

GALVANeyes

The newsletter of Hereford Galvanizers, Shropshire Galvanizers and Shropshire Powder Coaters

Issue 38

COMPANY INVESTMENT



The Brexit impasse feeds the uncertain times in which we operate. However, companies cannot allow such ambiguity to justify inactivity. As a consequence we have continued to invest in the business in the knowledge that whether the UK leaves the EU or not, life goes on and our customers will still need our services.

Hot dip galvanizing infrastructure is not inexpensive to maintain and improve. 2019 has seen us implement our programme of around £500,000 worth of investment across our three coatings plants. These projects include the following...

Kettle change

Shropshire Galvanizers will shortly be undergoing a number of improvements in Oswestry with the installation of a new galvanizing kettle, a new furnace to heat

it and fume enclosure. Both furnace and fume enclosure will be more efficient and both will help us realise our commitment to our processes being as environmentally sustainable as we can make them.

Transport

Site access can sometimes be a challenge. Hereford's recent purchase of a 10m long rear steer trailer has proven very popular with customers enabling us to deliver to sites we simply couldn't reach beforehand. It is a very helpful addition to our existing fleet of 40 trailers across our three sites. These are generally 45ft flat beds and a number of extenders for those particularly long loads.

Handling

We have just replaced much of our 'black' yard gantry at our Hereford plant. The old one had given great service but it was time for a change. We have increased the column bay widths which gives us greater flexibility when offloading trailers.



IT

We have continued to upgrade our works operating computer systems along with new servers in both Hereford and Shropshire.

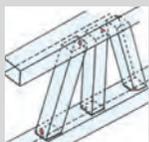
Ash reclaim

A bi-product of the galvanizing process is ash (*the solidifying layer that continually forms on the surface of the zinc in the galvanizing kettle as it cools*). Both of our plants have to skim this ash back and remove it from the kettle over 100 times per day. You can imagine that, over the course of a year, this is a lot of ash which is mostly valuable zinc. Rather than waste this or sell it on to a third party our Hereford plant have been melting our ash for years using our zinc recovery equipment and we recycle the zinc back into our bath. This has proven so useful to Hereford that we have just recently installed similar zinc recovery equipment at our Oswestry plant.

People

Capital investment is certainly important but the most crucial, and often overlooked, asset in any company is its employees. There can be no company without its people. Back in the final quarter of 2018, we embarked upon an enhanced structured training programme across all business units in the Group. Most recently several of our Team Leaders and Supervisors in Hereford and Shropshire have completed a Level 3 Leadership & Management Course. As of August 2019 we also now have a fully dedicated Group HR Manager.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.



TECHNICAL

Venting and Drainage



GALVANIZING

Walenty Pytel sculptures



LOCAL SUPPORT



THE GAGAs

The Galvanizing Awards

WALENTY PYTEL 50TH ANNIVERSARY SCULPTURE



Think back to July 1969 – Apollo 11 was launched which led to Neil Armstrong becoming the first person to set foot on the Moon and it was the investiture of Prince Charles as the Prince of Wales in Caernarfon.

A little closer to home in Hereford, we were galvanizing the Woodpecker sculpture for Walenty Pytel. He was commissioned by Bulmers to design and create a sculpture to celebrate their Woodpecker cider brand. It still proudly stands on Whitecross Road, Hereford.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of his first public sculpture the Cider Museum in Hereford has commissioned the ‘Minnow and Kingfisher’. Walenty Pytel is an internationally renowned contemporary artist and is recognised as a leading metal and bronze sculptor of birds and animalia.

We were proud to have galvanized both of his sculptures. His works include the Jubilee Fountain of Commonwealth Beasts outside the Houses of Parliament and three egrets at Birmingham International Airport. He has been commissioned by royalty, public bodies, corporations and private collectors.



Walenty Pytel



Galvanizing the new sculpture

EMPLOYEE FOCUS - GWYN PUGH



We are delighted to announce the return of Gwyn to our Oswestry plants as Area Sales Manager.

Gwyn has over 36 years’ experience working within the steel/construction industry, almost 10 of these previously at Shropshire Galvanizers. Although it felt like he never completely left because he became a loyal customer instead! As a result, he can appreciate the galvanizing and powder coating processes from both the customer and process perspectives. He still supports the mighty Wolverhampton Wanderers, we try not to hold that against him, and enjoys getting away in his motorhome with his family.

Can you spot the difference between the pictures - welcome back Gwyn!

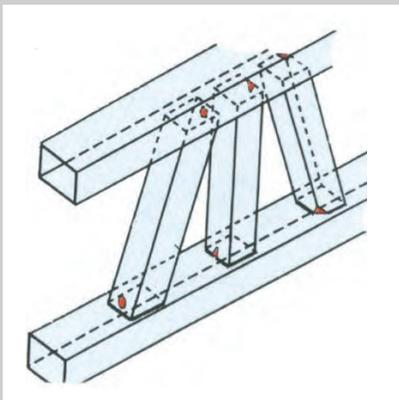
TECH TALK

VENTING AND DRAINAGE

The most common problem faced by galvanizers is receiving steelwork that has been incorrectly designed or vented for hot dip galvanizing. When this happens it makes it at best difficult to achieve a good level of quality, and at worst it could be dangerous.

