

Newsletter Edition 5  
Spring/Summer 2015

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keep me to read at your leisure  
or pass to a friend



# SPRING SUNSHINE!

**YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO BE  
MINTED FOR A  
PLOUGHCROFT  
ECO-ROOF**



**Ploughcroft**  
Energy efficient home improvements

☎ 01484 723 344 [www.ploughcroft.co.uk](http://www.ploughcroft.co.uk)

**FREE!**  
Fresh mints  
for spring

**SOLAR SO  
GOOD?**  
The hidden truth.

Could  
devolution  
increase the  
value of  
**YOUR  
HOUSE?**

# WELCOME TO THE SPRING/SUMMER 2015 EDITION OF THE PLOUGHCROFT NEWSLETTER

If you feel you've missed out on the rush to install solar panels, fear not; the benefits may not be as good as they first seemed. At Ploughcroft, we are all for making your home more eco and energy efficient, but we also believe our customers should properly understand the benefits and potential pitfalls before they commit to such an expense. See page 5 to find out more.

As testament to the great work we do, we are delighted to announce that Ploughcroft is now a Which? Trusted Trader.

To celebrate this, we thought it fitting to showcase some of our recent projects including an update on the exciting Sowerby Bridge renovations and a stunning balcony system, just the inspiration you need to take the plunge on your next project.

We hope you enjoy the issue.

**Chris Hopkins**  
Managing Director

**Ploughcroft**

**INTEREST FREE CREDIT**  
for Eco Roof & Eco Wall  
**COMING SOON!**

# LATEST NEWS AROUND US

With much talk about devolution for the North and HS2 and HS3 links, could this mean that North/South house price gap could slowly start to close?

The Business Desk reported that almost a third of small and medium sized businesses across the region believe the proposed high-speed rail projects will have a positive effect on their business and cited that better connectivity would boost our productivity and bring opportunities to the region.

HS2 plans to create a high speed rail link between London and Birmingham and HS3 proposes to dramatically improve the rail service between Leeds and Manchester.

Local people are well aware of the flaws in our rail network, so this is a much needed investment for our region. In an article by thisismoney.co.uk, they looked at transport improvements in other areas of the country and reported on how property prices have soared in those immediate surrounding areas as they become more attractive for commuters looking for a good investment.

A decision on HS3 is expected this year and we're very excited about the prospects and opportunities it could bring to local people, property and businesses.



## PLOUGHCROFT - COMING TO A SCREEN NEAR YOU!

We were delighted to take part in **BBC DIY SOS** on a project in West Yorkshire during a freezing February.



We installed a new Eco roof with its revolutionary thermal blanket on a low pitched roof.



Due to air Autumn 2015.



The whole team pulled together in a short space of time and the results were great!



## CREATING AN INSPIRING SPACE TO LEARN...

Reroofing the Early Excellence Centre located high on the Huddersfield hillside was no easy task.

The building is over 120 years old and located 1,000 feet above sea level so it's a wild part of the world that takes a battering from the elements every year.

As the building is used to inspire learning, we wanted to respect both its history and its contemporary residents, who are early years professionals and practitioners.



Our focus was on keeping as many of the original features as possible, which meant painstakingly removing all the original slate tiles so they could be reused on the new roof.

Now all that can be seen from the ground are the grey slate tiles and a red mortar dye to create an eye catching and seamless look.



## A HISTORIC SCHOOL GETS A FACELIFT

We were involved in a project to create a living space for students within the historic school building.

The aim was to create a roof that doesn't leak but we didn't want to stop there.

This heritage project involved stripping off existing roof slates and relaying the original and reclaimed Welsh blue slate, installing new hip tiles and hip irons, replacing all lead and upgrading existing insulation by adding new rockwool insulation between trusses.

What's more, we also installed six stunning rooflights along the ridge line which are a perfect fit for heritage/conservation type projects.



## CREATING THE PERFECT PARTY SPOT IN NORTHOWRAM

Our customer wanted to create a wow factor when entertaining guests with the addition of a stunning balcony which would allow guests to take in the beautiful Yorkshire scenery.

