



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2014

FIVE DECADES OF SUCCESS PROVIDES THE EXPERIENCE TO LOOK AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE...

50 years of success!



Chairmen past and present - Bill Gillespie OBE, CITB NI's current Chairman, Maurice Johnston and Tony Doran OBE, outgoing Chairman.



David Henry, Henry Brothers, Barry Neilson, CITB NI, Eddie O'Neill, QMAC, marking CITB NI's 50th anniversary.

The Construction Industry Training Board, established in 1964, is celebrating 50 years of leading the way in identifying the skills and training needs of the local construction industry. In order to mark this special anniversary the organisation brought together Board members past and present to acknowledge how they have served the industry over the past five decades during both high boom times and low recessionary times and look forward to the next 50 years and beyond with hope and optimism. Barry Neilson, Chief Executive, CITB NI, said, "Our 50th anniversary is quite an achievement and we are proud to have supported the development of our most

valuable resource, our people during this time. Over recent years we have concentrated our efforts on supporting the industry to help it survive the economic downturn. We have worked with the sector to improve their capabilities in strategic planning and performance improvement at senior management level whilst also working to develop a qualified workforce at craft level." Barry continued, "By bringing together past and present Board members we are acknowledging the work that we have done and the work we have yet to do. The economy in Northern Ireland is levelling out and we are looking forward to the future with a confident and more capable workforce

able to embrace the opportunities arising as our industry regenerates. We will continue to work closely with industry partners, stakeholders and Government to ensure a qualified and competent industry to ensure growth is sustained over the long-term." Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary, Department for Employment and Learning, added, "Over the past 50 years the construction industry has changed dramatically in Northern Ireland with significant changes to local city skylines, technology and construction methods. CITB NI has worked hard over five decades encouraging training within the construction industry and I wish them every success for the next 50 years."

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Nutts Corner Training Centre, 17 Dundrod Road,
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Back from Biberach

Sixty local construction workers have participated in the 'Building Skills for Sustainable Construction' project, designed to help participants widen their knowledge of sustainable construction methods, renewable energy and environmental standards. The project is organised by CITB NI and funded by the European Commission's Leonardo programme, which is managed by Ecorys in the UK. The participants went in groups of 15 in four different sessions. The two-week programme covered a comprehensive appraisal of current construction techniques applied in Germany, including air-tightness, thermal bridges, passive house projects and ventilation systems, with a focus on timber construction. Highlights of the trip included a visit to the Energon building in Ulm, a five-storey office built to Passive House standards; as well as time spent in the workshop constructing models of various junction details that are particularly relevant and key to achieving improved energy performance standards. The programme was delivered by KOMZET,



Some of the local construction workers who participated in the 'Building Skills for Sustainable Construction' project.

a Centre of Vocational Excellence in Timber Construction and Finishings. The skills and knowledge gained will be utilised in the design and maintenance of properties as well as in the retrofitting of existing housing stock to reduce energy consumption. In addition, the group will be able to transfer these skills to the wider construction supply chain in their daily dealings with suppliers, clients, designers and subcontractors, and also to apprentices and undergraduates through links to training and education.

Barry Neilson, Chief Executive, CITB NI, said,

"Government targets for more sustainable homes as well as higher demand from customers mean that the skills provided through this training programme are vital for those working in the industry." Commenting on the project, one of the participants said, "This has enabled me to start putting sustainable design aspirations into practice, as I was able to learn the principles and application of such strategies." **Keep up-to-date with the project's progress at www.citbni.org.uk or by 'liking' CITB-NI on Facebook www.facebook.com/CITBNorthernIreland**

Local, traditional joinery skills boosted through heritage training

CITB NI has hosted the first ever Heritage Specialist Apprenticeship Programme in Wood Occupations in Northern Ireland. Eleven local, experienced carpenters and joiners completed the first 10 days of a 20-day off-the-job training programme, delivered at Nutts Corner Training Centre. The programme focused on structured practical training to enhance trainee joinery skills for the traditional building sector. The training will also include 11 months on-the-job training, where the trainees will receive training and assessment with experienced heritage contractors, including the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, National Trust, National Museums NI, Millar Woodcraft, JRC Construction, The Ballykelly Group and Piperhill Construction Ltd, leading to the achievement of the

Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Heritage Skills (Construction) – Wood Occupations. They will also be mentored by experienced heritage ambassadors/mentors throughout the training programme. Additionally as part of this programme, three college lecturers - Alex Boyd, South West College, Kieron Flannery, Belfast Metropolitan College and Raymond Palmer, South East Regional College - have commenced the 'Training the Trainers' CPD programme and will assist in the delivery of the off-the-job training programme so that the Heritage Specialist Apprenticeship Programme can be rolled out in their respective colleges to interested carpenters and joiners who want to upskill into the heritage sector of the construction industry in Northern Ireland. The training was organised by CITB NI, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund through



HLF wood occupation trainees with lecturers Amanda Stevenson, CITB NI with Heritage Wood Occupation trainees and lecturers at the Heritage Specialist Apprenticeship Programme.

its Skills for the Future programme and delivered by The Traditional Building Skills Company. **For more information on this project and the other heritage work carried out by CITB NI, log on to www.citbni.org.uk/Heritage.aspx. You can also keep up-to-date with the project on Facebook and follow the discussion on Twitter @CITBNI.**

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Pictured at the launch of the next phase of the 'Qualifying the Existing Workforce' project are (from left), Stacey Robinson, Bullivant Tarranto; Maurice Johnston, Chairman CITB NI; Minister for Employment and Learning Stephen Farry; and Niall Woods, Bullivant Tarranto

