



103 South Parade,
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Telephone:
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Extract from:

Specify

- DEC 2011

Clegg unveils £1bn scheme to help young jobless

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg chose a building college as the venue to launch a £1bn scheme to help young unemployed people. Mr Clegg told employers from the construction industry that the Government was committed to making it easier for businesses to take on young people aged 18-24. The Deputy Prime Minister also took the opportunity to talk to construction apprentices currently training at Leeds College of Building, including World Skills Gold Medal winner in plumbing and heating, Shane Trevitt, and the gold medal winner in roof slating and tiling at the 2010 SkillBuild national finals, Matthew Timby.

Chairman of the Cross-Industry Construction Apprenticeship Task Force (CCATF) Geoff Lister, principal of Leeds College of Building Ian Bilyard and FMB members Roger

Skehan from Oddy Builders and Norman Johnston from Wood Mitchell Building Group all heard the details of the new Youth Contract first hand at a meeting with Mr Clegg following the announcement. Other representatives from the industry included Laing O'Rourke, BAM Construction and Mott MacDonald, all represented on the CCATF.

The Youth Contract is a package of measures worth £1bn over three years including 160,000 wage incentives worth £2,275, enough to cover the cost of an employer's National Insurance contributions for employing a young person for a year. In addition, there will be 20,000 extra incentive payments worth £1,500



Mr Clegg with Ian Bilyard, Principal of Leeds College of Building.

each for employers to take on young people as apprentices, a new £150m programme for the most vulnerable NEET 16 and 17 year olds to get them learning, on an apprenticeship or in a job with training and an offer of a work experience place for every unemployed 18-24 year old who wants one, before they enter the Work Programme.

WE FIND IT

PRESS
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Extract from:

Specify

- DEC 2011

24 |

digest

Local Painters & Decorators make Traditional Heritage Picture Perfect



Learning about traditional painting skills at Castleward are: Michael Smith, Paul Sloan Painting, Joe Heaney, National Trust, Nick Stevenson, William Stevenson & Sons, Alex Bodel, Alex Bodel Concepts, Tom Nelson, Painting & Decorating Association, Seamus Hanna, CITB-ConstructionSkills, Windsor Powell, Painting & Decorating Association, William McMullan, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI.

Two stunning National Trust properties provided the inspiring setting for an innovative two day course on 23rd and 24th November for eighteen painters and decorators from across Northern Ireland. This bespoke training course on the repair and maintenance of painted decoration and wall coverings on traditional (pre-1919) buildings was hosted by CITB-ConstructionSkills NI in partnership with the Painting & Decorating Association (PDA) and the National Trust.

Experts from the National Trust, the PDA and the private sector, including Belfast based company Decowell, outlined the principles and legislation involved in caring for historic buildings and traditional paints and wallcoverings. The approach to this is quite different to working on modern buildings and the craftspeople were able to gain an informed understanding of how to undertake this type of work.

Barry Neilson, Chief Executive, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI said, "Northern Ireland has a wealth of outstanding pre-1919 buildings and so we are delighted to be working in partnership with the PDA and the National Trust to help further develop the skills and knowledge of specialist craftspeople. By funding and organising this specific training we have responded to an industry need. We hope this will be the first of more courses on different traditional building skills in Northern Ireland aimed at increasing available skills and helping our older buildings to survive."

The first day of the course was held at the beautiful 18th century grade A listed house at Castle Ward, Strangford and the second day at the equally inspiring neo-classical house at Mount Stewart, near Newtownards, again listed as Grade A.

This course is part of a wider approach to revive the use of traditional building skills in Northern Ireland being lead by CITB-ConstructionSkills NI and the support and involvement of the National Trust has been vital.



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Extract from:

NEIGHBOURHOOD RETAILER

- DEC 2011

MEDAL SUCCESS AT WORLD SKILLS COMPETITION

Northern Ireland was once again placed on the map as Stuart Millar, an apprentice with County Armagh company, Shilliday Refrigeration, takes third place in the world's largest ever international skills competition.

The World Skills competition, held in London, saw Stuart up against rivals from 25 other countries, being one of seven young people who earned a place in 'Team UK'. Stuart competed in the refrigeration and air conditioning category.

Peter O'Prey, service manager at Shilliday and Stuart's mentor said, "Everyone at Shilliday is immensely proud of Stuart. It's very rewarding to see that our training is helping apprentices like Stuart hone their skills to such a high level and, of course, it's an investment for us as a company."



WorldSkills 2011 bronze medal winner Stuart Millar with mentor Peter O'Prey from Shilliday Refrigeration

Picture by Liam Neill



CITB-ConstructionSkills NI

focused on training for the future

As a Sector Skills Council and Industry Training Board CITB ConstructionSkills NI encourage a culture of training and assessment in the local construction industry and have been working with key stakeholders, practitioners and employer bodies to help with training initiatives...



Pictured in attendance at the Northern Ireland National Occupational Standards (NOS) Practitioner Group meeting are (Back row from L-R) Denis Burns, South West College Education, Andy Rustin, Industry Training Services, Noel Mahony, South West College Oughthorpe, George Swann, ConstructionSkills, Darren McMillan, Roadline & Quarry Products Association, Aisling Skilton, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI, David McCannagh, Henry Brothers, Samantha Fyfe, Fox Building Engineering Limited and Paul Cannon, Belle Canner Training. (Front row L-R) Maire Doherty, JMD Training, Terri McCormiskey, CCEA (The NI Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment) and Lyndsey McClintock, John McQuillan Contractors Ltd.

NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

CITB-ConstructionSkills NI held another successful review meeting on National Occupational Standards.

A National Occupational Standards (NOS) Practitioner Group meeting was held in Northern Ireland at CITB-ConstructionSkills NI premises on the 13 October 2011, the NOS covered Road Building, Highway Maintenance & Repair, Construction Operations, Decorative Finishing and Industrial Painting and Trowel Occupations (Bricklaying).

This meeting provided the opportunity for local employers and stakeholders to have a say in the proposed technical content of the National Occupational Standards and to ensure they are appropriate for these occupations now and in the future. The meeting was chaired jointly by Ivor Skilton CITB-ConstructionSkills NI and George Swann from ConstructionSkills GB with Terri McCormiskey from CCEA in attendance.

ABOUT NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS (NOS)

ConstructionSkills is responsible for the development of national occupation standards for the construction industry.

National Occupational Standards (NOS) define the competences which apply to job roles or occupations in the form of statements of performance, knowledge and the evidence required to confirm competence.

They can be used to:

- Describe good practice in particular areas of work.
- Set out a statement of competence which brings together the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to do the work.
- Provide managers with a tool for a wide variety of workforce management and quality control.
- Offer a framework for training and development that forms the basis of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) and other vocationally related qualifications.

NI CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYERS ATTEND NATIONAL WORKING GROUP (NWG) MEETINGS

CITB-ConstructionSkills NI has actively encouraged local employers to attend National Working Group meetings to discuss National Occupational Standards. David McConaghie from Henry Brothers (Pipeworks) Ltd and Paul Connor from Paul Connor (Building) have attended recent meetings in London on behalf of the NI construction industry.

National Working Groups will consider feedback from practitioners, experts and regional working groups and awarding organisations about changes to current industry practice, existing qualification structures and assessment strategies ensuring that any different conditions in the four home countries are clearly identified.

Both David and Paul support the initiative and are keen to encourage other employers to get involved. They commented that 'the main purpose of the NWG is to review the National Occupational Standards which are the basis of all the NVQ and new QCF qualifications in the construction industry. These NOS are read through in detail and any members of the committee can comment as they see fit. In the committee we are ensuring that the voice of the Northern Ireland employers is heard and that we can contribute meaningfully to the review process.'



Pictured are David McConaghie, Henry Brothers (Pipeworks) Ltd and Paul Connor from Paul Connor (Building).

HAVE YOUR SAY

We are seeking to consult and listen to employers and stakeholders about changes to current industry practice to ensure that National Occupational Standards (NOS) and existing qualification structures meet the industry's needs. To participate, current practitioners should be experienced in the field being covered and be able to provide the level of detail required to ensure that the Standards (NOS) reflects current industry practice.

Representation from training providers and industry bodies are invited to put their name forward as your continued support is valued and essential.

You can have your say in a number of ways.

- By attending a National Working Group meeting in London.
- By attending a local Practitioner Group meeting.

- Or go to our website at www.citbni.org.uk click on standards and the NOS 'Have Your Say' link.

To encourage Northern Ireland employer and stakeholder involvement in National Occupational Standards (NOS) reviews, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI organise

practitioner group meetings in Northern Ireland throughout the year. If you would be interested in representing your employer or training provider on any future events please forward your details so they can be retained on a select list where we can update you on future occupational reviews.

THE DEMOLITION INDUSTRY WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE QUALIFICATIONS

The construction industry benefits from working together, particularly in this current economic climate. Employers within specialist sectors can share ideas, learn from each other and define training needs. This is typical of the Northern Ireland Demolition Association (NIDA), formed in the early 1990s providing a forum for members to discuss topical issues within the demolition industry, including waste legislation, recycling, health and safety issues and staff training and development.

In order to address a key training need within the demolition sector NIDA worked with CITB-ConstructionSkills NI Employer Forum and further developed specific skills development programmes for their sector. This included Quick High training specific to demolition equipment, location of underground services training and QCF Level 2 NVQ qualifications for High Reach demolition machines.

Una McCormack from NIDA said, 'The Demolition companies wanted to develop their workforce further



and gain recognised qualifications that would enable them to gain future business both locally and further a field. We recognised a training need and worked with CITB-ConstructionSkills NI to help deliver that training on a local basis.

During the downturn we realise it's critical for training to take

place on an ongoing basis for the demolition industry to be a success with contracts and have long-term benefits. NIDA's involvement with the CITB-ConstructionSkills NI Employer Forum has been of considerable benefit in supporting the development of the Demolition Industry in Northern Ireland.'

Pictured L-R are David McConaghie, Una McCormack, McCormack Demolition, Paul Rogers, Euroworks, Geoff Cameron, Lorry Bros, Castlebridge, Barry Mullins, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI and Thomas Riddell, Practical Solutions.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

From early beginnings ... the birth of the company

In 1961 Jack Lowry and his brother Jimmy set up the business following apprenticeships with local contractors. The newly-formed building company started out with two young apprentice employees and as 1961 progressed the workforce grew to seven. One of the first contracts undertaken was the building of Drumlegagh Orange Hall at a total contract value of \$2,940, which was opened in November 1962.

