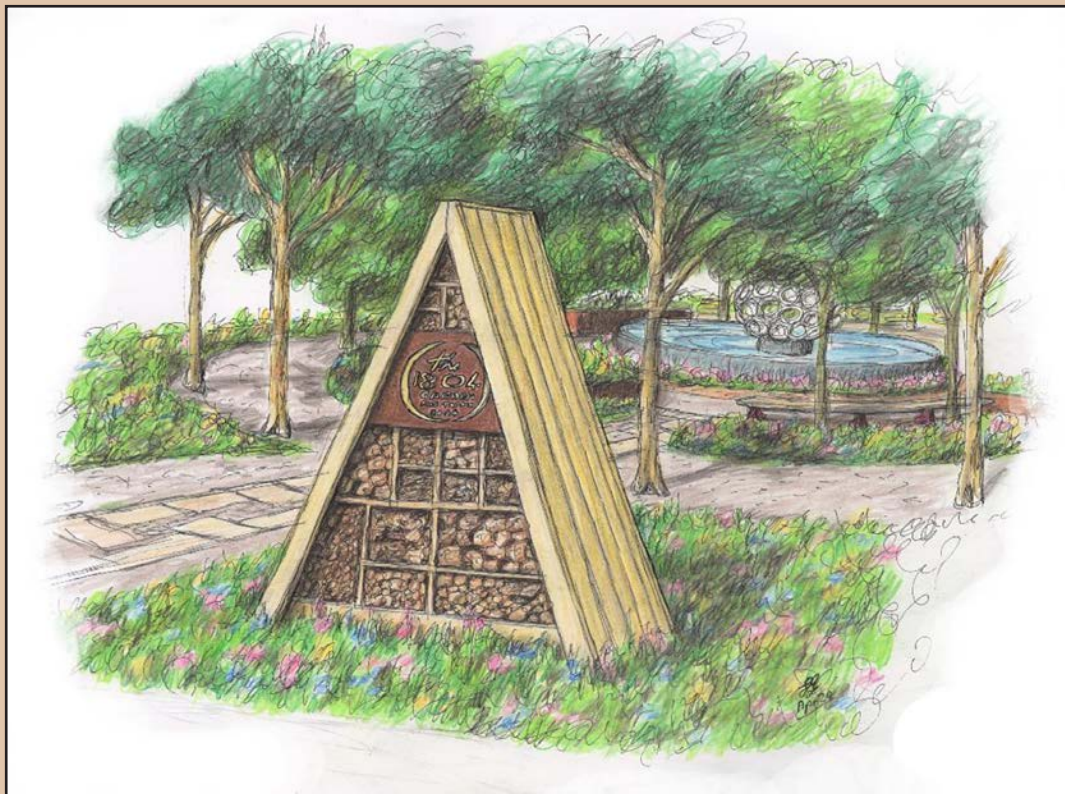


PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

Issue No. 193/194

June/July 2024

Carpentry students create bug hotel for RHS cancer-awareness garden



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Liberon announces brand investment



PROFESSIONAL woodworkers and DIYers are set to benefit from brand investment by Liberon, having relied on the woodcare expert for many years in order to be sure of achieving the high-quality results they want.

With woodcare in its DNA, the company's renown for excellence in products such as dyes, waxes, oils and varnishes is now complemented by a new brand image and refreshed packaging. A big advantage to stockists and end-users will be the fact that each product area will be colour-coded, which will make finding and selling the products easier.

In addition, Liberon has expanded its range of formulations for outdoor application, investing in this part of the market in order to help drive it forwards with a comprehensive woodcare offer.

The company has also developed a new-look website, which is easier to navigate, and carries inspirational tips and advice alongside useful product information. For stockists, Liberon has also put together an extensive support package, including refreshed point-of-sale material, leaflets and guides, shelf talkers and colour range boards. Liberon's UK marketing manager, Richard Bradley, explains that the new packaging and logo are much brighter, cleaner and more up to date.

He comments: "The new branding helps to revitalise our woodcare offering, bringing the company's image firmly into the 21st century. It's been really important to us that we don't lose any of the trade appeal that we have garnered over the years. One of the interesting things that our extensive research brought up was that, whether we are talking about decorator centres or builders' merchants, the profile of their customers is changing.

"Trade users are still looking for the products they know and trust, but increasing numbers of serious DIYers are seeking the best quality products from trade outlets. Part of what we have done, therefore, is to secure our traditional market, but also broaden the brand's appeal to potential new users too."

So far, investment in exterior woodcare has seen the launch of two new products: 'Superior Protection Woodstain' and 'Superior Decking Stain'. Both offer users genuine benefits that differentiate them from other available products. They join Liberon's flagship decking oil.

Liberon's new Superior Protection Woodstain requires only two coats with the first one dry after just 3 hours and ready for the second application. So, unlike most other comparable woodstains, the job can be completed in one day, which is good news for time management and therefore profitability. With an 8-year guarantee for outstanding protection it is considered ideal for outdoor cladding, window frames or doors.

With a quick-drying satin finish that enhances exterior timber, the new woodstain is smooth and simple to apply.

Whilst being water-repellent, it nevertheless has a formulation that makes it microporous once dry, which allows wood to breathe.

With a non-drip formulation, the woodstain is suitable for most woods, hard and soft, new or old, and can be applied over most existing woodstains. Its formulation makes it flexible with wood movement. This great quality woodstain has UV filters, making it ideal for outdoor woods that are exposed to bad weather conditions or lots of sun. It is available in six colours.

Liberon's new 'Superior Decking Stain' is water-repellent, protects against damage from sunlight, looks fabulous and has a 'biosourced' formula. The biosourced formula, which includes vegetable oils and modified bio-based resins, reduces environmental impact but still maintains superior performance.

Its protection against moisture and sunlight is long-lasting; the stain's water-based formulation includes anti-slip properties; it is easy to apply thanks partly to an excellent spreading rate compared to other available options; is quick-drying; and it produces a natural, semi-transparent finish once dry. It is offered in six colours.

Liberon
www.liberon.co.uk



TRA Announces 2024 Roofscape Design Award Winners

A packed audience of Trussed Rafter Association members gathered this week to see who would win the hotly contested Roofscape Design Awards 2024.

The Awards, now in their second year, celebrate the highly technical skills required to design trussed rafter roofs, joists, and panels. The awards took place at the TRA Annual General Meeting and Conference at Mercure Warwickshire Walton Hall Hotel & Spa.

The awards were given in three categories:

- Residential Project of the Year (for newbuild dwellings)
- Conversion and Refurbishment Project of the Year (for existing housing projects)
- Commercial Project of the Year (for all non-domestic projects)

The judging panel included Nick Boulton, chief executive of the TRA; Rob Lockett (former head of training at the NHBC); and Les Fuller, chair of the technical committee of the TRA.

The awards

The Residential Project of the Year went to designer Phil Morgan of Wyckham Blackwell Ltd for The Copper House project.

The judges were impressed with the extensive knowledge of the architectural requirements of the designer and how the design applied a trussed rafter application and ensured that the 'form did follow the function'.

Wyckham Blackwell Ltd also took home the award for the Conversion and Refurbishment Project of the Year with The Black Country Living Museum, designed by Joe Dudley. The judges agreed that it was an example of how to successfully comply with client and historical requirements and still achieve suitable timber engineering for a project.

For the Commercial Project of the Year, it was a unanimous decision that Acorn Timber Engineering's Welton Extra Care Apartments and Bungalows designed by Simon Copley was the winner for the category.

The project started with supplying metal web joists to ending up tendering for the entire roof structure of the main apartment building and ten individual bungalows — resulting in almost 3,500 square metres of the roof surface and 2,500 manufactured items

The highly commended design was awarded to DWB Roof Truss Ltd's Phil Daniels for the Sianwood project.

Judges were impressed by the application of Posi-Joists in ensuring a prefabricated design solution for the project that was creatively achieved.

Nick Boulton said: "The trussed rafter industry is keen to highlight the

problem-solving and design skills required in such an important element of the roofing system in construction projects.

"Thank you to all the designers who have entered the awards this year, it was very fascinating to see the creativity and technical expertise in all the designs that were submitted.

"I would like to congratulate all those who took part, particularly the winners of this year's Awards and look forward to watching your continued success in the industry. The Roofscape Design Awards will be returning in 2025."

Trussed Rafter Association

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For the full list contact:
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Combilift renews sponsorship deal

COMBILIFT, a world leading manufacturer of multi-directional forklifts and straddle carriers, is proud to announce the renewal of its sponsorship with the Monaghan Ladies Gaelic Football Team for another three years. This extension underscores Combilift's commitment to supporting local sports and fostering community spirit.

Monaghan Ladies Gaelic Football has been a cornerstone of sporting excellence in the region, promoting athleticism, teamwork, and community engagement.

Combilift's renewed sponsorship will provide essential funding to

support the team's activities, including training programs, equipment, Programmed S&C Support, GPS and Sports Science, Performance Analysis, and Video Analysis. This partnership aims to enhance the development of players at all levels and strengthen the team's presence in national and international competitions.

Martin McVicar, managing director and co-founder of Combilift, expressed his enthusiasm for the renewed partnership: "We are thrilled to continue our support for the Monaghan Ladies Gaelic Football Team. Their dedication, hard work, and passion for the sport resonate with Com-

bilift's values. We look forward to their continued success and growth over the next three years."

Team manager, Darren Greehan, also shared his appreciation: "The Monaghan Ladies are delighted that Combilift has chosen to renew their sponsorship partnership for the next three years. This financial support helps create the best possible environment for our intercounty players, boosts the team profile, and allows management the resources to prepare the teams to the higher levels expected. We strive to make intercounty football an attractive opportunity for girls in the county, and this goes a long way to helping us reach this goal."

Combilift

www.combilift.com



Sea Cadets secure funds to uplift shelter

A WEST London Sea Cadets unit has received a boost as it seeks to improve its base.

The Feltham and Hounslow Sea Cadets group was dealt a blow at the end of last year when it suffered problems with ceilings at its building on Poplar Way. Repairs are underway — and now the group has been named as one of the first winners in Selco Builders Warehouse's Community Heroes 2024 campaign.

The Community Heroes campaign by Selco, one of the UK's leading builders merchants, gives community groups and good causes the chance to secure materials to use on a project. Feltham and Hounslow Sea Cadets has secured £500 of building materials to improve its facilities — and will also be a finalist later in the year with the chance of winning £5,000 in cash.

Heidi Pepper, chairperson of the group, said: "We are over the moon to be named as one of the first Community Heroes winners of 2024. We support young people in their development, offering them opportunities to learn about marine engineering and boating. In December we started an emergency renovation as our ceilings were failing and other parts of the building did not meet current standards. Most of the project is complete but we still have some areas to focus on. The funding has come to an end so this prize from Selco is very timely indeed. We can't wait to let the young people enjoy their new space."

Feltham and Hounslow Sea Cadets will visit the Selco Hanworth branch on Hampton Road West to choose its materials from the extensive range of materials and products on offer at the builders merchants.

This is the fourth time Selco has supported good causes across the country through Community Heroes, with an annual prize pot worth more than £10,000.

Over the course of six months, 12 winners will benefit from £500 to spend at their nearest Selco. A public vote will follow, with one overall winner bagging £5,000 in cash and a runner-up awarded £1,000. The scheme is open to any charity or group which is at the heart of its local community and entry can be made by explaining in no more than 100 words how the building materials or money would be used to benefit

members. Entries can be made at <https://www.selcobw.com/info/selco-community-heroes>

Alison Wong, Head of Communications and Sustainability at Selco, said: "We're delighted to support Feltham and Hounslow Sea Cadets, which offers amazing opportunities to young people in the local area. We have received hundreds of entries to Community Heroes so the judging process was extremely difficult. Feltham and Hounslow Sea Cadets really stood out, however, as we were impressed with their determination to restore their facilities to their former glory."

Selco

www.selcobw.com



From left, Finlay Robinson, Heidi Pepper, Officer in Charge Albert Waldmeyer and Norman Kitunzi.

Customer service achievement

SPECIALIST supplier, IronmongeryDirect, has recently been awarded In-house Research's Outstanding Achievement Award for Customer Satisfaction. The award is recognition of the company's great work in providing consistently high customer service levels.

In-house Research is a specialist research and consultancy business focusing on the new build and construction industry. The award is given to companies that achieve a Net Promoter Score (NPS) of 70 or above, based on customer feedback of the previous year. With a total of 1,200 of IronmongeryDirect's customers surveyed, the supplier achieved a score of 71.1%. In fact, IronmongeryDirect has achieved an NPS score of above 70 for the last four years.

IronmongeryDirect is continually looking at ways in which to keep its customer services levels high. With this, in the last year, the company has introduced several initiatives. This includes training six employees with

the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI). This training ensures that there are staff on hand to answer technical queries with confidence and give customers knowledgeable advice.

In addition, the supplier has introduced a Trade Quotes service where IronmongeryDirect creates the paperwork for larger jobs. In terms of delivery, customers now have three options — same day delivery to selected postcodes in London and the South East, next day delivery (for orders placed before 9 pm) and two-working day delivery for £3.95 + VAT (or free for orders over £50 + VAT). Click & Collect is also available from 6,500 pick up points.

Keri Bryce, head of sales & marketing commented, "Our business goal is to always provide the best service to our customers at every stage of their purchase. It's great to see so many of our customers happy with the service that we offer. This has also been shown through the excel-

lent Trustpilot reviews we receive. We are incredibly proud to have been awarded this recognition and look forward to continually striving to offer the best customer service in the industry."

Tom Weston, chief executive at In-House Research commented, "Gaining 2024 Outstanding Achievement Award for Customer Satisfaction is testament to IronmongeryDirect's dedication to this part of its business — it's a great accomplishment."

IronmongeryDirect is a leading specialist supplier of ironmongery to the trade, with over 18,000 products in stock for next day delivery, including everything from hinges, locks and security devices to specialist fire door hardware.

IronmongeryDirect
www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk



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www.vollmer-group.com

Selco Commits To Volunteering Pledge

SELCO Builders Warehouse has further demonstrated its commitment to supporting local communities by offering a paid volunteering day to each of its near 3,000-strong workforce.

All colleagues operating in Selco's 75 branches and its Support Centre, based in Wythall, near Birmingham, will be given the opportunity to lend support to a community or charity project while still being paid by the leading builders merchant. It means more than 20,000 hours will be donated by Selco to allow its colleagues to support projects close to their hearts in 2024 on a normal working day.

Sally Kerr, HR director at Selco (pictured), said: "As a business, we have always been committed to supporting the local communities in which we operate and this initiative is another step on our sustainability strategy around community and our people. We know that many colleagues would love to engage in active volunteering but are restricted by time. Launching this corporate volunteering programme will give colleagues the chance to give back to a project or organisation but within the structure of a routine working day.

"Colleagues will be free to make their own choice on which organisation they would like to volunteer for, and we will offer support and assistance to colleagues who are keen to engage with the programme but may be struggling to identify an opportunity.

