

Newsletter Edition 3
Spring/Summer 2014

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PloughcroftTM
Energy efficient home improvements

TO MOVE OR NOT TO MOVE?



- Now is the time to invest in your home
- Going eco and saving you money
- The summer room of your dreams

LB3
100 MEGABIT

Gold

WELCOME TO THE SPRING/SUMMER 2014 EDITION OF THE PLOUGHCROFT NEWSLETTER

I'm sure you'll join me in waving goodbye to an exceptionally wet winter, which has stopped many of us in our tracks. Thinking positively that the bad weather is out of the way, let us inspire you for the remainder of 2014...

If you find yourself sifting through the papers looking for that dream house, maybe you should stop and consider your own four walls? There are huge benefits to investing in your existing home to make it a perfect space. In this issue, we'll talk you through the benefits of staying put and investing in your existing property. The costs of home moving are significant, £15,000 for an average property in Yorkshire - that money could go a long way towards building an extension or loft conversion to your personal specification. And in the long term, investing in energy saving measures in your home now will save you money in the future, whilst doing your bit for the environment.

There's only one way energy prices are going, so read on and see how a few smart decisions could help future proof your home.

We hope you enjoy this issue, we'd love to hear your thoughts and opinions on anything covered in here, so please get in touch...

Chris Hopkins
Managing Director

DAREDEVILS FOR A CAUSE

Charity skydive 31st August 2014

It takes a brave individual to jump out of a plane. That's why we were somewhat surprised when a few of our staff volunteered themselves for a charity skydive. We wouldn't say they're the bravest bunch! We were bouncing a few gentle charity fundraising ideas about and things got a little carried away! Climbing on a roof is one thing, but as safety is paramount, jumping out of a plane is something at odds with our usual remit. It will be interesting to see how many run for the hills when 'push comes to shove'.



The more generous our sponsors are, the more of our staff will be pushed toward that plane; knees knocking! All for a good cause, with funds raised going to Forget Me Not Trust Children's Hospice, who supports children with life shortening conditions and their families in West Yorkshire.



To support this amazing charity, log on to www.justgiving.com/ploughcroft or scan the QR code and we'll take you there direct. Or text code: PLOU77 and your donation amount (£5, £10, £20, £50) to 70070. Thank you!

NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN YOUR HOME

No one can avoid the fact that the cost of finance is big news right now, with mortgage specialists predicting the current array of bargain fixed rate products is to come to an end.



The Council of Mortgage Lenders reports that gross mortgage lending was up 49% in December 2013 compared to December 2012, with remortgaging seeing a 16% increase on the same period. This demonstrates growing confidence in the housing market due to a number of factors. From a remortgage point of view, it could allude to the fact that consumers who have drifted onto a standard rate are striving to protect monthly payments, by fixing their mortgage deals now, to ensure mortgage affordability for the next few years.

It's important to look for the positives in any changes to the economy. Now is a great time to seize the opportunity of the historically low rate mortgage deals and look into investing into your property to gain that much needed space.

Stick or twist?

The availability of low rate products is as equally attractive to the home mover. However, moving home comes with hefty cost - once you have added up estate agency fees for selling, your legal fees for buying and selling, stamp duty and removals. The average house price in Yorkshire & Humberside according to Rightmove is £159,368, the cost of buying and selling at

that figure will cost around £15,000. Just think what improvements you could make to your home for that amount? To work out the costs for your personal circumstances there are some handy calculators online.

Better the devil you know?

Improving your home can be a great way to get that extra space you need and there are a number of options to help you achieve that. According to research commissioned by GoCompare - 18% of respondents said they had splashed out on an extension, 11% knocked through rooms to create more space, 8% installed solar panels and 6% went for an attic conversion. Ploughcroft have particular expertise in home improvements that are also ecologically beneficial too.

Proper insulation should always form part of any renovation too, which will help to reduce energy bills over the long term. Going Eco isn't as daunting as you may think and you may be able to claim money back through government schemes too, see pages 6&7. We'd be happy to discuss your ideas and advise on how you can make the most of any government support, whilst achieving your dream results.



Make a perfectly inviting space with a year-round summer room. This is the stuff dreams are made of.

Conservatories are great, practically however they can be a difficult room to use year round - stifling hot on summer days, yet draughty and cold in winter.

To enjoy all the benefits a conservatory has to offer all year round, a properly structured summer room can make the perfect alternative - insulated and heated as any other room of your property. The perfect place for entertaining guests...

A MUCH COSIER PENNINE FARMHOUSE...

At Hill Top Farm, Pecket Well, Hebden Bridge We recently had the honour of working on a Yorkshire Pennine Farmhouse; a truly distinctive period property, full of character and believed to date back to the early 18th century.

The Spencer family moved there 12 months ago with a view to completely modernising the farmhouse. On moving in, Hill Top Farm had no insulation and whilst the stunning open views make for magnificent scenery, it also means that the property is extremely exposed to the elements.

Keen to improve the thermal efficiency of the solid stone farmhouse, the family approached Ploughcroft for Green Deal/ECO funding guidance. The £29,000 project qualified for £20,000 Green Deal/ECO funding and includes solid wall insulation and roof insulation.

Hill Top Farm owner Dr Rob Spencer commented:

“We’re absolutely delighted with the whole process. Chris Hopkins’ level of expertise and knowledge of the funding process is exceptional. In fact, I can confidently say, that if it hadn’t been for Chris, this project would not have gone ahead.”

