Issue No. 78 - December 2013

Chimney JOURNAL

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The official publication of
The National Association of Chimney Sweeps

CHIMNEY JOURNAL • DECEMBER 2013

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The front cover picture is taken in Gudhjem, Denmark, a small fishing port in the Baltic. A popular venue for tourists, attracted by its steep, picturesque streets, stunning views and a friendly atmosphere. Smoked herrings were first prepared in the town's smokehouses. FuranFlex is the perfect lining solution for a chimney such as this, as it can retain the shape of the chimney, thus providing maximum airflow.

Scan here with a QR reader app for direct access to NACS wherever you are!

Did you know you can now follow NACS on Twitter and Facebook?

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to the December 2013 edition of the NACS Chimney Journal Magazine, where you will find some very interesting articles and adverts throughout.

Building on the huge success of the previously named "Chimney Works Trade Show", the NACS has re-branded its extremely popular annual show and is now called the NACS Exhibition. The NACS Exhibition 2014 is currently being organised, and I am pleased to announce that the majority of the stands have already been booked, by both returning and new exhibitors. This is mainly due to our exhibition proving to be very successful and well received by all visitors that attend. Each year the exhibition grows, with next years show in April being the largest to date. Details for the NACS Annual Gala Dinner have also been released, and I can confirm that next years' Gala Dinner will include a Casino theme. Bookings for the Gala Dinner & Casino Night are now being taken, and with limited availability we advise you book early to avoid disappointment. Further details on both the NACS Exhibition and Gala Dinner can be found inside this magazine, on the NACS Website, and also on the NACS official Facebook & Twitter pages.

The NACS National Chimney Training Centre in Staffordshire has proven very successful over the past 12 months, and we are delighted with the progress the centre has made. 2014 will be an extremely busy year at the training centre, with over 100 days scheduled for training courses. Further training helps to broaden your skills and enables you to offer other chimney related services to your customers. If you are thinking of enhancing your business and the services it provides then please visit the NACS website to see the courses that are on offer.

I really hope you are all experiencing a successful season so far this year, and continue to do so. On behalf of the NACS Board of Directors, Regional Officers and the NACS Office, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing you all at the NACS Exhibition in April 2014.

Best regards,

Martin P Glynn
NACS President & CEO

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For full details of advertising in the Chimney Journal please contact the NACS office. The points of view aired in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Association.
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The Editor reserves the right to edit or modify submissions.

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NEW NACS MEMBERS

No.	NAME	COMPANY	TOWN	COUNTY
10/681	Mr Nicholas Bell	Nicky the Sweep	Cinderford	Gloucestershire
13/023	Mr David Boydens	c/o David Boydens Chimney Sweep	Jersey	Channel Islands
13/017	Mr Robert Brookes	A Barrow Chimney Sweeps	Sandy	Bedfordshire
13/038	Mr Paul Bullivant	Clean and Clear Chimney Sweep Service	Spalding	Lincolnshire
13/027	Mr Ernest Carr	c/o Pearson Fuels Limited	Droylsden	Manchester
13/071	Mr Richard Coates	R J Roofing & Solid Fuel Installations	Sheffield	South Yorkshire
12/075	Mr David Coles	Coles Chimney Services	Bridgwater	Somerset
10/698	Mr David Costerton	Costerton's Chimney Sweeps	Sutton	Surrey
13/053	Mr Darren Dancey	Area Sweep	Newbury	Berkshire
13/016	Mr William Davidson	Davidson Chimney Services	Ayr	South Ayrshire
13/003	Mr Shaun Doughton	S. Doughton	Bristol	Avon
13/052	Mr Glen Doxey	A G Doxey	Nottingham	Nottinghamshire
13/002	Mr Richard Emms	Charles Chimney Sweep Services	Hethersett	Norwich
13/024	Mr Tom Griffiths	Tom Griffiths Chimney Sweep	Bishops Castle	Shropshire
13/058	Mr Paul Long	P D L Chimney Sweep	Blackheath	London
13/028	Mr Charles McIntosh	c/o K & I Paterson Ltd	Lumphanan by Banchory	Aberdeenshire
13/050	Mr Paul Morgan	Morgan Chimney Sweeps	Ware	Hertfordshire
13/025	Mr Barrie Mullarkey	c/o Clean Start Chimney Sweep	Portsmouth	Hampshire
13/048	Mr Stephen Paxford	S Paxford Chimney Sweeps	Pershore	Worcestershire
13/046	Mr Gary Payne	c/o Sysons	Kirby-in-Ashfield	Nottinghamshire
11/815	Mr Andrew Peace	All Seasons	Bicester	Oxfordshire
13/082	Mr Michael Pearce	Henry's Chimney Sweep	Fareham	Hampshire
13/051	Mr Graeme Swatman	ACE Chimney Sweeps	Barton on Humber	Lincolnshire
13/069	Mr Stephen Sykes	Stephen the Sweep	Greatstone	Kent
13/047	Mr Kevin Turner	Lamont Chimney Sweeps	Worthing	West Sussex
13/023	Mr Richard Watkins	Sooty's Chimney Services	Hereford	Herefordshire
12/037	Mr Leslie Weeding	c/o The Chimney Sweep	Colchester	Essex
13/015	Mr Matthew Wheelden	Been Swept	Craven Arms	Shropshire
12/038	Mr David Wight	KUDOS	Hull	East Yorkshire
13/042	Mr Nick Wilcox	Soot 'n' Sweep	Warmley	Bristol
13/022	Mr Iain Willis	c/o Bensko Chimney Sweeping Services	Lympne	Kent
13/049	Mr Hugh Wills	Chimney Tech	Leeds	West Yorkshire
12/039	Mr Shaun Wilmott	Sweep Tec	Downend	Bristol
13/019	Mr Jack Wintermantle	J K Specialist	Henley-In-Arden	Warwickshire