"We are extremely proud to be offering



this scheme and look forward to seeing our colleagues playing their part in improving local charities and community organisations."

Selco has a proud tradition of supporting charities and communities across the UK. Over the last two years, the builders merchant has raised more than £400,000 for its nominated charity Cancer Research UK. In addition, Selco donates £12,000 — in building materials and donations — to good causes through its Community Heroes campaign each year.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

Green Doors scoops top prize in national awards

THE RAPIDLY growing upcycling business Green Doors has won the top prize at this year's Small Awards.

The Luton-based company, founded by Joseph Holman (pictured) in 2014, was awarded the 'Best Overall Small Business' as well as gaining the coveted 'Net Hero' prize.

Mr Holman and managing director Levi Lucas were presented with their awards by the comedian and former Bake Off host Sue Perkins at the ceremony in London.

Mr Holman said: "We were so overwhelmed to win at The Small Awards, not just once, but two different awards — Net Hero and Small

Business of the Year. We have been running the business for 10 years, built from a passion of wanting to rescue things that deserved a second chance and to preserve our planet. The award for Best Overall Small Business came as quite of a surprise, as we believed we were only shortlisted for the Net Hero award, which was as a result of our contribution to sustainability in the construction industry."

Mr Holman founded his business after selling a set of French doors which he found in a skip.

This gave him the idea of building a large scale business, providing customers with surplus and second hand doors at lower prices, while also reducing waste destined for landfill.

Green Doors now employs 30 staff, produces a revenue of close to £2M and has thousands of doors and windows at its warehouse.

"We are on a mission to give doors a second chance and this award is a significant milestone for us in that mission," said Mr Holman.

"We have come an incredibly long way in the past decade. Not bad for a business started in a skip.

"We have been running the business for ten years — starting out with nothing more than a set of doors found in a skip.

"In those ten years we have built it up from a passion of wanting to rescue things that deserved a second chance and to preserve our planet. But to then be chosen as best overall small business has meant so much to the team, it hasn't quite sunk in.

"This makes me think that what we're doing is clearly making a difference and that is so encouraging for everyone involved."

Green Doors ● <https://greendoors.co.uk>



IBMG's ProRange private label continues to grow

THE Independent Builders Merchant Group (IBMG) has announced the latest addition to its ProRange own-label: ProRange Plywood.

Launching ProRange Plywood across its branch network, the Group aims to ensure consistency in quality, improved delivery times and uniform competitive pricing for one of the most versatile and affordable building materials used by its customers. IBMG's ProRange Plywood has durable eucalyptus throughout with phenolic resin and an E1 formaldehyde rating. Available in Class 2 and Class 3, the new addition to the ProRange product line is FSC certified and ethically sourced.

Bob Tee, category director at IBMG said: "Plywood remains a cornerstone material for builders, hence our reason for launching 'ProRange Eucalyptus Throughout Plywood'. We want our customers to be assured of consistent quality and competitive pricing whether purchasing it from Parker Building Supplies, Grant & Stone, RGB, Chancellors Building Supplies, Fairalls, or any of our other builders merchants."

Moving to a single source for the ProRange Plywood also aligns with IBMG's commitment to improving delivery timelines as well as streamlining operations and enhancing efficiency.

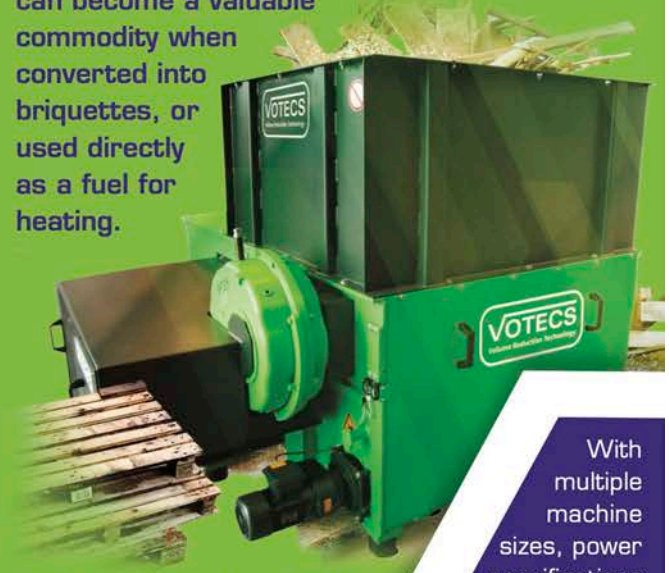
IBMG announced its first foray into private-label products with the launch of its ProRange product line at the beginning of 2024. The first product to launch under the brand was ProRange underfloor heating (UFH). IBMG will continue to add to its ProRange line over the coming months, with the intention to provide a comprehensive product range to installers.

Independent Builders Merchant Group
www.independentbm.com



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CRS Building Supplies raises over £2,500 for Help the Child



CRS Building Supplies is thanking customers and suppliers for helping them to raise £2,552.08 for the Somerset based charity Help the Child.

The charity is dedicated to helping children with disabilities across the county reach their full potential and create a brighter future by providing specialist equipment, such as wheelchairs, computer software, car seats and sensory equipment.

In addition to donations from customers, CRS secured support from its suppliers who generously pledged contributions.

Alun Gillett from CRS commented: "We are incredibly grateful to our customers and suppliers for their unwavering kindness. Their contributions will make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families in Somerset. Help the Child does amazing work in our community, and I have no doubt that our customers' support will directly benefit those in need."

CRS Building Supplies

www.crsbuildingsupplies.co.uk

Builders merchants charity football tournament

BUILDERS merchants joined together and raised in excess of £1,200 for charity in one day.

A charity five-a-side football tournament dedicated to raising funds for Teenage Cancer Trust kicked-off at Tonbridge Angels FC with in excess of 60 enthusiastic participants. Teams from builders merchants across the South East included Chandlers Building Supplies Thanet, Chandlers Roofing Supplies Tonbridge; Parkers Building Supplies Maidstone, Worthing, Hove, Bexhill; Fairalls Builders Merchants Gatwick and Godstone; and builder customer Kingsheath Construction. The combined team from Worthing & Hove were the tournament winners.

Andrew Machin, of Thanet's Chandlers Building Supplies, said: "It was a great day and we are thrilled to hand over these funds to Teenage Cancer Trust, a charity dedicated to providing support to young people aged 13-24 with cancer. A big thank you to local Thanet groundworks and civils company AGS Ltd for generously sponsoring the team shirts and to everyone who turned up on the day to support this initiative."

Lynn Hyder, Teenage Cancer Trust, expressed gratitude towards Chandlers, Parker's, and Fairalls for their unwavering commitment to fundraising. "It is thanks to initiatives like this that Teenage Cancer Trust can continue its crucial work in supporting young people facing cancer."

The charity football tournament marks the latest effort in the ongoing philanthropic en-

deavours of Chandlers Roofing Supplies, Parker Building Supplies, and Fairalls Builder Merchants. Previous initiatives, ranging from marathons to gala nights, have collectively raised over £300,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust, underscoring the enduring commitment of IBMG's builders merchants to serve their communities and make a positive impact.

Chandlers Building Supplies ● <https://chandlersbs.co.uk>



Selco boost for secret garden in Fallowfield

A MANCHESTER community garden which welcomes around 250 green-fingered local residents a month has received the support of a leading UK builders merchant.

The Fallowfield Secret Garden, based on Wilbraham Road, has been donated materials by the Ardwick branch of Selco Builders Warehouse to help create the foundations for the building of a second shed on the 1.5 acre site.

The garden was founded in 2011 and plays host to a number of different groups from the local community each month.

As well as growing vegetables, the garden attracts wildlife and hosts a large children's play area.

Mark Roberts, joint founder of the Secret Garden with Jordan Campbell, said: "We are extremely grateful for Selco's support and having another shed will make a real difference to the opportunities we are able to offer the local community.

"The land originally surrounded social housing and fell into disuse but we have come a long way since then, creating a thriving green space which is enjoyed every month by hundreds of local residents.

"We welcome all sorts of different groups – from a forest school for under fives, to special sessions for children who are home educated to groups for local mums and events for pensioners.

From left, Mark Roberts and Jordan Campbell, both from the Secret Garden.



"We like to think we have something for everyone, whether they want to be gardening, learning new skills, meeting other local

residents or just being outside and all the benefits that brings.

"We have also got ambitious plans for the future, including try-

ing to form a partnership with the NHS and mental health groups."

The Secret Garden contributes to local, organic food production, hosts classes for people to learn practical skills including gardening and carpentry and features a large pond.

Matt Keith, branch manager of Selco Ardwick which is based on Hyde Road, said: "We are delighted to support the Fallowfield Secret Garden project.

"It does an outstanding job for the local community, not only encouraging local residents to come together and enjoy the outdoor space but also teaching people new skills.

"We are committed to supporting the local communities in which we operate and the Secret Garden is the perfect project for us to support."

Selco has three other branches in Manchester in Ashton, Salford and Baguley.

Selco

www.selcobw.com



Strategic partnership brings new GUTMANN-LIGNUM wood-aluminium window and door system

THE SHARED ideals and values of improving standards and quality in the market, has culminated in a strategic partnership between GUTMANN and The Joinery Network to create a new GUTMANN LIGNUM wood-aluminium window and door system.

The new timber-aluclad product has been specifically designed by aluminium specialists, GUTMANN, and The Joinery Network to suit the UK's housing stock. The system benefits from the certification and Secured By Design accreditation awarded across the comprehensive Lignum range of windows and doors.

Paul Barden, GUTMANN Director UK & Ireland, says: "The Joinery Network is a natural partner for GUTMANN as we share a vision of producing top quality, sustainable window and door systems.



Working together we have utilised each other's strengths and knowledge to develop a high-performance product, ensuring the aesthetics were right for UK homes and buildings."

Luke Piper, Founder Partner for The Joinery Network, adds: "Joinery manufacturers and installation companies have been asking us for a timber aluclad window and door range that fits in with UK houses.

"The new GUTMANN LIGNUM suite represents a significant addition to our fully Document Q certified offer.

"It's been brilliant working with GUTMANN to develop this new range, and it will give our members more choice and opportunities to promote truly sustainable windows and doors."

The Joinery Network

www.thejoinerynetwork.co.uk

Calibrationhouse investment programme

CALIBRATIONHOUSE, a leader in UKAS-accredited calibration services, has commenced a **£500,000 investment in an extensive suite of new calibration capabilities to streamline and enhance equipment calibration for the manufacturing industry.**

These new services are set to change the market by offering a one-stop shop for calibration needs as it is possible to perform the majority of them at a customer's premises.

In 2023, Calibrationhouse rolled out new calibration capabilities including bore gauges, high pressure up to 700 bar, verniers, micrometers, height gauges, thermal imaging cameras, anemometers and torque wrenches to 1000 nm. The company also introduced inclinometer, protractor and expanded temperature calibration capabilities.

Now in 2024, the company will offer calibration of force gauges, current transformers, high pressure gauges, liquid flow, mass, gauge blocks and humidity devices to complete a wide portfolio of capabilities covering the

electrical, temperature, pressure, flow, dimensional and humidity calibration disciplines.

A key advantage for manufacturers is the ability of Calibrationhouse to calibrate a wide range of equipment on-site, reducing lead times and equipment downtime. Calibrationhouse's engineers can deliver calibration services directly at the customer's premises, meaning crucial test equipment is unavailable for minutes rather than days. Alternatively, manu-

facturers can opt to send their equipment to Calibrationhouse's base in Peterlee for back-to-base calibration completed within five working days from receipt.

Andrew Simpson, Manager of Calibrationhouse, said: "We are providing a comprehensive calibration solution of the highest quality that enables us to calibrate almost all of our customers test equipment, as recognised by our continuous accreditation as an approved vendor for the

prestigious UK Defence Sector (JOSCAR).

"Traditionally, manufacturers had to rely on multiple calibration companies who could each only handle a portion of their calibration needs. Our expanded capabilities mean manufacturers can now turn to Calibrationhouse as a one-stop shop. From bore gauges to temperature probes, verniers to pressure gauges, our extensive range of capabilities means that we can calibrate almost the vast majority of a typical manufacturing company's test equipment, either at a customer's premises or back in our lab."

The comprehensive service available from Calibrationhouse makes the provider an ideal partner for manufacturers, delivering greater efficiency, reliability and reduced downtime. With over 1,500 customers already benefiting from their services, Calibrationhouse is setting comprehensive new standards for calibration in the manufacturing industry.

Calibrationhouse

www.calibrationhouse.com



Makita tooling at Shred & Butta

MAKITA has worked closely with Shred & Butta to help the vehicle conversion specialist streamline its work and deliver the results its customers are looking for.

Consequently, Shred & Butta has invested in a range of mains-powered and cordless Makita tools, including a number of 40VMax XGT machines.

Shred & Butta, based in Cobham in Surrey, specialises in custom vehicle conversions and build everything from unique campervans and tour buses to eye-catching promotional vehicles and one-of-a-kind mobile catering units. The 15-strong team also turn their talents to building creative, eye catching displays and other items for shops, offices and exhibitions and has worked with leading adventure sports brands as well as major food and drink companies. The work of Shred & Butta has been showcased on its own TV programme 'Full Metal Junkies' on Quest and Discovery+, as well as featuring on 'Johnny Vegas: Carry on Glamping' and 'George Clarke's Amazing Spaces' for Channel 4.

Jim Stewart, director of Shred & Butta and founder of sports wax brand Butta, approached Makita about the possibility of working more closely together. He explained: "I have used Makita tools since I started Shred & Butta almost 10 years ago, beginning with drills and drivers and steadily adding more to our kit as the business grew. With our work expanding to even more ambitious projects, we began looking at what other tools were available to help us get the job done. We could see clear advantages of collaborating with Makita as one of the leading manufacturers and our go-to brand over many years."

Following a discussion with Jim to establish what help could be offered, Makita agreed to provide tools for Shred & Butta to trial, including some of the latest product launches. If the team finds the machine useful for the work they are doing, they can then purchase the tool themselves, if not they simply return it after the trial.

Shred & Butta has trialled, and subsequently invested in, a number of tools from Makita's high performance 40VMax XGT range. This includes the JR001GZ Reciprocating Saw, LS002GZ01 216mm Slide Compound Mitre Saw, SP001GZ03 165mm Plunge Saw and DK0114G202 Combi Drill and Impact Driver Twin kit. The XGT tools have provided an alternative to the corded machines that Shred & Butta had been using for many of the highest demand tasks.

Jim commented: "Using mains powered tools is generally not an issue as we can get power to anywhere within our yard. However, we are often working inside vehicles and



so having the flexibility that cordless tools provide, as well as the performance to match mains power makes our work much easier. There is also a safety benefit to minimising the number of cables in our work area as it removes potential trip hazards."

As a result of the collaboration, Shred & Butta has also invested in Makita 18V LXT tools and equipment including the DRV250Z Rivet Gun, the DRT50ZJX3 Router/Trimmer, DCS552Z Metal Cutting Saw and DML809 LED Work Light.

