

Newsletter Edition 6  
Autumn/Winter 2015

Your complimentary copy,  
keep me to read at your  
leisure or pass to a friend

 **Ploughcroft**™  
*Energy efficient home improvements*

# PUTTING YOU FIRST THIS WINTER

The truth behind  
**PLANNING MYTHS**

**LIGHTING UP  
THE SKIES**  
With spectacular savings

**A COSY READ**  
to be enjoyed  
with our warming  
complimentary  
chocolate



# WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN/WINTER 2015 EDITION OF THE PLOUGHCROFT NEWSLETTER

We hope you've all enjoyed a fantastic summer. In this edition, I am over the moon to share with you the great things we've been doing here at Ploughcroft over the last few months. From winning awards for our work to saving the local community £'s in energy bills to our big new project to reroof the prestigious Piece Hall in Halifax, plus what's happening in our new Ploughcroft HQ.

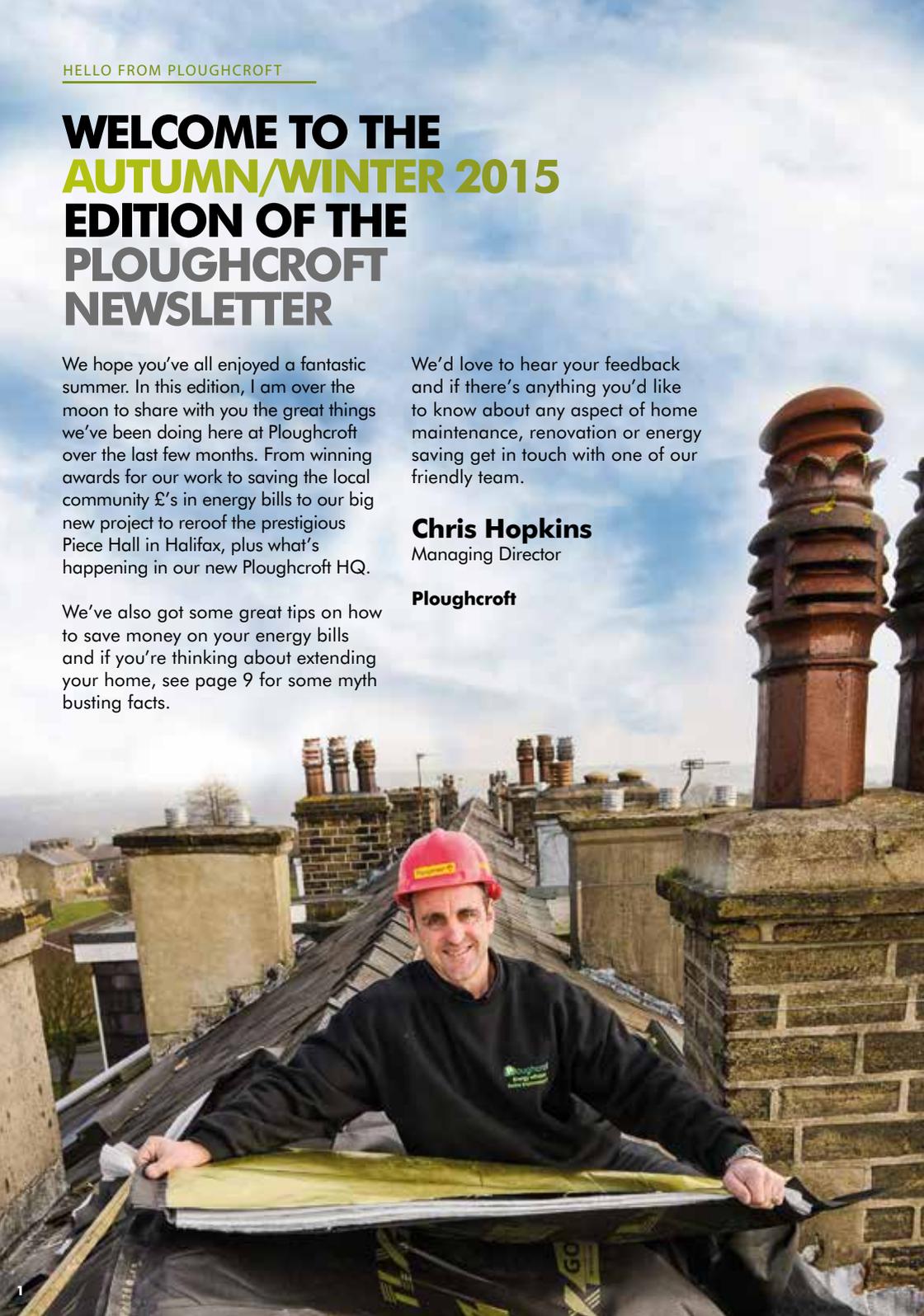
We've also got some great tips on how to save money on your energy bills and if you're thinking about extending your home, see page 9 for some myth busting facts.

