



Newsletter 2018

M A R C H

TTA EXTENDS WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The TTA is delighted to welcome a number of new members who have signed up to join the Association recently:

Robert Crook Wall & Floor Tiling

Tyne Wear Tiling & Building

Trimline Group

Target Tiles

Boss Contract Solutions

Emigres (UK) Ltd

Global Tile Agency

British Ceramic Tile

Walls & Floors

Local Heroes

Quality Freight Services

DPM Contractors

British Ceramic Tile sponsors the Tile Association Tiling Show



THE TILE ASSOCIATION

TILING SHOW

MAY 18th 2018 : SOLIHULL

SPONSORED BY **british ceramic tile**

British Ceramic Tile has joined forces with the TTA as event sponsor for The Tile Association Tiling Show. The support of BCT, who have also signed up as a Gold sponsor of the Awards for this year, is a further demonstration of the enthusiasm with which the industry has received the launch of The Tiling Show. This is now definitely an event which should not be missed by anyone involved in the tiling sector. The Tile Association Tiling Show will take place from 10am on Friday 18th May at The St Johns Hotel, Solihull, the same venue which will host the TTA Awards that evening.

The Show will host a wide-ranging selection of stands from leading companies in the tiling industry. All the Gold sponsors at the Awards will be represented – that's BAL, British Ceramic Tile, Instarmac, N&C Nicobond, Norcros Adhesives, Shackerley (Holdings) Group Ltd, Tilemaster Adhesives, Trimline Group and Walls and Floors. The Show has also been opened up to other leading companies from the industry. Confirmed exhibitors so far include: Network Tile Agents, Warmup, Kickstart Publications, Laticrete, Palace Chemicals, Aquacut, Dural, Intceram, ARDEX, Armatile, Jackson UK, Smart Marketing Works, Blue Print Ceramics, Lithofin, Emigres, Verona Stone Group and Mapei (UK) Ltd. It is expected that in this first year of the Show there will be at least 20 exhibitors present.

All those working in the tiling industry, as well as architects and specifiers, are welcome to attend - the Show is being promoted to all those who are participating in the Awards.

The Tile Association Tiling Show and the CPD Seminar Day open at 10am on Friday 18 May at The St Johns Hotel, Solihull. Both events are open to the trade only. For more information about either event or the TTA Awards, which are taking place in the evening, please email the TTA on awards@tile.org.uk or Tel: 0300 365 8453.

TTA Awards 2018 – Have you got your tickets yet?



With the largest-ever number of entries, from the most diverse range of entrants ever, the largest and most illustrious judging panel ever and the largest number of Gold sponsors ever, this looks like being a bumper year for the TTA Awards!

So one thing's for sure: if you're planning on attending - and why wouldn't you? – you should be ordering your tickets right now. The TTA Awards night tends to sell out most years, and this year that may be especially likely.

Get ready for a serious celebration of the very best that our industry can offer – the best products, the best work and, most importantly, the best people. But also get ready to kick back and enjoy some really great 1920s-themed entertainment. The Roaring Twenties were after all the decade that saw the origins of cabaret as an art form.

Tables of ten for the Gala Awards Dinner cost £1,575 + VAT, while individual tickets are priced at £175 + VAT. Limited rooms are available at the St Johns, please call 0121 712 7601 and mention The Tile Association when booking. Alternative accommodation is available at the Premier Inn, Crowne Plaza and Ramada hotels nearby.

AWARDS 2018 ROARING TWENTIES AWARDS 2018 ROARING TWENTIES

Local heroes joins TTA and brings new benefits for fixer members

Local Heroes, the innovative online service that connects tradespeople with potential customers, are now members of the TTA. Representing the whole tiling sector, the TTA is now able to put its stamp of authority and credibility on the tile fixing offer which is available through the Local Heroes platform.

It also means that all TTA fixer members are now pre-approved to join Local Heroes, so will be fast tracked through the application process and are entitled to three commission-free jobs when they sign up.

At a time when increasing numbers of people are looking online to find tradespeople, including tile fixers, Local Heroes is providing an innovative service in this sector. The organisation operates a platform which connects trusted tradespeople with customers who are looking for high quality work to be carried out. The service is backed by a 12-month guarantee from British Gas, the company which originally launched the Local Heroes initiative.

From the fixer's point of view there are no joining fees or subscriptions and no obligation to accept particular jobs; Local Heroes will provide additional opportunities to those who are looking for extra work or to grow their business.

The platform works in the following way:

- **Signed-up fixers will receive relevant job notifications in their area on their phone and they accept the jobs they want;**
- **The fixers assess the work and provide a quote to the customer through the Local Heroes platform;**
- **They carry out the work and the customer pays online by card or Paypal;**
- **Local Heroes take a percentage commission of the job value and the fixer is paid within 7-10 days.**

To sign up to Local Heroes today, go to localheroes.com/join.

Head of Local Heroes Mat Moakes says: "We're really excited to be launching new trades on to the Local Heroes platform this year and we think that TTA members are a perfect fit to provide the best quality of work and service for customers."