Lowry Brothers soon established themselves as one of the up-and-coming building contractors in the area, carrying out works for numerous clients, and by 1966 they had secured their first two major contracts to construct six dwellings for Strabane District Council and six more at Smyth Terrace, Drumquin for NIHE, each valued at £18,500.

THE 1970S AND '80S – A PERIOD OF GROWTH AND CONSOLIDATION

As Lowry Brothers moved into the 1970s the company was growing from strength to strength and in 1972 they secured the first of their significant contracts, the construction of 30 houses and 22 garages, together with all associated services at Kilen Park, Kilen, Castlederg for NIHE. The total contract value was £118,000, which at today's prices would be in the region of £2.5m - £3m.

It was also in 1972 that the first new major plant and equipment was purchased – a Massey Ferguson 508 rubber-wheeled excavator and Massey Ferguson MF70 tractor, from dealers Thompson Reid at Londonderry!

As the 70s progressed the major contracts kept on coming an extension to Kilen Primary School, Dergview Housing Development, Castlederg; Redevelopment of Derg Arms following bomb damage; Construction of 30 dwellings at Crevenish Road, Kesh; and a new factory at Drumquin Road for LEDU.

It was also during the 1970s that Lowry Brothers began hiring plant and equipment to NI Water.

Moving into the '80s saw the steady growth of Lowry Brothers continue and the company maintaining its position as one of the leading contractors in the area. As the company took on more and more contracts under the leadership of Jack and Jimmy their roles developed with Jack more office-based and Jimmy site-based.

The early 1980s saw large housing schemes carried out in Drumquin with the construction of Langfield Crescent, Phases 1 & 2, together with various other projects including new houses, bungalows, numerous renovations and extensions, and a new church hall for Mountjoy Presbyterian Church.

Progress continued into the late 1980s with the renovation of Drumlegagh Presbyterian Church, a new fuel depot at Gortruah Industrial Estate for Buchanan Fuels, and various works at Baronscourt Estate.

It was also during this time that the younger generation started their working careers.

Andy and Ian could be found driving any machine they could get into, whereas John could be found more in the joinery workshop.

INTO THE 1990S – AND A NEW MILLENNIUM

By the 1990s Lowry Brothers were still going strong and securing more contracts - a number of new bungalows and two-storey houses as well as works at First Castlederg Presbyterian Church, and new church halls for Killeter Church of Ireland and Pettigo Presbyterian Church.

In 1996 the company celebrated 35 years in business with a special function held in the Corner Bar, Ardtrah, at which a number of employees were recognised for their long service to the company.

But as the new millennium began there were changes – the retirement of Jack and Jimmy's sad death after his battle with cancer. So in early 2000 the business was restructured and incorporated as Lowry Brothers

Derg Valley Care – Healthy Living Centre



Drumlegagh Church Hall



led under the leadership of two of Jack's sons, John and Ian, while Andy formed his own plant hire and civil engineering business, PCSA Lowry.

Under the brothers' guiding hand the business was re-energised and it re-emerged as one of the leading contractors in the West. The new relationship at the helm brought about more growth during this last decade and John and Ian have successfully turned the business to where it is today taking on more and more large scale projects - Castlederg Enterprise Centre Phases 2 & 3, Derg Valley Care Healthy Living Centre, several units of Strabane Rural Cottages, sheltered Housing in Omagh, Ardara, Drumlegagh and Bready, sewerage Treatment Schemes, and a new Primary school at Killoe. A new rectory for St Columba's

Church of Ireland, new manse for Trinity Presbyterian Church and new church hall for Lillinnagran Parish Church in Omagh, new Fitness and Home Economics suites at St Michael's College, Enniskillen, a new clubhouse for Omagh Lawn Tennis Club were also all successfully carried out.

The company has also been involved in private housing development, with sites at Dergule, Castlederg, and Meadow Hill, Drumlegagh, and has moved into the field of demolition, gaining membership of the Northern Ireland Demolition Association of which Ian is immediate past chairman. Recent demolition schemes include the former General Hospital, Omagh for WH&CT, old Derg Water Treatment Works, Ardara for NI Water, and

the former Granville Primary School and Tempo, Lilliballow and Son Mills PSNI stations for Apex Housing.

Over the years the relationship with NI Water has been a strong one, dating right back to the

late 1970s. Thirty years later the company still has NI Water as a client of choice with long-term plant hire and maintenance contracts secured for the next few years.

"IN EARLY 2000 THE BUSINESS WAS RESTRUCTURED AND INCORPORATED AS LOWRY BROTHERS LTD UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF TWO OF JACK'S SONS, JOHN AND IAN. UNDER THE BROTHERS' GUIDING HAND THE BUSINESS WAS RE-ENERGISED AND HAS RE-EMERGED AS ONE OF THE LEADING CONTRACTORS IN THE PROVINCE"



Employees using CITEV Mobile Training Unit

John Emery receiving his LIFT Car.C license



Extract From:

BELFAST TELEGRAPH

- 2 DEC 2011

Painters and decorators brush up on their traditional skills on courses at stately homes

TWO of Northern Ireland's best-loved stately homes were the inspiring setting for an innovative two-day course recently for painters and decorators.

The bespoke training workshop on the repair and maintenance of painted decoration and wall coverings on traditional (pre-1919) buildings was hosted by CITB-ConstructionSkills NI in partnership with the Painting & Decorating Association (PDA) and the National Trust.