“Ploughcroft as a firm has been extremely professional and accommodating. We are all looking forward to being able to move back into our thermal efficient home and perhaps more importantly, to seeing a significant reduction in our solid fuel and electricity bills, which will hopefully be in the region of £5,700 over the next three years.”

Another very happy Ploughcroft customer!



GO ECO AND SAVE MONEY

WHY GO ECO?

Going eco doesn't have to mean turfed roofs and glass fronted spaces - there is a lot you can do to your existing home to make it eco-friendly which in turn helps you manage the costs of rising energy prices.

Some ideas to help future proof your home:

KEEP THE HEAT IN

Did you know that 25% of heat is lost through your roof space? That figure is likely to be much higher if you have an existing attic conversion that isn't properly insulated.

ECO ROOF. THE ROOF WITH RETURN ON INVESTMENT!

Specifically for existing loft conversions, our energy assessors inspect your property, looking at current insulation, existing energy bills and then perform a heat loss calculation and on the spot EPC rating. The ongoing energy benefits mean that you could save up to £500 a year and even increase the value of your property, by improving the EPC rating by up to two bands. For more information, see our Eco Roof video at www.ploughcroft.co.uk

ECO BY DESIGN

Put your best foot forward and build the right way. Using a specialist builder, such as Ploughcroft, who has experience of eco building can give you the confidence that your new extension is the most energy efficient it can be. Saving you £££'s in the long run.



INSULATION

According to the Energy Saving Trust, 45% of heat is lost through uninsulated solid walls and additional 20% through windows and doors. If you've felt those sneaky draughts over winter a review of your existing insulation/windows & doors might be a good idea. Plus you may be able to get cashback from the government too.

GREAT NEWS! GREEN DEAL JUST GOT BETTER

Changes to the government's Green Deal cashback scheme were announced on 18 February, which aims to help households drive down fuel bills and reduce carbon emissions. Consumers could receive cashback on the improvement measures they take to make their home more energy efficient, which include double glazing, solid wall insulation and insulation for loft conversions.

You can apply for Green Deal Cash-back up to the end of June, with a further three months for households to install energy efficiency measures and redeem cash-back vouchers.

Climate Change Minister Greg Barker said:

"Inefficient homes use a lot more energy than they need to, which consumers pay a high price for. The extension and increase to Green Deal cashback means more families will be helped to have warmer, more energy efficient homes and lower energy bills by next winter."

CASHBACK CURRENTLY AVAILABLE:

- Up to £4k now available for solid wall insulation
- Up to £1k for 'room in roof' insulation
- Up to £650 for households double glazing installations

To find out how you could personally benefit, contact us...

CASE STUDY

DELIGHTED CUSTOMERS SHOUTING FROM THE ECO ROOFTOPS

We recently built an ECO roof for a customer who had a traditional attic. The problem was that it was so draughty that it became freezing and entirely unusable in winter. Not to mention the heat loss, which meant he was suffering higher energy bills than needs be.



Even before the ECO Roof installation was fully complete, our customer was highly delighted - having to turn the heating down despite it being January! Now the attic is a warm, cosy living space, with the central heating on for just a few hours a day. Our customer comments:

"What has been the most important aspect is that the ECO Roof has done all that has been claimed for it. Before the insulation was installed the attic was freezing in winter and we were unable to have visitors to stay. Now the attic is warm, with central heating on for just two hours in the morning and four hours in the early evening. It is clearly an investment that will pay off, both in comfort and lower bills now, and with increased value when we come to sell the house in the future."

Ploughcroft ECO roof customer, Otley



WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT US?

As a leading Yorkshire roofing and home improvement company, Ploughcroft prides itself on providing some of the world's most innovative yet affordable products. We have a 15 year background of high quality roofing twinned with thousands of solar installations since 2006 and all our staff are well placed to advise you on all energy saving solutions from roofing and building to loft, cavity and wall insulation.

WHY CHOOSE PLOUGHCROFT?

As a representative on the Green Construction Board, our Managing Director Chris is at the forefront of developments of legislative changes and eco construction. As a customer you will benefit from his decades of building and renovation experience coupled with his innovative approach to cost effective Green Deal accredited design, planning and construction.

Through Chris, Ploughcroft are committed to:

- Unrivalled quality standards
- Defining a new standard of customer service in the building trade by listening to and understand each clients needs to deliver a high quality and tailored service.
- Passion for innovation, environmental issues and serving the interests of the community.
- The Green Deal and the financial benefits it can bring to clients. Ploughcroft are accredited advisors & installers.
- Consider energy saving and insulating throughout every project we do.

Whatever your hopes and aspirations are for your home, we are sure to be able to help. Call us for a chat or email us with your ideas.



WIN! A 3-MONTH SUPPLY OF LUXURY CHOCOLATE

Our latest competition is just the thing for chocolate-lovers and gardeners alike. We've enclosed a packet for sunflower seeds just for you, so that you can enter our eco competition. Simply follow the instructions on the packet to grow your sunflowers (don't worry if you're not very green-fingered, they're very easy to grow) and send us a picture of the results in bloom. The tallest entry will win a 3-month supply of luxury chocolate goody bags from Hotel Chocolat.

Time to get planting and dreaming of chocolate. Good luck!



Ploughcroft™

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