The quality of the tools, as well as the service and support offered by Makita, are also important factors in Shred & Butta's continued investment.

Jim added: "Using low quality tools is simply not an option for us as it impacts our productivity when something breaks down. Not only have the Makita tools proved very reliable, but the service and support we have received has been excellent."

"If there is ever an issue with a tool, someone from Makita will pick it up and ensure it is sorted. We believe it is worth the investment to get that level of support. It really feels like the team at Makita is interested in us as a business and is genuinely committed to helping in any way they can."

Thomas Lanaghan, Product Specialist at Makita commented: "We are pleased to be able to help Jim and the team at Shred & Butta and the relationship also has benefits for us. The team there use the tools for a wide variety of tasks, which are often quite demanding. The open dialogue with Shred & Butta means we receive valuable feedback on our tools, which will help to inform future product developments."

Makita ● www.makitauk.com

Showcasing students' skills with Liberon

STUDENTS at Burton and South Derbyshire College have taken part in a competition set by Liberon to test their carpentry and joinery skills. The woodcare experts called on learners on the college's Bench Joinery course to design, build and finish a children's toy, using Liberon's Palette Wood Dye, Finishing Oil and Black Bison Paste.

Teams of students were given twenty teaching hours in total to complete the project. The winning team came up with the idea to produce a toddler's stroller incorporating built-in games on its front, shaped holes on its side for posting corresponding-shaped blocks through, and a storage section at its rear for the blocks. The project saw the team using Oak and a variety of softwoods.

Richard Bradley, Marketing Manager at the competition sponsors, Liberon, says: "What brilliant designs the students came up with. They are clearly very talented. We'd like to congratulate the winning team, and wish all the students on the course the best of luck in their future carpentry and joinery careers."

Course leader, Ian Vanes-Jones, added: "All the students produced some extremely impressive results of which they can be very proud. The investment made by the college in a new CNC router has seen a good return in this task. We asked the students to design, build and finish a project within a tight time frame, and they have risen to the

challenge superbly, handling their introduction to new skills really well. I've always been a strong advocate of Liberon's Palette Wood Dye, which imparts great tonal highlights, but this competition has underlined its attributes even more. Having tested the range of colours first it's been great to see the rich shades that can be achieved using the range."

The entries were judged by volunteers from a local children's nursery who agreed that the standard of work was high and that making a choice had not been an easy decision. The three members of the winning team each won a £25 Amazon voucher provided by Liberon.

If woodworkers are trying to achieve a specific finished shade this can

be done by mixing any of the 13 colours in which Liberon's Palette Wood Dye is available. Palette Wood Dye is a quick-drying, top quality, water-based option suitable for either soft or hardwoods. The dye's formulation includes light stability for excellent colour retention. It is easily absorbed, and its specialist acrylic formula minimises the raising of wood grain.

It is always advisable to check the suitability of surface finishing products for use on real-world children's wooden toys. The toys featured in this competition are for display purposes only.

Liberon

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www.liberon.co.uk



LMR Building Supplies branches into timber

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE-based builders' merchant, LMR Building Supplies has launched a new specialist timber division as a result of the wealth of supplier information and deals the business has access to through National Buying Group (NBG).

LMR Timber Supplies has been launched, operating in Findeon, Northamptonshire, at the same location as LMR Building Supplies, to offer the business's well-established customer base a more comprehensive product portfolio. The business has specialised in a variety of building materials including civils, roofing, landscaping and joinery products since it opened in 2018.

As a partner of NBG, LMR has been able to introduce a new range of competitively priced timber products from suppliers with a proven track record of quality including Setra Wood Products UK and Meyer. The new products include various second fix timbers such as skirting and architrave, doors, decking and fencing supplies, as well as engineered and solid wood flooring, sleepers and sheet materials. LMR has also introduced an in-house cutting facility to enable them to offer cut sheets, firings and other bespoke timber products. The expansion has been a long-held goal of LMR's, made possible in part through the support of NBG.

Dan Denton, Director at LMR, said: "Most people in business have expansion in their sights at some point — the question is usually 'when can we?' rather than 'should we?' LMR Building Supplies joined NBG in November 2022 and, because of that, we found we were in a position to expand that bit sooner than expected. The knowledge that our timber suppliers have already been vetted by NBG and that our deals have been negotiated by the NBG's own category management teams give us a lot of confidence that we're getting quality products at the best prices."

NBG's category management teams (CMTs) are dedicated to securing the best deals for partners, applying industry expertise along with NBG's combined buying power.

Mark Hughes, managing director of NBG, said: "It's great to see another one of our partners growing so quickly. We're really proud of LMR's success and are happy that NBG could play a role in making that growth happen. Our CMTs are specialists in securing the very best supplier deals which benefit all partners and make expansions like LMR's a smooth process."

National Buying Group ● NationalBuyingGroup.com



New head of SCM Wood Division

PIETRO Gheller, formerly product & markets director of SCM Wood Division, takes over the running of the same Division and the position previously held by Luigi De Vito, who continues as general manager of SCM Group.

Pietro Gheller was born in Vicenza 48 years ago and, in 1997, took part in the International Business Program at Stockholm School of Economics and in 1999 graduated from the Bocconi University in Milan in Business Economics. Since 2000, over the course of his long professional career, he has held strategic consulting positions and ones of managerial responsibility in sales, commercial marketing and the supply chain, working for important commercial organisations and multinationals in Italy and abroad in the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods, Durable Goods and Industrial Machinery sectors.

In 2019, he joined SCM Group as sales & markets director in the Wood Division, taking charge of and handling the strategic management of more than twenty of the group's branches and the entire operating sales network in Italy and abroad. Under his commercial guidance, SCM increased its direct presence on key markets with new branches opening in Turkey, India, South-east Asia and the Balkans, as well as establishing strategic commercial partnerships like the one with the Swedish company Randek AB in the systems for timber construction sector.

In 2022, he was appointed SCM's product & markets director, taking charge of the Business Units and, therefore, of the different technologies which make up the group's vast range of products dedicated to the entire secondary wood processing industry. Since 11 April 2024, he has been director of the Wood Division, taking charge of SCM's Industrial and Customer Care departments together with the technology and commercial development departments.

"I'd like to thank SCM Group's Board of Directors and general management for the trust shown in me," says Pietro Gheller. "For me, this is the peak of my professional career which has allowed me to acquire important skills in the direct management of global teams and to adopt an increasingly more strategic and focused approach to results. Experiences and skills which I am proud to make use of in managing the Wood Division in every area of expertise. The international macroeconomic context is not yet fully on the industry's side, but we can continue to focus on our team strength, the value of ongoing investments and the Group's financial solidity, to gain further market shares".

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IronmongeryDirect appoints new managing director

LEADING specialist supplier and member of the Manutan Group, IronmongeryDirect, has appointed Dave Coulson as managing director.

Mr Coulson brings a wealth of commercial, ecommerce, and leadership expertise to the role, having previously held the position of CEO at three well-known private equity-backed businesses, and group marketing director for an AIM-listed food group of seven companies.

Following 26 years' working within the FMCG industry for blue chip companies such as McCain Foods, Nestlé and Kellogg's, coupled with significant experience developing multi-channel branded businesses throughout his career, Dave has extensive knowledge and qualities that will prove invaluable to the company. In recognition of his experience, Dave is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM).

Amidst a competitive market combined with the fast-moving world of ecommerce, Dave's focus will be steering the company forward in meeting these challenges by helping IronmongeryDirect continue to evolve and grow as a leading supplier of ironmongery products in the UK.

Stepping into his new role, Dave said: "I'm delighted to be joining IronmongeryDirect. From a business mindset, this is a fantastic opportunity to apply all the skills I've learned in my previous roles as CEO/managing director to an already successful, well-respected company. From a personal perspective, I was impressed with the strong team at IronmongeryDirect and the people-focused approach of Manutan Group, which seemed like a great fit. I'm delighted to become a permanent member of the team and I look forward to helping drive the company through its next phase of growth."

Marco Verdonkschot, chief operating officer at Manutan — a leading European multi-channel B2B retailer group IronmongeryDirect is part of — commented: "We are pleased to welcome Dave to IronmongeryDirect. With his substantial experience in sales, marketing and management, he's ideally placed to evolve the brand's positioning and grow the company through innovative ideas and strategies. Dave will be a huge asset, helping to develop IronmongeryDirect's market-leading range and aiding in its evolution and success."

IronmongeryDirect is a leading specialist supplier of ironmongery to the trade. With over 19,000 products in stock, including everything from front door furniture and door & cabinet handles, to storage solutions, bathroom accessories, outdoor hardware and electrical, customers can choose from a range of flexible delivery options to meet the needs of their busy schedules, including next day delivery, same day delivery to postcodes in selected areas of London and the East of England, and click and collect from 6,500 pick up points across the UK.

IronmongeryDirect ● www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk



New board member for Premier Forest Products

LEADING UK timber supplier Premier Forest Products has appointed Anthony Hopps as group processing director, supporting the company's commitment to their processing division. Anthony, who has over 30 years industry experience, joined the business early last year, following the acquisition of Decorpanel, a specialist panel processing company based in Tyne & Wear.

Under his leadership, the panel processing arm has grown to incorporate North-East Sheets & Panels Ltd (NESP) which has rebranded under the Decorpanel name as Decorpanel KBB (Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms).

His new role will see him taking responsibility for Premier Forest's processing division as a whole, which includes Premier Processing and Fabrication in Newport, South Wales.

Speaking of his new role, Anthony said: "I'm so pleased to join the Premier Forest Board of Directors following a hugely successful year since Decorpanel's acquisition.

"Since my move to managing director of Decorpanel and the rebrand of NESP to Decorpanel KBB, we've already seen great improvements in our offering and an expanded customer base.

"I'm looking forward to further developing the processing division and continuing its renewed focus within the business."

Co-founder and CEO of Premier Forest Products Terry Edgell said: "We are delighted to appoint Anthony as group processing director. With a strategic vision and deep understanding of the industry, Anthony brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our team. His strong relationships with customers and suppliers will play a pivotal role in driving our strategic expansion of the processing division.

"Appointing this new position to the Board demonstrates the importance of further developing the processing division, following the successful integration of NESP into Decorpanel. We welcome Anthony to the Board and wish him success in his new role."

Premier Forest Products is a vertically integrated timber operation engaged in the importation, milling, processing, merchandising, and wholesale distribution of timber and timber products from its multiple sites in the UK.

Premier Forest Products

<https://premierforest.co.uk/>



The West Fraser sales team is bigger than ever

THE WEST FRASER sales team now comprises Dom West, sales director UK and Ireland (pictured); Nigel Morris, national sales manager; David Sleight and Daniel Clarke, Daniel Stabik and Daniel Andrew, senior key account managers; Mark Lewis-Ranwell and Roisin Weir, key account managers; Andy Byer, Miso Petrovich, Mercedes Scott and Sarah Birmingham, business development managers.

The sales director for West Fraser, UK and Ireland, Dom West explains, "Our sales organisation is well-established in the UK & Ireland and we have a team of talented people. As well as driving the sales of West Fraser's leading OSB, MDF and PB products, we continue to work together to identify new opportunities for growth, with a focus on establishing solid relationships. We are also excited about furthering our environmental status and messaging.

"More and more of us are aware of our impact on the environment; so being able to represent a business whose products are net carbon negative is important for us all."

West Fraser is a diversified wood product company with more than 60 facilities in Canada, the US and Europe. From responsibly sourced and sustainably-managed forest resources, the company produces lumber, engineered wood (OSB, LVL, MDF, plywood and particleboard), and other products including pulp, newsprint, wood chips and renewable energy. The UK-manufactured products are FSC-certified and are used extensively in the construction, DIY and furniture sectors.

The brands, SterlingOSB Zero, CaberFloor and CaberMDF, are well known in the UK construction industry and are commonly specified by architects, national house-builders and specifiers.

Dom concludes, "As industry leaders, we don't only produce renowned products and operate a strong sales team; we also have an experienced technical team on hand to deal with enquiries from architects, builders, contractors — in fact anyone involved in the specification or use of West Fraser's engineered wood-based panels."

West Fraser ● Tel 01786 812 921

<https://uk.westfraser.com>

<https://uk.westfraser.com/about-us/uk-sales-team/>



A decade of growth: Exploring the legacy of outgoing BSW Group CEO, Tony Hackney

BSW GROUP, now a member of Binderholz, is looking back over its last 10 years of operation, as prolific CEO Tony Hackney retires and his 30-year career in the sector begins to a draw to a close.

Tony has been the figurehead of BSW for more than 15 years, having joined as chief executive officer in late 2008 before stepping into the role of UK chairman last year. But the last 10 years in particular saw Tony preside over a period of unprecedented growth in size, scale and output from the company.

Not only did turnover increase from approximately £100M annually to over £900M, but this period also saw BSW's reach and influence stretch across the supply chain and wider timber industry. BSW was already a major stakeholder in the timber supply chain, but the variety of key businesses acquired in the last decade means that the group now has a hand in every part of process.

From a standalone timber manufacturer, Tony spearheaded BSW's transformation into a fully-integrated forestry and timber business, seamlessly spanning every stage of the process, encompassing tree nurseries, forest management, timber harvesting and production.

2015 saw the acquisition of Tilhill Forestry, which provided BSW with a forest management offering, while the 2019 purchase of Maelor Forest Nurseries, the UK's foremost growers of coniferous and broadleaf trees, enabled BSW to supercharge the valuable scientific work that the nursery achieves.

2020 brought significant challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic made an unprecedented impact across industries, but steady yet agile management enabled BSW to weather the storm. BSW was able to continue its buying streak throughout the year with the acquisitions of Dick Brothers (the UK's largest forestry harvesting company) and SCA Wood UK



(now BSW Timber Solutions) — a manufacturer and distributor of timber products for home improvement and DIY retailers.

Despite global supply chain issues beginning to take effect the following year, in 2021, BSW strengthened its value added processing capabilities and broadened its product offering by acquiring Bayram Timber — a key supplier into the caravan, leisure home and garden sectors. And, in 2022, BSW embarked on a joint venture with the industry disruptor Power Sheds.

Throughout these years, the strength of Tony's associations with internal and external stakeholders was unparalleled. This was evident as he navigated the sale of BSW to private equity firm Endless in 2020, having previously held a strong relationship with the previous owners, the Brownlie family, particularly the late Sandy Brownlie.

A decade of fostering growth and increasing value also paid off 2022, when Tony steered BSW Group out of the Endless era and into being purchased by timber giant Binderholz. Tony's leadership was vital, ensuring the smooth operation of the company during the transition.

BSW then went on to acquire the award-winning Scott Pallets, the country's leading, sustainable manufacturer of new, bespoke, and reconditioned timber pallets.

The acquisition of Scott Pallets provided BSW with a link to its latest purchase, Pallet LOOP — the exciting circular economy pallet reuse business. Alongside enhancing its product and service offering for customers, this acquisition enables BSW Group to make the most of resources, as part of a key focus to improve sustainability practices and ESG goals.