Barry Neilson, chief executive, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI, said: "Northern Ireland has a wealth of outstanding pre-1919 buildings and so we are delighted to be working in partnership with the PDA and the National Trust to help further develop the skills and knowledge of specialist craftspeople.

"By funding and organising this specific training we have responded to an industry need. We hope this will be the first of more courses on different traditional build-



Michael Smith, from Paul Sloan Painting and Alex Bodel, Alex Bodel Concepts, learning about traditional heritage painting and decorating at Castleward

ing skills aimed at increasing available skills and helping our older buildings to survive."

The first day was held at the 18th century grade A listed Castle

Ward, Strangford, and the second at the neo-classical property, Mount Stewart, near Newtownards, also listed as Grade A.

The course attendees, who will

be some of the first to gain the new Level 3 Award in Understanding Repair and Maintenance of traditional (pre-1919) buildings, completed a short test of their

knowledge at the end of the training.

Windor Powell, PDA vice-president, said: "The course and qualification is an excellent means of building upon the existing skills of these decorators, to ensure the right approach, correct methods and materials are used as well as underpinning the understanding of past and present techniques."

This course is part of a wider approach to revive the use of traditional building skills and the support and involvement of the National Trust has been vital.

Joe Finney, senior building surveyor with the National Trust in Northern Ireland, said: "It is important to have the right people with the right skills working on traditional buildings.

"We in the National Trust are keen to ensure that we assist through training of this type by passing on our collective skills, knowledge and expertise gained from the careful routine care and maintenance of our buildings."



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Extract from: 3 NOV 2011

LURGAN & PORTADOWN EXAMINER

Stephen's skills are top drawer

Stephen Irwin from Southern Regional College, Lurgan has received a Gold Medal in Cabinet Making at the SummitSkills and the Skillbuild UK National finals that were held in Leeds last month.

Skillbuild and SummitSkills national annual competitions promoting excellence amongst young crafts people throughout the UK. All the Northern Ireland team members qualified for the UK National finals by competing at the Skillbuild Northern Ireland competition held in April in South Eastern Regional College, Newtown-

nards Campus. They competed against over 100 other regional winners from all over the UK in each of the construction craft disciplines. Skillbuild NI works very closely in partnership with the college network and other training providers in the training process. Skillbuild NI has the support of the CITB-ConstructionSkills NI, the Department for Employment and Learning, Association of Northern Ireland Colleges and major sponsors such as H&J Martin, Gilbert Ash, Pattons and Snickers Workwear amongst others.



Pictured are Stephen Irwin gold medal winner in carpentry at the Skillbuild UK national finals pictured alongside SRC lecturer Mark Clague.

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Extract From:

SUNDAY LIFE

- 4 DEC 2011

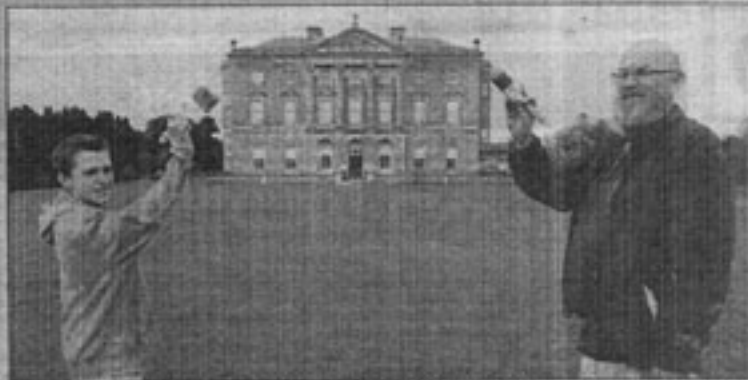
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WE FIND IT



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Extract From:

COUNTY DERRY POST

6 DEC 2011

News in brief

Courses

Due to public demand EMS Magherafelt are running the following courses in their training centre at 37 Rainey Street, Magherafelt:

An Emergency First Aid at Work Course on 18th & 25th January 2012 from 7.00pm - 9.00pm.

A Paediatric 4 Hour Course on 18th & 25th January 2012 from 7pm - 9pm.

A Food Safety Level 1 Course on 24th January 2012 from 7pm - 9.30pm.

A First Aid at Work Course (3 Day) on 19th, 26th January & 2nd February 2012 from 9.30am - 4.30pm.

A First Aid at Work Refresher Course on 27th January & 3rd February 2012 from 9.30am - 4.30pm.

A Paediatric 2 Day Course on Saturday 21st & 28th January 2012 from 9.30am - 4.30pm.

A Health & Safety Level 1 Course on 24th and 31st January 2012 from 7.00pm - 9.00pm.

A Fire Safety Level 1 on 30th Jan 2012 from 7pm - 9pm.

Emergency Medical Group have a new training and conferencing centre open for hire. For further details contact us on 02879301333.

Emergency Medical Supplies is an accredited training provider with the Health and Safety Executive and is registered with CITB.



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Extract From:

BELFAST TELEGRAPH

Building sector scheme laying foundations for return to growth

CITB-ConstructionSkills NI is helping the building industry address the current economic downturn and focus on the way ahead.

It is hosting a series of free information events to provide construction employers with the latest information on training advice and guidance, grants, funded training schemes and other services that are available to them as a registered employer.

The information events are now running into their second year, with over 200 employers attending similar events last year.

A total of 20 dates are to be held across Northern Ireland and to provide employers with the best information, Health and Safe-

ty Works NI will also take part in the events, providing key information on risk assessments and method statements required to comply with legislation.

