantities, involving great skill by sword and cutting tool makers. There was no way yet of making steel in quantity and quality.
- Progress in ironmaking was slow in the latter part of the 18th and early 19th centuries. One reason for the slow uptake of the improved fuel coke, was that Darby's developments were carried out in a backwater. Coalbrookdale was miles from other metallurgical concerns, and the Coalbrookdale enterprise producing cast iron was not viewed as the mainstream production of what clients wanted, wrought iron.

It must be remembered that in the early 18th century, canal building had not yet begun, and roads were largely unmade; communication was limited, the ability to observe specific developments was restricted, and the spread of new ideas was slow.

Conclusion

The late 18th century and throughout the 19th century, travel and communication became easier, ideas were passed on, and discussions ensued as to how they could be adapted. In historical terms, we had entered 'The Age of Enlightenment', and progress

was the order of the day. The feedback of information from the many manufactories (as they were called), connected academic scientists with mill owners. This period saw the development of civil engineering and architecture as professions with codes of behaviour. Prior to this time, the jobbing builder could be the surveyor, architect, or the property landowner; this led to much vested interest that ensured these people received monies from various sources but did not have to do a professionally defined job. Prior to the 1760s, most buildings were built for specific buyers, but after this time the speculative builder came into being, building houses for a class of people rather than specific clients. After building had commenced or even been completed, the builder advertised for clients. These speculative builders often put designs together by pick-and-mixing details from many published books and did not use an architect. Civil engineering involved structural ideas pushed to their limits, some very successful, others a disaster. There was more need for informed peoples to keep in check and new inventions studied for practicability.

During these 150 years or so, new materials for building came to the fore; materials such as steel for joists, beams, columns, and reinforced concrete, where the tensile strength of steel could be coupled with the compressive strength of concrete. Concepts like air conditioning and safe lifts to transport people up several floors also emerged. Key to these developments were great people who had the vision to extend human capabilities and understand the properties of materials, enabling these materials to perform to their strengths. Iron, and especially the type of iron we call steel, was central to these achievements — and to this great epoch in technology, we now turn in the next issue. ◀

Brian K Hodgson, Ph.D, FIMMM, FFB, FIOC, MIMWoodT, AMICT | Lancaster (deceased)

Source

1. Philip Pullman was knighted in the 2019 New Year Honours for his services to literature. He was recognised for his contributions to literature, particularly for his popular "His Dark Materials" trilogy and other works.
2. A Leat is an artificial watercourse, often a narrow channel or ditch, used to convey water, typically to a mill or for other purposes like irrigation or industrial use. The term is particularly common in the south and west of England and Wales.
3. A chafery (plural chaferies) is a variety of hearth used in ironmaking for reheating a bloom of iron in the course of its being drawn out into a bar of wrought iron.
4. Small particles of solids carried in the smoke, e.g. soot.





LUMIN TRP PLYWOOD: A SMARTER ALTERNATIVE TO TROPICAL HARDWOOD

John Guerin, Managing Director at Lumin Forest Products Limited, explains why LUMIN TRP Plywood provides a dependable alternative to declining and non-sustainable tropical hardwoods.

With traditional tropical hardwoods like Meranti and Okoume becoming less sustainable and harder to source, the need for reliable, sustainable alternatives is more important than ever. LUMIN TRP plywood, developed over nearly two decades, answers that need. It gives the global wood products industry access to a renewable, responsibly managed supply, whilst supporting climate goals through certified sustainable practices.

LUMIN TRP is gaining a strong reputation among carpenters, tradespeople, and builders around the world. Made from 100% Eucalyptus Grandis grown on managed plantations in Uruguay, it provides a dependable alternative to declining and non-sustainable tropical hardwoods. The LUMIN Eucalyptus plantations in Uruguay are carefully managed to protect native forests and maintain ecological balance. The result is a plywood product with excellent sustainability, structural strength, and

excellent workability – ideal for modern construction and woodworking. The rich pink and red tones of Eucalyptus Grandis give LUMIN TRP an appearance similar to high-value tropical species.