The purchase of Scott Pallets, at the back end of 2022, also entered BSW into a joint venture with Allwood Recycling Solutions — another arm which further underlines the direction of travel for the business and its commitment to reducing waste across the supply chain.

Together with the team of expert businesses and brands, Tony forged a fully integrated supply chain, helping to unlock the full potential of timber and sustain long-term growth for the business.

Formerly just BSW Timber, BSW Group now consists of that original sawmilling business, as well

as Maelor Forest Nurseries, Tilhill Forestry, Dick Brothers, BSW Timber Solutions, Bayram Timber, Power Sheds, Scott Pallets, Pallet LOOP, Pallet 2 Packaging and Allwood Recycling Solutions, while also encompassing brands such as IRO Timber, BSW Composites, CarbonStore and Wood Fuel Direct.

On his retirement, Tony said: "Leading BSW through challenging times has been a fantastic experience. I would like to thank all my colleagues and friends across the UK, Latvia and Slovenia for their extraordinary efforts in developing BSW during my period of stewardship.

"I have valued very highly the relationships with our loyal customers and suppliers and again thank them for their support. I wish you all every success in the future.

"I am very proud of the progress we have made, which has assisted in bringing the company to the strong position it is in now. It presents a good moment for me to choose to retire from BSW to pursue my own business interests and spend more time with my family."

BSW Group
www.thebswgroup.co.uk

Beyond the machine: at Xylexpo, with SCM

BEHIND every SCM machine or system for wood machining lies the know-how of a team of experts focusing constantly on the industry's future to provide products and services that satisfy clients' real needs. This is the philosophy behind the Italian group's research and development work and is the same message that has accompanied SCM's participation at Xylexpo 2024.

The numerous visitors who have gathered at the group's stand have been able to enjoy a unique experience, discovering a wide range of technological and digital innovations in a fully multi-media fashion.

SCM has "broken with tradition" by turning up at a trade fair for the first time ever with no machines: a choice in line with the group's focus on sustainability and environmental impact which demonstrates its ability to lead even in how it communicates with the market and mainly stems from a precise vision, increasingly focused on everything "beyond the machine" to fully support clients with their business needs.

Pietro Gheller, SCM Wood Division's director, pointed this out at a press conference organised at the stand: "The numerous innovations presented at Xylexpo demonstrate SCM's ability to develop a long-standing, continuous and shared relationship with clients, and to support their needs not only throughout the entire



life cycle of a machine, but for the whole duration of its entrepreneurial activity.

"This is possible not only thanks to technology — which is still the core of the group's experience — but by offering an ecosystem of software, services, skills and experience with a very high added value".

In line with this vision, increasingly focused on service, SCM has presented a vast programme of innovations strongly centred around new market demands in terms of digitalisation and sustainability, and on new Industry 5.0 scenarios.

The stand had a series of corners around its perimeter complete with screens providing a detailed description of the width and depth of the range of technological solutions which SCM is capable of offering to meet every specific production process in the sector.

Also on show at the stand was an area for clients' finished products to get hands-on experience of the result achieved, from a quality and finishing point of view, thanks to the group's machines and systems.

Focus has shifted away from the client's product and towards

their needs in terms of support, control advice and productivity: the new WIN MES software has been presented on this occasion to deal with the factory's IT flow.

Lastly, at the heart of stand, visitors to Xylexpo were able to explore SCM's new, fully operational Digital Control Room which digitally interprets the group's values: the relationship with the client ("you will never work alone") via the proactive service enabled by the Maestro connect IoT system and sustainability.

Sustainability towards the environment via new energy monitoring functions, sustainability of operations via the predictive maintenance and business sustainability guaranteed by the increase in productivity and the Service Bundle packages.

Lastly, but equally important, the concept of sustainability towards people which takes the form of sharing technical knowledge and continuous training.

Another key objective in SCM's vision is to supply automated, integrated and complete processes for the entire woodworking sector. State-of-the-art multi-media and immersive tools have projected visitors into the heart of SCM's limitless product offer.

Innovations for every field of application have been illustrated — furniture and kitchens, windows, doors, flooring, timber construction, surface treatment, joinery and boats and caravans — with the integration of CMS solutions, another of the group's



brands specialising in technologies for machining other materials such as glass, marble, metal, plastic and composite materials.

There was no shortage of live linkups with SCM's Technology Centers in Italy to illustrate the new flexible industrial cells for beam saw, nesting, edgebanding and drilling, integrated with automatic storages and articulated robots, just like the integrated solutions for sanding and finishing to machine cabinet doors, windows and doors, and parquet.

"The new entries show how innovation remains key to SCM's strategy. The group continues to invest 7% of its turnover each year in research and development and in 2023, it was among the top ten Italian companies filing patent requests, according to Epo Patent Index data issued by the European Office of Patents", added Pietro Gheller during the press conference.

"R&D investments at the Wood Division will always be increasingly focused on the machining stages which are more determinant on the quality of the end product, like edgebanding, CNC machining centres and the entire process for surface treatment where SCM, together with Superfici can provide a selection of complete and integrated solutions".

On the subject of which, Xylexpo has also been an opportunity to inaugurate the new SCM-Superfici Technology Centre in nearby Villasanta, in the heart of Brianza.

These 2,000 m² were used to organise tangible demonstra-



tions on a wide range of products and services: not just the Superfici solutions for finishing but also for a wide range of other technologies belonging to the group to complete the production processes of furniture, doors and windows, construction and joinery work.

Some of the other new entries at Xylexpo include the new software Maestro Lab (CNC machining centre and drilling machines) for CAD/CAM programming both from the office and from the machine, Maestro active beam&wall (CNC machining centres for timber construction), the optimiser for Maestro optiwise and Maestro stackwise panel saws for stacking pieces during the bespoke cutting process, as well as Maestro edge-

store manager (edgebanding) to centrally manage the edges.

The technological innovations present include:

- ◊ Cargo, a patented loading and unloading system which can be integrated into CNC Morbidelli M200 and Accord 500/600 machining centres to machine panels and doors.
- ◊ New version of Windorflex, automatic cell to create complete windows and doors, nowadays with two loading devices and a front-loading bench.
- ◊ New Gabbiani P95 and Gabbiani PT95 panel saws designed for both batch 1 production and the production line.
- ◊ New Stefani M, industrial edgebanding with a highly competitive investment, with advanced

technological solutions for excellent automatic set up and design levels every time.

◊ New DMC system with laser unit to create sophisticated finishes and three-dimensional scorings on parquet, wooden pieces and panels.

◊ The new multifunction roller unit available on the DMC SD 90 sanding and calibrating machines to switch from calibrating to sanding unfinished, veneered and painted solid wood panels in a matter of minutes.

◊ For the finishing, state-of-the-art UV processes and UV LED polymerisation systems with Superfici patented system for the finish and solutions for robotic sprayer to machine both the panel and windows and doors.

◊ For timber construction: the highly versatile Oikos XS, CNC machining centre for timber construction, for fast, accurate joinery machining, and DMC System XL, automatic sanding-calibrating machines for CLT walls.

◊ For squaring and profiling, new double Celaschi P60 squaring machine with "a step" advancement and CNC machining on solid wood panels; a machine that takes the concept of profiling to a new level.

◊ In the case of machines for joinery work, the spotlights are turned on "blade off", an innovative SCM safety system solution which serves the purpose of limiting the intrinsic danger of using a circular saw, as much as possible, without putting limitations on the operator's work and creativity.

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Materials & Finishes Show 2024



ORGANISERS of Materials & Finishes Show (formerly W Exhibition) are celebrating after the hugely successful return of the UK's trade show for the furniture manufacturing and joinery industries (Birmingham NEC 19-22 May, 2024.)

Over 6,000 visitors attended Materials & Finishes Show marking a conversion rate of over 55% from pre registrants. Over 50% of the audience was made up of joiners, furniture manufacturers and professionals, carpenters and cabinet makers who had come

to source the latest products and technology on the market.

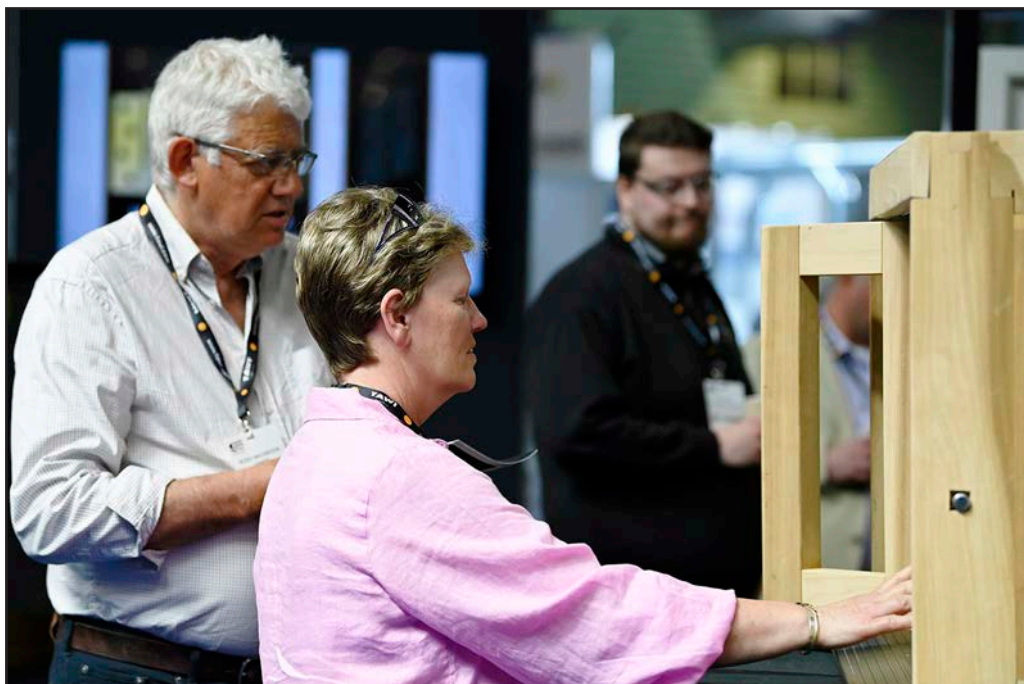
The event marked the first time that every corner of the UK woodworking sector has had the opportunity to come together, see the latest products and innovations on offer all under one

roof, network and do business, since 2018.

Visitors had over 160 brands to choose from on the show floor, with running machinery displayed alongside the latest materials, components, software, tools, fixtures, finishing products and innovations for the woodworking sector. Over 45% of the exhibitors were overseas brands who had recognised the opportunities that having a presence at the UK's trade show for the furniture manufacturing and joinery industries presented.

Visitor Josh Hudson, furniture lead for Rycotewood Furniture Learning Centre, said: "It's great to be able to meet so many people in one place. You've got everybody here which means you're not trekking around the country to meet everybody and it's the perfect place to make connections with the industry."

New features, such as the Live Demo Zone and CPD certified learning programme proved a big draw for visitors who were able to participate in over 40 hours of live demonstrations from brands including AMS, Leitz Tooling,





The Joinery Network, Lamello, GreCon, Trend Tool Technology and Rubio Monocoat, as well as panel debates and seminar sessions.

Al Parra, BLOQS co-founder and Materials & Finishes Show speaker, said: "We're really impressed that Materials & Finishes Show is thinking ahead about the future of furniture manufacturing, what that looks like, and were delighted to be invited to participate in the show and discuss this topic in particular."

The presence of Materials & Finishes Show brand ambassadors, which included self-confessed carpentry, joinery and building fanatic, Robin Clevett, media personality and carpenter, Tibby Singh and fellow online content creators; Peter Millard, Alastair Johnson (Freebird Interiors), Derek Barrett Design and the Welsh Woodworker, increased the event's campaign reach by over one million and added a new dimension to the show.

Peter Millard, Materials & Finishes Show ambassador, and owner of 10 Minute Workshop, said: "What a great show this has been! We had a fabulous demo area set aside for us where I worked alongside my fellow content creators. We had some fantastic questions from the audience and I was able to demo my latest 10 Minute Workshop multi jig as well as talk about all of the great technology, such as CNCs, which help smaller makers / installers like myself to work more efficiently."

Event director, David Todd

comments: "We're absolutely delighted with the success of Materials & Finishes Show 2024. We set out to deliver an engaging event, with a broad lineup of brands showcasing thousands of the latest products and innovations for the UK's furniture manufacturing and joinery industries — and Materials & Finishes Show did just that!"

"The feedback we have received from the industry has been hugely positive. The new features that we developed, including the Live Demo Zone, CPD certified learning programme and networking bar, were all really well received by exhibitors and visitors alike. Over 115 people turned up

for the first seminar session with Robin Clevett — his involvement as a brand ambassador in the run up to and during the show was invaluable in helping us to curate a programme that would resonate with joiners and carpenters specifically."

Running machinery proved to be a big pull for visitors, with brands such as Advanced Machinery Services, AES Group, Felder, FEN, Vertongen, Kundig, MARTIN and VWM putting on a fantastic showcase of the latest CNC, drilling, nesting, routing, sanding and cutting solutions.

These brands received high levels of interest throughout the show, with four machines sold

by the end of the first day of the event.

Owen Dare, joinery consultant for The Joinery Network, delivered a live demonstration of the end-to-end production of a timber window frame utilising an AMS distributed Wadkin Bursgreen woodworking machine and Lignum tooling supplied by Leitz Tooling. Owen said: "Our demo was designed to help joiners become more efficient so that they can make more profit with a very low investment model to grow their business portfolio."

"Materials & Finishes Show provided an ideal platform for joiners to see the latest products and innovations, as well as stay abreast of the latest legislation and regulations for the industry."

Event director, David Todd concluded: "I'd like to extend my gratitude to our stakeholders, including our exhibitors, visitors, media partners, content creators, speakers and the trade associations who threw their support behind Materials & Finishes Show 2024."

"We've set extremely solid foundations in place to build on and deliver an even more successful event when Materials & Finishes Show returns for its next instalment in 2026. We're increasing the footprint of the show by 60% for 2026 and have already secured a high percentage of re bookings from brands who are set to return to the show which we'll be announcing over the coming weeks!"

Materials & Finishes Show
www.materialsandfinishesshow.com



Wood Waste Control shows complete waste extraction and heating range at M&F Show 2024

LEADING dust extraction specialist Wood Waste Control (Engineering) Ltd demonstrated its full line-up of bestsellers from its comprehensive waste extraction, processing and heating equipment range at the Manufacturing and Finishes Show exhibition at the NEC.

Its products on show at M&FS included a WFS 2-module silo filter with rotary valve, 2-bin and 3-bin fine dust filters, hand-fed wood-fired heater and products from its chipper and briquettor ranges. In addition, the company demonstrated aspects of its clip ducting system.

The company also showcased its spray booths and downdraft benches, plus examples from its fan and back pressure valve ranges.

A high-pressure hand sanding vacuum unit was also featured.