The events are also being supported by the Inland Revenue and Equality Commission, who will provide additional information sessions on selected dates.

Barry Neilson, chief executive, CITB-ConstructionSkills NI, said: "Our labour market intelligence tells us this is going to be a challenging year, but we have invested funds, primarily through our grants scheme, to help construction employers make the most of the challenges we are facing.

"We are working hard to iden-

tify solutions to help employers survive and are keen to help and advise construction companies whatever way we can and our information events are an informal way of achieving this."

The next events will be held in January 2012 in Newcastle and Magherafelt, but others have taken place in Strabane, Armagh, Belfast, Newtownards, Banbridge, Ballymena and Newtownabbey among others.

Future locations and dates for the seminars include Dungannon on January 18 and Newcastle on January 25.

For further information on these dates, log onto www.citb-sni.org.uk.



A series of events is aimed at helping the construction sector weather the economic storm



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Extract From:

IRISH NEWS

10 DEC 2011

Worldskills tradesmen get Stormont honour

THE young tradesmen who helped Northern Ireland to its biggest-ever medals haul at this year's WorldSkills in London have been honoured at a Stormont reception.

Seven people from the north formed part of the 43-strong Team UK and between them won gold, silver and bronze medals along with two medallions for excellence.

A gold medal in bricklaying went to Philip Green, a student at Belfast Metropolitan College and self-employed at DG Green & Sons in Lisburn.

James Cuffey claimed a silver medal in landscape gardening while a bronze in refrigeration and air-conditioning was awarded to South Eastern Regional College student, Stuart Millar from Loughgal. Students Mark McGinty and Chris



■ **APPLAUDED:** Employment and learning minister, Dr Stephen Farry with Philip Green, James Cuffey and Stuart Millar at Parliament Buildings on Thursday
PICTURE: Michael Cooper

Downey from Northern Regional College each won medallions for excellence in mechatronics – an

honour which is awarded to competitors who reach the world-class level in their discipline. Speaking at Thursday night's ceremony in Parliament Buildings, employment and learning minister Dr Stephen Farry, said: "This has been Northern Ireland's most successful WorldSkills ever and it's important to acknowledge the performance so that we can not only applaud it but learn from it and spread the message about the quality of our professional and technical training and the world-class skills of our workforce."

"The fact that Northern Ireland consistently wins medals is testament to the skills, hard work and dedication of our workforce and the quality of our training provision." David Cragg, deputy chairman of WorldSkills London 2011 said: "I congratulate all the Northern Irish

competitors whose inspirational performances helped Team UK secure its most successful result to date.

"The high number of medals awarded is testament to the support of colleges and employers and the high standards of training in Northern Ireland. Hopefully Team UK's performance will inspire many more young people to realise what can be achieved through studying and completing apprenticeship."

WorldSkills London saw 1,000 young people from 50 countries compete for medals in 45 skills categories across six sectors: creative arts and fashion; construction and building technology; information and communications technology; manufacturing and engineering technology; social and personal services; and transportation and logistics.



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SUNDAY LIFE

11 JAN 2011

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A series of events is aimed at helping the construction sector weather the economic storm

Extract from:

DOWN RECORDER
14 DEC 2011

Down Recorder

Wednesday 14th December, 2011



James Cuffey from Downpatrick, with Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry, at an event held in Parliament Building to celebrate the unprecedented success of Northern Ireland competitors at WorldSkills London 2012. James won silver medal in landscape gardening.

Extract From:

IRISH NEWS

15 DEC 2011

One in 10 fear slump survival

ONE in 10 construction firms fear they won't survive because of the state of the economy, with half of businesses suffering a slump in turnover in the past year. A study of 1,500 employers showed that a third had laid off staff this year, with carpenters and joiners among the hardest hit professions. The CITB report found that in larger firms, one in four managers had lost their jobs, as income fell by almost a third across the industry.

Extract From: **22 DEC 2011**
NORTHERN CONSTITUTION

Limavady student helps NI top the tables!

IAN McMahon from Limavady, a wall and floor tiling student at North West Regional College, has been praised for his role in Northern Ireland's outstanding performance at WorldSkills London 2011.

In an event held in Parliament Building to celebrate the Success of Northern Ireland competitors at WorldSkills London 2011.

The Minister said: "This has been Northern Ireland's most successful WorldSkills ever. It is important to acknowledge Northern Ireland's performance better than any other UK region at WorldSkills London 2011."

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performance at WorldSkills London, so that we can not only applaud it, but also learn from it and spread the message about the quality of our professional and technical training and the world class skills of our workforce more widely.

"The fact that Northern Ireland consistently wins medals is testament to the skills, hard work and dedica-

tion of our workforce and the quality of our training provision. This is one of the reasons that my Department is committed to supporting skills competitions locally, nationally and internationally."

The Minister also praised all those who trained and supported the competitors: "This is an outstanding achievement not only for the young people,

but also for their families, employers and tutors who have supported them throughout their training and during WorldSkills, and I want to congratulate them all on their awards."

Northern Ireland's representation on Team UK was the highest per head of population of any of the UK regions, as was their performance in winning medals. Team UK won an impressive five gold, two silver and six bronze medals.

Young people from Northern Ireland won gold, silver and bronze medals along with two Medallions for Excellence at the competition.

