

# A Helping Hand In A Noisy Battle

Roseview Windows director Paul Bygrave explores a neglected benefit of secondary glazing – and how Roseview’s Incarnation range fits in.

Mention secondary glazing and most people’s minds immediately jump to one of two things – listed buildings and budget insulation, writes Paul Bygrave head of Roseview Windows’ Incarnation secondary glazing brand.

It’s true that secondary does a fantastic job in both contexts – it serves as an alternative, removable and unobtrusive solution when regulations and planning prevent replacement glazing for listed properties, as well as offering a competitive, effective way of helping homeowners, landlords and businesses cut their energy bills for the minimum outlay. What many people overlook is the fact that secondary glazing is an excellent way of tackling one of the biggest modern issues facing the fenestration industry – noise pollution. With ever-increasing road and air traffic and new property developments being built closer and closer to older housing stock, the result is increasing noise levels for properties ill-equipped to handle them.

Meanwhile a sharper focus on heritage and conservation has meant that, where previously owners of period properties – rightly or wrongly – replaced traditional windows with modern double glazing, that is no longer an option.



## Commercial concerns

Noise (along with heritage and conservation) is also an increasing problem for town centre businesses and services. Often housed in older High Street buildings, shops, offices and hotels suffer from increased noise pollution – especially from cars. Given their location and circumstance, replacing windows may not be permitted and is often not economically viable. If outside noise is shattering your customers’ peace and quiet, secondary glazing is a quick, easy and extremely cost-effective solution.

In simple terms, the way secondary glazing adds acoustic insulation is obvious – it adds an extra pane of glass that serves as a barrier to keep the noise out. But specified and installed correctly, secondary glazing is typically more effective than conventional glazing – up to five times more effective, to be precise. That’s because where double and triple glazed windows usually have panes of glass separated by gaps of 20mm or less,

secondary glazing can be recessed by 100mm or more, which is much more effective at dampening noise. As a result, with the right acoustic glass, secondary glazing can reduce noise levels by up to 50 decibels.

## Incarnation

At Incarnation, we’ve got a fantastic range of high-performance secondary glazing products. Our collection is aimed at the domestic, commercial and heritage markets and features an extensive array of ultra-slim profiles to suit any style. Everything is available with three outer frame options – easily identified on Incarnation’s recently revamped order forms and website – and offers a glazing capacity of up to 6.8mm for acoustic projects.

We offer fixed units, lift-outs, hinged casements, fully balanced vertical sliders as well as traditional multi-panel horizontal sliders. Effectively, we can design a secondary unit that matches the sightlines of virtually any primary window – including arches and bays.

## Get ‘em while they’re hot

If you need high-quality secondary glazing that’s not only simple to fit, easy to maintain, and capable of offering great thermal performance but which can help your customers enjoy more peaceful days and silent nights, Incarnation secondary glazing from Roseview Windows is the right choice for you. [i](#)

Picture: Secondary glazing helps cut energy bills and reduces external noise.

# The Efficiency Revolution

**Chris Alderson, Edgetech MD, discusses his firm's role in driving innovation in energy efficiency.**

**We're living through an energy efficiency revolution, writes Edgetech MD Chris Alderson.**

In not much more than the blink of an eye in historical terms, it's been catapulted from the niche concern of a tiny minority, to something everyone's talking about – and that by 2012, was receiving \$300 billion in investment every single year. At Edgetech, we've been positioned to watch the glass and glazing landscape has been reshaped. In fact, on many occasions, we've been at the forefront of driving improvements in energy efficiency. We didn't invent warm-edge technology. The very first warm-edge windows were produced in America in the 1860s – in 1865, Thomas D. Stetson patented a double-glazed window that used wood or rope as a spacer. It was only with the launch of Edgetech's Super Spacer in the 1980s, though, that the concept really took off. Thirty years later, Super Spacer is still a leading foam warm edge spacer in the market, with exceptional thermal efficiency and condensation resistance.

## Window Energy Rating

Edgetech's contribution has been about more than just products. Back in 2006, our Energy Efficiency in Focus seminar sought to raise the profile of the then fledgling Window Energy Rating



scheme. At the time, only 50 products carried Window Energy Ratings. The seminar predicted that, among other things, companies would be offering C-rated windows as standard by 2010, and that a major window retailer would be offering A-rated windows – both of which came to pass. By 2009, over 200 companies had registered more than 1,200 products with the Window Energy Rating scheme. Interest in improving energy efficiency had started to snowball and, the following year, we responded with our hugely successful 'Journey to C' seminars – which helped the industry adapt to tightening performance requirements within the Building Regulations.

## Established

Further events followed – and in the years since, energy efficiency has been firmly established as a mainstream concern. Now, the best window products offer a level of thermal performance that wouldn't even have been conceiv-

able not that long ago. But it's also true to say that the era of drastic improvements in energy efficiency is probably over, at least for now. Smaller, more gradual enhancements are being made all the time – but it's possible that all the big, game-changing leaps forward have already been made.

## International Energy Agency

The appetite for energy efficient products is bigger than it's ever been, however – and it's certainly possible that we could see impressive technological breakthroughs in the future, especially as the commercial benefits of energy efficiency become increasingly apparent. The International Energy Agency has recently reported that the benefits of businesses increasing their energy efficiency extend well beyond just cutting their power bills, for example. They found it also had potential to support economic growth, enhance social development and help build energy security among other things – and that the average payback period for industrial companies making energy efficiencies was 1.9 years, rather than 4.2 years as previously thought. They also measured the economic benefits of the warmer, drier homes that would result, finding that if you add in the reduced cost of medical care, sick days and illness-related childcare that would result, the returns could be as much as \$4 for every \$1 spent. Regardless of the speed of technological advancement, it looks certain that energy efficiency will be centrally important in fenestration for decades to come. [i](#)

Picture: Edgetech MD Chris Alderson.

# Village Sees The Light



A new complex has benefitted from a series of rooflights from Xtralite.

**Wixams Retirement Village near Bedford is purpose built to provide 230, one and two bedroom apartments for the over 55's in its six acre green field setting.**

"Great thought has gone into the design of the building and the inclusion of extensive rooflights ensures areas of the building are flooded with natural light which has been proven to

improve wellbeing, especially during the darker months," said Jim Lowther sales director at Xtralite.

Three sections of the construction project benefitted from Xtralite roofing solutions and its X-Span range of product. One area being the Winter Garden residential area which is a single glazed atrium over a five storey building and includes louvered ventilation.

The Village Centre roof itself benefitted from argon filled double glazed panels and was thermally enhanced to elevate the comfort of users in the central atrium of the village, the location of health spa, bar, gym and other communal facilities. Its design is visually striking creating a focal point merging visual aesthetics and practicality. This area also had smoke vents fitted to meet smoke ventilation regulations.

Both were sizeable installations measuring over 40m in length and up to 12m in width highlighting how X-Span can encompass varieties of style, design and ventilation to fulfil both aesthetic, safety and ventilation demands and legal requirements.

## Canopy

Finally, the self-supporting trapezium styled entrance canopy had single glazed panels from the X-Span range creating a striking visual effect upon arrival at the village. 

Picture: Natural light floods the Retirement Village.



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Our focus on technical progression and our strides for export ensure that our flagship products remain two of the highest performance warm edge spacers available to the worldwide market. We now ship to 22 countries in Europe, North America, South America, Asia and Oceania.

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