

Forging ahead in '25

It's that time of year when we all reflect on another year passing and identify the events that have shaped or impacted on our success. With the war in Ukraine showing no signs of abating, an imminent change in global leadership over the pond and not forgetting the many challenges we have had at home: a general election, and a controversial budget all making the landscape for building a successful business challenging. However, we are fortunate that within CAB's membership and especially in our segment of the market, we have some very resilient and resourceful people, so we continue to stay strong, writes CAB CEO Nigel Headford



I have enjoyed getting out and meeting many of our members. Understanding their businesses and listening to their ideas for more interaction with CAB is key to growing the benefits that can be provided by a successful association. Meeting more members in 2025 is at the top of my to do list, so please bear with me as I work my way around the UK.

Looking forward to 2025, there are a number of topics that are going to be filling up our inboxes such as, U-values and part L, closed loop recycling, the preparation for CBAM's introduction in 2027 along with the discussion around urban mining, pre or post-consumer scrap and how we maintain aluminium in the UK's circular economy by not letting used aluminium drift off to mainland Europe and Asia for recycling.

From a CAB perspective we are looking forward to an exciting year. January sees Dale Pegler joining the CAB team as technical director. Having already held several strategy meetings with Dale, there are a number of new incentives to be launched during the coming year. One of these is the CAB U-Value charter where we have several major fenestration companies backing the incentive. The scheme aims to enable companies signing up to the charter, to offer trusted thermal data which meets a set criterion.

Since joining CAB as CEO in 2024 we have attracted 11 new members and have a number of other businesses express their intention of joining in 2025. The CAB organisation is going from strength to strength and, as expected, new members are all keen to share their expertise amongst the rest of the membership, not to sell, but to educate, add value and participate.

The CAB spring forum is now fully launched and the team looks forward to welcoming members and their guests to The Deep in Hull. The theme for the forum is sustainability and in the evening we have managed to secure Monty Halls as our after dinner speaker. He is a broadcaster, speaker, naturalist, former Royal Marine,

travel writer, marine biologist, and leadership specialist. His experience covers over two decades of leading teams in some of the most remote environments on earth, presenting wildlife and adventure documentaries. Seeing Monty present whilst sharks, rays and turtles swim around in the giant tanks promises to be breathtaking.

The FIT Show is promising to be larger than ever and the CAB team will be present with a relaxing area for the opportunity to meet our industry. We look forward to welcoming visitors to our stand for a chat or a well-deserved coffee.

Supporting the industry, the CAB team are busy planning for the return of the annual CAB technical conference at Loughborough. Historically this has been a very well attended event and the technical committee is busy planning a day full of presentations and discussions. It's going to be a very worthwhile event.

In the summer the inaugural CABfest and golf day which will take place in June at Wokefield Park, Reading is gathering a massive amount of interest, giving the team the opportunity to plan more and more elements into what promises to be a fun-filled networking summer event, the type of which is new to our industry. Who does not like a drink, laughing with friends and colleagues, making new acquaintances and discussing opportunities, all whilst listening to live music and eating street food?

The CAB team is also busy looking at the inaugural CAB AGM gala dinner and awards evening in October, more information soon. The evening will be familiar to most of our members and their guests, but we will have some real value-added presentations beforehand from key speakers, with the new element of an added awards segment, celebrating successes throughout the membership. □

To learn more about the use of aluminium in construction contact CAB. To join the association and be recognised as being involved in supporting your industry and helping to shape its future Visit www.c-a-b.org.uk