Also speaking at the event, David Cragg, Deputy Chairman, WorldSkills London 2011 said: "WorldSkills London 2011 was quite simply the biggest and best skills event the

world has ever seen. I would like to offer my congratulations to all of the Northern Irish competitors whose inspirational performances at WorldSkills London 2011 helped Team UK secure its most successful result to date.

"The high number of medals awarded is testament to the support of Colleges and employers and the high standards of training in Northern Ireland. It is hoped that Team UK's performance will inspire many more young people to realise what can be achieved through studying and completing apprenticeship."

Following the success of WorldSkills London 2011, it was announced by the Skills Funding Agency and the National Apprenticeship Service that the annual cycle of WorldSkills UK National Competitions

will culminate every year in a major event which will take place at a single public venue, over one week in October. This will pro-

vide a public showcase of further education, apprenticeships and training, celebrating the very highest achievements of learners.



Ian McMahon from Limavady, a wall and floor tiling student at North West Regional College, pictured with Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry at an event held in Parliament Building to celebrate the unprecedented success of Northern Ireland competitors at WorldSkills London 2011, NCL51-01a

tract from:

BALLYMENA TIMES
27 DEC 2011

NEWS

Ballymena Times, Tuesday, December 27, 2011

www.ballymenatoday.co.uk

NRC Students are 'World Class'



UK Skills Winner Neil Craig pictured with Head of Faculty Tom Knox, Brian McClelland, Engineering Technician, David McIlmoyle, tutor and Dr Brian Hill Head of School.

STUDENTS from Northern Regional College who were successful at World Skills London 2011 and the UK Skills were honoured by Staff and Governors at a special reception hosted by NRC Director Trevor Neilands.

WorldSkills London 2011 was the world's largest, international skills competition with young people from across the globe competing to be the best of the best in their chosen skill.

The competition took place at ExCeL, London from 5-8 October 2011 with 150,000 visitors who saw 1,000 competitors from 50 countries/regions

competing in 45 skill areas over four exciting days of competition.

Chris Downey and Mark Maginty who were selected for Mechatronic Team UK were awarded medallions of excellence as they achieved high marks in their task, the first UK team members to do so in 10 years.

David Nicholl was selected for Team UK within the CNC Milling Category and came 11 out of 19 competitors from across the world, achieving the highest UK score in 10 years.

Two HND students were also recognised for



World Skills Students Mark Maginty, Chris Downey and David Nichol and UK Skills Winner Neil Craig are congratulated by NRC Director Trevor Neilands and Chair of the NRC Governing Body Gerry Glavin.

reaching the National finals of the UK Skills National Mechatronics competition. James Owensend and Neil Craig ran out clear winners of the Gold medal with a score of 98% over the 2 day competition.

Clare O'Neill, Skills Champion at NRC explains, "As Skills Champion I am delighted at the achievements of our students at World Skills 2011 and also at a National Level."

"For me to have three students on Team UK competing against individuals from across the world is a testament to the high level of skills of

our students. Their performance on a world stage has shown they are world class.

"We are so proud of them and our lecturing staff who have worked tirelessly to prepare them for the competition."

"The fact that we are also able to celebrate 2 Gold Medal winners in Mechatronics highlights the outstanding level of skills at the college and Northern Ireland."

"We are already looking forward to World Skills 2013 when we hope to have our students once again on Team UK."



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Extract From:

NORTHERN CONSTITUTION

3 NOV 2011

Adrian is one bright spark!

ADRIAN Canning from North West Regional College, Limavady has received a Gold Medal in Electrical Installation at the SummitSkills and the Skillbuild UK National finals that were held in Leeds last month.

Skillbuild and SummitSkills national annual competitions promoting excellence amongst young crafts people throughout the UK. All the Northern Ireland team members qualified for the UK National finals by competing at the Skillbuild Northern Ireland competition held in April in South Eastern Regional College, Newtownards Campus. They competed against over 100 other regional winners from all over the UK in each of the construction craft disciplines. Skillbuild NI works very closely in partnership with the college

network and other training providers in the training process. Skillbuild NI has the support of the CITB-ConstructionSkills NI, the Department for Employment and Learning, Association of Northern Ireland Colleges and major sponsors such as H&J Martin, Gilbert Ash and Snickers Workwear amongst others.

David Cooper Chairman of Skillbuild Northern Ireland Limited said: "Congratulations to all the medal winners, it is a fantastic achievement on a local stage. The SkillBuild competition provides the perfect platform to demonstrate the enormous talent we have in the industry, helping to showcase the professionalism of our brightest recruits and industry as a whole. We have also to give credit to the trainers and the training

network involved in the preparation of these young people for such prestigious competitions."

The highest performers in each of these competitions then compete against each other for the opportunity to represent the UK in WorldSkills. WorldSkills is the biggest skills competition in the world and is held every two years in different cities across the world and will be held in London in October. Seven young people from Northern Ireland were selected as members of Team UK for WorldSkills London 2011 competition. Amongst this team a Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal was achieved in Brickwork, Refrigeration and Landscaping these students have excelled in Skillbuild NI competitions over the past few years.



Adrian Canning, Gold Medal Winner in Electrical Installation at UK Skillbuild National Finals alongside NWRC lecturer Keith Wade and employer Ronan McGahan, RMG Electric, NCL44-202a



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Extract from:

LURGAN MAIL
- 3 NOV 2011

www.lurgantoday.co.uk

Stephen is top drawer

A SOUTHERN Regional College student has received a gold medal in cabinet making at the SummitSkills and the Skillbuild UK National finals.

