

PRESS RELEASE

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CONSTRUCTIONSKILLS SUPPORTS ACCOLADES FOR OXFORD APPRENTICES

Nine young Oxford apprentices have been recognised at the Oxfordshire Construction Training Group's 'Apprentice of the Year Awards', which were held at Bicester Country Club last week.

Designed to celebrate the exceptional achievements of local construction trainees, the ceremony rewarded hard work and dedication across disciplines including bricklaying, carpentry, decorating and bench joinery. The six runners-up all received commendations, with Jack Robson winning the Merit Award, Phillip Weatherall picking up the NVQ Level 2 Award and Peter Copeland receiving the NVQ Level 3 Award.

Some 43 Oxfordshire construction companies - along with Oxford & Cherwell Valley College, Business Link and other specialist Associate organisations - make up the Training Group; although now independent, it receives funding, advice and support from the construction industry's Sector Skills Council, ConstructionSkills.

NVQ Level 2 winner, Phillip Weatherall – who attends Oxford & Cherwell Valley College - is an apprentice carpenter with W G Carter, based in Appleton. His employer, Roger Carter, commented: "We have been delighted and very impressed with the progress Phillip has made and over the past two years he has matured into a fine young carpenter. He is completely dedicated to the construction industry and has worked incredibly hard to complete his work based evidence ahead of the scheduled time. "

Peter Copeland, also an apprentice carpenter studying at Oxford & Cherwell Valley College, received the NVQ Level 3 Award. His employer, Roger Pilcher from SYMM & Co. Limited of Oxford, enthused: "Peter is the third generation of the Copeland family to have worked with SYMM. He has been an exceptional apprentice and has been a great asset to SYMM throughout his training. It is a reflection on his ability that he is requested by site managers and contracts managers alike."

John Clark, Company Development Manager for ConstructionSkills South East commented: “There is a vast amount of young talent in the industry so it is fantastic to see trainees rewarded for their hard work and dedication. This annual event has once again been a huge success, which only serves to demonstrate the commitment local companies give to the training needs of the industry.”

The awards ceremony was also in support of 11 first year apprentices who received certificates to recognise their commitment to the industry.

Four Training Group Members sponsored the awards evening - Kingerlee Limited and SYMM & Co. Limited from Oxford, Morgan Ashurst plc from Banbury and Terranova Group (Training Division) based in Westcott.

To find out more about ConstructionSkills and the Training Group, visit www.cksills.org and www.theoctg.co.uk or call 023 8062 3806.

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Issued on behalf of ConstructionSkills South East by Trimedia.

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About ConstructionSkills

ConstructionSkills is the Sector Skills Council for construction, tasked by Government to ensure the UK's largest industry has the skilled workforce it requires. Working with Government, training providers and employers, it is responsible for ensuring that the industry has enough qualified new entrants and that the existing workforce is fully skilled and qualified, as well as for improving the performance of the industry and the companies within it.

For more information visit www.cskills.org