The two organisations will now be sharing best practice and working together to ensure more customers benefit from the high quality of work that TTA members provide. Local Heroes will benefit from the ability to work with fixers who have already been vetted and inspected by the TTA.

For TTA members, the link with Local Heroes provides further profile for their business and the opportunity to reach tech savvy customers who now default to looking online for trusted tradespeople.



TTA works with the industry to assist fixers in gaining their CSCS cards



CITB funding secured by the TTA will assist fixers to gain their CSCS cards. The TTA is now looking to recruit NVQ assessors to help take advantage of this opportunity to upskill the construction industry.

This is in accordance with the Government's aim to achieve a fully qualified workforce by 2020, stimulating the market by providing a route to qualification for experienced operatives via on-site assessment. CSCS cards are required for all construction site workers no matter which trade.

The TTA hopes to assist those in our industry sector who have previously gained their CSCS cards via the Industry Accreditation route, as timeserved tilers. Since this route is no longer available and further card renewals may not always be accepted without the new qualifications, the TTA encourages those card holders to complete the EWPOR or OSAT route.

Experienced tilers who gained their CSCS cards via the industry Accreditation route can achieve an NVQ following just one day's assessment of their work on site.

The assessor will also need all other fixers to provide supporting evidence of the candidate's knowledge, which can be gathered verbally and through supporting documentation. Tilers who go down this route can carry on working, whilst being assessed to NVQ L2.

Having independent NVQ assessors will help the TTA strengthen its training activities and make it easier for companies and independent fixers to access the training support they need, and the aim is that eight new NVQ assessors will be trained over the next 18 months.

"The TTA has worked hard to secure this funding for our industry," says Bob Howard MBE, chair of the Training Committee. "We are providing an opportunity for tilers to obtain the certifications that they need in order to keep working in the changing CSCS environment, and also playing our part in assisting Government in driving up skill levels within our industry and achieving a fully skilled workforce by 2020."

The training that is now on offer comprises a one-day course which can be carried out at either of BAL's Training Centres, which are located in Stoke-on-Trent and Bristol. Assessors can also visit customers on-site, although there would be an additional charge for this.

The training costs £500 for TTA members and £600 for non-TTA members. Both are subject to a £68 registration fee. Independent fixers are entitled to claim a £100 refund if they join the TTA.

The industry needs more Floor & Wall Tiling NVQ Assessors for the future - funding is available to those interested in training as an Assessor - expressions of interest are encouraged. Please contact the TTA on support@tile.org.uk or by telephoning 0300 365 8453.

Progress continues towards the launch of Trailblazer Apprenticeships

It is planned to have the Trailblazer Apprenticeship validated by the Institute for Apprenticeships within the next few months, so that it is in place for the start of the new academic year in September. The framework for the end point assessment was approved last year.

All 16 TTA member colleges are invited to take part in the process. Special thanks to Southern Regional College (Northern Ireland), Leeds College and South & City College Birmingham, who have been enthusiastically involved in this work so far.

The TTA is seeking feedback from contractors, regarding what they want to see included in the apprenticeship, whether it is course content, health & safety, theory of tiling or some other area.

According to Bob Howard MBE, chairman of the TTA Training Committee: "This is part of the TTA's contribution to providing a qualified workforce for the future and it will also provide a recognised syllabus and qualification for all those who are new to our industry or who need to increase their skill levels."



Improved Data Protection is coming



Data protection regulations are changing! Companies, and individual traders who hold customer data, need to do the work now to make sure that they comply by May 2018.

It is now 27 years since the original Data Protection Act came into law. That was considerably before the internet became the enormous part of all our lives and of everyday business activities that it is today. It is therefore considered that the original regulations are no longer fit for purpose. The TTA is taking a lead on ensuring that member companies

and individuals are equipped to make any necessary changes to the way they collect, handle and store customer and employee data.

One of the key requirements is that organisations can no longer make assumptions about how individuals want their data to be dealt with. For instance, pre-ticked opt-in boxes are not considered valid methods of consent. Individuals must now pro-actively state their agreement for their data to be held and used in particular ways. In many cases, this will require organisations to contact customers and others on any mailing lists that they hold to secure their active assent for you to hold and use their data.

Full information on GDPR and what organisations should be doing now is to be found on the Information Commissioner's website www.ico.org.uk

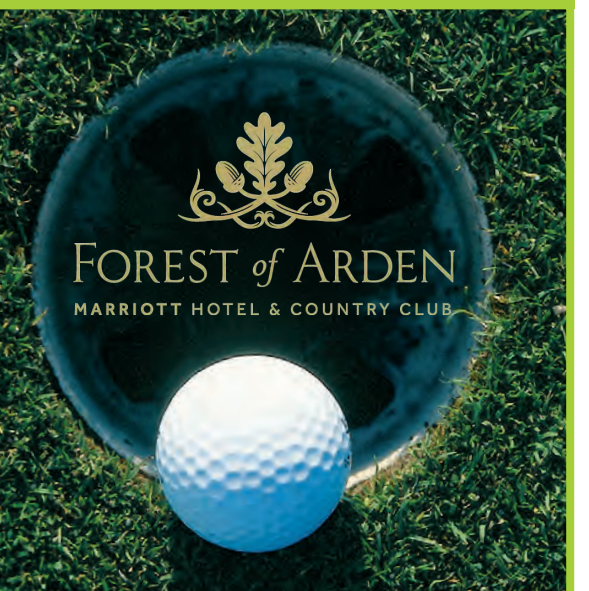
GET READY FOR THE TTA AWARDS WITH A ROUND OF GOLF!