Stephen Irwin won the award at the competition, which was held in Leeds.

The competition is held to promote excellence among young crafts people.

David Cooper, chairman of Skillbuild Northern Ireland, said: "Congratulations to all the medal winners, it is a

fantastic achievement on a local stage.

"The SkillBuild competition provides the perfect platform to demonstrate the enormous talent we have in the industry, helping to showcase the professionalism of our brightest recruits and industry as a whole.

"We have also to give credit to the trainers and the training network involved in the preparation of these young people for such prestigious competitions."



Stephen Irwin, gold medal winner in carpentry, at the Skillbuild UK national finals with SRC lecturer Mark Clague. INLM4411-600con



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Extract From:

NEWS LETTER

4 NOV 2011

Project to aid firms in export bid

A NEW project aimed at helping businesses in the construction sector take advantage of opportunities abroad was launched in Belfast yesterday by industry body the Construction Employers Federation (CEF).

Backed by Invest NI and CITB-ConstructionSkills, the Construction Export Forum has been set up to assist local firms in winning work in export markets as CEF managing director John Armstrong explained.

"The Construction Export Forum has been established in response to the serious shortage of work opportunities in the local construction market," he said.

"The dearth of work in the local market has forced our contractors to seek work elsewhere and they have been remarkably successful in securing contracts.

"Their success demonstrates the quality and competitiveness of Northern Irish contractors. Already 60 per cent of the turnover of our top 20 is now generated outside Northern Ireland. The primary market is Great Britain. However, a number of companies have secured contracts across the globe."

The Construction Export Forum will assist those companies that would like to compete for work in Great Britain for the first



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Extract From:

TYRONE CONSTITUTION

10 NOV 2011

South West College carpentry student wins gold medal in national competition finals

Phillip Glasgow, from South West College, Omagh, has received a gold medal in carpentry at the SummitSkills and the Skillbuild UK National finals that were held in Leeds last month.

Skillbuild and SummitSkills are national annual competitions promoting excellence amongst young crafts people throughout the UK. All the Northern Ireland team members qualified for the UK National finals by competing at the Skillbuild Northern Ireland competition held in April in South Eastern Regional College, Newtownards Campus.

They competed against over 100 other regional winners from all over the UK in each of the construction craft disciplines. Skillbuild NI works very closely in partnership with the college network and other training providers in the training process.



Phillip Glasgow, a student of South West College, Omagh, who won a gold medal in carpentry at the UK Skillbuild national finals, is pictured with Sheelagh Dornan and Pat Phillips. SU4507CM

Skillbuild NI has the support of the CITB-ConstructionSkills NI, the Department for Employment and Learning, Association of Northern Ireland Colleges and major sponsors such as H and J Martin, Gilbert Ash, Grahams, Haldane Fisher and Snickers Workwear amongst others.

David Cooper, chairman of Skillbuild Northern Ireland Limited, said: "Congratulations to all the medal winners, it is a fantastic achievement on a local stage. The SkillBuild competition

provides the perfect platform to demonstrate the enormous talent we have in the industry, helping to showcase the professionalism of our brightest recruits and industry as a whole. We have also to give credit to the trainers and the training network involved in the preparation of these young people for such prestigious competitions."

The highest performers in each of these competitions then compete against each other for the opportunity to represent the UK in WorldSkills.

WorldSkills is the biggest skills competition in the world and is held every two years in different cities across the world and will be held in London in October.

Seven young people from Northern Ireland were selected as members of Team UK for WorldSkills London 2011 competition. Amongst this team a gold, silver and bronze medal was achieved in brickwork, refrigeration and landscaping these students have excelled in Skillbuild NI competitions over the past few years.

Stuart cool under pressure to win refrigeration award

AN apprentice engineer from Loughgall kept his cool to build an industrial fridge from scratch, winning a bronze medal at an international skills competition in London.

Stuart Millar, a student at South Eastern Regional College and an employee at Shilliday Refrigeration, Armagh, brought home the award after competing at WorldSkills London 2011 as a member of Team UK.

And there was further delight for Shilliday Refrigeration when it won an award in a separate competition for its energy-saving refrigeration solution at Hewitt's meat processing plant in Loughgall.

As a member of 'Team UK', Stuart was pitted against rivals from 25 other countries in the refrigeration and air-conditioning section. The 21-year-old had to complete a series of challenging tasks over four days of competition, and with more than 200,000 spectators watching his every move, not only built the fridge but also installed an air conditioning system.

"I was so focused on what I was doing I didn't really notice the crowds," said Stuart. "But what I

do remember is the huge support I got from everyone at Shilliday, and my parents Carol and Eddie, and girlfriend Sarah who travelled over to attend the event. It was an experience I will never have again," he said.

Among those supporting Stuart was his mentor at Shilliday's, service manager Peter O'Prey. He said, "Everyone at Shilliday is immensely proud of Stuart. It's very rewarding to see that our training is helping apprentices like Stuart hone their skills to such a high level and of course it's an investment for us too as a company."