Wood Waste Control is one of the UK's leading dust extraction and heating equipment specialists for the woodworking industry.

Unlike many of its competitors, the family-owned company manufactures its own range of extraction systems and so is able to offer a completely bespoke system for each customer's individual needs.

Its modular silo and chain filters meet a wide range of extraction requirements and from simple stand-alone bagging units through to complex integrated systems the company provides a comprehensive service.

Products include the Whisper range of silenced fans and fine dust filter units.

The company also provides the well-proven Reinbold series of chippers, including horizontal grinders, and a range of briquetting machine for all applications, as well as its own range of woodwaste conversion machinery.

Wood Waste Control's range of manual and automatic warm air models are capable of burning a wide range of wood fuels automatically, as well as accepting hand-loaded offcuts.

The company is based in Bourne End near High Wy-

combe and has hundreds of successful installations across the UK, in Europe, Russia and Africa.

As one of the country's leading dust extraction specialists, all Wood Waste Control equipment is built to meet COSHH legislation requirements and can stand alone or be used in conjunction with total extraction return air heating systems.

Wood Waste Control (Engineering) Ltd

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SCM presents "stefani m"

TOP quality machining and productivity on any kind of panel or material and in full sync with the demands of a digital, connected and integrated factory: these are the main advantages of SCM's new industrial edgebander.

Bolstered by its R&D experience and the market success achieved with the launch of the "stefani x" two years ago, SCM is launching another new industrial edgebanding product: "stefani m". It aims to cater to the latest trends in furniture and design in terms of flexible production, Industry 4.0 and now, even Industry 5.0.

The new "stefani m" industrial edgebander has everything it takes to position itself as a very strong competitor on the market. Every detail has been designed to offer a solution in line with the industry's more complex demands: from the machine's structure to the digital and electronic control systems; from the machining units with power assisted move-

ment to the latest gluing devices, for an even faster, more efficient glue change. The result is a highly configurable, customised edge-

bander, designed to work reliably and provide top-quality machining, both in the stand-alone version and in integrated cells.



One other important advantage is its ability to achieve maximum quality standards easily and without interruption, even on the most delicate, state-of-the-art materials, thanks to SCM's new electronic touch technology.

Furthermore, in an attempt to meet the increasingly more widespread demands for flexible, connected and integrated production, "stefani m" comes with a "Maestro active edge" control system which means it can operate in perfect synergy with the Maestro edgestore manager software, other SCM technologies and MES IT and management systems used in the factory.

Industrial productivity

The new "stefani m" can machine panels at a speed of up to 25 m/min and with a minimum distance between the panels of 350 mm. All this, thanks to reliably tried-and-tested units and a new, highly rigid mechanical structure.

Excellent versatility in gluing solutions

Another significant new feature of "stefani m" is the new gluing unit which ensures the three key technologies are always ready to hand — PUR glue, EVA glue and Hot Air AirFusion+, up to 6 rolls with automatic change of machining edge and height adjustment of the edge table to ensure the edge is always in the right position on the panel side.



Also featured is a new, innovative FlexMelter "all-in-one" pre-melting device which uses EVA and PUR glue in slugs and granules, as well as a fast glue change and without waste thanks to the removable container.

High-end electronic units

The "stefani m" electronic units are

designed to meet two objectives that are key to the market: ease of use even for more complex machinings on delicate, in-vogue materials, thanks to an automatic, flexible set-up, and repeatability, quality and accurate production processes, thanks to the electronic touch.

1. Y-SE 1000 Servo end trimming unit: For constant precision when cutting, irrespective of the amount and type of panels machined, to optimise machining work even on the most delicate panels, automatically control adjustments and correct any machining errors on the spot.

2. Round 2 Servo rounding unit: Guarantees top quality machining on any profile and optimises the processes even on three different edge thicknesses.

SCM Group

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www.scmgroup.com/en_GB/



Auto-Trail V.R. Ltd and AXYZ Routers — revolutionising motorhome manufacturing

AUTO-TRAIL V.R. Ltd is a distinguished British motorhome and campervan manufacturer, with a rich history dating back to 1982. Originating as a caravan repair business, Auto-Trail has evolved into a market leader, known for its customisable, high-quality leisure vehicles. This case study examines how Auto-Trail V.R. Ltd has implemented AXYZ's advanced CNC routing technology to transform its manufacturing process, resulting in increased efficiency, reduced waste and enhanced product quality.

Auto-Trail V.R. Ltd began as a caravan repair business but quickly evolved into a motorhome manufacturer, responding to growing customer demand for bespoke, luxury vehicles. Throughout the decades, from introducing the Cheyenne range in the 1990s to launching their first A-Class motorhome in 2006, Auto-Trail has been at the forefront of motorhome design and functionality.

Auto-Trail offers more than just motorhomes; they provide a gateway to exploration and discovery. Each vehicle is designed to integrate seamlessly into the lifestyle of adventurers, enabling them to create lasting memories. Auto-Trail stands out in the motorhome industry for its commitment to personalisation, offering an extensive range of customisation options. This dedication ensures that each vehicle not only meets but exceeds customer expectations.

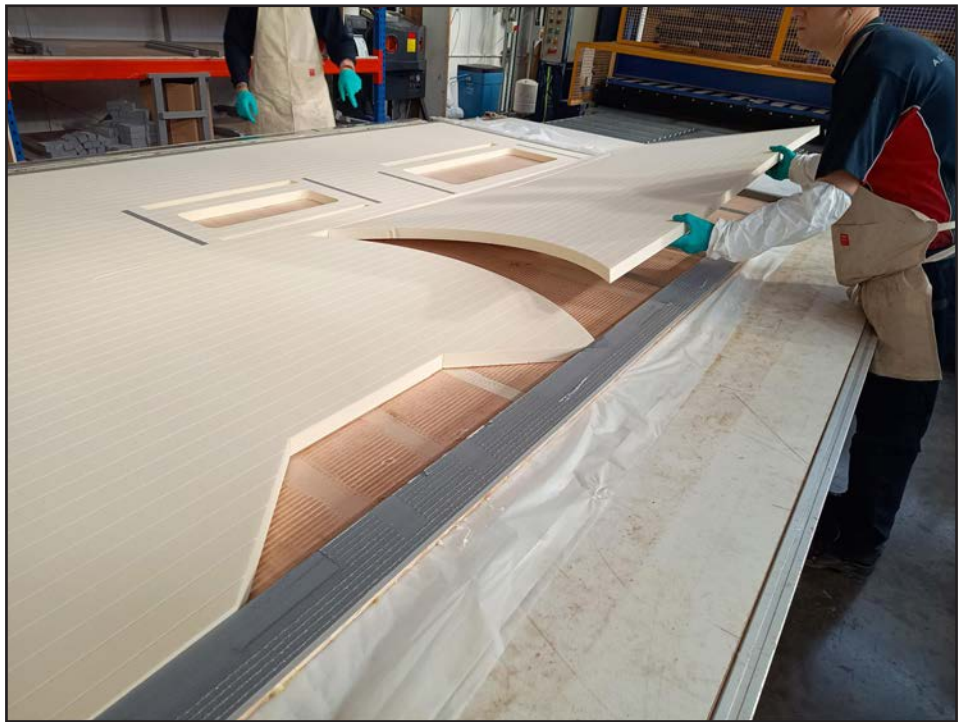
"In early 2024, facing the upcoming retirement of a skilled employee and the limitations of manual production methods (including hand-cutting

from drawings and patterns) Auto-Trail decided to automate their manufacturing process" said Paul Spivey Design Engineer. This decision was also driven by the need to streamline operations and maintain control over material use, which manual methods could no longer efficiently support. Auto-Trail therefore decided to invest in AXYZ routers to automate its manufacturing processes. The adoption of CNC technology offered greater control over materials, improved design flexibility and enhanced production efficiency. After considering various options (including waterjet technology which proved to be logistically not viable) and the need for precise cuts, led them to explore other options, culminating in the selection of AXYZ's CNC knife cutter. "I looked at several different manufacturers, but AXYZ gave us the flexibility we were looking for with the ability to have a multi change router head and suitability for the manufacturing environment" said Paul Spivey.

Auto-Trail chose the AXYZ INFINITE 4022 1C2Z ATC CNC Router. The INFINITE router is a highly configurable CNC machine that is suitable for one-off, small batch production as well as high volume and high productivity applications, including woodworking, plastic fabrication, engineering plastic machining and so much more. For a wide range of routing operations, one can choose from high-speed spindles ranging from 5 HP to 15 HP. For knife cutting, choose from a tangential knife, which can be used for creasing and folding applications or an oscillating knife which can be used to process soft goods material.

The AXYZ machines revolutionised Auto-Trail's production processes, particularly in handling insulation material for pressed panels. Instead of manual cutting, CNC routing enabled precise shaping, reduced component count per panel, improved fit and reduced waste, printing, paper and transport costs. Additionally, the machines facilitated the production of customised parts specific to vehicle models, enhancing overall efficiency and material utilisation.

The integration of AXYZ routers at Auto-Trail has also enhanced design and production. The CNC technology has enabled complex cuts, reducing





the need for plywood patterns and the number of components per panel from ten to four. This has streamlined the assembly process significantly.

The improvement in fit of components, due to the precise cutting ability of the XYZ machines has led to less rework and errors, resulting in a reduction in the labour intensity. The automation of cutting processes has descaled the skill requirements, allowing less skilled workers to manage operations efficiently, which is vital as the workforce ages.

The integration of XYZ technology has not only optimised production but also maintained, if not enhanced, the quality of the final products. The precision of the XYZ routers ensures each part meets strict quality standards, which is crucial for the overall reliability and performance of Auto-Trail's motorhomes.

The adoption of XYZ machines resulted in significant cost savings and quality improvements for Auto-Trail. By optimising material usage, reducing waste and enhancing panel construction, the company achieved measurable efficiencies in production. Furthermore, the precision and accuracy afforded by CNC routing translated into superior product quality, reinforcing Auto-Trail's commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction and reinforcing Auto-Trail's reputation for excellence.

The introduction of automation at Auto-Trail elicited positive responses from employees, who viewed it as an opportunity for professional growth and skill development. Rather than displacing workers, the integration of XYZ machines empowered employees to adapt to new technologies and enhance their roles within the organisation. As automation freed up time previously spent on manual tasks, employees could redirect their efforts towards innovation, collaboration and continuous improvement.

While the current workforce size remains stable, the skill requirements have evolved. Auto-Trail has invested in training and development to ensure employees are well-equipped to operate the new technology efficiently.

The integration of XYZ machines presented Auto-Trail with several challenges, including spatial constraints and process optimisation. How-

ever, through meticulous planning, iterative testing and collaborative problem-solving, the company successfully overcame these obstacles. Specialised equipment, such as customised cages for transporting parts and comprehensive adjustments to bills of materials (BoMs), cut lists and drawings ensured a seamless transition to automated production.

Auto-Trail ensures the smooth operation of XYZ machines through regular maintenance by onsite engineers and a maintenance contract with XYZ. Looking ahead, the company remains committed to further integrating automation into its processes, continually evaluating opportunities to optimise production and drive innovation.

Auto-Trail V.R. Ltd is continually assessing and integrating automation into their production processes. The company plans to expand the use of automated technologies to enhance other areas of production, aiming for greater efficiency and productivity.

The implementation of XYZ machines went beyond mere automation; it ushered in a paradigm shift in how Auto-Trail approached its manufacturing processes. Beyond the initial task of replacing manual cutting of insulation material, the CNC routers enabled the company to reimagine its entire production workflow. By embracing CNC technology, Auto-Trail gained the flexibility to create custom-shaped parts, optimise component count and improve overall panel construction. The ability to interlink multiple pieces and integrate router cut-outs and wiring grooves directly into panels showcased the versatility and ingenuity of XYZ machines.

The adoption of XYZ CNC routers by Auto-Trail V.R. Ltd has significantly transformed their manufacturing landscape. By automating key production processes, Auto-Trail has enhanced operational efficiency, reduced costs and maintained high-quality standards in their motorhomes. The successful integration of XYZ technology showcases Auto-Trail's commitment to innovation and customer satisfaction, setting a benchmark in the motorhome manufacturing industry.

Auto-Trail V.R. Ltd ● 01472 571 000 ● www.auto-trail.co.uk
XYZ ● Tel: 01952 291600 ● www.xyz.com



An architect's guide to engineered wood panels

As an architect you know you're only as good as your last project and your reputation. Specifying precise products means there's less margin for error and damage to your reputation. When drawing up contract documents ensure your drawings include the product manufacturer, product name and grade to avoid contractors subbing in products that they 'think' will do the job. Leaving such important decisions to supply teams and contractors can not only affect the sustainability and carbon footprint of your project, but also fundamentals such as the structural integrity of the build.

Not all products are equal.



West Fraser launches a guide for architects

TRIED and trusted by architects for over 50 years, West Fraser's OSB, particleboard and MDF engineered wood panels take pride of place in so many buildings today. All are net carbon negative, come with all the necessary accreditations and safety marks, and are made in the UK.

A new guide details all the information an architect or specifier needs when considering the very best panel selection. Specifying precise products means there's less margin for error; when drawing up contract documents drawings should include the product manufacturer, product name and grade to avoid contractors subbing in products that they 'think' will do the job. Leaving such important decisions to supply teams and contractors can not only affect the sustainability and carbon footprint of a project, but also fundamentals such as the structural integrity of the build. Not all products are equal. Cheap imports from Eastern Europe, China and South America may be appealing to contractors but cutting corners comes at a price.

All West Fraser panel products manufactured in the UK are net carbon negative and manufactured in mills that have obtained the coveted environmental ISO 14001 accreditation. Responsibly sourced, the panels are FSC-certified (C012533) and created from locally grown timber, cutting embodied carbon from transportation.

To find out more about West Fraser's support for architects and to access useful downloads, visit the architects' page on the West Fraser website.

West Fraser ● 01786 812 921

<https://uk.westfraser.com/>

<https://uk.westfraser.com/resources/architect-support/>

West Fraser's flooring is fine come rain or shine

WEST FRASER'S highly popular P5 particleboard is available in two versions, CaberFloor P5 and CaberDek; the principle difference between them is that the latter's top face is protected by an ultra-tough peel-clean layer.

