

## ISSUE 374 March/April 2021

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## **Building & Construction Review**

# Starting your business safely, every day

## StartSafe

Do you need to carry out site inspections, pre-use inspections on plant and equipment or just need to gather data on the go? Then look no further than StartSafe.

StartSafe provides a live, paperless, minimal touchpoint tool increasing productivity by identifying issues and risks in a simple and quick format. The software provides full audit checks on any aspect of a business, overseen by an interactive dashboard. This gives managers (from SMEs to PLCs) a complete and immediate overview of issues, the ability to confirm checks have been undertaken and, ultimately, confidence that employees and business processes are operating safely and effectively.

Health and safety checks become part of the daily process flow with an easy to use, instant reporting tool that reduces administration requirements and streamlines issues to be flagged instantly without the need for a paper audit trail. Already equipped with a solid foundation of auditing expertise, ongoing development has introduced new features including an offline working mode, geolocating, timed audits, dynamic template builder and exception reporting.

Allowing you to create your own work rules, the Exception Reporting tool can automatically warn a user that a specific fault has occurred, saving the issue as an open fault until it has been resolved. Open faults are collated and easily viewed enabling you to manage resolutions.

The enhanced Dynamic Template Builder with its conditional logic features allows you to tailor the software to your exact requirements from the simplicity of creating yes/no questions to completing a full risk assessment on the go.

The diverse and flexible StartSafe system will allow you to create-inspect-report-analyse what you need through the intuitive and user-friendly system. Our clients include schools, medical facilities, manufacturing sites, airports, retail and advertising agencies – showing just how versatile the software can be. Get in touch on 0330 223 6260 to discuss how we can help take your business to the next level of auditing, quality control and compliance.

#### T 0330 223 6260 adambreathwick@startsafe.tech



# NC

Nationwide Louvre Company

Nationwide Louvre Company for high quality aluminium Louvres, Louvred Doors, Louvred Plant Screens, Acoustic louvres, Aluminium & Timber Brise Soleil / Solar Shading manufactured in our factories in Aldridge in the West Midlands. Nationwide Louvre Company offers a full supply and installation service to its customers throughout the UK and have carried out a number of projects in the

channel isles and Europe.

The business has over 40 years of experience in supplying and installing high quality products on residential, commercial and construction projects. Nationwide Louvre Company use in-house highly trained installation engineers with many years experience and specialise in louvred plant screening and Brise Soleil with a number of our projects having been recently submitted for design awards. Our Brise Soleil projects are backed up with computer simulation software to assess the effectiveness of our products in reducing the effects of solar gain on buildings.

Brise Soleil not only enhances the appearance of a building but if designed correctly will provide a much better living or working environment for the building's occupants, with the added benefit of reducing glare to help with computer work and will reduce the running costs of mechanical ventilation and air conditioning.

Contact T 01922 457204 sales@nlc-louvres.co.uk







See on page



There's no 'one-size-fits-all' at Tubosider. Whatever your project needs, our single store stormwater tank systems are designed to suit your discharge rate, return period, site dimensions and project budget.

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For all advertising and sales enquiries, please contact Sam Morton, Sales Manager: 0121 725 1587

## Sewage problems? Allerton is your answer



Allerton UK is a leading off mains drainage company, covering sales, servicing, commissioning and repairs of all types of septic tanks, sewage treatment plants, sewage pump stations and soakaways. Working across the East Midlands and beyond, Allerton boasts a team of dedicated and experienced workers, all trained with British Water to ensure they are in the best position to properly assess a situation and correct it.

Established in 1974 by Jon Allerton, the company was originally concerned with draining farmers' fields, after the government provided grants to farmers with the aim to get the country drained. Once this was completed in the late 1980s, Allerton needed a new direction, and so began its work in off mains drainage.

As well as its sewage treatment plants and sewage pump stations which are made on the premises, Allerton also makes the ConSept. This the treated water to the surface, disposing of the treated effluent is a lot better than other methods.

The ConSept uses the existing septic tank, removing the need to install a heavy plant or new tank, and it is quick to install to save time, money and disruption. The tank has no moving parts inside, and it maintains the water at the correct level, keeping your drains clear right up to the house. Moreover, it is manufactured using high grade composite materials and non-ferrous components, meaning the ConSept does not corrode, offering a long and troublefree life.



Installation inside your existing septic tank also means that the ConSept cannot be seen or heard, and the air blower remains outside the tank for easy maintenance. The equipment also has low maintenance costs, requiring servicing just once a year and desludging and emptying





converts septic tanks into sewage treatment plants, and can be fitted without excavations, apart from the shallow cable and air pipe trenches. This means customers can save around  $\pounds 3,000+VAT$  by avoiding excavators on site. What's more, because the ConSept lifts

once every two years. While the local desludger can empty the tank or sewage plant, Allerton will of course service and maintain all their own equipment and that all other manufactures units too, in fact servicing, repairs and surveys of sewage treatment plants is a major part of



their work. The final effluent is discharged into a watercourse or soakaway, and installation and commissioning by Allerton's British Water Accredited engineers is included in the package.

Not only does Allerton install high quality units, the company also focuses on continual service of the equipment. This means that units Allerton has made and installed, of which there are over 1,200, are all still working efficiently across the country. Indeed, Allerton often receives regular customer feedback which emphasises how happy they are with the service they have received.

"In particular, we make sure everything is explained to the customer from the beginning and throughout the process, and we always do what we say we will," said Jon Allerton, Director. "Minor problems are sorted out by engineers on site, and all the initial customer worries are dealt with in advance. We offer initial onsite advice, help with all paperwork such as planning and Environmental Agency permits, installation and ongoing servicing, including repairs. Every aspect of what we do is to please the customer.

"We used to manufacture our own sewage treatment plants, until the EU decided they



needed to be tested for two years in Germany. However, the experience we have of making a unit and then constantly improving it becomes second nature to everything we do. Now, we use WPL, one of the top two or three manufacturers of sewage plants, and they listen to us when we suggest improvements," Jon explained.

In line with its ongoing expansion, Allerton has been taking on more staff and training them all to British Water standards. "I'm 78 soon, and



the company has been recently restructured and is now Allerton Bradley Ltd. Jason Bradley has been a large shareholder for several years, and has worked for the company for most of his life. His knowledge of all things sewage is vast, and at 36, he ensures the company can look forward to another 50 years of good service, and pleasing people!"

Indeed, despite the current setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Allerton is continuing to expand, thanks to the real and immediate need of the company's services. Whether it's a school, hospital, factory or housing estate, Allerton's capabilities are helping people across the country save money, maintain their compliance with regulators, and ultimately protect the environment.

If you would like to find out more information on everything Allerton does, head to the website or get in touch using the contact details below.

T 0800 328 5492 / 01529 305 757 www.allertonuk.com



FORS

EARNED RECOGNITION

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# Go paperless with CheckedSafe

CheckedSafe, established in 2014 by co-Directors Gary Hawthorne and Darran Harris, was developed to provide simple and inexpensive compliance solutions that could be adapted for any industry. Now, CheckedSafe provides compliance services across several different platforms, notably commercial and plant hire vehicles, utilities, and many other service sectors that are monitored for compliance.



#### Overview

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- Each check is time tagged providing 100% proof that the checkhas been done and time CADVOT he manipulated

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As a SaaS platform, CheckedSafe has developed multiple apps and a web-based reporting system that is multi-functional and secure, offering organisations complete solutions to manage and protect their workforce as well as comply with legal and commercial requirements while reducing cost and liability. The system is also fully compliant with the regulatory bodies and has just achieved ISO 9001 and ISO 27001.

CheckedSafe has grown impressively over the years, from the beginning of an idea six years ago to now approaching 7,000,000 checks and 300,000,000 data points over 3,000 companies, including Kier, Amey, and Scottish Water, as well as being the preferred partner for Hitachi, Northgate and QBE.