A clear commitment to sustainability

LUMIN's environmental credentials are among the strongest in the market. Made entirely from plantation-grown, pruned Eucalyptus Grandis results in high quality face veneers and consistent grading. This is a true hardwood plywood that performs like tropical species, with third-party certification to prove it meets strict structural and emissions standards for Europe, the UK, and the United States, including CE2+, UKCA, CARB, PS1, E1, and TSCA Title VI compliance.

All our plantations are Forest Stewardship Council® certified (FSC® C-162602), and our plywood products are also certified (FSC® C-163659). The company holds Chain of Custody certification (SGSCH-FM/COC-

012049), ensuring responsible management from forest to finished product. Thin-peel technology further improves log yield and overall material efficiency. Independent Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) by the BioComposites Centre (UK) confirmed that LUMIN plywood acts as a carbon sink. Its ability to store carbon long-term makes it a smart choice for environmentally conscious building projects. Combined, these factors position LUMIN as a leader in sustainable plywood production.

Reliable performance and easy to work with

LUMIN is a member of the International Wood Products Association and grades its TRP panels using globally recognised IHPA standards. For many tradespeople today, using certified, eco-friendly materials is not just a preference – it is a project requirement. The plywood makes it easier to meet those standards without sacrificing quality or ease of use.

Eucalyptus Grandis provides a fine, even grain, and uniform density, resulting in a panel that machines cleanly and performs consistently. LUMIN TRP panels feature faces typically thicker than 1 mm, providing greater durability and better surface consistency than many common plywood options. Built with a Class 3 exterior resin system, these panels resist delamination and hold up well in changing climatic conditions. The dense hardwood structure delivers excellent screw-holding strength and reduces the risk of splitting. Tradespeople often note how well the material cuts, drills, and fastens – with minimal splintering and clean edges.

The smooth surface also cuts down on prep time, with less sanding needed. Carpenters appreciate how well it holds its edges and handles fine joinery, making it a solid option for cabinetry, furniture, and finish work.

LUMIN have produced a comprehensive guide for carpenters and joiners to achieve the best results when using LUMIN TRP in practice.

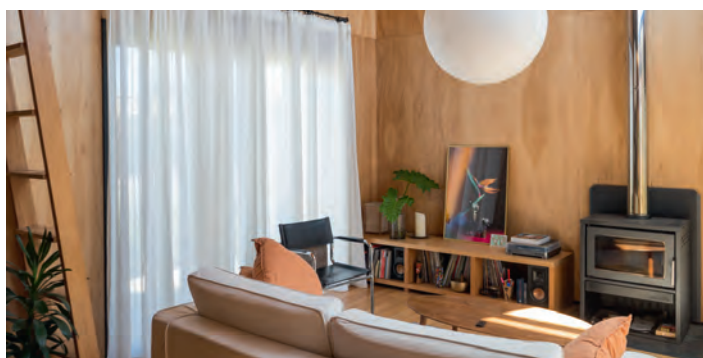
Durability, consistency, and practical jobsite benefits

LUMIN's durability comes from consistent veneer quality and strong bonding. It resists

common issues like warping, swelling, and delamination problems often seen in lower-grade panels. That means no callbacks and better long-term results. Panels are manufactured to tight tolerances, arriving flat and square. This makes layout and installation more straightforward and helps reduce waste. The panels also weigh less than many other hardwood plywoods, making them easier to handle on-site – especially important on bigger jobs.

Beyond TRP, LUMIN's full range includes options for standard construction as well as high-grade, sanded faces for exposed or finish applications. This gives tradespeople the flexibility to source what they need from one reliable supplier.

*A stunning finish:
Demonstrating the
consistent veneer quality
and strong bonding*



A smarter, more responsible choice

As demand grows for materials that are both high-performing and sustainable, LUMIN plywood stands out. It meets the technical requirements and delivers the workability that professionals rely on every day. Choosing LUMIN means supporting responsible forestry and reducing environmental impact, without giving up quality, strength, or efficiency. For tradespeople who care about the materials they work with, LUMIN TRP plywood is a smart, future-ready choice.

More information about LUMIN TRP can be found at: www.lumin-trp.com.

John Guerin, Managing Director |
Lumin Forest Products Limited

WHY JOB MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE COULD BE RIGHT FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Which? Trusted Trader, the UK's consumer champion, looks at job management software, which can be a great way to increase efficiency, cut costs, and even improve customer service.