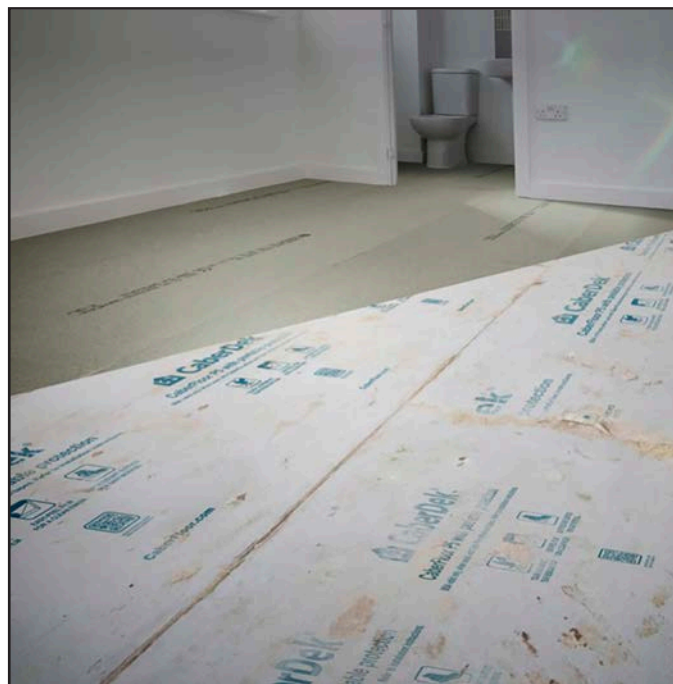
Both boards are produced in thicknesses of 18 mm and 22 mm, measuring 2,400 mm x 600 mm, with T&G joints along all four edges to help achieve a stable and precisely-aligned floor surface. The interlock also cuts down on the number of intermediate supports or 'noggins' required, which saves time in most situations. It is the total length of time for which the installed floors can remain exposed to the weather that generally leads customers to choose between CaberFloor, the UK building industry's favourite solution for fitting out upper storeys, and CaberDek, whose protective film allows for continued work in inclement weather.

Despite the inherent moisture resisting qualities of the standard P5 particleboard, CaberFloor should not be left exposed to the rain for any prolonged period. For CaberDek, however, the safe period extends to a full 42 days or six weeks; not only withstanding rain, snow or ice, but also creating a safe, non-slip surface. This can be of particular advantage when contractors are cutting in a particularly complex roofscape or carrying out a large loft conversion and most choose to leave the film in place until all the plastering and other wet work has been completed, before the film is peeled away to expose a pristine, dry substrate. The upper floor is, therefore, ready for laying carpet, tiling or other finishes.

Both products can be laid using CaberFix adhesives to help ensure the finished installation is squeak free, with the choice of CaberFix Joint&Joist meaning only five fixings per board are required, one at each joist position — so again cutting labour costs. This adhesive should be applied to the edges to achieve five times the strength of simply nailing. Alternatively, West Fraser's one-bottle solution, CaberFix D4, can be used for all panel fixing and sealing jobs.

The primary CaberFloor P5 carries BBA-Agreement certification while FSC® (C012533) approval underlines its environmental credentials and, being a RIBA-approved BIM Object, it can be specified for use on projects involving the latest CAD programmes and computer aided machining. The boards are also suitable for use with underfloor heating (UFH) systems and beneath all types of carpet, vinyl and tiles.

West Fraser ● <https://uk.westfraser.com/housebuilders/>



STEFANI M EETS YOUR EDGEBANDING NEEDS WITH ITS ELECTRONIC TOUCH

STEFANI M: THE NEW EDGE BANDER

Stefani m is the new industrial edge bander with all the latest solutions for panel edgebanding. **It offers high quality processing thanks to the "electronic touch"** of the servo units and exclusive edge gluing technologies.

Highly productive - **up to 1500 panels per 8 hour** - with **speeds up to 25 m/min** and automatic setup of operations, it is the ideal edge bander for companies that need to produce a **large number of panels, and requiring quick changeovers**.

Stefani m meets your edgebanding needs to boost competitiveness.



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woodworking technology

is more

Quiet transformation for iconic Boys' School



ARCHITECTS Hawkins Brown have completed a transformative redevelopment at the Central Foundation Boys' School, the 150-year-old top performing comprehensive school in central London.

The vision was to rationalise and consolidate the school's several buildings into a cohesive design to allow more efficient use of the campus.

Works included providing a new, purpose-built science building equipped with state-of-the-art facilities along with a new three-court, multi-use sports hall with changing facilities. The tight nature of the site meant that the sports hall was sunken under the courtyard with rooflights bringing in natural light. It has been designed to comply with Sport England guidance, providing the

school with a flexible multi-purpose space that can be used for out-of-hours community activity.

To help combat the problems of poor acoustics and sound reverberation in the sports hall, music and drama rooms, Hawkins Brown specified Trolldtekt acoustic panels across all the ceilings. Panels were chosen in both grey and natural finishes to provide a discreet look whilst complement-

ing the interior design. Trolldtekt solutions excel at providing acoustic comfort with a visually attractive, aesthetic tactile surface along with high durability and low-cost lifecycle performance.

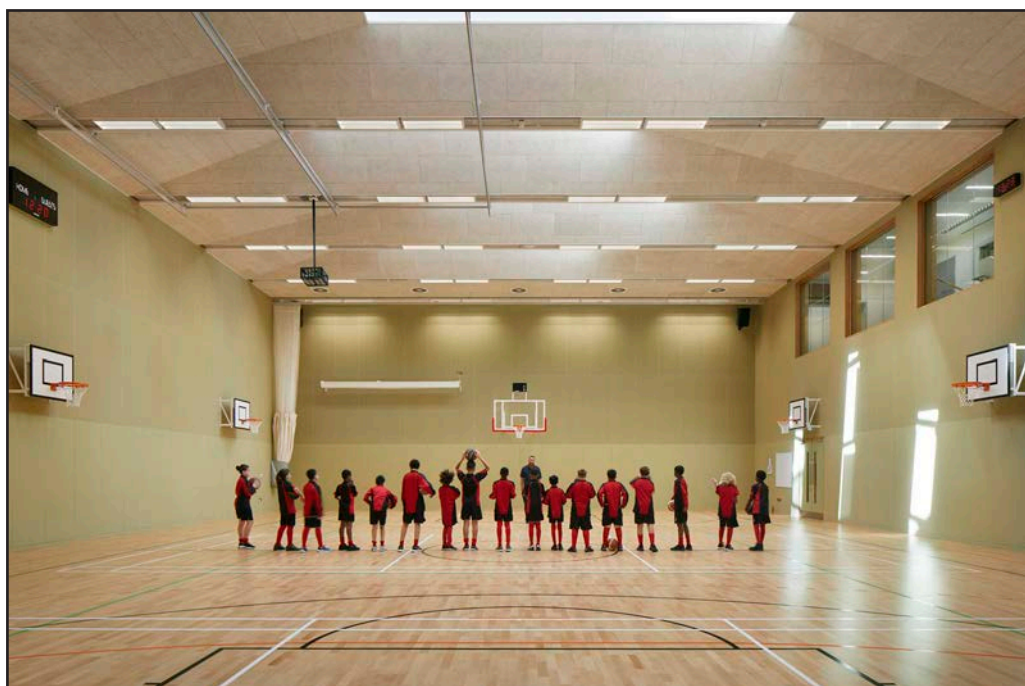
Trolldtekt acoustic panels are available in a variety of different structures and colours, combining superior sound absorption with an award-winning design. The Trolldtekt range has a minimum expected life cycle of 50 years coupled with excellent resistance to humidity and tested to meet ball impact standards. The range is available in various sizes and structures, from extreme fine to fine. They can be supplied as natural wood, and in the carbon-reduced FUTURECEM™ finished in almost any RAL or NCS colour.

Depending on the panel specified, reaction to fire is classed in accordance with EN 13501 as B-s1,d0 or A2-s1,d0 respectively. Cradle to Cradle Certified® at Gold level, Trolldtekt wood wool acoustic panels are manufactured using wood from certified forests (PEFC™ and FSC®C115450) and can contribute positively to a building's BREEAM, WELL or LEED points.

Photos: Jack Hobhouse

Trolldtekt

www.trolldtekt.co.uk



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New uncoated paperboard enables superior packaging and graphical applications with a natural touch



INVERCOTE Touch, an innovative uncoated paperboard, is designed to meet the growing demand for sustainable and visually appealing packaging materials while maintaining excellent printability.

The latest addition to the Invercote portfolio, the new uncoated product, delivers a natural looking and tactile experience believed to be unique along with the high-quality properties of other Invercote products, such as strength, stiffness, creasability and strong sustainability credentials.

"Invercote Touch is a unique combination of uncoated paperboard, where the appearance and tactile feeling is key, and other characteristics that make Invercote so suitable for superior packaging applications," says Edvin Thurffell, Product Manager for Invercote Packaging and Graphics, Holmen Board and Paper. "Invercote Touch enables brands, for

the first time, to prioritise a natural look and feel with a product that has the right combination of printing and converting properties for an uncoated paperboard.

"With Invercote Touch, you actually touch the raw fibres and hear the sound of friction on the paperboard," adds Mr Thurffell. "It provides a sensory interactive experience for the customer that feels easy and natural to handle. It also has the superior embossing features that are inherent with Invercote. It frees up what you can do with the surface and opens up more possibilities for creative messaging."

Holmen's mill in Iggesund developed Invercote Touch by applying the knowledge it has built up over 60 years of what premium packaging customers require and by listening to changing customer needs. And while an uncoated paperboard will inherently print differently compared with coated

paperboards, the development of Invercote Touch focused on steering the properties of the fibre layer to induce as little variation in print quality as possible.

"Invercote Touch provides a unique and natural addition to our product portfolio that we are very proud of," says Mr Thurffell. "It widens Holmen's product offering to existing customers and provides opportunities for new customers who are not familiar with Invercote. We are therefore also very excited to see how it will be used."

Invercote Touch is suitable for all types of packaging and graphics applications. It is initially available in a 330 GSM version.

Designed for high-end packaging and graphical applications where the tactile sensation of the fresh fibres is a priority, it is made entirely without pigment coatings. The multi-layered base board is adapted to support un-

coated printing characteristics and excellent converting properties. It features a natural high and stable whiteness with excellent colour reproduction.

Holmen produces premium paperboard and innovative paper products suitable for multiple packaging solutions and graphical applications.

Conscious customers appreciate the company's products due to their product properties and low climate impact. The company uses fresh fibres from sustainably managed forests and has four production facilities in Sweden and the UK.

The company's paperboards are developed for purposeful packaging solutions and graphical applications in sectors including cosmetics, electronics, pharmaceuticals and food.

Holmen
www.iggesund.com

Carpentry students create bug hotel for RHS cancer-awareness garden

FOR THE SECOND consecutive year, students at Leeds College of Building are using their skills to help create a poignant RHS show garden.

The Level 1 Diploma Carpentry & Joinery students have crafted two five-foot triangular wooden bug hotels. The structures will feature at the main entrance of a garden going on display at RHS Tatton Flower Show 2024 (17–21 July).

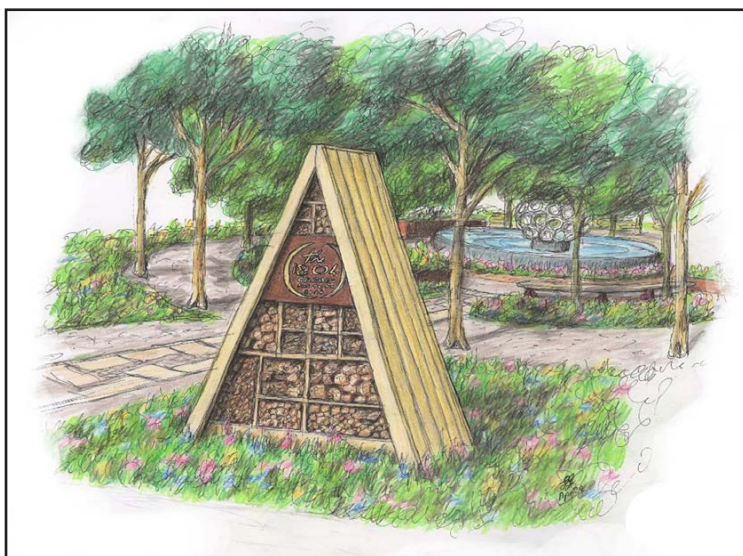
Led by garden designer Carolyn Hardern and landscape construction manager Jon Jarvis, the project will raise awareness about melanoma skin cancer in the construction industry. The '1804 Garden' is named after the date melanoma was first referred to in the medical world.

Research shows that working outdoors in the sun leads to around five melanoma cases and one death a week in the UK. Last year, construction workers accounted for 44% of occupational skin cancer diagnoses and 42% of occupational skin cancer deaths each year — despite construction workers making up only 8% of the workforce.

Carolyn said, "Skin cancer is a critical but often overlooked safety challenge in the construction industry when so many professionals work outdoors. We're really looking forward to showcasing this thought provoking garden and hope to raise more awareness about this vital issue.

"We hope to build on the success of our Tatton entry last year with an even bigger and better plot. This year is extra special as a year of anniversaries: the RHS formed 200 years ago, Tatton Show 25 years, Southport 100 years, and it will be 20 years since I did my first show garden at Tatton!"

At just over 300 m², the garden will be the largest at the Tatton Flower



Show this year and promote the charities Band of Builders and Melanoma UK. The garden is shaped like an equilateral triangle, inspired by the yellow and black radiation symbol often found in hospital cancer centres.

At the heart of the garden, a circular water feature incorporates a dramatic open sphere of detached and levitating steel rings, symbolising the eradication of cancerous cells and the process of healing. Three large steel planters are set between seating with a selection of elegant parasol trees offering partial shade from the sun's UV rays.

The Leeds College of Building students recycled waste timber from previous projects to make the bug hotels. Wood was glued and planed to required sizes and drilled, screwed, glued, and dowel jointed together. They finished off the hotels by adding a wooden beetle shape and each will be filled with natural materials collected by pupils at Wrenbury County and Bickerton primary schools in Cheshire.

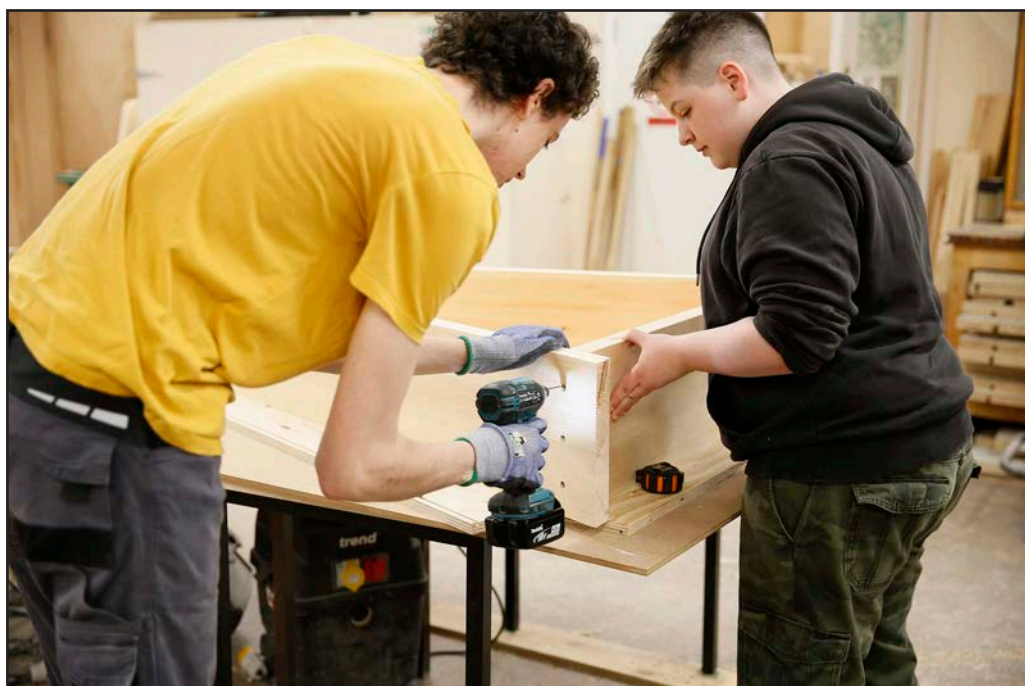
Rob Smith, Head of Partnerships & Skills at Leeds College of Building, said, "Carolyn and Jon first approached the College given our status as the only specialist general further education construction college in the UK. We were happy to lend a hand last year, given the mental-health-in-construction theme, and we're delighted to be involved again in 2024. Skin cancer disproportionately affects our industry given the nature of our work outdoors. Shockingly, construction workers diagnosed with melanoma have the highest number of deaths than any other profession. We hope that our students' contribution to the project will help to raise more awareness about sun safety and skin cancer prevention."