"We are award-winning and innovative, and we are continuing to develop the product with new ideas," said Gary. "We've done well during the COVID-19 pandemic and we have made full use of online platforms like Zoom to deliver demos and meetings to our clients, both existing and new."

CheckedSafe's defect reporting, compliance management and fleet maintenance solution boasts a range of features. Compliant with DVSA, HSE and Border Force, as well as LOLER, PUWER and ADR, it allows for a quick and effective driver walk around with pre-use or first user checks. It also has the option for customised checks tailored to the user's requirements, and all reported data is available in real time and cannot be manipulated. What's more, there is a full audit trail with user interaction at each time.

For fleet management and maintenance, CheckedSafe offers scheduling, notifications and planning to enable 100% fleet compliance. The solution also provides a Full WorkShop

Management feature, as well as the ability to upload paper or carry out digital PMI checks.

CheckedSafe also uses the GPS on the driver's mobile device to pin point their location when they carry out the daily walk around check, and this map location is included in the resulting report. The system also has several DVSA recommended checklists, and all checks can be made bespoke for any vehicle or piece of equipment. What's more, checks can be carried out regardless of Wi-Fi connection of phone signal. The checks are stored on the device and uploaded to the CheckedSafe Compliance Management System (CMS) when the driver regains signal.

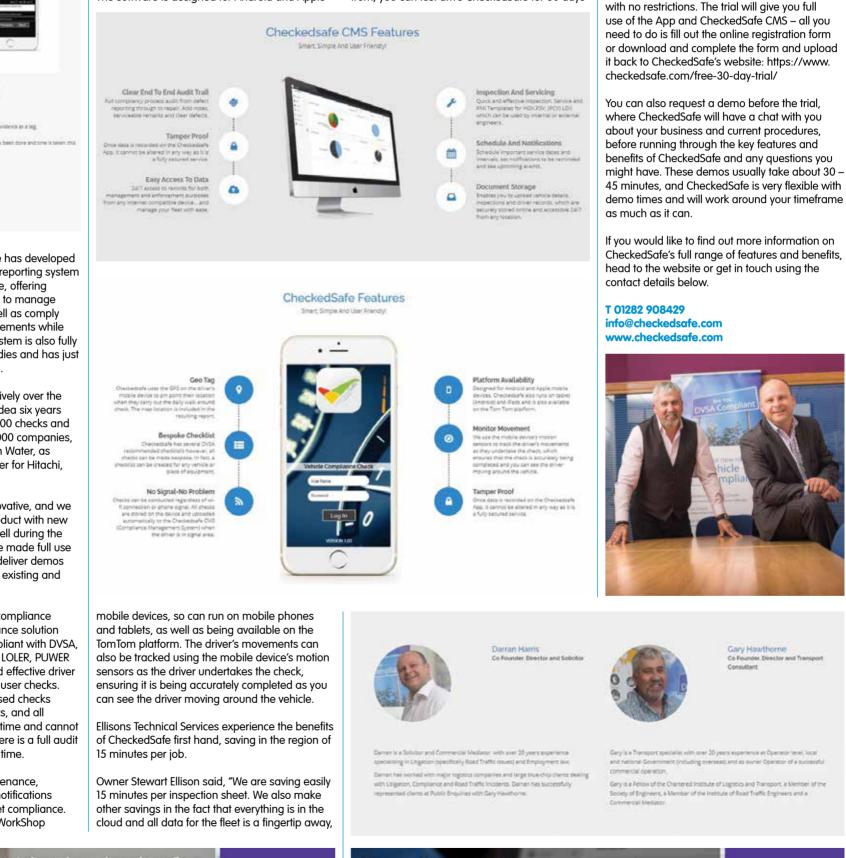
The software is designed for Android and Apple

so searching folders has gone and storage of information has gone – it's all in the cloud tagged directly to the vehicle.

"We've also used bespoke templates to suit the tasks, which is all DVSA compliant. The data is real-time and cannot be edited so you cannot fail to be compliant - CheckedSafe is definitely the product that has allowed me to streamline and grow my business.

"The system stores, schedules and notifies of all tasks required, which gives me and my client the ability to react quickly to the demands of busy operations and minimise downtime."

If this sounds like something you could benefit from, you can test drive CheckedSafe for 30 days







Dragonfly Woodwork sponsors this issue of BCR UK: see them on page 07

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#### **Commitment To Excellence**

## Step closer to your dream staircase

Stairkraft is the home of innovative, bespoke staircases created to complement a room and provide a unique design with a sleek flawless finish.

"We think that we stand out from the crowd because as a small business with over 40 years' experience in the industry, we offer a bespoke and personalised service with unmatched attention to detail. Our designers form a partnership with the clients to ensure their ideas and visions develop into the luxurious and unique custom-made staircases they expect." Pete Housley, Stairkraft Founder. Specialising in design, Stairkraft draws from a variety of influences inspired by contemporary designs which embrace traditional manufacturing skills, as well as the latest technology and engineering.

A few noteworthy developments for the company, Stairkraft has recently launched its innovative 'Faux Cantilever' stair system. Pete expanded, "This type of staircase creates an impressive floating illusion just like a standard cantilever stair but at a significantly lower cost and with less disruption, since it does not require a substantial support wall or any additional steel support frame."

Another notable project, Stairkraft is currently building its own purpose-built factory. A great development for the company the factory will enable Stairkraft to complete all of its products in-house, utilising the latest technology and engineering.

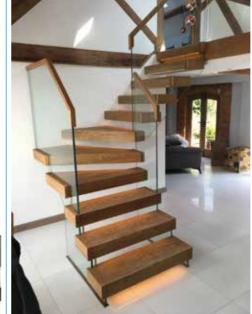
With industries all over the world recognising a significant impact on business during the on-going

COVID-19 Pandemic, Stairkraft is maintaining a positive outlook. Pete told us that, "During the lockdown, we felt the effects of a noticeable downturn in business due to projects being put on hold. However, as the lockdown has eased we have almost been able to resume business as normal alongside the implementation of the government's recommended guidelines. We are moving forward by following the government's advice to ensure our employees and clients' safety. All of our team members wear face masks and adhere to social distancing measures when on-site, so that we can carry out installations in a safe manner."

With an emphasis and passion for consistently developing innovative products, Stairkraft has continued to develop its products and has started



experimenting with using different materials. "Alongside our most popular materials such as oak and stainless steel, we have been further developing

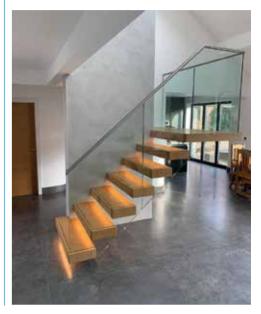


products and materials that will be incorporated in our Faux Cantilever stair system." Pete continued, "We have recently completed trials with solid surface acrylic materials that allow us to emulate stairs constructed with materials such as concrete, granite and marble. These materials are competitive in price, making these 'statement' staircases more accessible across the spectrum of home build and renovation. In addition, we are in the process of finalising the design of Faux Cantilever complete with glass treads and a glass balustrade to create a unique and spectacular staircase."

Indeed, it is clear to see that Stairkraft is looking forward to its future despite the impact of COVID-19 and has many new designs and developments in the pipeline.

For any more information, please see the details featured below.

T 0114 243 0259 www.stairkraft.co.uk



#### Outdoor Building Services Company of the Year 2020

## A green way to improve wellbeing in the workplace



Building and Construction Review is proud to announce that USP Creations Ltd, trading as Wonderwall has been chosen to receive our Outdoor Building Services Company of the Year 2020 award. Wonderwall was chosen for its outstanding range of innovative garden products which are helping to breathe life into places and spaces across the country.

Established in 2016 by Rick McKeever, Director of UPS Creations, Wonderwall produces high quality and unique decorative garden products. With a team that is always thinking outside of the box, creativity is woven into its company culture, focusing on designing and developing products which will transform environments inside and out. The team comprises passionate and knowledgeable horticultural specialists, combining their wealth of experience to produce some of the UK's most stunning features and living wall designs.