Tip: Leave at least 1mm clearance between moving parts, such as hinges, to help allow them to continue to move after galvanizing.

Tip: Some fabrications may require lifting points or suspension holes to allow the safe handling. If in doubt please ask.



TUBES & CLOSED SECTIONS

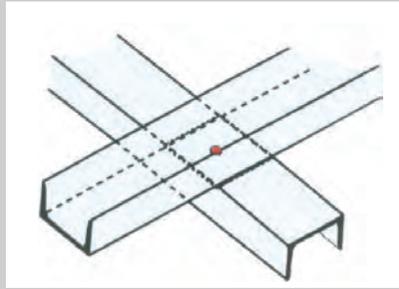
Every sealed section of fabrication must be vented for reasons of safety and to allow the access of molten zinc/air during the galvanizing process.

Inadequate venting is EXTREMELY DANGEROUS as the build up of gas inside a cavity can cause an explosion. On tubular section, holes or notches will be required diagonally opposite each other, as close to the weld as possible.

Refer to the table for minimum vent hole sizes. Please go larger than this : bigger = better quality and safer.

Note: We no longer accept internally vented fabrications

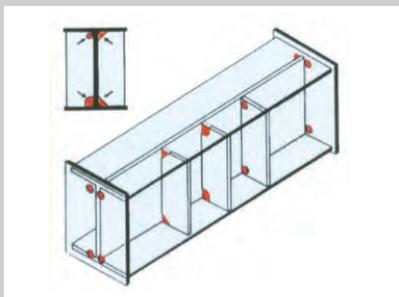
CONTACTING SURFACES



If contacting surfaces cannot be avoided as with these two channels, then the edges of the contacting areas should be continuously welded and a hole drilled through both members for each 100cm² of overlap.

The minimum hole should be 10mm or the thickness of the section, whichever is the greater. This should eliminate the risk of explosion during the galvanizing process. If this is not possible then welding should be intermittent. It is not generally necessary for these precautions for enclosed areas smaller than 100cm² (10 x 10cm).

STIFFENERS



External stiffeners, webs and welded gussets on beams, columns and channels should have their corners cropped or drilled to allow the easy flow of zinc during the galvanizing process.

Diameter of section mm	Minimum vent hole
<25	10mm
25-50	12mm
>50-100	16mm
>100-150	20mm
>150	Consult us

GALVANeyes

GALVANIZERS ASSOCIATION GALVANIZING AWARDS



We have recently celebrated the Galvanizers Association Galvanizing Awards, also known as the GAGAs.

This is a free annual competition which has been recognising the use of galvanizing since 1994. First launched to better connections between the galvanizing industry and designers, architects, artists and engineers the event has grown to signify so much more.

This year the association received a record number of entries, which seemed fitting for the 25th anniversary. The prestigious galvanized watering cans were awarded to a diverse and memorable list of projects, those that prioritised public engagement with landscape and resident culture were favourites with the judges.

All projects large or small from across the UK and Ireland are considered, the judging is based on merit and not the scale of the project. All UK companies can also enter a project located overseas.

Award categories are Architecture, Engineering, Sustainable, Detail and Duplex Systems.

GROUP SPONSORSHIPS

GALVANeyes

Within the last few months we have been proud to sponsor the following local fundraising events for Macmillan Cancer Support and Breast Cancer Haven.

Blossom Fashion Show 2019, Breast Cancer Haven



Breast Cancer Haven is a charity that offers vital one-to-one emotional, physical and practical support to anyone affected by breast cancer, including men. The Hereford centre ran their second Blossom Fashion Show in the Shire Hall and raised an amazing £16,000! The sell-out event saw stalls, the silent auction

and raffle culminate with a beautiful fashion show. Congratulations to all the wonderful models, it proved to be an emotional but incredibly inspiring evening.

Derek's Macmillan Golf Day

Derek Brown, our Training Supervisor in Hereford, has been running fundraising events for Macmillan for several years. His golf day at Burghill Golf Club this year proved to be another resounding success. 30 teams of 4 golfers teed off throughout the day, winners of closest to the pin, nearest to the barrel and hitting the green on the 12th were secured and the day was rounded off with an enthusiastic raffle. Over £4600 was raised, well done Derek all your hard work paid off! Special thanks for donations to Caple Forge, P&O, Dragons Wood Forge, Bromley O'Hare, SK Williams, GLC Williams and S&T Ashby.

Brightside Music Festival



The Brightside Festival was organised to celebrate Karen King, who was a great music lover, and to raise money for two charities who helped her greatly; Hereford Breast Cancer Haven and Macmillan.

The headliners included Definitely Britpop, the best tribute band of that era, and Blur tribute act Blury, plus 50s and 60s hits from The

Mustangs. There was street food, full bar, children's activities, raffle, fun and games and overnight camping for those who wanted to stay for the long haul!

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Our 2019 results are in – thank you very much to everyone who took the time to complete our survey.

We were pleased to see that 82% of customers rated the quality of our coatings as 'good' or 'excellent', a notable 7% increase in 'excellent' rating. Our Net Promoter Score (NPS) increased to 44 meaning our customers loyalty has increased over the last 12 months. Our drivers and delivery service continue to excel.

Finally, congratulations to Simon Bradford, Bespoke Steel Fabrications Ltd for winning the £50 Amazon voucher!



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