We'd love to hear your feedback and if there's anything you'd like to know about any aspect of home maintenance, renovation or energy saving get in touch with one of our friendly team.

**Chris Hopkins**

Managing Director

**Ploughcroft**



## A NEW HOME FOR PLOUGHCROFT

We're delighted to announce that Ploughcroft will soon have a new home! We'll be moving into our new showroom this autumn.

Making big decisions on home improvements is no easy task, which is why we've created an inspiring place for you to visit.

Pop into our new showroom in Hipperholme, Halifax for a coffee and an informal chat with one of our expert team from October 2015.

**See you soon!**

Chris and the Ploughcroft team

**Whitehall Chambers  
Hipperholme  
Halifax  
HX3 8EN**



**COMING  
SOON!**



**Ploughcroft™**

## BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES... WINTER IS APPROACHING

With the cold winter month's approaching it's a good time to make sure you're doing all you can to minimise wasted heat and electricity. There are lots of little things you can do around the home to help bring your energy bills down. Here are our favourites from The Energy Saving Trust.

### YOU CAN SAVE:

- £30 a year just by turning your appliances off standby mode.
- £10 per person each year by spending one less minute in the shower every day.
- £25-£30 a year by DIY draught-proofing windows, doors and blocking cracks in floors and skirting boards.
- £85-£90 a year by turning the thermostat on the heating down by one degree.

At Ploughcroft we'd always recommend that you check your home is properly insulated before turning the heating up to make sure the heat you're paying for isn't literally going through the roof.

**Did you know that up to 50% of heat is lost through poorly insulated attics? You could save £500 a year by installing a Ploughcroft's Eco-Roof**

### DID YOU KNOW:

- Keeping the cold air out and the warm air in is the most logical way to save money on your heating bills.
- Around 33% of all the heat lost in an uninsulated home is through the walls and the colder the air is outside, the faster heat will escape. This will depend on the age of your property, for example, if your house was built after the 1920s it is likely to have cavity walls – this is where the external walls are made of two layers with a gap in between. Older houses are more likely to have solid walls requiring internal wall insulation.

If you are unsure, you can ask Ploughcroft for an inspection to find out.



Like us on facebook for more energy saving tips.



## AN ICE BOX CONSERVATORY COULD BECOME A PERFECT ENTERTAINING SPACE

**Do you have a traditional conservatory that is only suitable for using on overcast days in the Spring and Autumn? Many families invest in a conservatory believing it will become a welcome addition year round indoor space when the reality is they are stifling hot in summer and freezing cold in Winter.**

Here at Ploughcroft we have the perfect solution to regulate the temperature of conservatories year round. We now offer replacement roofs for any existing conservatories and are highly experienced in the delicate operation of working with glass structures. We'd be delighted to pop round and give you a quote. Just think - you could be hosting a fabulous festive party in the room that's normally shut off for winter.

## PLOUGHCROFT TAKES HOME GREAT AND GREEN AWARD!

We're delighted to be crowned the winner of the 'Great and Green' award at the Halifax Courier's Annual Community Spirit Awards for all of the hard work our team have done to make energy efficiency improvements in the local community.



The event took place on Thursday 9th July and was attended by many local businesses, charities and members of the community. The night aimed to celebrate all organisations and individuals that have worked hard to make the borough brilliant and recognised many of the unsung local heroes.

The glittering awards ceremony, hosted by Clare Frisby and held in partnership with the Community Foundation for Calderdale, was an enjoyable night for all and there were many deserved winners throughout the evening.