Rick said, "We pride ourselves on providing reasonable prices without sacrificing quality. We also look after our customers throughout the whole process; we offer on-site visits and provide our clients with consultancy and services across the whole journey."

With Wonderwall's vertical planters, the only limit is your imagination. Providing an excellent opportunity to create diverse and bespoke garden designs, they are perfect for producing living wall designs for a stunning internal or external feature. Not only are they aesthetically pleasing, but they can also help reduce your carbon footprint, save energy, improve air quality, and boost staff morale and wellbeing.

And the need for addressing mental health and stress concerns in the workplace has become even more noticeable during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rick added, "Mental health is even more relevant now than ever! Mental health and wellbeing are a big focus for us going forward, as well as the environmental benefits and increase in biodiversity a living wall can bring."

Wonderwall certainly has some exciting plans to look forward to next year, after a successful 12 months despite the challenges of COVID-19. Rick added, "We have been





heavily involved in the Ignition Project at Salford University, for which we were chosen as a partner. The project is looking at ways of implementing green infrastructure, how companies can reduce their carbon footprint, and become more environmentally friendly. We will also be working on a project with Bentley Motors at their manufacturing plant in Crewe."

Rick continued, "We've got some big projects coming up, so watch this space – not just in the UK but around the world! There is also a brand new product that we have been developing over the past years that will be launching in the new year. There are numerous different developments going on for green infrastructure, and we've got plenty more to offer the market in addition to living walls, such as green roofs and water retention products – there's lots of progress going on behind the Wonderwall!"

If you would like to find out more information, head to the website or get in touch using the details below.

rick@wonderwall-it.co.uk www.wonderwall.direct

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# **STORAGE PROBLEMS?**

We've heard it all. Better yet, we've solved it all.

Get in touch with our Business Services team today to book your **FREE** consultation.

The trusted experts in space utilisation.

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## Hadspen Quarry Ltd

Hadspen Quarry Ltd is a supplier of British Blue Lias Limestone used traditionally for walling, Hadspen Quarry has now launched a range of Blue Lias flooring, worktops, wall tiles, cobbles and much more. Excavated directly from one of their two quarries in Somerset, Hadspen Quarry is a family run business with a keen eye for attention to detail ensuring you get the quality needed for your project.

The versatile and luxurious qualities of British limestone means it can be combined with an array of other materials throughout any project to create spaces that are unique, organic and well designed.

## Stairkraft: Taking your Home to the Next Level

Transform your home with a luxurious and elegant floating stair

Stairkraft are pleased to announce the launch of their innovative Faux Cantilever Stair. Make your stairs a unique and individual feature, enhancing your home and adding value to your property.

They have developed an ingenious and inspired system of support, which eliminates the requirement for either, a substantially built support wall, or incorporation of any additional steel support frame; normally a prerequisite of a cantilever stair.

Furthermore, for prospective clients refurbishing and replacing an existing stair, the faux cantilever can be installed without the mess and disruption caused by the removal of the existing plaster finishes, making for a more timely and hassle-free installation experience.

Together with the obvious time benefit, the Faux Cantilever stair can be manufactured and installed for a significantly lower price than that of a conventional cantilever stair.

Stairkraft offer a complete service, from design to installation. All stairs start by being created in Stairkraft's own Design studio, utilizing the latest 3D CAD systems. They are manufactured in their own purpose-built factory in Sheffield, employing the latest technology and engineering whilst still embracing traditional craftmanship. They are then installed by Stairkraft's skilled operatives.

The stairs are available in a range of materials, styles and finishes, including glass treads.

Please contact info@stairkraft.co.uk for your free, no obligation quotation.



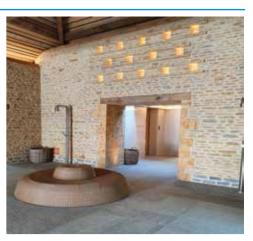
Natural stone can be used as a finish not only on the exterior as a walling or cladding stone but also lends itself incredibly well to interiors.

It never goes out of style and the recent boom in the return to the use of natural British stone is the proof in the pudding. Hadspen Quarry's range of Blue Lias Flooring, Wall Tiles, Flagstones, Walling Stone and Cobbles have been used extensively at the prestigious new development The Newt In Somerset, as well as other projects both big and small. They supply and deliver custom-made Blue Lias flooring for customers across the UK.

ENTRE

For a rustic cottage look the leathered blue lias is a good match for time worn flagstones, while the flamed & brushed finish is a new flagstone look. For a modern aesthetic the two honed options, either our marble bed or fossil bed of Blue Lias provides a contemporary finish while retaining the classic timeless look of a British Limestone floor.

If you need expert advice to help choose the perfect stone for your project, don't hesitate to get in touch with the team on 01963 351205 or email info@hadspenquarry.co.uk



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#### ROSSOMANIGLIE ELEGANZA CON STLE

Rosso Maniglie is our exclusive range of Italian inspired designer levers. Produced using a zinc base material and manufactured to the highest standards, this range takes designer levers to the next level.

For further information on this range visit our website or call one of our friendly sales team.

#### FINE ITALIAN DESIGN

Created with a sleek and incomparable aesthetic appeal, our contemporary style Rosso Maniglie range has quickly become the first choice for home owners, architects and house builders throughout the UK.

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Rosso Maniglie is part of Zoo Hardware Ltd. 74000



#### STANZA

Our STANZA range is designed to be both elegant and modern with the affordability to suit both consumer and contractor.

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#### UTILITY BY DESIGN

A range of designer zinc levers available on rose and backplate, chrome plated to achieve long performance and great aesthetic appeal.

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STANZA is part of Zoo Hardware Ltd. 7400

## Passion and creativity that makes wood work

Matthew Smith, of Dragonfly Woodwork, is a master craftsman who specialises in designing and hand making furniture. He makes timeless pieces to last generations, while bringing extraordinary beauty into your home.

Working by commission, with your ideas, seeing your space (where the piece will go) and his artistic vision, he creates unique furniture to the highest standard, which stimulates the senses Commenting on his work Matthew has said; "Working on furniture for me is a spiritual practice. For all the elements; including the client's ideas, the function, the room, the skills and experience I have, need to be honoured for the balance and beauty to find itself in each unique piece. From this I have found that each customer sincerely enjoys what I make as much as I enjoy making it."

Since setting up in 2016, Matthew has



of both touch and sight. Using timber, with the occasional collaboration of glass and steel, he oscillates his skills by working with the very straight and perfect lines to the more unusual and naturally formed shapes - to superb effect.

Matthew's passion for creating stems from his childhood having made a picket fence for his grandparents' garden at the age of just 10. From this he discovered a love of wood and it is now his main material of choice to work with. Following years of extensive training and honing his craft, his skills took him to Jersey where he worked on many homes and buildings, his talents in great demand. Matthew explains; "I was fortunate to work for



many customers who appreciated fine detail and highly skilled, traditional craftsmanship." After 15 years of living and working in Jersey, his heart brought him back to South Wales, where he set up a workshop at the foot of the Brecon Beacons. created a stunning range of unusual pieces for his customers. "I can make anything out of wood! The thing I love the most is when a customer phones up and asks if I can make something, and I can! If there is something they want, I will put in the time and effort to design it and work out the best way to create it. Making things from wood is a natural

and organic process, so the time and care you put in make sure the end result is just how you want it to be."

A recent commission for Dragonfly Woodwork was a large boardroom table in the shape of a tree. After designing the table the night before the meeting, Matthew sat



down with five directors and, before showing them his design, asked them to establish what they thought a boardroom table should be. "I asked them to draw their own table in 15 minutes then present it back to me. They were a bit unsure at first, but they realised during the process how personal a table is to them. We were peeling back the layers and working out exactly what they wanted from it. I then showed them my drawing, which they liked, and it only changed about 15% to how the finished article came out."

This kind of personalised and collaborative approach is what makes

Dragonfly Woodwork so special. No matter what your project or idea, it's certain that Matthew will put in the work and care needed to create a stunning and unique piece of furniture.