Job management software helps businesses handle tasks such as scheduling jobs, sending invoices, and tracking payments more effectively. For tradespeople, it means spending less time on paperwork and more time on actual work that makes money.

Different software providers offer varying tools and services, so if you are thinking about getting a subscription, it is important to choose one that fits your needs. Make sure it works well with any other software you already use and has features that will make your work easier.

While each software has its unique elements, there are many common features you might find, including:

- **Job scheduling:** All your projects in one place, allowing you to schedule jobs efficiently based on your workload. You can assign tasks to team members, technicians, or subcontractors easily.
- **Invoicing and payment tracking:** Create professional quotes quickly, add VAT, send invoices, and monitor payments. The software can also help you automatically follow up on late payments. You can personalise invoices with templates and add terms and conditions.
- **Tracking costs:** Track costs incurred linked to specific jobs or customers.

- **Customer management:** Store your customer details in one spot, so you have their contact information and job history handy. Customers should also be able to check schedules and job progress, pay bills, and ask questions.
 - **Accounting and tax:** Some software connects with accounting tools to make tax filing easier. Others may even let you submit tax returns directly.
- Some job management software is made specifically for tradespeople, offering extra features, such as ready-made forms and certificates including CPI2's, GASSAFE, Zs Calculator, EIC's, MEIC's, PAT testing, etc. ►



The benefits of using job management software for traders

- **Better scheduling:** Tradespeople can easily view their calendars to see available time slots, assign jobs to the right team members, and optimise work routes. Automated updates keep team members in the loop, avoiding missed appointments and scheduling conflicts.
- **Enhanced customer communication:** Job management software helps maintain communication, including when out and about on jobs. Automated appointment reminders and confirmations keep clients updated, whilst real-time job updates improve transparency.
- **Reduced administration:** The right job management software can eliminate the need for manual record-keeping. You can generate quotes and invoices – reducing errors, and ensuring timely payments. Automating repetitive tasks allows businesses to focus on service delivery.
- **Accurate job tracking and data analysis:** Monitor tasks in real-time, track time spent on each job, and log materials used. This helps identify potential delays or issues early, ensuring projects stay on track and within budget. You might also be able to generate reports on key metrics, helping you spot areas that need improvement.
- **Integration:** If the software works well with your accounting tools and systems, it should reduce manual data entry and minimise errors.

Benjamin Dyer, CEO of Powered Now, said:

“In 2025, job management software is not just a ‘nice-to-have’ for trade businesses – it is the essential backbone of success. Increasing customer expectations, regulation, and the constant pressure to improve efficiency, will result in tradespeople who are not leveraging digital tools being left behind.”

Things to consider when looking at job management software

- **Learning curve:** Job management systems with complex features may require significant training time. Some people may struggle, leading to frustration and reduced productivity, while others might resist switching, particularly if they are happy with traditional admin processes.
- **Cost:** The cost of job management software can be a significant barrier, especially for smaller companies and sole traders. Expenses include initial purchase, licensing, installation, and ongoing maintenance.
- **Integration and customisation:** Generic job management solutions are not specifically designed for all trades and might not have the features you need. If the system does not integrate well with existing accounting or CRM software this can actually mean more administrative work and lead to data issues and errors.
- **Technology dependence:** Relying on technology means issues, such as glitches or downtime, can disrupt operations. Poor customer support from your provider can also make it hard to fix issues quickly.

If data security measures are inadequate, sensitive customer and job information may be at risk, raising concerns about compliance and confidentiality.

How to choose the right job management software

When choosing job management software, start by thinking about your specific business needs. Identifying key challenges will help determine which features are most important to you.

Key features to prioritise include scheduling tools, CRM capabilities, time tracking, invoicing, and task management. Mobile accessibility is also crucial, allowing you to use the technology whilst on site. The software should offer seamless integration with your existing tools to avoid creating administrative headaches.

Ease of use is another important factor, as this helps make sure that everyone can use the system with minimal training. Real-time visibility of job progress helps identify potential delays and make quick adjustments. Comprehensive reporting tools can provide insights into business performance, productivity, and revenue, improving decision-making.