**Congratulations to all other winners and nominees, we're proud to be a part of such a fantastic community!**

# LIGHTING UP THE SKIES



We lit up the Yorkshire skies with a spectacular light show to celebrate Ploughcroft Eco-Roof saving the region a staggering £1 million in energy bills.

Since its launch in 2014 we have helped homeowners across the region save hundreds of pounds each year on their energy bills and, as of this month, the running total of cost savings has reached an incredible £1m.

The spectacle was visible for miles around, reaching parts of Brighouse, Huddersfield, Bradford and Hebden Bridge. The lights were also diverted away from the

tower to focus on historical buildings that will become Ploughcroft future projects, such as The Piece Hall.

The event was attended by many local residents, with others watching from nearby fields, homes and gardens. Chris Hopkins, managing director, said:

*"We are proud that we have been able to help homeowners across West Yorkshire make such dramatic energy savings, and that's why we decided to fund this event; helping not only celebrate this milestone, but spread awareness of the importance of energy efficiency."*



## MAKING HISTORY

As testament to our meticulous standards of conservation we are delighted to win a prestigious contract to restore the roof of The Piece Hall, Halifax.

The Piece Hall is the only surviving Cloth Hall in Britain, originally built to trade "pieces" of cloth in 1779. For over 230 years it has been at the heart of commercial, civic, and cultural life in the town so we're honoured to have the chance to work on such a historical landmark. We will restore the roof to its original glory and bring it into the twenty first century, in

addition there will be a three-storey extension added to join the Square Chapel and spire.

As one of the only heritage roofing experts in the region with an unrivalled track record, we have been trusted to restore this protected Grade 1 listed building.

The new Piece Hall will feature a Heritage Interpretation Centre where visitors will be able to learn about the history of the building. There will also be independent shops, cafés and restaurants surrounding the newly landscaped courtyard area.

The project is being funded by lottery funding and Calderdale Council. The project is also being overseen by the Piece Hall Trust.

The Piece Hall is scheduled reopening in Spring 2016, keep an eye out for photos of the restoration project in future editions.

# WELCOME

## ...TO OUR NEW APPRENTICES!

We have recently taken on four new apprentices and thanks to winning The Piece Hall contract we are able to offer an extra apprenticeship scheme in heritage slating and lead work.

This will give young apprentices from around the local area a chance to learn about this specialised roofing work to equip them for their career ahead.

Oliver Stock, aged 20, from Brighouse, is a newly hired apprentice at Ploughcroft, one of only a few from the Yorkshire area attending this apprenticeship which is on block release to the Lead Sheet Association in Kent. He commented:



### Oliver Stock

Oliver is the budding singer songwriter of the group who plays guitar and most famously has produced a song with a gospel group in Chicago. Listen out for him singing from the rooftops!

"I've been working at Ploughcroft as an apprentice for six months and I am loving learning about the trade while on the job. Hearing the news that we will be working on such a well-known local landmark is really exciting and I'm looking forward to getting stuck in and learning all about the specialist area of heritage slating and lead work."

## Nurturing young talent

Apprenticeships form an essential part of the company at Ploughcroft. As we build for the future it's important to have new talent coming through the business who are trained to the highest standards of competency and possess the Ploughcroft work ethic.

That's why all our apprentices undergo a rigorous interview and training programme. Successful candidates embark on a unique two year Eco-Roof apprenticeship to achieve an NVQ Level 2 Diploma in Roof Slating and Tiling. This is supported by practical on the job training on energy efficiency measures, Eco-Roof and Eco-Wall products - making it the only apprenticeship of its type in the country.

"Ploughcroft has experienced significant growth in recent months and we're thrilled to be expanding and creating new jobs in the local community. By nurturing grass roots talent, and providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary, we can ensure that our industry continues to grow and develop, ready to face the challenges of the future."

Chris Hopkins, Managing Director

## Meet the apprentices

Our new team of apprentices are heading for great heights and not just in the construction industry! Read about them here...



### Josh Hovell

Not only is Josh a Leeds supporter but he also has the necessary ball skills to earn a six week trial at Elland Road. In his spare time he can be found playing for Guiseley Amateur Football Club.



### Charlie Oakes

Another sporting protégé, Charlie plays hockey for Middlesborough and has represented England U17's. In October, he'll be at the U20's world championships in Spain playing for England. Good luck Charlie!