"Another customer had a 200-year-old oak floor which he had taken up. He wanted it smartening up but wanted to retain its character, preserving the moulding it had had over the years rather than lying it flat. I sanded it and relayed it with all the contours from before so it was smooth and flowing. The customer also didn't want any skirting boards, so I had to scribe the floor into the walls and into each other.

"I love a challenge and diving into the unknown. Not many other people would have scribed the floor into the walls, and would have just said it couldn't be done. But the customer wanted it, so I put in the extra work to achieve it."

Currently, Matthew is creating a bespoke porch for a customer, using Douglas Fir. "It's a soft timber with a



beautiful deep pink colour in the grain of the wood. It's an open porch with windows so you can see all the rafters, and it's all traditionally made. After this, I'll be creating a kitchen – the customer wants a really high level of detail for this, which is what I love to do, so I'm looking forward to working on it."

Without a doubt, Matthew has the knowledge, creativity and skill to complete projects, no matter how complex. As well as using wood, he can also incorporate other materials, such as stainless steel and glass, to make sure the finished piece is exactly how you imagined.



And, if you're not in the UK but want Dragonfly Woodwork to help realise your project, Matthew is happy to work with customers across the world. "I work with clients everywhere. I've sent products over to Australia before, so it doesn't matter where you are – if I can help you create something unique, get in touch."

Visit www.dragonflywoodwork.uk to see a selection of Matthew's work or to contact him to discuss a piece of furniture or how his skills may help you.

M 07479 252888 info@dragonflywoodwork.uk www.dragonflywoodwork.uk

Dining table and benches (seen in the photos) are made from Pippy Oak.



## dragonfly woodwork



## Traditional brick production specialist



The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company, based in Suffolk, is a family-run business established in 1936. With over 80 years' experience in the industry, the English company truly is a master of its craft.

The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company is renowned for its traditional handmade bricks which, fired in a down draught kiln, have a distinctive finish that blends well with the original London clays bricks. The beauty of the Suffolk company's bricks lies in their traditional production method. The bricks are made from clay dug from the same clay seam used since Tudor times.



The wealth of experience amassed by the company coupled with their respect for the process is what separates The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company from the competition.

Having produced bricks for reputable clients such as the National Trust, English Heritage and Historic Royal Palaces, the company is able to lend its services to both private and commercial developments. Its facings and specials can be made with almost any texture; with 150 different sizes of facings and a range of over 5,000 special shapes, including all standard plinths, squints and copings and extends to purpose made chimney bricks, terracotta, mullions, jambs, floor bricks, pamments, decorative plaques, garden edgings and a full range of rubbing blocks.



Aside from offering a wide range of clay brick solutions, The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company further offers a select number of additional materials. It is a stockist of Singleton Birch Natural Hydraulic Limes and Lime Putty, available in a range of strengths – NHL2, NHL3.5, and NHL5 – and sold in 25kg bags or 1 tonne bulk bags.

Lime has proven to be the material of choice when laying the brick specialist's bricks and especially in the case of conservation work, with its natural strength and tendency to give 'movement' in the construction process favourable.

Among the additional materials offered are lath, chestnut lath and riven oak supplied in bundles, used for plastering or for roofing and the application of shingles. Further, The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company offers sheep's wool insulation, an efficient and eco-friendly insulation solution.

T 01787 269232 bbt@bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk www.bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk





The Bulmer Brick & Tile Co Ltd



Bulmer bricks are made from the finest London Clays, dug from our seams almost continually since Tudor times. All Bulmer bricks are hand made, using traditional methods of making, drying and are fired in a coal burning, down draught kiln. This helps to give the distinctive finish that blends so well with the originals. The process takes time – something to consider at the project planning stage.

We are a small family business continuing the traditions of brickmaking on this site dating back to the Middle Ages. Our facings and specials can be made with almost any texture, from coarse veined to smooth with some 150 different sizes of facing and a range of over 5,000 special shapes, including all standard plinths, squints and copings, and extends to purpose made chimney bricks, terracotta, mullions, jambs, floor bricks, pamments, decorative plaques, garden edgings and a full range of rubbing blocks. The Brickmaker's Tale by Peter Minter Only £33.00 inc postage & packing

We work on large projects for the National Trust, English Heritage and Historic Royal Palaces, but are just as proud of some of the small private work undertaken by individuals.

Please visit: www.bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk T 01787 269232 | bbt@bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk



## Diamik Glass the alternative and sustainable luxury surface

Diamik Glass have created two environmentally friendly products Ecorok® and Decorok®, both products are made from recycling waste glass. Both are durable, strong, and beautiful and have commendable environmental credentials. Years of development and trials have resulted in two products that offer a creditable alternative to imported, mined products.

Ecorok<sup>®</sup> is perfect as worktops for kitchens,

bathrooms and utility rooms. Made from a minimum of 85% recycled glass and the remainder a mixture of resin and pigment this makes them non-porous, scratch resistant, smooth to the touch and beautiful to the eye. As Ecorok<sup>®</sup> is non-porous it makes it highly resilient to stains and marks. Cleaning for the eco-warriors amongst us can be as simple as mild soapy water, but if you need to give it a deep clean you can use scouring pads and bleach sprays without damaging the surface. Decorok is made using 100% glass and as the name suggests is targeted as a more decorative material. Its translucent appearance featuring crushed glass design provides that something special in key environments. Just like Ecorok® Decorok® can be fully recycled at the end of its life to produce new surfaces with no waste.

Diamik harvests only local glass destined for landfill, then processes this waste, using

# **ECOROK** Ecororiendly, **LIAMIK LUXURY SURFACES**

Our glass surfaces are manufactured using waste glass destined for landfill. A combination of craftsmanship and high-tech processes produce beautiful, hard wearing surfaces. Ecorok is scratch resistant, non porous and smooth to the touch making them easy to clean with just warm soapy water. We offer our customers a full service package including digital measuring, delivery and installation.







- 🝺 Kitchen worktops
- Splashbacks
- Bathroom vanity units
- 🏷 🛛 Wall panels
- 🜔 Tiles various sizes
- 🖒 🛛 Bar tops
- Reception areas
- Serving stations
- 🏷 Tea points
- Retails counters

We work with architects, designers and developers in addition to our rapidly expanding personal customer network. Our work can be found in homes and commercial buildings around the whole of the UK.

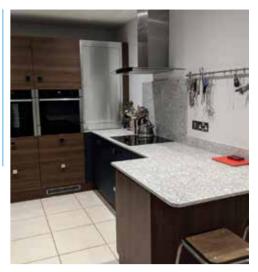
Our sustainable clients include, HMRC, Diageo, Kellogg's, Breeam, Dorrington PLC, Fortnum and Mason, Leeds Building Society, and MasterCard.

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craftsmanship into perfect sheet sizes for every customer. This is supported using modern technology to create these two innovative and versatile products. Their latest digital templating technology also allows for millimetre perfect measuring and cutting to create shapes – they even offer to video the procedure as a keep sake for the customer or to use as a promotional tool.



Diamik's products can now be found in all parts of the UK and Europe which is testament to how quickly people are moving towards a more sustainable future. Customers have been looking for something new, something fresh a new design with ecological street credibility. Ecorok comes in over fifty standard designs with new ones being created every month. The Diamik Bespoke option will create your very own unique special surface. The only limit is the customer's imagination!

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## Hauraton high capacity surface drainage installed at Vertex Business Park, Bristol



The Vertex Business Park is a 4.8 acre site located in the Emersons Green Enterprise zone. Being just four miles from junction19 on the M4 motorway, the 11 warehouse/office complex has tree lined boulevards and generous landscaped areas incorporating dedicated car parks, concreted access and hard standing designed to handle HGV traffic. With such a large concreted area an effective surface water drainage system was essential.