This is the second year Leeds College of Building has teamed up with Carolyn and Jon.

In 2023, their 'Constructing Minds' garden won the prestigious Best in Show award and an RHS Silver Gilt Medal. Inspired by the theme of wellbeing and mental health, the garden included over 700 wooden hearts spray painted the colour of hard hats by Leeds College of Building painting and decorating apprentices. Each represented a life taken by suicide in the construction sector in just one year.

The 1804 Garden will go on to feature on a smaller scale at the Southport Flower Show in August before being donated to a worthy, permanent local home.

Leeds College of Building
<https://www.lcb.ac.uk/find-a-course/careers-a-z/carpenter-joiner/>

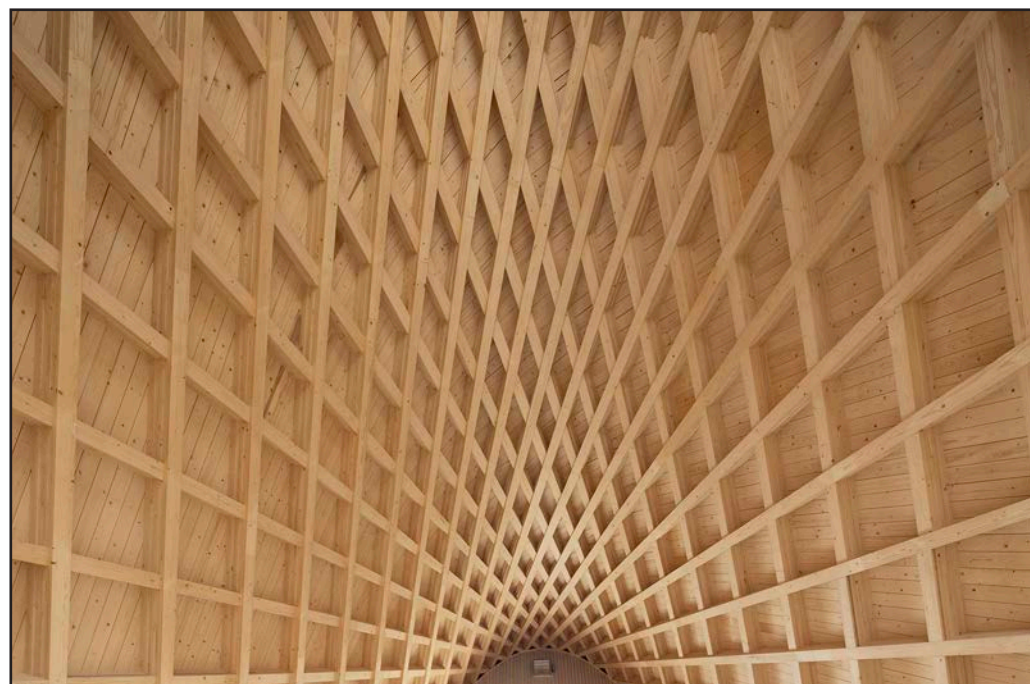


Eco-inspired Green Ark project inaugurated at Belgium's historic Meise Botanic Garden

THE MEISE Botanic Garden in Belgium, one of the world's largest conservatories of endangered plant species, has celebrated the completion of the Green Ark project, featuring the successful renovation of 7,600 m² of greenhouse complex and the installation of a spectacular hyperboloid pavilion made with sustainable Kebony Clear wood.

Opening to the public in May 2024, the Green Ark project lies at the heart of 92-hectre Meise Botanic Garden and houses more than 10,000 species of endangered plants across 22 different greenhouses, each independently regulated to ensure optimal temperature and climate conditions for the diverse collection of flora. Other pioneering new technologies installed at the Green Ark include an irrigation system that recycles rainwater that falls on the building, while energy consumption has been halved in comparison to the old greenhouse facilities.

Creating a place to conserve and research vulnerable species, the Green Ark will also act as learning hub, educating the Meise Botanic Garden's 240,000 annual visitors of the ever increas-



ing threat that climate change poses to the planet's biodiversity and the innovations in place to protect the environment for future generations.

The design and construction of the Green Ark is the result of a collaboration between various groups working in alliance with the Meise Botanic Garden and the Flemish Government, including De Keyser Wood Industry, NU Ar-

chitectuur Atelier, Archipelago Architects, Mouton and Van Poppel. Dually modified™ Kebony wood shingles were sawn into the roof of the pavilion, providing a natural finish that places the Green Ark in harmony with its botanical surroundings and enriches the visitor experience. In addition to the aesthetic viability, the use of Kebony wood also supports the Green Ark project.

While hardwoods can take 80-200 years to grow, the fast growing FSC certified softwoods used by Kebony are specifically planted for this purpose and grow to the desired sizes in a mere 25-30 years. During the growth of these trees, carbon is captured from the atmosphere, contributing to CO₂ sequestration.

The dual modification™ process permanently transforms the wood cell walls by forming locked-in furan polymers; the dimensional stability, durability, and hardness of the wood are all increased, guaranteeing both a long life and a high level of safety.

Gert Van Beeck, Sales Manager at Kebony, comments: "The Green Ark embodies an innovation in the world of construction, creating a place where sustainability and aesthetics intertwine harmoniously. With a focus on Kebony wood, a viable ecological alternative to tropical hardwoods, this project demonstrates the successful symbiosis between modern architecture and ecological commitment, setting a model for more inspiring sustainable projects in Belgium and beyond".



Kebony
www.kebony.com

Garden rooms are still on the rise this summer, says Nine Zero Timber Windows and Doors

NINE ZERO Timber Windows and Doors has seen a continued surge in the popularity of garden rooms, which the UK timber manufacturer and supplier says is driven by their versatility and added property value.

Steve Winscott, Company Director at Nine Zero Timber Windows and Doors, highlights the growing trend of repurposing home offices, which became widespread during the pandemic.

"I think we have largely moved on from the home office, and are instead looking for breakout spaces that can be adapted with minimal work," says Steve.

"Garden rooms offer an ideal solution — they are endlessly versatile, and can easily be transformed as homeowners move between wanting a playroom, outdoor den, exercise space ... the



list goes on. This creates a big plus when it comes to property value."

Property experts say a garden room can increase a home's value by anywhere from 5-15% depending on quality, or 1.5 times the amount spent on its construction, making them an appealing option for both current and future homeowners. Nine Zero handcrafts FSC-certified sustainable timber from its Cornwall factory, and so garden rooms created from its materials are bespoke, beautiful, and of the highest quality available.

"It might be summer, but the unpredictable UK weather means garden rooms need to withstand the elements," Steve adds. "As a natural insulator with excellent thermal properties, timber keeps spaces warm in the winter and cool in the summer. This makes it perfect for garden rooms, which homeowners are looking to use year-round."

Timber's breathable structure contributes to its energy efficiency, ensuring that garden rooms remain comfortable across all seasons. Its inherent strength and lightweight nature make it easy to

work with, allowing for quick construction, modifications or repair.

Nine Zero Timber Windows and Doors is prepared to meet the rise in demand for quality garden room structures this summer. The company also works closely with several small businesses such as Bristol-based Little Green Rooms and Pumphrey and Weston Shepherd Huts in Cornwall.

Nine Zero Timber Windows and Doors

www.nine-zero.co.uk



Company director at Nine Zero Timber Windows and Doors, Steve Winscott.

Innovating decarbonisation in wood protection technologies

THE CONSTRUCTION sector is one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, with around 37% of global emissions. As the only truly renewable construction material, timber is being increasingly specified to help meet net zero commitments. However, some timber species provide very little natural durability and to be used commercially they require additional protection in the form of an industrially applied wood preservative.

Wood preservatives are often overlooked as contributing to decarbonisation of construction projects, but Arxada's Wood Protection division in Europe is working to change this perspective through driving modern chemistry to help the many sectors that utilise timber, advance their sustainability goals.

Tanalith® MF, a metal-free high-pressure wood preservative is one such wood protection technology from Arxada that has been developed to work towards a more sustainable built environment. With the waste stream from construction being of particular



concern, Tanalith® MF champions circular economy principles. Timber treated with Tanalith® MF can be reused or recycled at end of life. To further help reduce

waste and fuel emissions in transportation, the wood preservative is supplied to timber treaters as a concentrate in recycled Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs), which can be reused. The timber treater dilutes the Tanalith® MF concentrate with water on-site, which eradicates the need of bulk tanker transportation.

In parallel to advancing sustainable procurement in wood preservation, Tanalith® MF accommodates evolving design trends. For cladding and decorative landscaping timbers, vibrant built-in colour can be achieved through the addition of a colour additive in the high-pressure process. This built-in colour negates the need for a brush-on colour at point of installation and means that timber treated with Tanalith® MF remains VOC-free.

Andrew Hodge, marketing director for Arxada Wood Protection says of the evolving wood protection technologies: "There are a number of reasons why architects and specifiers are embracing a timber-first approach. The importance of EPDs help promote sustainability through design, and correctly specified timber helps reduce embodied carbon over

the lifetime of a build. Often this will mean that the correct type of wood preservation needs to be procured, which we are working hard to educate the wider market on. From the manufacture of the wood preservative, through to how it is delivered to customers and how it contributes to the waste at end of life, all needs to be considered before specification.

"And it's not just architects who are sold on the benefits of sustainable building materials such as timber; according to a 2022 PayPal survey, some 56% of Europeans consider themselves to be 'Conscious Consumers' and 67% have bought products that were better for the environment despite being more expensive.

"Being part of a global, science based leader in specialty chemicals, means that we have in-house expertise to passionately drive more sustainable wood preservation through utilising modern chemistry. Tanalith® MF is one such example of this, as is Tanasote®, our modern alternative to creosote. Both are BPR authorised across Europe."

Arxada Wood Protection Europe
www.arxada.com/en/wood-protection/eu



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Incentives for reuse of wooden packaging

THE TIMBER Packaging & Pallet Confederation (TIMCON) says discussions with DEFRA on the implementation of a reuse incentive scheme for wooden packaging have been “extremely positive”.

The organisation, together with other wood product associations, has been campaigning for a reuse initiative with two central aims: to maximise the reuse of wooden pallets and packaging in supply chains and support the development of a circular economy. The Scottish government recently cancelled its target of reducing greenhouse gases by 75 per cent by 2030, having missed eight of its last 12 annual climate goals. It is the latest organisation to soften flagship environmental objectives, with both the Conservative and Labour party having made U-turns on key policies in the past year. TIMCON President John Dye said incentivising reuse was now a must to help maintaining progress towards net zero and sending out the positive messages to the UK public.



TIMCON has collaborated with other wood-based sectors and submitted a proposal to DEFRA to introduce a workable reuse framework as part of a Proposed Reuse Incentive Scheme document. The document has two goals: to maximise the number of times wooden packaging is reused before, ultimately, it is recycled; and to increase the use of wooden transport tools — including pallets, cases, crates, cable reels, and so on — in domestic and international supply chains. The reuse framework includes information on how reuse should be incentivised, measured, and recorded; how supply chain users can recognise a reuseable pallet; how to ensure pallets are recycled at the end of their useful life; where obligations for reuse lie; and several other recommendations.

Mr Dye said: “In our proposed Reuse Incentive Scheme we have set out a workable framework for reusing wooden pallets and packaging and shown how this can be implemented. We are strongly recommending that government progresses this straightforward, easy-to-implement initiative to support its plans to reduce greenhouse gases by 100 per cent by 2050. Our recent discussions with DEFRA on when and how such a scheme can be implemented have been extremely positive.

“Wood packaging material (WPM) manufacturing and repair businesses are inherently founded on principles of circularity. They manufacture products from sustainably managed trees, which means for every one that is harvested, more are grown in their place. They then repair and reuse pallets until they are ready to be recycled into other products — from chipboard to animal bedding. Their business model is sustainable from start to finish. Encouraging these industries will, in turn, boost demand for tree planting, provide a solid foundation for our circular economy, and make a sizeable contribution to achieving the government’s 2050 targets.”

TIMCON ● www.timcon.org

Selco delivers fourth forest

SELCO Builders Warehouse has further demonstrated its commitment to delivering long-term sustainable operations by creating a fourth ‘Selco Forest’ as part of its carbon-offsetting tree-planting scheme.

Set in Lomond Hills in Fife, the latest forest to be developed by the leading builders merchant covers 21 hectares and comprises of more than 54,000 trees.

It means, over the last four years, Selco has planted more than 350,000 trees as part of its commitment to delivering a sustainable future for the business, its customers and colleagues.

The forest in Fife will capture 2,938 tonnes of carbon over its life cycle, with management, thinning and harvesting of the woodland bringing an employment and economic boost to the rural sector in Fife.

The tree-planting project sits alongside a wide range of policies to help Selco reduce its carbon footprint, including introducing alternative fuel vehicles to its transport fleet, a comprehensive recycling strategy, the installation of LED lighting and a new gas management system installed across the branch network.

Howard Luft, Selco Chief Executive (pictured), said: “This is an exciting move forward in our Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy and demonstrates our commitment to playing our part in tackling climate change.

“As a business, we are fully committed to

lowering our carbon footprint and the latest addition to the ‘Selco Forests’ portfolio will help further offset the carbon generated from our customer deliveries, promoting a greener future for the business.”

The trees planted on the new Fife site include Sitka Spruce and Scots Pine. Once ready to harvest, it is calculated that the woodland is expected to yield roughly 7,000 tonnes of timber. Selco has two forest sites in Jedburgh and one near Llandrindod Wells in Wales.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Tulipwood, but not as you know it

James Latham launches HORIZON® quarter sawn Tulipwood — helping to make its customers' lives easier

JAMES LATHAM, one of the UK's leading independent timber and panel distributors, has collaborated with long-term sawmill partner, Pennsylvania-based HORIZON®, to introduce a pioneering new timber product: quarter sawn Tulipwood.

