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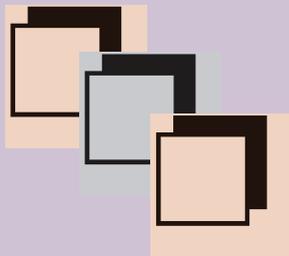
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THE FABRICATOR

Comment

January and we have given The Fabricator a new look. The aim is to give you more in depth articles, not just about the industry but on topics that are relevant to fabricators and manufacturers.

On the news page Andrew Fowlds, chairman of the Association of Composite Door Manufacturers, reports that the industry has resumed the supply of fire doors and there is comment from the Fire Sector Federation on Dame Judith Hackitt's review of building regulations.

On the subject of manufacturing we look at reducing machinery maintenance costs by using vibration analysis to monitor the health of bearings.

In this issue there is more about health and safety. Following the successful prosecution of a landlord and a building contractor over the release of asbestos fibres caused by the demolition of a conservatory, our regular contributor, GGF health and safety director Phil Pinnington writes about the proper disposal of asbestos. And continuing the 'fire' theme Jane Embury of Wrightstyle talks about accidental fires in the workplace.

Did you know that 75% of all of the aluminium mined since 1880 is still in use? Another regular contributor, Justin Ratcliffe, CEO of CAB, writes on the benefits of recycling.

In our marketing column Andrew Scott of Purplex writes on the importance of building, protecting and promoting your brand.

In our doors feature we look at the rise of the composite door and the importance of maintaining automatic gear to keep it functioning properly in winter.

And finally there is our glass and structural glazing section followed by a smorgasbord of industry news and products with a page devoted to people moving around the industry.

And at this 'will we won't we' 'should we shouldn't we' moment there is nothing about Brexit.

Except:- our trade and industry secretary went to the World Economic Forum in Davos with the message for the leaders of the rest of the world that they should prepare for us leaving without a deal. Like the rest of the headbangers, the man responsible for our commercial well-being seems more interested in the politics than in the damage to our economy. He said in an interview with the Today programme that the political concerns are more important than 'short term' economic gains from delaying departure. And so far he has failed to secure any significant trade deals with any other countries. The great fantasy of the politicians pushing Brexit has always been that it is still 1757, we have a great navy that rules the world (instead of just an overly expensive white elephant of an aircraft carrier), countries are gagging to get piece of our pie and if all else fails The East India Company can send in its private army to subdue the natives and grab the trade.

Meanwhile companies the size of Airbus make it clear they may well leave the UK in the event of no deal and, get your head around this one, Brexiteer Dyson moves to Singapore which, I believe, has just signed a trade deal with the European Union!

John Roper

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