Having supplied high capacity surface water drainage channels for hard-standing areas at numerous distribution centres thorough out the UK, Hauraton were confident their RECYFIX® HICAP® high capacity channels would comply with the stringent specification asked for by the contractors.

Three sizes of RECYFIX® HICAP® F–2000, 3000 and 5000, with a loading category Class F900 (900kN) were used to drain the HGV hard standing and car park areas at the Park. All the sizes supplied had fixed ductile iron, 14mm open slot inlets finished with KTL, a rust resistant coating. By affording a superior overall hydraulic performance, the 216 metres of channel installed, provided a water storage volume totalling 8,904 litres.

The HICAP® system generally allows engineers and contractors' flexibility in layout by reducing number of channel runs normally required to drain a given area. This can mean less underground excavations, materials and vastly reduced installation time. Usually as there are fewer runs required, the surfaces strength is not compromised whilst future maintenance and cleaning will also be reduced.

With laden HGVs weighing up to 44 tonnes, manoeuvring trucks impose an enormous twisting stresses on the surface drainage components. So not only must the area be efficiently drained, the installed system has to withstand the twisting forces exerted by truck wheels.

Cat Jones, the Hauraton Project Manager, was certain the company's high capacity channels chosen for this job would easily match the specification demanded by Kore Construction; "The RECYFIX® HICAP® F channel components are made from specially formulated tough RECYCLED polypropylene (PP) and as each one metre channel used, including its ductile iron inlet, weighed less than 25kg it allowed one-man-lift, so greatly simplified the handling and logistics for the contractor who found the combination of a tough PP channel and ductile iron slot inlet highly resisted to site damage during installation".

For Case Study go to www.drainage-projects.co.uk

## Hauraton channels drain Blue Badge scheme parking bays at RHS Wisley

On 10th June 2019, Alan Titchmarsh, MBE, opened the first phase of The Welcome Building and surrounding landscape at Royal Horticultural Society gardens, Wisley, Surrey. The new facility has transformed the experience for visitors to the gardens with new buildings including a spacious arrivals hall, café, shop, plant centre and a 100 seat restaurant. There are now three large car/ coach parks including Blue Badge scheme easy access bays for visitors in park two.

One hundred metres of Hauraton RECYFIX® PRO 100 channel system, fitted with FIBRETEC® C250, 9mm HEELSAFE slot gratings, was used by groundwork sub-contractor GPB Construction Ltd to drain the asphalted Blue Badge parking bays for visitors. The channels were installed between the bays and the path leading to the entrance of the new arrivals hall.

Since its launched in February 2010, the RECYFIX® PRO 100 surface water drainage channel, featuring the innovative FIBRETEC® grating, has been specified and successfully installed in numerous United Kingdom drainage projects, including rail station platforms, public squares, shopping malls, sports-fields, tartan running tracks and many other commercial and private applications.

The material, PA-GF used to make the FIBRETEC<sup>®</sup> grating, was especially developed by Hauraton; the tough, UV resistant, fibre reinforced moulding offers high stability and huge strength for its weight. Complying with loading category Class C250 (BSEN 1433) the grating can easily take the weight of cars and commercial delivery vehicles. The design is a



real innovation as its non-corrosive material provides a visually appealing surface finish that retains its black colour.

The FIBRETEC $^{\otimes}$  C250 HEELSAFE slot grating was specifically designed by Hauraton R & D engineers to enhance the flow of water into the channel.

The slots are super smooth, elliptical openings with the moulded bars having slightly raised triangular bosses along their outside edges. As well as providing an elegant appearance, the feature ensures surface water is directed into the slots. This configuration also helps eliminate any cross-flow over the grating.

The RECYFIX® PRO 100 channel component is made from 100% recycled polypropylene (PP). The six sizes offered are 160mm wide and range in height from 75mm to 250mm with the FIBRETEC® grating factory fitted on all models. As the largest unit is only 5.8kg, the channelling is easily handled and quickly installed on site.

www.drainage-projects.co.uk

# Two Hauraton surface drainage systems installed at Maltby Academy School, Rotherham



The Maltby Academy School to the East of Rotherham, just off the A631, was established in the 1930s with additional building added in the 1960s and at the start of this century. The school has expanded and now offers up to 1200 student places with an age range of between 11 and 19 years.

Early in 2012 it was decided refurbish the older building and build a new open plan business / enterprise centre and sport science block. In addition, the old gymnasium was to be converted into a performing and creative arts facility.

The £10.9 million contract for the redevelopment of Maltby Academy was awarded to BAM Construction of Leeds, in June 2012. The site was fully operational by September 2013, the start of the academic year, with full completion shortly afterwards. Architects for the new buildings were Bond Bryan, Sheffield office.

With the site being quite flat, and the old and new buildings' surrounded by paved and

asphalted surfaces, it was essential rainwater is drained effectively. Two Hauraton systems were chosen to drain surface water: RECYFIX® PRO and RECYFIX® SLOTTED channels. A Hauraton RECYFIX® PRO 100 channel system, fitted with FIBRETEC® C250, HEELSAFE 9mm slot gratings, was used to drain the asphalted yards and car park. Since its launched in February 2010, the RECYFIX PRO surface water drainage channel, featuring the innovative FIBRETEC® grating, has been specified and successfully installed in numerous United



Kingdom drainage projects, including rail station platforms, public squares, shopping malls, sports-fields, tartan running tracks and many other commercial and private applications.

The material PA-GF, used to make the FIBRETEC® grating, was especially developed by Hauraton; the tough, UV resistant, fibre reinforced moulding offers high stability and huge strength for its weight. Complying with loading category Class C250 (BSEN 1433) the grating can easily take the weight of commercial delivery vehicles. The design is a real innovation as its non-corrosive material provides a visually appealing surface finish that retains its black colour.

The FIBRETEC® C250 HEELSAFE grating was specifically designed by Hauraton R & D engineers to enhance the flow of water into the channel. The slots are super smooth, elliptical openings with the moulded bars having slightly raised triangular bosses along their outside edges. As well as providing an elegant appearance, the feature ensures surface water is directed into the slots. This configuration also helps eliminate any cross-flow over the grating.

Aesthetic demands meant the surface water drainage for the paved walkways had to be as unobtrusive as possible yet fully meet the drainage requirement; this was achieved by installing Hauraton RECYFIX® STANDARD SLOTTED CHANNELS fitted with symmetrical galvanised steel covers. Once installed this system provides an unobtrusive, narrow line of slots in the paved surfaces.



The RECYFIX<sup>®</sup> channel component is made from 100% recycled PE-PP. The six sizes offered are 160mm wide and range in height from 75mm to 201mm with the FIBRETEC<sup>®</sup> grating factory fitted on all models. As the largest unit is only 4.6kg, RECYFIX PRO channelling is easily handle and quickly installed on site.

Colin Taff, Hauraton's Project Engineer comments; "Being particularly suitable for school yards and play grounds, our RECYFIX® PRO channels' with their black FIBRETEC® gratings' were chosen for this project as the grating's smooth appearance blended in well with the asphalted surfaces".

For full Case Study go to www.drainage-projects.co.uk



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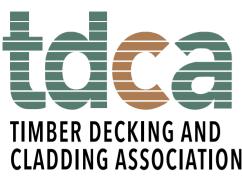
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## Expert advice on all things timber decking and cladding



TDCA, the Timber Decking and Cladding Association, is a non-profit organisation acting as a technical and advisory body for the UK timber decking and timber cladding industries.

As a recognised and reliable source of expert opinion in the UK, TDCA can assist both large commercial contractors and individuals undertaking residential projects, advising on areas such as the correct specification of materials, installation guidance, and ongoing care and maintenance of timber decking and timber cladding.

At the organisation's heart is the mission to ensure that all decking and cladding installations conform to appropriate standards. Its membership base is made up of likeminded companies and individuals with a passion for quality, high standards of service, and exceeding performance expectations. For this reason, TDCA only welcomes companies that can demonstrate this commitment to excellence, guaranteeing that choosing a TDCA approved supplier will give you a long-lasting, professional result.