Finally, consider scalability and support. As your business grows, the software should accommodate additional users and increased workload. Reliable customer support and training resources can make a significant difference. ◀

www.which.co.uk

AVOID THE JANUARY BLUES BY FILING YOUR SELF ASSESSMENT TAX RETURN EARLY

HMRC is urging taxpayers not to delay filing their Self Assessment returns, with the deadline set for 31 January 2026. Filing early can reduce stress, speed up refunds, and help with budgeting or proof of income. It is quick, secure, and over 97% of customers now file online via GOV.UK.

HMRC has discovered that many people wait until the last minute to file their Self Assessment tax returns because they have busy lifestyles and are “putting it off”.

The deadline to file for the 2024/25 tax year is 31 January 2026 but taxpayers do not need to wait until then and can file now.

Nearly 300,000 people filed their tax return in the first week of the new tax year, almost 10 months ahead of the deadline, HMRC has revealed.

Millions of others, however, decide to wait until closer to the deadline to file. HMRC has learned this is caused by: being unaware of the deadline; disorganisation; fear of the process; misunderstanding of the benefits of filing early; “too busy” and not prioritising tax; or putting it off.

HMRC is this year encouraging all taxpayers to make life simpler for themselves by filing early.

In addition to avoiding the stress of last-minute filing, there are other benefits to filing now:

- **Pay via wages or pension:** Filing a tax return before 30 December means HMRC can automatically collect tax owed from wages and pensions through the following tax year. Find out if you are eligible to pay this way¹
- **Get a tax refund sooner:** Taxpayers can find out sooner if they have overpaid and are owed money and will be refunded sooner
- **Know what is owed:** Finding out how much is owed sooner gives taxpayers time to budget and plan their payments. HMRC’s Budget Payment Plan service allows people to spread the cost of the next tax bill with regular weekly or monthly Direct Debit payments. For more information search “pay weekly or monthly”²

• **Proof of income:** Filing early provides proof of income which may be needed for a mortgage, loan or to claim benefits. It is quick and secure to file on GOV.UK, with more than 97% of taxpayers filing easily online: File your Self Assessment tax return online³. Customer satisfaction for online filers is consistently around 80%.

There are lots of ways to self-service online including “resetting an online password”, “getting your tax code”, and “getting your National Insurance number”. Download the HMRC app⁴.

HMRC helpline and webchat advisers help those taxpayers who need extra support. Alternatively, they can ask a friend, relative or accountant to complete the tax return on their behalf. Find out more: Self Assessment tax returns: How to get help⁵.

People who have health issues or personal circumstances that may make it difficult to interact with HMRC online can be supported by its Extra Support Service. For more information, go to GOV.UK and search “get help from HMRC if you need extra support”.

Taxpayers who no longer need to send a Self Assessment tax return should contact HMRC as soon as possible. Penalties may be incurred for failing to file on time. Find out more here: Stopping Self Assessment – YouTube⁶. ◀

Source

1. www.gov.uk/pay-self-assessment-tax-bill/through-your-tax-code
2. www.gov.uk/pay-self-assessment-tax-bill/pay-weekly-monthly
3. www.gov.uk/log-in-file-self-assessment-tax-return
4. www.gov.uk/guidance/download-the-hmrc-app
5. www.gov.uk/self-assessment-tax-returns/get-help
6. <https://tinyurl.com/yytvjx8k>

299,419

TAX RETURNS FILED IN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE NEW TAX YEAR



HM Revenue
& Customs



James Filus, Director, on Glue Up, highlighted that one of the benefits of the platform is that it creates an online space for IOC members to share their experiences and encourages them to share examples of the work they are proud of. Below are some of these excellent posts.

Nathan Salmon, Owner, at Salmon Carpentry, shared their first attempt at shopfitting and alterations – assembling a gondola without instructions. They used Medite MDF, which was then painted to match the shop.



Andrew Pardner, Director/Master Joiner of Rustic Rural Ltd, shared with the Glue Up community their project to transform a downstairs water closet.

He said: “Who says your downstairs W/C has to be boring? We recently replaced an awful corner sink and standard toilet for a beautiful new set.

“Solid units, handmade with solid oak tops, shaker style doors on soft-close hinges, and hand painted in sage green to match the client’s kitchen and utility.”

“The client now has storage as well as a lovely little room!”



Julian Nudds, Owner and Master Joiner at JN Conservation, told us about working on another stunning outbuilding conversion.

