

CORNISH LIME COMPANY LTD

Is pleased to announce a one day tutorial and demonstration by renowned plasterer Jeff Orton:

Date: 4th September 2015

Venue: Cornish Lime Co, Brims Park, Old Callywith Road, Bodmin



The day will be geared towards that of a tutorial with Jeff demonstrating various aspects of the craft he has spent his lifetime learning and practicing so passionately. On the day he will demonstrate various aspects of his craft including lime plaster in three coat work, with the emphasis on the “setting coat” (the finish). Also decorative plasterwork including running moulds. It is our intention to allow some participation throughout the demonstrations with opportunity to fully discuss the craft with Jeff.



Given the nature of the works we will be limiting the number of delegates attending to a maximum of 12 delegates.

The cost for the day including lunch and all course hand-outs will be **£95.00 + VAT**

Please take a look at Jeff's CV and the extract from the SPAB website to gain a better understanding of such an artisan as Jeff's in what is a true craft skill.

For further information please contact the Cornish Lime Company Ltd on 01208 79779

QUEEN MOTHER MEMORIAL MEDAL FOR MASTER PLASTERER JEFF ORTON

Master plasterer Jeff Orton is the second person ever to receive SPAB's (The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) prestigious Queen Mother Memorial Medal to recognise outstanding and conspicuous contribution to heritage crafts.

Mr Orton received the specially created silver medal at SPAB's ceremony in Canterbury for the Society's 2010 William Morris Craft Fellows. The presentation was made by the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, The Very Reverend Robert Willis.

Jeff says. "I was very pleased to receive the award and it's made me more determined than ever to pass my on skills. I feel as if I've only just begun and in the next few years I'll do whatever I can to further people's knowledge of traditional plasterwork. I just wish I had 500 years ahead of me to achieve it. I am also determined to enthuse young people and show them that working on old buildings can be a rewarding career. Far from sitting in front of a computer screen, the sheer job satisfaction of getting out there and working on site with your hands is something really important to pass on."

A highly skilled craftsman, Mr Orton is not only a master plasterer, but also a stuccoist specialising in traditional plasterwork repair. His long and varied career has seen him bring his expertise to significant historic buildings including, Hardwick Hall, Haddon Hall, Calke Abbey, Apethorpe Hall, Belton House, Shugborough Hall, Warwick Castle, Kedleston Hall and Waddesdon Manor – to name but a few.

A committed SPAB member, Mr Orton has given numerous demonstrations and lectures for the Society as well as for organisations including The National Trust, English Heritage, Building Limes Forum, York University, The Weald & Downland Open Air Museum and West Dean College. He has also been actively involved with the National Heritage Training Group, part of Construction Skills.

In addition he has taken the message of good craftsmanship and sensitive repair even further afield. At the beginning of 2009 he visited the American College of the Building Arts in Charleston, South Carolina and also worked at a training project on the remote island of St Helena in the South Atlantic with his son Henry.

Mr Orton is a freeman of the Worshipful Company of Plasterers and a member and past chairman of the Plasterers Craft Guild, which was established to pursue the ideal of craft excellence within the plastering trade through education and the ongoing development skills in the industry.

Following a fall from a scaffold in 2005, he has concentrated on passing his skills on to the next generation of skilled craft professionals, encouraging a better understanding of traditional plastering skills through lectures, demonstrations and training sessions – all undertaken on a voluntary basis.

Philip Venning, SPAB's Secretary says: "Jeff has been a true inspiration to the dozens of young craftsmen, architects, and other building professionals who have learned from him on SPAB training courses. He lives and breathes the very best of traditional lime plastering, which sadly so few practise today."

JEFF ORTON C.R.P. A.P.C. M.P.C.G.