While the TDCA develops an ever-growing list of approved suppliers and installers, the organisation operates the DeckMark and CladMark quality schemes, which demonstrate the high quality and longevity of the materials that have been approved, or the high standards of the installer that has been accredited.

Both the DeckMark and CladMark schemes require a full audit and assessment of the business in question, prior to any accreditation being awarded followed by annual surveillance audits thereafter. Businesses which do not meet the standards are then advised on how they can improve to achieve the accreditation in





the future

In addition, the TDCA can offer a number of expert services to help resolve difficulties with timber decking and cladding projects. Ideal for home owners, architects, surveyors, structural engineers and other organisations, the TDCA's work can include assessing the structural integrity and construction techniques of existing decks, general condition surveys and maintenance reviews, assessing material faults and causes, and advising on correct material specification.

This is all underpinned by the TDCA website, which acts as an in depth information resource for anything to do with timber decking and timber cladding. The organisation offers numerous technical and guidance publications, many of which are freely available to registered users of the website. There is also a gallery to provide inspiration for new projects, and an FAQs section to help with common queries.

Whatever the size of your timber decking or cladding project, the TDCA has plenty of expert information available. Whether you're looking for design, specification, product selection, installation or maintenance, the TDCA has everything you need.

If you would like to find out more information on becoming a member of the TDCA, or find an approved supplier through the website, see the details below to get in touch.

#### 01977 558147 info@tdca.org.uk www.tdca.org.uk



## Heating News

## IMS Heat Pumps – Heating your home the low carbon way

Lowering your carbon footprint might not be the first thing on your mind when thinking about how you will heat your newly renovated or custom-built home, but being energy efficient and saving money on your bills probably is. That's where a heat pump ticks the boxes. Providing, (in most cases) 100% of your heating and hot water, cutting fuel bills, future proofing your home and helping to lower your carbon emissions.

A Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) extracts heat from the ground. This requires vertical drilled boreholes or horizontal pipework in shallow trenches on your land.

An Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) extracts heat from the outside air. This system is particularly suitable when outdoor space is limited as a fan unit is installed instead.

Heat pumps are super-efficient heating systems, and a well-designed, well installed system will deliver year-round



heat and hot water in even the coldest of temperatures, without the need for a back-up boiler (yes, it's true!). They distribute the heat via a heat

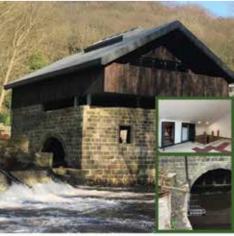
without the need for a back-up boiler (yes, it's true!). They distribute the heat via a heat exchanger, providing hot water for your showers and taps, and using underfloor heating, radiators, or a mixture of both, for your heating.

Established 1997, with

offices in Perth and Sheffield, IMS have been installing heat pumps for over 20 years. Working with homeowners, architects, and main contractors on custom-build, selfbuild and renovation projects, we design, supply, install and maintain Air Source, Ground Source and Water Source Heat Pumps in Scotland, The North and The Midlands.

IMS Heat Pumps work with you to understand your requirements and ensure that your bespoke system is expertly designed around your needs. Floor make-ups are discussed, radiator designs are incorporated and spaces and places for equipment is agreed. We install to your timescales and provide dedicated project co-ordination.

IMS Heat Pumps don't require a deposit or advanced payments, making us almost unique in the market. Your money stays in your pocket until installation begins. The current financial incentives, via the Green Homes Grant, Energy Savings Trust (Scotland) Loan and Renewable Heat Incentive, mean that



installing a heat pump with IMS as part of your new build or renovation plans has never been better for your home, your pocket or your planet.

IMS are MCS Accredited and TrustMark Approved and pride ourselves on our excellent designs, installed by our skilled and knowledgeable Engineers; ensuring that your bespoke system provides all the heating and hot water you need. With unparalleled in-house experience, our installations simply work. O114 327 O100 / O1738 827 244 office@imsheatpumps.co.uk www.imsheatpumps.co.uk



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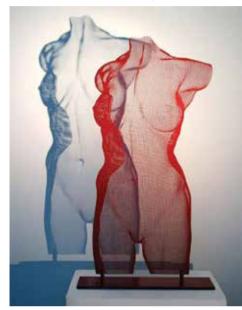
## Liquid Tank Spreader

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## **Public Sculpture**



Art for the public to enjoy has taken many forms from the Pyramids and Sphinxe in Ancient Egypt with its quasi religeous and Royal elements through the classical Greeks and Romans setting the standard in the body beautiful of gods and goddesses and their triumphal depictions of heros both mythical and real.

The rennaisance was really the next wave to influence pulic art and again religeon was the main source of inspiration with Michaelangelo's David and La Pieta probably the best known.

This heavily influenced the next movement which was a combination of the effects of the grand tour with many famous collections both private and public built up combined with the surge of the Georgians and Victorians commemorating the heros of the day with possibly Nelson's Column being the most famous.

It was then that nonrepresetational art emerged with The Eifel Tower in Paris being the most obvious example followed in yet another direction by Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth making Abstact a contoversial for some and popular for others, break from tradition.

The present day is heir to all these influences which pull in so many different directions and is spread like a feast to be picked over and chosen from with discretion and taste.

Peter de Sausmarez director of ArtParkS International and its massive Sculpture Website, says that it is fascinating to see such a variety of different works and styles that are being chosen to embellish Public spaces, Hotels and Offices where it is essential to have only the best.

Specifiers, Interior Designers, Planners seem to find nearly 500 categories of thousands of sculptures from all over the world an easy and ready source for inspiration, selection and commissioning Art for today.

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#### Maintenance free solutions for decking and landscaping Did you know that many real wood decks require full replacement within

decks require full replacement within seven years of installation? This coupled with annual maintenance costs for labour and materials can make your wooden deck very expensive in the long run and if you are doing it yourself it's going to use up a lot of your time. Time that could be spent enjoying your garden instead.

A Gardening Express survey found that homeowners change their patio or deck six times over the course of their gardening lifetime at a cost of around £9000.

Fortunately, if you are installing or replacing your deck there is a solution in the form of recycled plastic decking. A long-lasting alternative to wood.

Utilising plastic that would ordinarily be sent to landfill or incinerators, Kedel turn it into long lasting, maintenance free landscaping materials, with the look and feel of real wood but that can last a lifetime, so you just do the job once!

The slightly higher initial price of recycled plastic wood is quickly recovered through savings on maintenance or replacement, resulting



in lower lifetime costs when compared to real wood designs. This initial outlay can be recouped in as little as 2 to 5 years.

Recycled plastic decking is splinter free, frost proof, shock proof, resistant to most chemicals and impervious to fungi and water.

Kedel Marine Decking Boards can be used for various landscaping projects and are ideal for boardwalks, pontoons, jetties, access ramps and fishing pegs.

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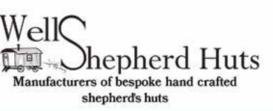
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As we all adapt to the new normal the demand for the Great British Staycation continues to grow and the hunt for accommodation where families and friends can relax, enjoy and escape from the stresses of modern-day life and explore the great outdoors, a Shepherd's hut can be the perfect choice.

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#### A developer's first steps in to Passive Haus, path finding into a helpful community...

#### First steps

The Passive Haus Institute had a huge influence on developing the company's vision and to show the institute the companies support is one of the Pure Haus goals. The principles to work to were very consistent with the company's ethos for sustainability, auality, health and comfort. Taking pride in your home and local community was at the heart of our long term vision; Building Stylish and Sustainable Communities.

#### Values Driven

After committing to the goal of reducing the carbon footprint of the built environment the affect was so substantial Pure Haus found themselves promoting

www.zinco-greenroof.co.uk

Passive Haus to anyone who would listen to them, there was a new buzz within the company. The first challenge was naming the company.... Pure Haus emerged the winner. Implying a German inspired house builder with a goal of making the world a cleaner, healthier place. The second goal was to identify the people who can help remove assumptions from the equations and replace them with facts.