Northern Ireland was the best performing region within Team UK, winning two further medals and two medallions for excellence. Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry congratulated the students on their success and for their role in the overall Team UK medal count of 13. He said, "This is an outstanding achievement not only for the young people, but also for their families, employers and tutors who have supported them throughout their training and during WorldSkills, and I want to congratulate them all on their awards. "This success is testament



Stuart Millar kept his cool to take a bronze medal at the competition in London.

to the high standards of technical and professional training in our colleges and the commitment to excellence shown by our young people. Northern Ireland has once again demonstrated on the world stage that we have a talented workforce with the high level skills which keep us competitive in the global economy."

Meanwhile, Shilliday's scooped the title 'Industrial

and Commercial Project of the Year' at the RAC Cooling Industry Awards for its simple, but cost-effective, centralised system at Hewitt's, which has resulted in a 19 per cent drop in the meat processing company's energy bill over the period of a year, and a carbon footprint reduction estimated to be at least 60 tonnes a year.



Loughgall apprentice engineer Stuart Millar, left, with Shilliday Refrigeration's managing director Norman Shilliday, centre, and technical director Jason Shilliday. INPY47-016

Extract From:

ULSTER STAR

25 NOV 2011

www.belfasttoday.co.uk

Stuart's success hailed at celebratory lunch

THE SOUTH Eastern Regional College has held a celebratory lunch at their Lisburn Campus for Stuart Millar, who won bronze at the prestigious WorldSkills competition last month.

Ken Webb, Chief Executive and Principal of SERC, Mayor of Lisburn Cllr. Brian Heading, lecturers and business leaders were among the high profile attendees at the lunch to celebrate Stuart's achievement.

Stuart, who is a student at SERC and employed by Shilliday Refrigeration, Armagh, competed as a member of Team UK and won bronze in refrigeration and air-conditioning at the event, which is the world's largest international skills competition.

Speaking at the lunch Ken Webb congratulated Stuart on his success. "This has not happened overnight" Mr Webb said, "he has invested a

lot of time and effort in preparation for the WorldSkills Finals and has proven time and again in regional competitions that he is a stand-out performer in his trade.

"WorldSkills is an event that showcases the very best in vocational learning and brings together skilled young people from over 56 countries to compete to become the best of the best. Stuart's success is testament to the high standards of technical and professional training in our college and the commitment to excellence shown by our young people."

Councillor Heading said the competition highlighted 'the skill and dedication of young people from all around the world and promoted the importance of vocational training'.

"All seven Northern Irish members of Team UK deserve the highest

of praise for their achievement in making it as far as Team UK to demonstrate to the world how highly skilled they are" he said.

"I would also like to congratulate Philip Green who works in DG Green and Sons in Lisburn. Philip won a gold medal in bricklaying. This is a commendable achievement and I wish both winners well in their future careers," Mr Heading continued.

Stuart said: "It was such a shock when I found out I had won bronze. WorldSkills is the world's largest ever international skills competition, so it was a real achievement for me and the team. More than 1,000 young skilled people from across the world competed over four days to be the best in the world in their skill so it was a really challenging event and thankfully my hard work paid off."



South Eastern Regional College (SERC) staff Michael Malone, John Nixon, Terry Nickels and Jesse Dhak with Mayor of Lisburn Cllr Brian Heading, Stuart Millar WorldSkills Award Winner, Peter O'Prey, and Norman Shilliday, Shilliday Refrigeration and Ken Webb Principle and

30/11/11

Medal joy for Stuart at Worldskills

AN ENGINEERING student at South East Regional College, Lisburn, looks set for a bright future, after coming third in the world's largest ever international skills competition.

Stuart Millar (21) beat off stiff competition from 25 other countries, and won a bronze medal at the global skills competition WorldSkills London 2011.

Over 150,000 spectators watched his every move in the competition as he took part in a series of challenges that included building an industrial fridge from scratch and installing an air conditioning system.

He was one of seven young people from Northern Ireland who earned a place in "Team UK", enabling them to take part in the prestigious event at ExCeL in London where Stuart competed in the refrigeration and air conditioning category.

"I was so focused on what I was doing I didn't really notice the crowds," said Stuart. "But what I do remember is the huge support I got from everyone at Shilliday, and also my parents Carol and Eddie, and girlfriend Sarah who travelled over to attend the event. I made some wonderful friends and met some talented people. It was an experience I will never have again."

Stuart's win was the culmination of many months of intensive training both at Shilliday's and the South East Regional College. "The standard of training I received was really high," said Stuart. "Peter O'Prey (his employer) was very helpful all the way through and Shilliday's gave me a lot of time off for extra training. They really supported me and I always felt they were rooting for me to do well."

Employed as an apprentice engineer at Shilliday's, refrigeration and air conditioning specialists at Ballnashoneemore Road, Acmagh, and a student at South Eastern Regional College in Lisburn, Stuart was supported by his mentor at Shilliday, Service Manager Peter O'Prey.

"Everyone at Shilliday is immensely proud of Stuart," said Peter. "It's very rewarding to see that our training is helping apprentices like Stuart hone their skills to such a high level and of course it's an investment for us too as a company." Commenting on the achievements of Stuart and his fellow team members, Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry, said, "This is an outstanding achievement not only for the young people, but also for their families, employers and tutors who have supported them throughout their



Award-winning engineering apprentice Stuart Millar, student at SERC in Lisburn, with the bronze medal he won at WorldSkills and, right, at work



training and during WorldSkills, and I want to congratulate them all on their awards. "Northern Ireland has once again demonstrated on the world stage that we have a talented workforce with the high level skills which keep us competitive in the global economy."

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