He said: “The works included a complete strip-out, major roof repairs to the rafters, purlins, and wall plates, and re-roofing with the original Old English pan tiles.



We also carried out repointing in a non-hydraulic lime mortar, which included rebuilding sections and replacing around 500 damaged bricks. Internally, we installed wood fibre insulation, finished with lime plaster and a breathable clay paint finish.

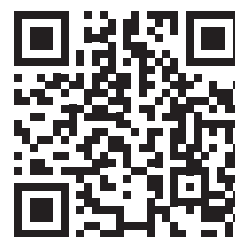


“We also created bespoke, handmade windows and doors. The building now includes a shower room, kitchen/utility area, and is being used by our clients as an entertainment space.”



To see more, visit your Glue Up home page. If however, you have not yet registered and wish to do so, please use the QR code below or go to <https://app.glueup.com/register/account>. You will need to use the email linked to your membership account.

SCAN ME



Ben working on the impressive barn conversion

MY JOURNEY FROM DISASTER TO SUCCESS

In the beginning, it was hard for me to find an apprenticeship due to having limited options. However, in the summer of 2019, I was finally given an opportunity by a company based in Oxford to start an apprenticeship in carpentry. After a few weeks on trial, I was accepted, and my apprenticeship officially began.

During my first year as an apprentice, I learned and experienced quite a few different elements of the trade. However, in the latter months at the company, I felt I was not learning as much as expected, nor being given enough opportunities to take part in tasks that would help me learn new skills.

Then, in early March 2020, the first Covid-19 lockdown was enforced, and work on our project in central Oxford came to a halt. Soon after, I was placed on furlough and eventually made redundant, which was devastating. Over the next two months, I searched desperately for any available positions without success.

Mid-April arrived and I stumbled across a carpenter position at the Aartvark Collective in my then local area. I submitted my application without getting my hopes up, and just five minutes later, was contacted,

and had a brief conversation about my previous experience and work to date. To my amazement, I was asked to start work at the earliest opportunity.

On the day I arrived at the job site, I was greeted by a few workers who gave me a warm welcome. A few minutes later, I met the man in charge, **Cobus Swart** and over the next few weeks worked on his new project, a gigantic barn conversion - they had just completed the first year of the project and were preparing for the next phase. It was certainly bigger and more exciting than I had imagined.

When my trial period ended, Cobus decided to keep me on as his apprentice working for his company.

Over the next couple of years, my skills and knowledge grew significantly, especially whilst working on specific projects related to the barn conversion. During this time, I was also completing my studies at Oxford College and preparing for the end-point assessment. As my apprenticeship neared its end, the end-point assessment was the last obstacle to overcome. Thanks to what I learned at the Aartvark Collective and through my lectures, I passed my final exams and gained my NVQ, becoming



Ben (R) with his mentor, Cobus Swart, working on another impressive project

qualified after two years of hard work and study. Most of the credit goes to Cobus, my mentor. If it were not for him giving me the opportunity to complete my studies, I would not be the carpenter I am today. I have never been more grateful or fortunate to have had such an opportunity. ◀

Ben Haskins LIOC

OBITUARIES

Remembering Trevor Eveleigh

Marcus Jahrling tells us how he first spoke to **Trevor Eveleigh** in 2015, not knowing it would lead to a lasting friendship and mentorship. Marcus admired Trevor's achievements and his boundless generosity in sharing his knowledge and inspiring others. He fondly remembers Trevor, who sadly passed away in 2025, as a guiding influence in his own life and career — and in the lives and careers of many others.

I first spoke with Trevor by phone in July 2015, when making an enquiry about membership of the Institute of Carpenters.

I had heard about the IOC as a student at Waltham Forest College in 1986, but was never given an application form by the college tutors.

The IOC was an organisation I had always wanted to join, but never got round to. However, after 30 years working in the industry as a carpenter and joiner, I finally made up my mind to call, as I wanted to move forward with my career and become a Construction Manager.

I went on the IOC website, found the telephone number, and a kindly voice answered, introducing himself as Trevor Eveleigh, Membership Chair. After I spoke about my interest in IOC membership and explained I had over 30 years' experience — having run my own company and worked abroad for many years as a carpenter and joiner in various roles, and that I was looking to progress into more senior management positions, Trevor said: "I think we can get you in as a Fellow, you know."

