

# GALVANeyes

Issue 26

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Hereford  
Galvanizers



Shropshire  
Galvanizers

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

## Steel sustainability

Welcome to GALVANeyes, the Hereford and Shropshire Galvanizers newsletter.

When times are tough and the recession bites, issues such as the environment can be secondary considerations compared to cost. This does not necessarily need to be the case; hot dip galvanizing is both sustainable and can save you money.

Three benefits to zinc and hot dip galvanizing...

**1. Sustainable** – World wide, it has been estimated that every 90 seconds one tonne of steel turns to rust. Helping to prevent rust by hot dip galvanizing is an excellent way of assuring a long life cycle for your steel. Once dipped, steel will most likely last for decades and won't require costly maintenance. A longer life for steel = savings in energy and resources with a minimal impact on the environment. Low cost and low impact.

**2. Recyclable** – Zinc does not lose any physical or chemical properties during the recycling process and can be recycled as many times as you like. In fact much of the zinc we use has already been recycled.

Hot dip galvanizing involves dipping steel into chemicals and molten zinc. Chemicals and zinc not used remain in the tank/kettle. Residues formed



*David Watkins,  
Managing Director*

during the process (dross and zinc ash) are 100% recycled.

**3. Zinc is good for you** – Your body needs zinc. Although I wouldn't recommend you swim a length of our kettle, a deficiency in zinc has been linked to problems with many organs and body functions (too many to list).

So, next time you specify hot dip galvanizing to protect your steelwork – know that you're doing your bit for the environment. Give yourself a pat on the back!

Enjoy GALVANeyes.





# Pier pressure

Many of you will have watched the pictures of the devastating fire that all but destroyed the 100 year-old Grand Pier at Weston Super Mare.

Work to re-build the iconic landmark has been continuing since the fire in July 2008 as the new owners, Grand Pier Ltd, strive to open the pier to the public in the summer. No pressure.

The main contractor, John Sisk & Son, appointed Haley Engineering to supply more than 1,100 tonnes of steel for the project.

As coastal environments are very corrosive to steel, much of the pavilion's external steelwork was hot dip galvanized. To help achieve the 50 year design life of the galvanized steel, it was first shot-blasted before being dipped by Hereford Galvanizers creating a thicker and longer lasting zinc protection.



Photography courtesy of William Haley Engineering

# Sheep dip galvanizing



Welshpool has had a market since medieval times and livestock has always played an important part. So important in fact that £millions have recently been ploughed into a new state of the art livestock market.

The new market was opened last November and is the largest one-day livestock market in Wales and one of the largest in Europe.

The owners of the market, Welshpool Livestock Sales, selected IAE, based in Staffordshire, to supply them with 1,045 sheep pens and 172 cattle pens. Also, 50 tonnes of mezzanines, buildings and stairways were supplied and installed by local company Alan Jukes Steel Framed Buildings Ltd.

Both companies selected Oswestry based Shropshire Galvanizers to hot dip galvanize their steelwork. Neil Hodgkinson, Director for IAE, said: "Due to our own galvanizing commitments we appointed Oswestry based Shropshire Galvanizers to undertake the galvanizing contract for the cattle market and we were delighted with quality and service they provided."





Bill Warren  
Quality Control Inspector  
Hereford Galvanizers

# Technical bit

We pride ourselves on our quality. A regular obstacle to the best possible finish is when steel arrives that has identification markings that are not 'galvanizing friendly'. The result can be poor quality and costly.

I hope you find our tips helpful.

Please contact us with any questions.



Mike Jones  
Production Supervisor  
Shropshire Galvanizers

## Preparation of steel for galvanizing

A metallurgically clean steel surface is an absolute necessity for satisfactory hot dip galvanizing. Contamination on the steel, including rust and scale caused by oxidation of the steel surface, oils, light grease, etc, must be removed prior to processing if the galvanizing is to be successful. To achieve this clean surface, all steelwork is immersed in tanks of dilute Hydrochloric Acid, a part of the process called 'pickling'.

However, paint and solvent based markings cannot be removed by pickling and if left will lead to bare areas in the galvanized coating.

Steelwork is often identified by use of crayons, paint or solvent-based markers. It is vital that these markings are removed by paint stripping or mechanical means for all galvanized jobs, or better still, we strongly recommend the use of water-based markers or chalk which are 'galvanizing friendly'. Some steelwork arrives covered in lacquer for protection. As with paint, this should be removed before arriving at the galvanizer or specify lacquer free when ordering the steel.

We are sure that all our customers will appreciate the potential cost involved in the mechanical removal of the quantities of paint/crayon/lacquer.

In summary, for all galvanized jobs, use a method of identification which helps us to help you. Please contact us if you require any information on suppliers of 'galvanizing friendly' markers.



*Photo courtesy of the Galvanizers Association*



*Photo courtesy of the Galvanizers Association*



*Three examples of bare steel where customers or their suppliers have written on the steel with crayon, paint or solvent based markers. This bare steel is prone to corrosion.*

# Employee focus

**Name:** Richard Simcock  
**Title:** Customer Service Manager  
**Started:** December 1998  
**Fact:** Keeps chickens (eggs 75p per carton)



Richard has worked at the company for over 11 years (which still qualifies him as one of the new starters).

Richard's role is to ensure a smooth transition of your steelwork right through the galvanizing process. He plans the production and liaises with customers. All this is no problem for someone with Richard's experience, dedication and super-human powers of memory.

Congratulations to David Howle (who you may remember was our employee focus from the previous issue) who has been promoted to Works Manager at Hereford Galvanizers.



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## Competition time...

Here is your opportunity to win an Apple iPod Nano. All you need to do is answer the following...

**What is the design life of the galvanized sections of the Grand Pier? .....**

Please answer and complete your contact details below and post, fax or email this page back to Hereford Galvanizers (for contact details see top right of page) by 31st July 2010 to enter the draw.

Name: ..... Company: .....

Address: .....

..... Post code: .....

Tel: ..... Fax: .....

Email: .....

*The first correct answer drawn from a hat by our Managing Director, Dave Watkins will win. The winner will be announced in the next edition of GALVANeyes. Good luck.*



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