



The Lead Sheet Association



# Spotlight on Young Leadworker of the Year 2013

The Lead Sheet Association runs the Young Leadworker of the Year competition annually, to show its support in encouraging the next generation of leadworkers and to recognise those that are demonstrating great skill at a young age.

To get to the final, entrants had to submit evidence of their past projects showcasing their leadworking skills and from there, the judges invited selected candidates to take part in a practical assessment over two days at the LSA training centre in Kent.

Here they were asked to create pieces of leadwork on simulated roofrigs. The four judges, drawn from the Lead Sheet Association and the Lead Contractors Association, were incredibly impressed by the excellent standard of work produced by all candidates this year. This case study profiles the background of the winner, Harry Blain and the two runners-up, Nathan Cumming and Ryan Fisher.

## Runner-up

**Nathan Cumming, 23 year old from Moray, Scotland**

Nathan began his plumbing career with his family firm, under the guidance of his father. He undertook his apprenticeship at Moray College, achieving a SVQ Level 3 in Plumbing.

Nathan has taken part in many competitions across the United Kingdom over the years to demonstrate his aptitude. He was placed first in the leadwork category, and second overall, in the Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation (SNIPEF) competition, and was awarded a Gold Medal at the National SkillPlumb competition in Birmingham.

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## Winner

**Harry Blain, 25 year old from Leicestershire**

Harry began an apprenticeship in leadwork after leaving school at 16, and he has recently completed a City and Guilds course in leadwork at the LSA's training centre. He is now working through module 5 of the City and Guilds leadwork course and plans to take the hard metal course upon completion to increase his range of roof working skills.

Harry was inspired towards building and construction work by his father, who is a property developer and with whom Harry worked from a very young age.

Of the projects Harry has completed, he is most proud of one where he constructed a large lead domed roof, which had a lantern with another smaller dome on top of it. He is looking forward to the next part of his heritage course as it will focus on the process of lead casting, as he enjoys producing ornate lead features and he hopes to specialise in this more in the future.

In choosing the winner of the Young Leadworker of the Year competition, the judges were particularly impressed with Harry's methodical approach and meticulous attention to detail, producing the neatest and most technically correct leadwork.

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Nathan also performed a sheet lead demonstration at SkillBuild Northern Ireland.

Although the majority of Nathan's lead work has been on domestic properties, he has also produced some impressive decorative pieces, including domes and finials, and one of his more unusual projects included the construction of a pair of lead suitcases, which involved some intricate lead burning, a skill that Nathan particularly enjoys.

### Runner-up

Ryan Fisher, 22 year old from Kent

Ryan started working with lead straight from school, working with his father. He successfully completed an On Site Assessment Training (OSAT) QCF Level 2 course this year, delivered by the Lead Sheet Association, and is planning to progress onto Heritage Level 3 in the near future.

One of the most prestigious projects that Ryan has worked upon was Lincoln's Inn in central London. Working with his father, the works consisted of replacing the lower lead roof to the chapel. Ryan enjoyed the challenge of installing the new lead exactly how it was originally installed, which included the intricate design of the stone walls, roof layout and working at different levels. They were then asked to work on the pitched wood core roof of the library, including several gulleys at the top.

Again, some complicated details were involved, around the stone walls, spiral stair wells and internal outlets, and Ryan very much enjoyed the experience and increasing his knowledge of working with lead in a wide variety of applications.



### Lead Sheet Association

Unit 10, Archers Park, Branbridges Road,  
East Peckham, Kent TN12 5HP

T: 01622 872432

F: 01622 871649

E: [info@leadsheet.co.uk](mailto:info@leadsheet.co.uk)

[www.leadsheet.co.uk](http://www.leadsheet.co.uk)

[www.twitter.com/leadsheetassoc](https://www.twitter.com/leadsheetassoc)



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