

# GALVANeyes

Issue 25

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[www.galvanizers.co.uk](http://www.galvanizers.co.uk)

## Zinc positive

Welcome to GALVANeyes, the Hereford and Shropshire Galvanizers newsletter.

It has been a few years since the previous edition so I thought I'd reintroduce GALVANeyes to help us keep in touch. I hope you'll find the mix of stories, technical tips and general galvanizing gossip both interesting and informative.

We're all aware of the current state of the economy with most industries, including the galvanizing sector, being hit quite hard during the previous 12 months with job losses and falling revenue for many plants.

To add to the downturn in demand, there has been a 60% rise in the cost of zinc this year. This increase has been fuelled by speculators in the "money markets" and has little to do with supply and demand. There is also an ever increasing financial demand upon galvanizers to ensure that the process remains as sustainable as possible. The result is that Galvanizing is probably the most environmentally friendly process for preventing steel corrosion.

Rising costs during a recession, when market forces automatically drive prices down, has put pressure on galvanizers but has been good for the market; you'll not find many fabricators, farmers or stockholders complaining about lower prices.



*David Watkins,  
Managing Director*

Despite all the negatives, there are many markets that have not been as severely affected by the recession as others. We feel that we have the right mix of customers from different industries to help us ride the recession and are confident that galvanizing is the corrosion-resistant process of the future.

In a time when there is increasing pressure for all of our customers to reduce operating costs, doesn't it make sense to protect steel using a technique that can offer a maintenance-free peace of mind that can last for decades? We think so.

Enjoy GALVANeyes.

### Wholesale zinc prices 2009





# Fine Art

As part of an initiative to improve the image of Ashton Under Lyne, Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council commissioned Oswestry based Castle Fine Arts to design and create a three metre high sculpture to stand outside of The Central Library in Ashton under Lyne.

Frank Travis is the Economic Initiatives Manager at Tameside MBC "It is our hope that visitors will associate the sculpture as a local town landmark for many years. For this reason the sculpture has to be weather and vandal resistant, easy to clean and most importantly it has to last for at least 15 to 20 years."

Castle Fine Arts have been designing and casting sculptures since 1990. Steel sculptures are mostly galvanized due to the complete and long lasting protection afforded by this process.

Chris Jones of Castle Fine Arts called upon local company Shropshire Galvanizers to carry out the galvanizing. "We worked closely with Shropshire Galvanizers to help us design the sculpture so that we would achieve the best results possible. As you can see, the piece is complex and so the quality of the finish was very important to us. They were very helpful right through the design and fabrication process and the results speak for themselves."

Also shown, The Sculpture Park, based in Surrey, exhibited a Mammoth sculpture created by Castle Fine Arts at the Chelsea Flower show earlier this year. The Mammoth was created using the same technique as Tameside's library sculpture and was also galvanized by Shropshire Galvanizers.



Photo courtesy of Howard Murphy – Tameside MBC



Photo courtesy of Eddie Powell – The Sculpture Park



# New truck for Shropshire

Shropshire Galvanizers have announced their purchase of a new 44 tonne articulated lorry. Works Manager Lee Leightwood said "We're delighted to be able to offer a more complete transport service to our customers. We're now flexible enough to offer carriage for both the smaller bespoke jobs and the larger contracts too."



Bill Warren  
Production Manager  
Hereford Galvanizers

# Technical bit

We pride ourselves on our quality. A regular obstacle to the best possible finish is when steel arrives that has not been designed or vented with the galvanizing process in mind. The result can be poor quality or worse—dangerous! I hope you find our tips helpful.

Please contact us with any questions.



Mike Jones  
Production Supervisor  
Shropshire Galvanizers

## ✓ GOOD venting examples



The flanges on this beam have been cropped before welding into place. Cost effective and excellent venting. Well done!



Another plate cropped. Another venting disaster avoided. Watch out, cropped corners can sometimes be unintentionally welded over!



Perfect venting. Very large holes in each corner of the base plate will allow fast immersion and drainage of zinc for the perfect finish.

## ✗ POOR venting examples



The ash and reacted flux (formed during the galvanizing process) cannot escape from this 'pocket'.  
**Tip: add a cut out to the gusset plate.**



Zinc pooling. Expensive, unsightly and may interfere with erection on site. **Tip: Once again, a simple cut-out in the corner of the welded plate helps.**



Zinc runs. A poorly placed vent hole has allowed a zinc build up inside the tube which has run out and solidified when the frame has been drawn out of the bath. **Tip: when in doubt, please ask!**

# Employee focus

**Name:** David Howle  
**Title:** Process & Technology Manager  
**Started:** May 2009  
**Fact:** Pet peacock

With every new edition of GALVANeyes we'd like to introduce a member of our team. First up is new boy David Howle.

David joined us in May as the newly created position of Process and Technology Manager. With over 15 years working for Fairbright Industries (lately Caparo Wire) David has the ideal experience to manage and improve the company's mind boggling operational processes. These include health and safety, environmental, quality, energy management and compliance to legislation.



If you have any questions for David please get in touch: [david.howle@hereford.galvanizers.co.uk](mailto:david.howle@hereford.galvanizers.co.uk)

Mr P

## Meet the team

We feel it is always nice to put a face to the name. With this, largely untrue, phrase in mind we've swallowed our pride and printed the 'Meet the team' posters. There is one for both Hereford and Shropshire Galvanizers. We hope that you'll pin it to your wall and make good use of it (please provide your own darts).



For a copy of 'Meet the team' or additional copies of GALVANeyes please contact us on 01432 267664



QUALITY ASSURANCE  
ISO 9001:2008



As part of David Howle's new role, he has overseen Hereford Galvanizers Ltd updating its Quality Management System to ISO 9001:2008



QUALITY ASSURANCE  
ISO 9001:2008



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