#### Working with like minded people

Aligning with like minded people, who demonstrate this enthusiasm by going above and beyond our expectations, is the driver of this business. Our Builders have taken time to travel and see other sites under

construction to learn a new skills, to say they are excited about timber framed housing and its potential would be an understatement. Working to this standard is an opportunity that's rare; for them to be given a chance to do something worthwhile, get paid, and leave a legacy appealed to them!

#### Future challenges

Having secured relationships with financiers and landowners the biggest challenge moving forward is to have the operations of the company scaled up to match the ambition of the company.

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With our production range extending to balconies, indoor and outdoor balustrades here at Heartlands, we believe we are a company with best practice in operation from receipt of the initial enquiries to site surveys, CAD drawings for customer design approval through to quality production and installation.

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360 Height Projects is a multifaceted fall protect ion specialist, based in the North East of England. We operate nationwide in a multitude of sectors such as, marine, offshore, construction, facilities management, mining and industrial. We pursue every job with a passion to create the best outcome for our clients.

Building positive relationships, providing high quality work and ensuring health and safety are our main objectives. Our team comes from a number of different backgrounds, with a wealth of experience in the industry, and are thoroughly trained to guarantee maximum safety and deliver an unrivalled safe system of work.

We pride ourselves on offering tailored advice and providing bespoke solutions, allowing us to take on the jobs that others may not.

With that in mind, we can supply, install and inspect the systems that you may require, and thus ensuring the safety of anyone working at height.

An overview of the services we provide include: fall protection systems such as, horizontal lifeline systems, vertical ladders, various edge protection, anchor points and more; rope access and rigging; collective and passive protection and equipment inspection, hire and sales.

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#### **Timber Build News**

#### Frametech Essex Ltd

At Frametech Essex Ltd we pride ourselves on our knowledge on all thing's structural carpentry. Established in 2009 by one of our company directors, Andy Perkins, Frametech have delivered a high standard of work on countless projects across the south of England. We have worked alongside many of the UK's top timber frame and engineering specialists.

In the current climate, where the speed of on-site build is key, we have helped many construction companies in their choice of using timber engineered builds over traditional block and brick methods. At Frametech, we truly believe this is the future of construction. Not only does it increase the on-site production, but it is also a natural and sustainable material with higher insulating properties.

Would timber frame be right for your build? We have worked on many projects large and small and would always look to advise people where we can on the potential benefits of timber engineered products. Whether it be prefab timber frame panels, pozi-strut joists or trussed rafter roofs, we work closely with several engineered timber manufacturers to ensure we provide all our clients with all of their project requirements.

For more information please visit our website at www.frametech-essex.co.uk



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Based in the heart of the Mendip hills, a family run company with over 25 years experience in the timber frame sector. Offering a range of timber frames and insulation packages.





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A modern and expanding family business, since 1883, Vandecasteele Houtimport has a long-term commitment to service a wide variety of customers in the construction, joinery, cladding and furniture sectors, as well as the highend marine industry.

Located right in the heart of Europe, with easy road access to customers in most major European markets, Vandecasteele Houtimport has over the years consistently developed its long-term strategy to become Europe's number one timber stockiest.

The company boasts its own storage facility that can accommodate more than 160,000m<sup>3</sup> of sawn timber products including the recently completed additional 50,000 m<sup>3</sup> of warehouse extension. Timbers arriving from all over the world are now centralized in one location.

Vandecasteele Houtimport has the resources and ability to adapt to the sensitivity of the market and bridges the gap between sources of supply in Africa, Far East, South America and North America to Europe in a matter of days. This makes the company the first choice with many importers and merchants.



Its impressive and vast stockholding of hardwoods and softwoods is coupled with strong environmental credentials (FSC<sup>®</sup>, PEFC, and OLB) and an efficient, accurate processing of customer orders. The company is investing in new IT tools to track and trace the timber from source and insure the provenance of the timber is EUTR compliant.

With a strong foundation of more than 135 years of trading in wood and family values that govern its relationship with customers and suppliers, coupled with continuous investment to ensure success in the years to come, Vandecasteele Houtimport looks to the future with confidence.

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## New distributorship for Cinderella Eco Solution

LeeSan has become the Sole distributor for Cinderella Eco Solution incinerating toilets. 4 different toilets will be available very soon running on Propane Gas or 240V.

Cinderella Motion represents an entirely new concept for waste handling in Off-the-Grid locations, Marine craft, mobile homes and recreational vehicles. It is now possible to get rid of toilet waste in a hygienic and simple manner. The end product is just clean ash. The toilet may be used around 70 times before emptying is required. Cinderella Motion is a

## Improve Efficiency and Accuracy in Marking With Scan-to-print Handheld Inkjet **Printers**

Scan-to-print technology offers improved efficiency and accuracy to the construction industry and can help users speed up production as well as eliminatina time-consuming data entry methods.

Inkjet printers can print variable data such as lot number or product reference, which, in fixed position installations, is sent electronically to the device.

With scan-to-print capabilities, the same features can be used with a mobile printer. Data is simply scanned from a barcode on a job sheet or production works order and printed directly onto the product.

This can eliminate errors and speed up production in a variety of applications in construction such as marking warehouse stock, addressing packing cases or marking parts or modules for assembly on site.

As long as the required information is available in a machine-readable format such as a barcode or QR code, the data is entered and stored with a quick scan of the code.

The information can be repeat printed on a batch of similar products, or a number of different codes can be scanned and the combined information reproduced in just one print.

Timbermark offers both large character and high resolution handheld printers, which are suitable for different applications



The EBS-260 handjet produces a large-character effect, suitable for rough surfaces.

The printer communicates with a scanner by Bluetooth, and the devices are paired in the normal way for connecting Bluetooth devices.

The Sojet V1H uses HP cartridges, suitable for smooth

surfaces, such as timber, plastic pipes, film, metal, or glass. The printer has an integral scanner so that only one device is needed.

For questions or new application enquiries, please contact sales@ timbermark.co.uk



further development of the popular Cinderella incineration toilet currently installed by over 60,000 users worldwide.

An incineration toilet is a toilet in which waste products, urine and excrement, are incinerated at a high temperature, leaving only an insignificant amount of ash.

Available around the world for decades, incineration toilets are a commonly used alternative in mountain cabins, remote areas, tiny homes, off-grid structures and other residential

printers. Hand-held or fixed position.

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and commercial applications without easy access to public utilities.

Since incineration toilets do not require the installation of a water supply or costly septic systems, and do not demand ongoing and messy work to process waste, their slightly higher unit price is heavily offset by lower maintenance over time, providing a substantially lower total cost of ownership than other solutions, both in terms of money and headache.

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2 Drake House, Cook Way, Taunton, Somerset TA2 6BJ london T: 01923 228 521 E: admin@gemech.co.uk Wonderwall sponsors this issue of BCR UK: see them on page 04

## Good News For Drivers As The Van Insurer Reveals Customers' Top 10 Vans

2020 was a year like no other, but for many van drivers working on the front line, their vans proved an indispensable means of keeping the wheels of industry turning

While there are many different makes and models on the market to choose from, The Van Insurer is committed to finding the most competitive insurance quote for each and every customer, regardless of how they use their vehicle. And there's more good news for van drivers; last year saw insurance premiums drop for every van that hit The Van Insurer's Top 10 Vans of 2020.

Once again, the online insurance price comparison specialist has crunched its auote data from the last 12 months to find the most popular vans amongst those looking for insurance cover - read on to see whether your motor hit the Top 10...

#### The Van Insurer's Top 10 Vans of 2020

#### Ford Transit 1.

The Ford Transit once again stormed to thetop spot in 2020, for the third year in a row, with a staggering one third of all

quotes processed relating to one of the variants of the trusty Transit

Boasting flexibility and adaptability, three load lengths and driveline configurations, to name but a few features, it's easy to see why many van drivers would consider this one a worthy winner

In fact, it was the top vehicle of choicealmost across the board with builders, carpenters, painters and decorators, electricians, gardeners and plumbers all requesting more quotes for the Transit than any other motor

#### 2. Vauxhall Vivaro

The second most quoted-for van last year was the Vauxhall Vivaro.