In just four weeks we converted a derelict, rotten and collapsing roof area, replaced the joists and designed and built a luxurious bespoke balcony system.

# SOLAR SO GOOD?

Do you need to go solar? A properly insulated home is always the better option when it comes to making a home more energy efficient.

During the mad solar 'gold rush' that swept across the UK between 2009 and 2012, homeowners everywhere jumped on the bandwagon in the hope of securing themselves major energy savings.

But what about the hidden costs from both a maintenance

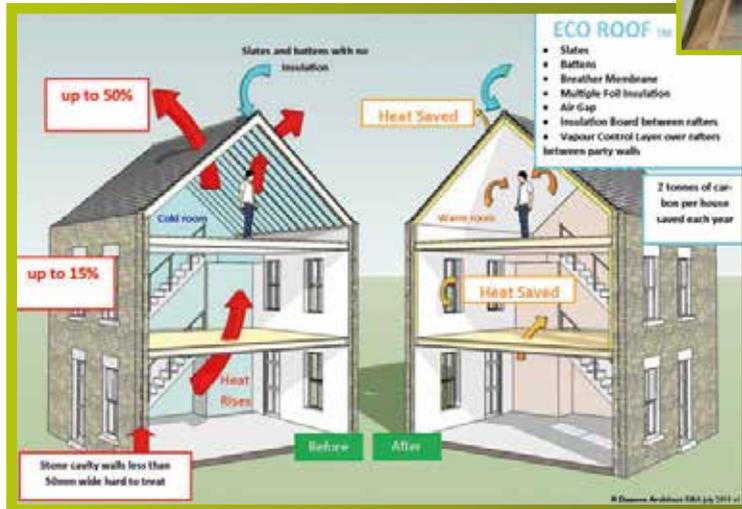
**On average 8-out-of-10 homes in the UK have roofs that are 50 years and older.**

and a ROI perspective? The simple truth is the majority of homeowners are unlikely to have considered the issues, meaning an extremely costly experience for them, despite their best intentions.

The vast majority of roofs in the UK that had solar panels fitted will soon be in need of basic routine maintenance, major roof repairs, or even re-roofs. The bad news is the cost is certainly going to bite as it can cost over five-times more to repair a roof with solar panels, than one without.

What about ROI? Our motto is "insulate before you generate". With up to 30% of a home's

heat lost through the roof, fitting solar panels is only going to get you so far. The home is still going to lose heat at the same rate and although the homeowner is generating electricity they are still going to be losing huge amounts of money through the roof.



**A properly insulated roof can save approximately £500 per year on a typical two bedroomed mid terraced house.**

# YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MINTED FOR AN ECOROOF™

If a home's roof is properly insulated, then a typical two bedroom mid-terrace house with an attic or room in the roof can save an estimated £500\* per year. As an example, if the cost of installing our own EcoRoof™ is £5,000, we're looking at an ROI of 10%, which is a far better investment than solar PV. But it doesn't end there: add to this the fact that as energy prices increase so does the ROI of the EcoRoof™, and the fact that such a roof will last 50 years plus, not 20 years like Solar PV. And if that isn't enough, from Summer we aim to offer interest free credit!

\* using RSAP Government-standard assessment procedure



**INTEREST FREE CREDIT**  
for Eco Roof & Eco Wall  
**COMING SOON!**

# TAKE 5 AND SAVE £'s

## Reuse the heat

Leave your oven door open after cooking and the heat will warm your kitchen.



## Stock up

Keeping your fridge and freezer full means your appliance works more efficiently and doesn't have to work as hard to keep empty spaces cool.



## ON / OFF

Never leave appliances on standby – this can cost up to £80 a year.

## Use the right pan on the right ring

As simple as it sounds, using a small pan on a small ring and a large pan on a large ring helps make sure the food heats as quickly as possible and therefore conserves energy.



## SPRING SUN

Now that Spring is nearing, make sure curtains and blinds are wide open on sunny days and let the sunlight warm your home.



## SOWERBY BRIDGE UPDATE...

Occupied as domestic dwellings during the early 1900's, no's 3,5,7 and 9 Corporation Street were demolished and no.14 & 16 condemned for domestic occupancy around 1940.