I cannot tell you how pleased I was to hear those words.

I did not know it at the time, but this was the beginning of a long and meaningful friendship — it turned out Trevor lived only a few miles from my home and invited me to visit him to finalise the membership paperwork.

Initially, I was simply thinking about gaining the letters after my name, but as I got to know Trevor and learned more about the IOC, my interest grew.

Trevor encouraged me to continue my journey through CPD and to move up the management ladder within our industry "The best managers come from the tools," he used to say.

I got to know Trevor very well over the following year, often popping round for a catch-up, which always included a nice cup of tea and biscuits with Trevor and his lovely wife, Vi. They were both wonderful



Trevor and Vi

hosts, and we would spend hours talking about the woodworking sector and sharing career experiences.

Trevor spoke about his time in the army in Malaysia and a return trip he made there years later on holiday with Vi. He also shared stories from his 45-year career as a woodworking teacher — conversations I always found fascinating.

Vi told me about her time working as a draftsman and even showed me some of her drawings, including an incredibly detailed, scaled diagram of the wiring system of a WWII Lancaster bomber — the precision was remarkable.

Older people are such a wealth of knowledge and experience, and Trevor was always generous in sharing his, so others could benefit.

Trevor certainly had a long and dedicated career — 35 years at Eastwood School, where he eventually became Head of the Craft Department, followed by ten more years working in special needs schools. Even then, he had not had enough, as he and Vi continued to travel the country officiating and judging SkillBuild competitions.

Supported all the way by Trevor: Career growth and industry involvement

I mentioned to Trevor I had always been interested in encouraging others to get involved and search out training courses, either as tradespeople or in management, especially when I saw young people who had just left school and were working as labourers on a building site, when I would explain that apprenticeships were available across all trades. I also told him how I was helping quite a few of my colleagues with CPD.

As a result of this, Trevor suggested I connect with the Central Section Committee, as he felt it would be a good platform for me to promote apprenticeships and skills development. This I duly did, meeting other committee members such as **Gary Smith**, **Stephen Green** and **Don Stevens**, all of whom were equally encouraging and deeply committed to promoting our industry, education and skills in the carpentry and joinery sector. I had never really sought out networking opportunities before, so it was great to meet like-minded professionals who really cared about the industry.

And so, there I was, one minute a jobbing carpenter, and the next (well, within a year), a construction manager and Chairman of the IOC Central section. All thanks to the encouragement and belief of Trevor Eveleigh.

In September 2016, Trevor told me about the IOC members' autumn weekend visit to Jersey coming up the following month and encouraged me to attend. I was late arriving in St Helier, as my flight from Southend was delayed, and could not find the IOC party. **Geoff Rhodes** came out to meet me and found me wandering around outside the construction site our Jersey host had arranged for us to visit. This was the first time I had met the IOC President. We spent three days in St Helier with our Jersey-based IOC colleagues, who showed us around and took us to various sites on the island. It was lovely to spend time with Trevor, Vi, and other members, and Jersey was a beautiful place to visit.

During this time, I completed my professional review with the Chartered Institute of Builders (CIOB) to gain Chartered Construction Manager status. On completion, I was able to apply for a CSCS Professionally Qualified Person's (PQP) card with MCIOB Chartered Construction Manager status.

When my card arrived, however, it had mistakenly been printed with the Institute of Acoustics. I called Trevor and said: "If the Institute of Acoustics can have CSCS professionally qualified status, why not the IOC?" Trevor agreed and suggested approaching the Board to make an application for CSCS PQP recognition for IOC members.

I did this in January 2017, and by the following year, we had successfully been awarded CSCS PQP status. Once again, I can directly attribute this achievement to Trevor's encouragement to pursue the idea. After this, I was invited to join the IOC Board — something I have always considered a great honour.

Trevor and Vi attended the May 2017 Members' Day at Carpenters' Hall. After an

Trevor receiving his certificate from Marcus, proudly watched by Vi



excellent event at the hall, I arranged a visit to The Ned hotel, where I was working at the time as a Senior Construction Manager on the renovation and conversion project of the building from the NatWest bank's London head office to a 250-room luxury hotel in the heart of the City of London.