An industry first, the product is believed to be the only quarter-sawn tulipwood currently available on the UK market. Exclusive to James Latham, it has been developed in response to specifier and contractor calls for a superior, stable, and sustainable material for a range of specific interior joinery purposes, including kitchen doors and cabinetry.

A game-changer for cabinet makers and joiners, one of its standout benefits lies in its inherent ability to minimise movement during processing and active use. Whilst regular Tulipwood is already commonplace within the UK market, changing the way the log is cut (quarter sawn) dramatically reduces the tension within the timber, resulting in straighter grain, greater stability,



reduced movement, and therefore increased yield. In addition, to enhance the timber's unique

properties, HORIZON® selects the largest Tulipwood logs possible, subjecting them to a kilning cycle lasting up to four weeks, which is four times longer than the industry standard.

Manufactured to full 34 mm thickness, quarter sawn Tulipwood is precision cut, resulting in an extremely clean and flat surface. This all results in a plank of generous width, delivering significant cost savings in the form of less wastage, lower processing costs, and fewer snagging issues.

Creamy white in appearance, with very little colour variation and mineral streak, it can help achieve a clean, consistent look in application.

The product is also a carbon-neutral/low-carbon material.

Sourced from the responsibly managed and certificated Allegheny Forest region in North-western Pennsylvania, it is also manufactured in a sustainable way using the latest 'smart' production processes.

These credentials are further reinforced when measured through James Latham's Carbon Calculator, a tool that provides third-party verification for suppliers' green claims. This gives cus-

tomers the added assurance that they are selecting a high-quality product at every level.

Commenting on the introduction of this new product to James Latham's portfolio, James White, depot director at James Latham says, "This heralds a new chapter in Tulipwood production, offering our customers a standalone product which directly responds to their calls for a reliable, stable, and ecofriendly product, suitable for cabinetry and kitchen manufacturing. Not only that, the launch of HORIZON® quarter sawn Tulipwood exemplifies our ongoing commitment to working with supply chain partners to champion the latest timber innovations and aspiring to meet our audience's evolving tastes and requirements."

Available in the UK and Ireland, the quarter-sawn tulipwood is stocked in various lengths and widths, ranging from 2.1 m to 4 m planks. The standard thickness is 34 mm, which can be machined down to 27 mm if required.

James Latham
www.lathamtimber.co.uk/products/hardwoods/north-american/quarter-sawn-tulipwood



We need to look at buildings' whole lifespans

DAVID Connacher, marketing manager at West Fraser (pictured), discusses the need to design and construct buildings that can be adapted and transformed.

"Across millennia, buildings have been altered to meet changing needs. Recent centuries have seen Georgian and Victorian houses become highly sought-after for their flexibility, enduring character and build quality. The potential of old factory and mill buildings has also been recognised with developers, such as Urban Splash, building their brands on converting such structures into state-of-the-art accommodation, retail and office spaces.

"This transformative process succeeds due to a building's adaptability and durability. It is a concept Sir Alexander John Gordon, a former president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, addressed more widely in 1971 when he argued for long life, loose fit, low energy buildings.

"These holistic principles readily translate into today's language of sustainability but, while low energy design has moved up the agenda, the concept of long life and loose fit is less evident. The notional lifespan of new homes is just 60 years; the construction and demolition of some commercial and office buildings may occur in a timeframe of as little as 20 years. We cannot continue to design such one-use, short-lived buildings; we must consider lifespan. To do this, we must deconstruct the design process and create buildings adaptable to functions that may not initially be obvious.

"Designers, cost consultants and clients should remember that it is easy to be seduced by the immediate gain of introducing systems and technology without considering the longer-term validity of these interventions. Poor material choices and over-specification can result in a lack of flexibility and structures that are neither durable nor open to future adaptation.

"Despite attitudes to buildings and spaces being shaken profoundly by the coronavirus pandemic, mindsets must shift. A room is just a room and could, in many buildings, be purposed in numerous ways: sitting room, bedroom, study, office, showroom, workplace, classroom, shop, gallery, studio."

West Fraser ● 01786 812921 ● <https://uk.westfraser.com/>



West Fraser panels help lower Scope 3 emissions

WEST Fraser UK, as a pioneer in the industry, has always been dedicated to producing board from sustainable sources of timber.

All of the wood used in the manufacture of the company's engineered panel ranges comes from responsibly managed forests, or from recycled material. Young, fast-growing trees are the lungs of the world, breathing in carbon dioxide and exhaling oxygen and, by replanting trees, sustainable forestry ensures that more oxygen-emitting woodlands are created every year.

In addition, heat, steam, and gases that develop during the manufacturing processes are captured to provide energy for the mills. 75% of the energy used in the state-of-the-art production processes is derived from renewables which are residues.

In the UK, West Fraser uses 1.5 million metric tons of biomass every year for energy which is the equivalent of about two million barrels of oil which helps reduce the company's carbon footprint and lower Scope 3 emissions.

The team monitors distribution networks and offers innovative and environmentally-sound alternatives to transport by road where ever possible.

A substantial part of the round wood, from suppliers, reaches

West Fraser's mills via ocean and canal shipping supply lines, and, by striving to switch from road to rail the company estimates, a saving of around 9,000 tonnes of CO₂ a year.

The 100% renewable UK-made building products from West Fraser are net carbon negative and it is the only major building material that stores carbon for its useful lifetime, being 50% carbon by weight. At

West Fraser, 1.1 million tonnes of CO₂e in Europe are locked in every year while the SterlingOSB Zero products achieve an A+ rating in the BRE green guide, the highest rating possible.

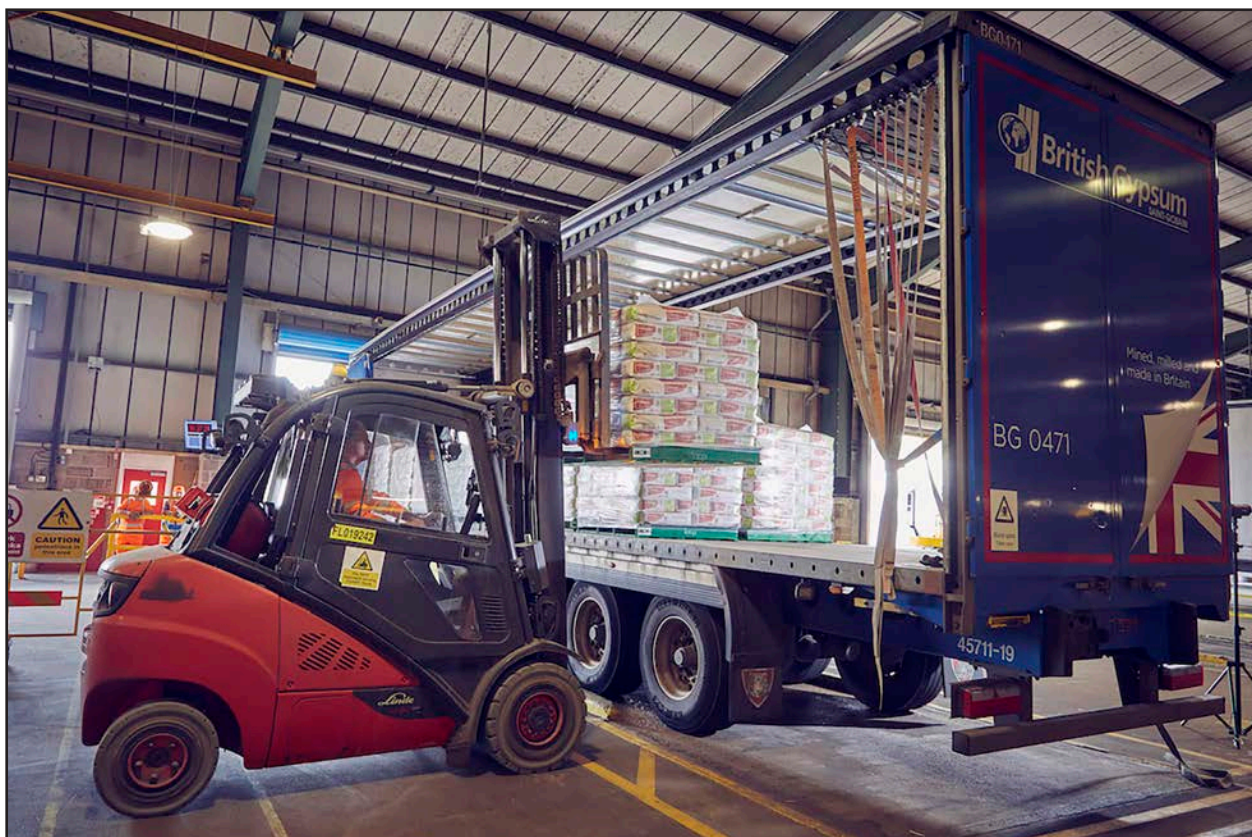
All of West Fraser's UK wood panels can be recycled where wood recycling facilities are available and the circular economy, which is designed to eliminate waste and pollution and keep products and materials in use, is supported.

With West Fraser, suppliers are offered a closed loop wood recycling option where board products are supplied to the marketplace and then a proportion of that material is re-used to produce more board or generate green energy.

West Fraser
Tel 01786 812 921
<https://uk.westfraser.com/>



Green RFID-tagged LOOP pallets enter the UK construction sector



IN WHAT is believed to be a world first for construction — and marking a fundamental shift towards circular economics in the transportation of building materials in the UK — the first batch of reusable green, RFID-tagged* pallets from The Pallet LOOP, part of the BSW Group, have started entering the construction supply chain, en masse.

During May, The Pallet LOOP — and its manufacturing partner Scott Pallets — have shipped more than 30,000 LOOP pallets to British Gypsum's bagged plaster plants at Barrow, East Leake and Kirkby Thore.

These pallets are now being processed through British Gypsum's plants — with the first pallets already starting to arrive at construction projects, building sites, merchant yards and distribution centres nationwide.

This major milestone is set to shift the dial on pallet waste across the UK — with The Pallet LOOP providing what is believed to be the world's first dedicated pallet production, delivery, and

collection service for the construction industry. As part of its offer, The Pallet LOOP will pick up green pallets across the UK, inspect and repair them where necessary, and redistribute them to building material manufacturers for the distribution of more products.

The roll out of The Pallet LOOP is also designed to support the construction sector's net zero ambitions. Plus, in a further financial boost for the construction industry, The Pallet LOOP will also be paying registered return partners up to £4 back for every green pallet they put back in the LOOP — a figure that will quickly stack up as more pallets come online. The Pallet LOOP can also pick up so-called 'white' pallets, as part of a holistic pallet collection service.

As pallets start to roll out, The Pallet LOOP has a clear message for pallet recipients. Paul Lewis, Founder of The Pallet LOOP, said: "If your business hasn't already signed up for LOOP collections, now is the time to do so.

"Our distinctive green, reusable pallets are now winging their way across the country, and we want

recipients to be ready to send them back to us. Since British Gypsum announced it was going to be the first user of The Pallet LOOP, we've had a great reaction from the sector."

"Lots of builders' merchants, housebuilding companies and principal contractors are already signed up for collections — but we want to spread the word further, so all potential recipients know what to do with LOOP pallets when they arrive at their branches and sites. Over the next twelve months, we'll be supplying British Gypsum with more than a million of our circular economy pallets for the distribution of its bagged plaster and plasterboard products — so if you receive these products, it is important that you sign up and get in the LOOP as soon as possible."

Registering for collections with The Pallet LOOP is easy. Companies interested in using the service and benefiting from the LOOP pallet PayBack of up to £4 per green pallet, should email: setmeup@thepalletloop.com to kick start the account creation process.

Once companies are set up, arranging collections of both green and white pallets is simple, with two service levels available: a standard ten-day or a rapid 72-hour pick up service. Users of The Pallet LOOP will also receive access to a special reporting platform, where they can view and download information about the number of pallets returned and the money saved on collections versus disposal via a skip. The system also provides information about the amount of carbon saved and trees repurposed, which can be used in sustainability reporting.

To help customers understand the sign-up process, The Pallet LOOP has created a short onboarding video — that explains how to get in the LOOP in a series of simple steps.

The Pallet LOOP has a dedicated recovery infrastructure and a comprehensive network of collection hubs in place — enabled through its partnership with Scott Pallets, which is also part of BSW Group.

The Pallet LOOP
www.thepalletloop.com

West Fraser's CaberMDF and SterlingOSB Zero; strong solutions for cabinetry and joinery

CONSISTENCY and quality are essential attributes of materials used in producing domestic and commercial furniture.

Add to this the need for materials and processes to be sustainable and, unsurprisingly, West Fraser's CaberMDF and SterlingOSB Zero are among the most popular panel products used in the furniture industry.

Panels for furniture and joinery production must have high-quality surfaces, strength, consistent density, impact resistance, good machining properties and be able to facilitate all sorts of fixings and fasteners securely.

Embracing all these properties, West Fraser's comprehensive five-strong CaberMDF range is designed as an economic alternative to hardwood, without the inherent defects of knots or grains. CaberMDF can be used for carcassing and framing as well as for high quality fascias, including door and drawer fronts. Consequently, it is used in the manufacture of everything from chairs, tables, cabinets, bed frames and wardrobes to kitchen and bathroom furniture.

CaberMDF offers stability and consistent density, ensuring panels can be sawn, drilled, shaped and routed cleanly and



easily with hand or machine tools. The smooth surface finishes are ideal for painting or the application of paper foils and veneers.

For general-purpose applications, CaberMDF Trade is a versatile, lightweight board that holds screws and fastenings securely. CaberMDF Trade MR offers the same benefits, with the added advantage of moisture resistance for wet or humid environments. Where premium quality and de-

tailed working are demanded, CaberMDF Pro provides consistent density, ensuring cutting and routing need minimal finishing. CaberMDF Pro MR offers the further benefit of moisture resistance. The ultimate product in the range is CaberMDF Industrial which is moisture-resistant and designed specifically for the production of high-grade furniture and fittings. It is ideal for deep routing and its consistent close-

grained texture ensures clean edges and surfaces that will take advanced finishing techniques.

West Fraser also produces SterlingOSB Zero which has a long heritage in hoarding and timber frame applications and is increasingly employed in furniture manufacture, and modern, earthy interior schemes in offices, shops, restaurants and cafes for example. It is stronger and tougher than ply, with no knots, voids or de-lamination; it is also the first OSB product to be made in the UK with zero added formaldehyde, so it is a 'greener' board that meets all standards with ease.

All West Fraser panel products manufactured in the UK are net carbon negative and manufactured in mills that have obtained the coveted environmental ISO 14001 accreditation.

Responsibly sourced, the panels are FSC-certified* (C012533) and created from locally grown timber, cutting embodied carbon from transportation.

Free samples of all CaberMDF and SterlingOSB Zero products can be ordered from West Fraser. Product and technical support is available through dedicated advice teams.

West Fraser

Tel 01786 812 921

<https://uk.westfraser.com>