It is believed no. 14 & 16 were occupied as council offices in the 1970 and later as a joinery workshop. Both properties had been empty for a substantial period of time before being bought in a defective state at auction.

**NOW LOOK AT THE TRANSFORMATION...**



## PLOUGHCROFT ECO OPEN DAY WELCOMES VIP

As a champion of all things eco and energy efficient, we invited homeowners and visitors to join us for a two day open event, to give an insight into how heritage homes can become eco homes too.

The event was opened by the Mayor of Calderdale, with our very own Chris Hopkins hosting the event and providing valuable education on the benefits of eco build and on the much talked about Green Deal Home Improvement Fund.

We were delighted to showcase these homes and demonstrate the real efficiencies they have achieved – improving the EPC rating from an 'F' to a 'C', which in turn makes a significant difference to the energy bills of the properties.

Mayor, Patricia Allen commented;

*"I am honoured to have the opportunity to officially open these homes, which are a first of their kind for Yorkshire. Never before have two 100 year old Yorkshire stone houses been insulated with such impressive energy savings. The houses are really impressive and a great example of energy efficiency in the Calder Valley".*



**WIN!** A FAMILY DAY AT CHESTER ZOO TO SEE THE FRUIT BAT FOREST!



# GOING 'BATTY' FOR OUR ECO ROOF

Going eco doesn't just mean energy efficiency, many people don't realise the dangers that breathable roof membranes, fitted on hundreds of thousands of UK homes, can have on the declining number of bat species throughout the UK.

Our furry friends can get trapped in the membranes when they are roosting which is having a knock on effect on the bat population. Here at Ploughcroft we feel extremely passionate about this issue, not only for the bats welfare, but also because bats are important to our whole eco system.

Therefore, we'll be using our influence on the industry and raising awareness with the general public to help find a solution to this problem and we'd love you to get involved too.

## MAKE A 'BAT HAT'

Why not get the kids together and take part in our 'create a bat hat' competition, courtesy of the Bat Conservation Trust.

All you need to do is get creative and make a bat hat, then send a picture of your finished masterpiece to [info@ploughcroft.co.uk](mailto:info@ploughcroft.co.uk). The most impressive bat hat will get a fun filled family day out to Chester Zoo.

Closing date for entries is 30th June 2015.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- One piece of card or stiff paper 65cm long, 3cm wide
- Two pieces of paper 30cm long  
• 1cm wide
- Two paper bats, cut out and coloured, or in black paper.

Decorate the wide head band and staple it to fit your head.

Staple the bats to one end of the shorter pieces of paper, then staple the other end to the head band as shown.

Bat Conservation Trust



## BAT FRIENDLY BREATHER MEMBRANES

All UK bat species are protected by law. It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure, touch or capture a bat, or to obstruct any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection.

As members of the West Yorkshire Bat Group we work alongside fully licensed Ecological Consultants to undertake bat surveys in the Yorkshire area.

All surveys are carried out in line with current guidelines.

For more information about the West Yorkshire Bat Group see [www.westyorkshirebats.org.uk](http://www.westyorkshirebats.org.uk)

BAT FACTS

THERE ARE 10 KNOWN SPECIES OF BAT IN THE WEST YORKSHIRE AREA

BRITISH BATS WILL NOT SUCK YOUR BLOOD!

BATS ARE NOT BLIND!

BATS ARE VERY SOCIABLE ANIMALS AND LIVE IN COLONIES

FOR MORE BAT FACTS: [WWW.BATS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.BATS.ORG.UK)



# NEW SERVICES THIS SPRING...

**INTEREST FREE CREDIT**  
for Eco Roof & Eco Wall  
**COMING SOON!**

## STONE ENGRAVING

Give your home a bespoke and elegant feel with stone engraving by our employee Shane, bring experience and a premium finish for a beautiful result. Just call Ploughcroft if you're considering an engraved stone house sign.

# **Ploughcroft**<sup>TM</sup>

*Energy efficient home improvements*

## GET IN TOUCH:



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