Vauxhall prides itself on offering practicality and efficiency with this little mover. Boasting strong styling and serious payload capacity, it's another van offering comfort and cutting-edge tech to support you while you're out on the road

Having held onto the second spot for two years in a row, it's probably no surprise that builders, carpenters and delivery drivers all generated the second highest number of quotes for this firm favourite.

#### 3. Ford Transit Connect

The Transit Connect was the second of Ford's vans to make the top three rankings.

Toughness, durability and functionality are just three of the features synonymous with this van. According to Ford, it's been given a sophisticated new look, comprehensively updated interior and more advanced technology than ever before, which seems to have paid off.

4. Mercedes-Benz Sprinter The Mercedes Benz Sprinter came in fourth in our rankings.



got across. FUTURENERGY 5. Ford Transit Custom Custom. AirForce® 1 New from MICRO WIND FuturEnergy wind turbines TURBINE SYSTEM reliably harvest energy from VEXBOX, the wind quietly, efficiently and cost effectively. Wind power provides a source of alternative energy for many where grid connection vocation uerplate 06 Volkswagen Transporter 6. placed it firmly in sixth place. is not an option. helps 24v and 48v versions. Solar-wind hybrid compatible suppress the Simple electrical installation choice. 'Internet of Things' - remote monitoring and control Free iPhone/Android monitoring app 7. Renault Trafic spread of fire. Corrosion resistant materials throughout Rugged, simple design, minimal maintenance Example installations: off-grid locations - telecoms power -EN1364/1 glamping/camping sites - agricultural buildings - boats and barges pumping solutions - humanitarian aid BS EN ISO 10140-2:2010 ISO 717-1:2013 Example applications: battery charging - water heating performed even better this year. remote lighting - space heating 8. Volkswagen Caddy Full system price including Airforce® 1 Wind Turbine, AirForce Control, Manual Stop Switch and Anemometer £2,250.00 inc. VAT www.vexbox.com 01789 450280 E sales@futurenergy.co.uk www.futurenergy.co.uk



We understand just how much uncertainty small business owners are facing at this time. Protecting you and your business has never been easier. A life insurance or critical illness/ private medical insurance plan can help protect you, your business or your family financially if the worst were to happen.



#### Life & Critical Illness Cover

A relevant life cover policy is equivalent to a "death in service" arrangement for a business with typically 1 or more directors or using an alternative plan for sole traders and partnerships. This can be paid through the business and can normally be offset as a business expense.



#### Private Medical Insurance

Private Medical Insurance pays for you to have treatments in private hospitals. Private healthcare lets you bypass potentially long NHS waiting lists and receive treatment when you need it. This can help you return to work quicker.

Request a FREE QUOTE



Mercedes believes it's plugged a gap in the market with this latest Sprinter edition. Claiming to offer new levels of individuality, productivity and efficiency, all customisable to the van driver's needs, it looks like their message really has

The third Ford van to make the top 10 was the Transit

Ford claims the latest evolution maintains its toughness, functionality and reliability but now delivers an even wider range of innovation and smart technology. It's clearly another Ford favourite that deserves its top 10 status.

The Ford Transit Custom is clearly a firm favourite amongst electricians, as nearly 14 per cent of sparkies requested insurance quotes last year, the second highest from that

The total quotes processed for the Volkswagen Transporter

Volkswagen's worked hard to ensure that this latest edition offers advanced engine technology that saves money and the environment. Coupled with the comfort and practicality you'd expect from the Transporter, clearly it's another top

2020's highest climber is the Renault Trafic, which rose two places from last year's 9thposition to grab 7th place in the countdown of van drivers requesting quotes.

Renault claims that the needs of the van driver have been put first with this edition, which offers numerous variants and impressive fuel efficiency. It's an award winner too, making it another worthy top 10 entry and easy to see why it's

Another mover up the list of most quoted for vans, and Volkswagen's second top 10 entry, is the Caddy. It's another van that offers impressive technology as standard, from adaptive cruise control and an in-built parking system to safety systems that give you peace of mind. It's a great little mover that's just inside the top 10.

#### Citroen Berlingo

Following hot on the heels of the Caddy, the Citroen Berlingo came a very close second to the Volkswagen favourite, with only slightly fewer quotes generated.

If you're looking for versatility and a van that will take you from work to play, this is probably it. Space, comfort and modularity come as standard with this van, which explains why its spot in the top 10 is justified.

#### 10. Vauxhall Combo

The Vauxhall's Combo van remains another firm favourite amonast customers, taking the final spot.

In addition to several award wins, Vauxhall likes to boast about the Combo's practical design, paired with a sleek and sporty finish. For practicality and efficiency, it's evidently a good choice.

Ed Bevis, Commercial & Marketing Directorat The Van Insurer, says: "Here at The Van Insurer, we are used to handling auotes for van drivers with various requirements and from all types of tradespeople, last year was no different.

"While offering our customers the most competitive insurance otes is our top priority, we always find it interesting to see which vans make the top 10

"Whether you need your van for work, play or somewhere in between, we're here to keep you on the road

\*The Top 10 list comprises the vans for which The Van Insurer received the most quote requests from January to December 2020.



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## Robust UK renews Secured by Design membership

Stoke-on-Trent's Robust UK continues to lead the field in security solutions, recently renewing their membership with Secured by Design (SBD), the national Police crime prevention initiative.

Offering custom-made steel door solutions, Robust UK manufacture a wide range of products to suit both the Industrial and Commercial sectors. Their product range includes doors for use throughout a building, from entrances & exits, to basements and roof plant rooms.

Since moving into a new factory in 2015, Robust UK have been able to manufacture their whole product range on site. This has enabled them to add to their extensive portfolio of Secured by Design approved doors, recently certifying their GLAS-DOR and TUFF-VENT products to PAS 24: 2016.

Paul Williams, Sales Director of Robust

UK said: "Secured by Design is a widely recognised and respected standard and it's important to Robust as a trade supplier to be able to support our customers with doors which meet the wide variety of specifications we are asked to provide."

Robust UK's commitment to product development is unrivalled and really shows their ambition within the door industry.

Main Reception



You can find more information about their Secured by Design listed products on their website: www.robust-uk.com.

**FIRE RESISTANT** 

## LEB Construction celebrates Pantycelyn Halls project



Leading Ceredigion contractor, LEB Construction has completed a significant package of works on the highprofile  $\pm 16.5m$  project to restore the historic Pantycelyn Halls of Residence at Aberystwyth University.

Morgan Sindall Construction appointed LEB Construction as one of its main subcontractors on the restoration project to deliver several packages of works including extensions & alterations, groundworks, roofing, cladding and plastering.

The team was involved in the design, fabrication and installation of the stunning architectural profiled cladding to the aluminium glazed reception area. The complex installation required significant skill and commitment to ensure accurate and timely completion.

Dale Harris MCIOB AssocRICS, project manager at Morgan Sindall Construction said: "On such a high-profile project on a national asset, we needed a skilled team which could work to our high standards, respect tight deadlines and adapt to any challenges the projects unearthed.

"We worked in collaboration with LEB Construction to resolve any issues that arose with a solution that worked for all parties. As a company they share the same high standards as Morgan Sindall Construction and have a commitment to getting the job done, even in challenging conditions.

"This meant we could trust them to complete unforeseen additional works that naturally occur when operating in an old building."



Luke Baker, founder and managing director at LEB Construction explains: "This was a significant project for us and we're proud to have be involved in such a historically significant project.

"Our team worked well with Morgan Sindall Construction to overcome the challenges posed by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and worked hard to maintain safe working delivery throughout the project."

If you have a project you would like a quote for, please get in contact either by phone on 0845 506 5202 or email sarah.reay@constructionmarketingexperts.co.uk

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