What better way of getting set for the TTA Awards than to take part in a vigorous round of golf at The Marriott Forest of Arden Golf & Country Club, Warwickshire? This year's TTA Golf Day will take place on Friday 18th May, with the Awards themselves being presented that evening.

The Golf Day will be an excellent opportunity to meet up with industry colleagues for 18 holes of golf ahead of the big evening festivities. Over the years this course has played host to seven English Opens and five British Masters. Colin Montgomery, Thomas Bjorn and Darren Clarke have been amongst the illustrious winners here. And it is just 20 minutes away from the Awards venue.

The Golf Day starts at 9am for tea, coffee and bacon butties, with first tee at 10.27am. There will be prizes for Nearest to the Pin and Longest Drive, as well as individual prizes and the TTA Trophy.

Email info@tile.org.uk to book places for the golf day, which are excellent value at £70 per person (inc. VAT). Places are limited, so book early to guarantee your spot.



CPD presentations appeal to Architects and Specifiers

The Tile Association's full day of CPD presentations is already generating much interest amongst architects and specifiers. This event will give them an opportunity to update their CPD credentials in the tiling sector, by attending one or more of the 45 minute RIBA-accredited seminars on offer.

There will be six separate sessions held throughout the day at The St Johns Hotel, Solihull, venue for the TTA Awards that evening. The first seminar will take place at 10am.

The range of material to be presented will be both wide and highly relevant, ranging from wetrooms to underfloor heating and from anhydrite screeds to façade systems. These topics cover a number of the key challenges which currently face architects and product specifiers in today's construction market. The presenting companies and the subjects of their presentations are as follows:



**External Tiling
Solutions for
Balconies and
Terraces**



**SureClad
Ventilated
Façade Systems**



**Tiling to
Anhydrite
Screeds**



**Tiling to
Underfloor
Heating Systems**



**Creating a
Watertight
Wetroom**



**The Complete
Tile Backerboard
System**

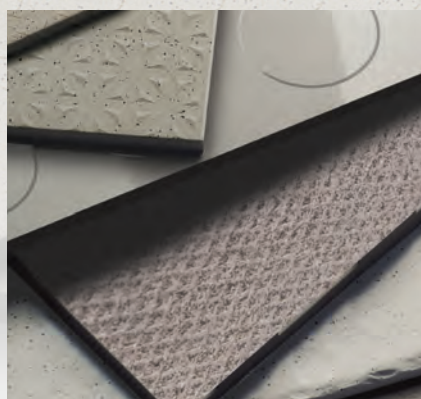
Walls and Floors
Leading Tile Specialists

**Slip Resistance
Considerations
when Specifying
Floor Tiling**

"The TTA has a very clear commitment to supporting the CPD work of its members and promoting continuous professional development throughout the industry as a whole," says Paul Luff, TTA chairman. "This is why in 2017 we attained RIBA accreditation for the whole body of TTA technical publications, which are now available to registered architects and specifiers for free download from the TTA website. Our planned CPD sessions at the Awards take this work on to the next stage and will help make RIBA-accredited CPD information on tiling available to a wider audience of specifiers."

For more information about the CPD sessions at the TTA Awards please contact the TTA directly on 0300 365 8453 or email awards@tile.org.uk

TTA Slip Testing Facility now available for members' use



The TTA's slip resistance testing facility for tiles is located at the Association's head office in Stone, Staffordshire.

The facility will be of particular interest to manufacturers and distributors who are putting new ceramic tile products on to the market.

Following extensive research into the subject by the TTA's technical Committee, the TTA equipment uses the Pendulum Test Method. Along with the BSI and the UK Slip Resistance Group, the TTA has been arguing for the adoption of the Pendulum test method into the new international Standard ISO TC189 WG10.

This technique is already favoured in the UK and is the most suitable for testing individual tiles in an economical fashion.

It is also the only EU harmonized test method for testing slip resistance of natural stone surfaces, and is already used in 49 countries around the world. It is also incorporated into more than 20 test standards globally.

Users of the new TTA facility can therefore be confident that they are buying into a credible testing method, which is widely recognised and stands every chance of being incorporated into a new ISO standard. They should however be aware that usage of the TTA facility in Stone is currently to provide an indication only, and a claim of independent testing which can be used in packaging and marketing. The tests are not currently validated by the UK Accreditation Service.

Testing is available to TTA members only and costs £120 + VAT per test.

Further background information on this subject is available in the TTA Technical Document entitled Slip Resistance of Hard Flooring.



If we may be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address below or email support@tile.org.uk