The hotel was newly opened, and its manager kindly arranged a tour of the premises, including a talk about the building's history. This was followed by a visit to Saint Vedast Church, just around the corner in Foster Lane.

Saint Vedast Church dated back to the 12th century but burnt down in the Great Fire of London and was later rebuilt by Christopher Wren. The church is steeped in history, with Roman remains discovered beneath it. Notably, it also has a pulpit attributed to Grinling Gibbons the 17th century carver, identifiable by his signature open pea pod.

In October 2018 the Members' Autumn Weekend was in Newcastle upon Tyne which Trevor and Vi attended. Again, a fascinating visit to a lovely city, hosted by local member **Jason Howe**.

In October 2019, the IOC introduced its City Hub meetings, with the first held at the Building Crafts College in Stratford, London. Trevor encouraged me to speak at the event about my career and continued professional development. I was very nervous, having never spoken in public before, however Trevor and Vi were there and offered some kind and encouraging words before I took to the stage. I would not have found the courage to do it without Trevor's encouragement and support.

Celebrating a legacy and saying goodbye

It was around this time that I took an assignment in Europe as a Project Manager, building data centres — a role that took me on a five-year journey across Munich, Hamburg, Frankfurt, and Paris. During this

period, I did not see much of Trevor, but we kept in touch by phone.

It was during this time that I learnt Trevor's health had declined. I felt strongly that his 65-year membership and lifelong support of the Institute should be formally celebrated and recognised. I put this to the Board, and at the May 2023 AGM, Trevor was awarded a Long Service Award by the IOC, as an expression of the esteem and high regard in which he was held by members of the Institute and for outstanding services rendered by Trevor during his many years of service. He had previously received an Illuminated Address with citation in 2014.

Sadly, Trevor and Vi were unable to attend the AGM due to his health, so I arranged to present the certificate to him personally at his home in July 2023. The smile on his face said it all — it was also a lovely family gathering and a special moment for Trevor.

This was sadly the last time I saw Trevor, and he passed away on 18 June 2025 at the age of 90. I will always be grateful and never forget how he helped me personally. Trevor also helped many others over the years, notably the hundreds if not thousands of youngsters he taught as a carpentry teacher.

I hope that when it is time for me to go to the big workshop in the sky that Trevor, my friend and mentor, will be there to meet me, hopefully with our favourite beer and snacks and perhaps there may be a need for some doors, windows and staircases to be completed which I know we will make short work of and have a lot of fun doing so.

RIP and God Bless Trevor and Vi Eveleigh.

"We stand on the shoulders of giants" Sir Isaac Newton 1643-1727

Marcus Jahrling FIOB FCIQB MCGI AssocRICS DipEng



(L-R) John Taylor and Trevor

Reflecting on the life of Mary Jefferies

Edith Mary Jefferies, née Tiley — known as Mary, an Honorary Member of the Institute, died 10 June following a short illness, two months short of her 92nd birthday.

Mary was the widow of **Bill Jefferies** the Editor of “The Journal” the Institute’s magazine from 1987 until his sudden and untimely death at the age of 65 in December 1999. Following Bill’s death, Mary continued assisting with the production of The Journal, including arranging printing until the launch of Cutting Edge in February 2003. Mary was awarded Honorary Membership for services to the Institute.

Mary’s funeral, attended by local IOC members, took place on Wednesday 9 July at Mangotsfield Cemetery (an area on the eastern outskirts of Bristol), where she was

buried alongside Bill. Both Mary and Bill shared a spirit of adventure, spending time cycling, canoeing, and embracing all the joys of companionship.

On leaving school, Mary embarked on a secretarial career. Starting at the British Electrical Company, she later worked for Parsons Brown, Arthur Holst, and eventually Meals on Wheels — a role that echoed her lifelong commitment to serving others.

Beyond her professional life, Mary’s talents in typing and composing were put to generous use. She produced the Guides’ County Directory, the Kingswood Scout Newsletter, and as mentioned above, even contributed to The Journal for the Institute of Carpenters. Her quiet behind-the-scenes dedication made a lasting impact across many local circles.



Bill & Mary Jefferies

We offer our condolences and sympathy to Mary’s family.