MASTER PLASTERER / STUCCOIST. TRADITIONAL PLASTERWORK, REPAIR, RESTORATION & CONSULTATION

Spring 2014



Jeff Orton served a full plastering apprenticeship from 1963–1968 with a traditional family firm, and gained a "First Class" in the Craft level City and Guilds, followed by a "Distinction" in the Advanced Craft City and Guilds Final Examination in Plasterwork. He is registered with the Worshipful Company of Plasterers (CRP) of which he is a freeman, and is also an Associate of the Plasterers Company (APC) who now publish a Directory of skilled Plasterers. In 1981 he attended the San Servolo Architectural Conservation Course for Craftsmen in Venice, achieving the grade "Excellent" in the final examination. This European Centre is now situated in the small city of Thiene, which is north of Vicenza, he has completed six annual weeks training for the students there. He is a member and past chairman of the Plasterers Craft Guild, which was established over 60 years ago, to pursue the ideal of craft excellence within the plastering trade; through education and the ongoing development of skills in the industry. He is also a member of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), who towards the end of 2010 awarded him The William Morris Craft Fellowship 'Queen Mother Memorial Medal' For Conspicuous Service To The Crafts. In addition he is a committee member of the Building Limes Forum.

From 1987 until early 2005, he worked with Trumpers Ltd, of Birmingham, and in 1993/94 for St Blaise Ltd, of Dorset, repairing and reinstating plasterwork in historic buildings, for The National Trust, English Heritage etc, as well as for private clients.

In the last few years he has given demonstrations for the National Trust, English Heritage, Building Limes Forum, the S.P.A.B., York University etc, and annually gives demonstrations and lectures at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum and West Dean College, both in Sussex. Also he has been involved with the National Heritage Training Group, part of Construction Skills. At the beginning of 2009 he paid a visit to the American College of the Building Arts in Charleston, South Carolina and towards the end of 2009, along with his son Henry, was involved in a training project on the island of St Helena in the South Atlantic.

Unfortunately, in late October 2005 he had a bad fall from a scaffold and has not been able to work since then. But he is still committed to encouraging a better understanding of traditional plastering skills through lectures, demonstrations, training, etc all on a voluntary basis.

Buildings worked on over the years include:

Buckinghamshire: Waddesdon Manor, Stowe School.

Derbyshire: Hardwick Hall, Haddon Hall, Kedleston Hall, Calke Abbey.

Gloucestershire: East Banqueting House, Chipping Campden.

Leicestershire & Rutland: Leicester Guildhall, Quorn Hall, Oakham Castle.

Lincolnshire: Lincoln Crown Courts, Belton House, Stoke Rochford Hall.

Northamptonshire: Canons Ashby, Kelmarsh Hall, Apethorpe Hall.

Staffordshire: Ingestre Hall, Shugborough Hall.

Warwickshire: Warwick Castle, Stoneleigh Abbey,

West Midlands: Birmingham Town Hall, The Back to Backs (N.T.).

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In 2012 Jeff had a busy time trying to pass on the skills of the past in various training projects. At the end of October he was involved along with his son Henry, in the Princes Foundation course on a new summer house in the walled garden at Dumfries House, Scotland.

On November 1st Jeff received the 'Lifetime Contribution to Training Award' at the annual training awards ceremony given by The Worshipful Company of Plaisterers at their livery hall in London.

From the 6th to the 19th November again with his son Henry, they were in the U.S.A. First a short visit to the 'The American College of the Building Arts' in Charleston, South Carolina, for three days training for the students there, organised by the Dean of the college Simeon Warren. Then on to Savannah in Georgia, which was the main reason for the visit. Organised by Stephen Hartley, head of the preservation department at Savannah Technical College, they had ten students who learnt traditional plastering skills from Jeff and Henry.

This was part of the visiting artisan series which the college is running.



August 2013 marked a significant step in the involvement of Jeff Orton, in the craft of plastering. That month saw the completion of his first fifty years dedication to this ancient profession.

He started his next half century by visiting and taking part in trial samples for the proposed re-rendering of 'Chesterwood' Stockbridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A., the summer studio and house of Daniel Chester French, (1850-1931) America's foremost public sculptor. It is now owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, America's leading conservation body.