Second phase of 'upskilling' initiative for construction sector launched

The second phase of the 'Qualifying the Existing Workforce' initiative at Nutts Corner Training Centre has been launched by Minister for Employment & Learning, Dr Stephen Farry. The 'Qualifying the Existing Workforce' project aims to qualify 1,000 currently unqualified, experienced, employed construction workers to NVQ Level 2, helping to increase productivity and meet the industry's skills challenge. The project is a joint initiative by the Department for Employment and Learning

(DEL), CITB NI and the Joint Council for the Building & Civil Engineering Industry (NI). Tandragee firm, Bullivant Taranto, qualified 48 candidates through the project and had the 500th candidate who achieved an NVQ through the first phase of the project since its launch in June 2012. **For a list of assessment centres and occupations available and to find out more about registering, log onto www.citbni.org.uk and follow the links to FREE NVQs or call us on 028 9082 5466.**

Mobile Training Unit

The Mobile Training Unit (MTU) provides a convenient way of meeting training requirements with minimum disruption to site work. The unit travels to construction sites and locations across Northern Ireland delivering short duration health and safety courses, such as confined spaces, excavations, manual handling and working at heights, encouraging the industry to build safely.



Free to all registered 'In Scope' employers, the MTU can be booked in advance. **For more information on available courses, log on to www.citbni.org.uk or telephone Des Hegarty on 07801 598520.**

Scaffolding training

CISRS scaffolding training courses at Nutts Corner Training Centre include a five-day Basic Access Systems Erector Course (BASE) which is currently 100% funded for a limited period of time and a two-day Tube & Fitting Basic and an Advanced Scaffold Inspection course. On successful completion of these courses the relevant CISRS Scaffolding Card will be issued.

These new courses run alongside the existing CISRS programme of Scaffolding Part One, Part Two and Advanced courses, working towards achievement of an NVQ and obtaining a Scaffolding or Advanced Scaffolding Card. **For more information on courses, visit www.citbni.org.uk or telephone 028 9082 5466.**

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Construction training gets £1.1million boost

The new CITB NI Training Grant Scheme offers support for a wide range of training and qualifications, from apprentices through to the existing workforce, including management and administration. The scheme is structured into three tiers, focusing on employers, industry, and training that can be facilitated by the organisation. The grant application process for Tier 1 has been simplified and offers further flexibility to claim whilst you train. In a move to help employers maximise their grant claims, an additional 2.5% can be earned by claiming online. Grants will be paid within 10 working days, which will help employers' cash flow in these difficult economic times.

For further information visit www.citbni.org.uk/grants, contact a member of the Grants team on 028 9082 5466 or e-mail info@citbni.org.uk.

Shared Apprenticeships

The Shared Apprenticeship Programme NI - a pilot scheme between CITB NI and GEL Ltd - allows apprentices to complete a full apprenticeship programme by working with a number of different employers to gain the skill sets they require to become qualified. Throughout the duration of the training the apprentices will also obtain their Level 3 vocational qualification through the normal college system. **If you are a construction employer and would be able to offer a short term placement contract for an apprentice to gain valuable experience, then contact Simon Eakin on 028 7134 7631.**

Undergraduate Development Programme

CITB NI offers a free Undergraduate Development Programme for construction and built environment students currently on their placement year. CITB NI registered employers who enrol their placement students on this programme are eligible to receive a £1,000 employer grant. **For more information contact Gillian on 028 9082 4205.**



Construction employer events help to build on skills and training

Skills and training are the central core of our business, and CITB NI understands the importance of training and the positive effects it can have both internally and externally.

Investing in training now and building up the skills and strength of your team can save money in the future, as well trained employees are safer, better skilled, work faster and make fewer mistakes.

CITB NI is keen to help local construction employers get the best for their business. For the past few years we've held free information events for local construction employers, providing the latest information on training advice and guidance on grants, other funded training initiatives and the services that are available to registered employers.

New event dates - supported by Health and Safety Works NI - have been launched for the forthcoming year, and cover key towns and cities throughout Northern Ireland. The events have been well received amongst the industry and in a recent survey of 100 construction employers, 65% were aware of the information events and 19% of those had attended. Nearly all of the attendees (95%) felt the events gave them the information

they needed, so feel free to drop in and join us.

Barry Neilson, Chief Executive CITB NI, said, "We are working hard to identify solutions to help employers survive. These events are an informal way of providing relevant up-to-date information to the industry and also listening to what employers have to say."

The employer events are designed to help local construction employers openly discuss issues, network with other employers and find out what support is available for training. Up-to-date and relevant health and safety information is also provided by Health and Safety Works NI to help support the construction employer in this area.

Why not come along to an event near you to find out how we can help your construction company move forward.



Construction Employer Information Events 2015

DAY	DATE	EVENT
Thursday	February 26	Fermanagh Enterprise Ltd, Enniskillen
Thursday	March 19	CIDO Innovation Centre, Portadown
Thursday	April 23	Omagh Enterprise Centre, Omagh
Tuesday	May 19	Newry Mourne Country Hotel, Newry
Thursday	June 18	Waterfoot Hotel, Derry-Londonderry

Construction Health & Safety Workshops 2014-2015

CITB NI also works closely with Health and Safety Works NI and partners together for Construction Health and Safety Workshops for building contractors. These workshops are aimed at owners or safety officers of small construction companies and focus on health and safety plans and method statements.

2014		
DAY	DATE	EVENT
Thursday	October 16	Armagh Business Centre, Armagh
Thursday	November 6	Ards Business Centre, Newtownards
Thursday	November 20	Causeway Enterprise Agency, Coleraine
2015		
Wednesday	Jan 14	Ormeau Business Park, Belfast
Tuesday	March 24	CITB NI, Nutts Corner Training Centre, Crumlin

For more information on these events log on to www.citbni.org.uk/events.aspx

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