### Dan Safa

Dan brings the fighting spirit to the team - in his free time he is a keen boxer for Hebden Bridge Boxing Club. We're excited to watch him fight this autumn in the Yorkshire Novice Championships.



# PLANNING MYTHS – HOME EXTENSIONS DON'T ALWAYS NEED PLANNING PERMISSION

We often hear that the prospect of gaining planning permission is enough to put people off extending their home and getting the additional space they require. What many people don't realise is that there are a set of rules that can qualify you to extend your home without the need to speak with the planning office. If you're considering a side or rear extension, read on to find out what those rules are.

### You don't need planning permission if:

- The extension is less than 50% of the total area of land of the original house. The definition of 'original house' is the house as it was first built, or as it stood, if it was built pre 1 July 1948. You must include all sheds and outbuildings in this 50% limit.
- Extensions must be within the existing house principal elevation and side elevation.
- The materials used in the exterior work match the appearance of the existing house, not including conservatories.
- Single storey side extensions can be up to half the width of the original house and up to four metres high.
- Extensions within two metres of a boundary can have a maximum height of three metres
- Single storey rear extensions can be up to three metres out from the back of the property for attached houses and up to four metres for detached properties. They can have a maximum height of four metres.
- For two storey extensions, the roof pitch should match the existing house as much as possible.

If this sounds like you and you'd like to investigate further, call our friendly team who would be happy to talk through your ideas.

## NOMINATED FOR BUILDING EXCELLENCE

For our recent project to sympathetically restore 14-16 Corporation Street, Sowerby Bridge, the last two remaining heritage dwellings on a historic street, which also became the region's first ever eco homes.

Calderdale Council were so impressed with our work that they nominated us for a sustainability LABC Building Excellence Award. Although we did not win the overall award, we were delighted to find that we had finished in the top four out of a staggering 8,000 entries – a definite achievement in itself!

The homes were featured in the Winter 2014 edition and were opened by Lord Mayor Patricia Allen, during our Eco-Homes Open Day back in January.



## AT PLOUGHCROFT WE PUT YOU FIRST

Keeping up to the maintenance of your property is a costly matter and as a pioneer for all things eco we believe it is important to help our customers keep their homes in the best condition.

That's why we're over the moon to launch our 0% interest free credit scheme to Ploughcroft customers. This can help you budget for the home improvements you desire over a longer repayment plan, and it won't cost you a penny extra.

This offer is available for all eco insulation products or for replacement conservatory roofs.

### Call us for more information.

Ploughcroft Ltd acts as a credit intermediary and only offers credit products from Pay4Later Ltd and Secure trust Bank Plc. Credit provided subject to age and status.

## THE END OF THE GREEN DEAL

The Government has announced that there will be no further funding to **The Green Deal**, they state this is 'to protect taxpayers' and are now considering a 'new, value for money' approach. As we have reported previously, the scheme has seen low take up rates and the Government have expressed concerns about the standards across the industry.

# SAVING CHURCH ROOFS ACROSS YORKSHIRE



Over the past few months we have been busy launching a campaign to help save the region's historical churches, making it easier for them to access a potential £40m in little-known funding for restoration work.

The campaign comes on the back of the government extending its 'Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund', where listed churches across the UK can access special funding to make roof repairs up to the value of £100,000.

We believe it is important to properly inform communities, local churches and places of worship about how to apply for this funding. Many churches are not aware that the funding exists and we are urging churches to spread the word in order to ensure their church is not left to ruin.



## GET IN TOUCH:



**Visit us online:**  
[www.ploughcroft.co.uk](http://www.ploughcroft.co.uk)



**Email:**  
[info@ploughcroft.co.uk](mailto:info@ploughcroft.co.uk)



**Telephone:**  
01422 202 919



**Follow us on twitter:**  
[@ploughcroft](https://twitter.com/ploughcroft)



**Like us on facebook:**  
[/ploughcroft](https://facebook.com/ploughcroft)



**Address:**  
Ploughcroft Ltd,  
Whitehall Chambers,  
Halifax Road,  
Hipperholme,  
Halifax,  
West Yorkshire  
HX3 8EN



Roofing



Building & Renovations



Insulation



Green Deal



Assessment & Surveys