David Winson FIOC and Tim Jefferies

Wood Awards 2025 Exhibition at Space House

The Wood Awards 2025 shortlist was unveiled on Wednesday 3 September, with all projects celebrated in a dedicated exhibition at Space House during London Design Festival.

For the first time, the Wood Awards shortlist will be displayed in the same venue as Material Matters, at its new home: Space House, one of London’s most iconic and architecturally distinctive landmarks.

Running from Wednesday 17 – Saturday 20 September (10 am – 6 pm), the exhibition will showcase the furniture and object projects in person, with all building and interior projects presented through striking visual displays. Together, they tell a powerful story of what can be achieved with timber across architecture, design, and craftsmanship.

Now in its 54th year, the Wood Awards continues to recognise outstanding design, innovation, and sustainability in wood. Shortlisted projects are selected by two independent judging panels – one for Buildings, chaired by Jim Greaves of Hopkins Architects, and one for Furniture & Objects, chaired by leading designer Sebastian Cox.

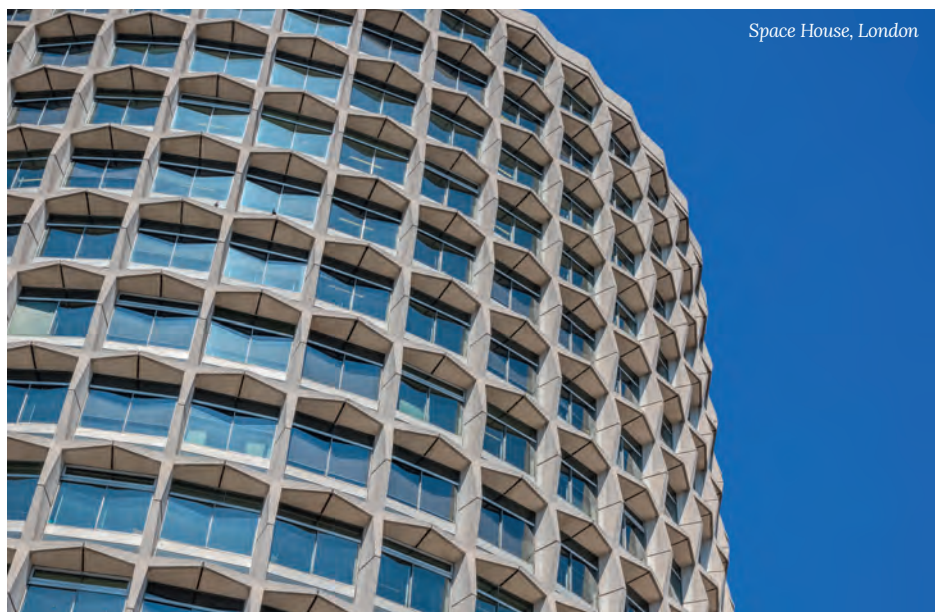
A private view will take place during the London Design Festival. Invited guests will have the opportunity to explore the exhibition and the Material Matters fair

after hours, and to network with the judges and makers behind this year’s shortlist.

The move to Space House offers a fresh opportunity for the Wood Awards and Material Matters to present work side by side in a vibrant, design-led setting. Known for its bold circular form and modernist concrete façade, Space House provides a striking backdrop to celebrate the beauty, versatility, and sustainability of timber.

The winners of the 2025 Wood Awards will be announced at the annual awards ceremony later this year.

The Wood Awards is made possible by the generous support of its sponsors and partners – The American Hardwood Export Council, Carpenters’ Company, and Timber Development UK – with special thanks to Material Matters for their continued collaboration on the exhibition. ◀



Space House, London



NAIL IT WITH GlueUp



The IOC's membership platform (Glue Up) will enhance your membership experience as it enables you to share your thoughts, book events, access benefits, and view your membership details all in one place.

Importantly, it will also allow you to network, make connections across the Institute's membership, and view and comment on other members' inspirational work and achievements.

More than half of the paid members have now signed up for Glue Up, so what are you waiting for?

The platform is free of charge and only takes a couple of minutes to register. Simply use the QR code or go to **<https://app.glueup.com/register/account>**.

To sign up you will need to input the email linked to your membership account.

Get **Xtra** with a trade account



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TradeXtra

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Apply now