NACS EXHIBITION

SUTTON COLDFIELD 10 & 11 APRIL 2014

NACS Exhibition 2014

10th & 11th April

Venue: The Ramada Hotel, Penns Lane, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1LH

FREE ENTRANCE!

The UK's largest exhibition for the Chimney Trade!

For more details please visit www.nacs.org.uk/event

The All NEW – NACS Exhibition

Building on the huge success of the previously named "Chimney Works Trade Show", the NACS has re-branded its extremely popular annual show and is now called the "NACS Exhibition".

In the past the exhibition has received visitors from all over the world; from Chimney Sweeps to stove installers, experienced builders to those new to the industry, as well as the public.

We are delighted that so many companies have already booked to exhibit at the NACS Exhibition in 2014, including returning exhibitors Rodtech UK, Docherty Group, Chimney Cowls Ltd, Ability International, AMAC, C-Caps, Brewer Cowls, Sturdy Vac, Topstak, NFU Mutual, Schiedel Chimney Systems, and Robeys; to name just a few! There are quite a few new exhibitors who will be experiencing first hand the rewards that our returning exhibitors receive, hence why they return year on year.

Visitor numbers have noticeably increased each year, and with the 2014 exhibition being the largest to date, you need to be sure not to miss out on this event.

If you're a company thinking about exhibiting at the NACS Exhibition, and you want to meet an audience of motivated buyers who are looking for new products and services, then this show is for you. So don't delay, book your stand today!

t: 01785 811732
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w: www.nacs.org.uk/event

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EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

Fireplace Marketing Company Ltd has seen an unprecedented demand for stand space at the Hearth & Home 2014.

At the time of going to press 46 exhibitors have already confirmed stand bookings and well over two thirds of stand space is already reserved. Exhibition Director, David Spencer commented: "Exhibitors, organisers and visitors alike were in agreement that the 2013 Hearth & Home Exhibition was the best we have seen for many years and we are looking to raise the bar again next year. Stand space has been selling incredibly quickly and we are already way ahead of our sales forecast based on previous years."

Visitor numbers were up 13.5% this year on the 2012 show and with the industry in particular, and economy in general, returning to good financial health, this is a trend that the organisers expect to see continue in 2014.

Hearth & Home is the only exhibition in the UK that features appliances on live burn under cover, with Harrogate International Centre being one of the few exhibition venues that can offer this. Hearth & Home has consistently delivered the technical expertise during build up to make this happen.

Among the exhibitors already signed up for 2014 is Pevex Enterprises who will make its 12th appearance in Harrogate.

Commenting on this year's show, Managing Director Adrian Hockley said: "This was Pevex's 11th year at the H&H show and without doubt our best ever with multiple orders taken and plenty of new enquiries. Each year we come back with a bigger and better stand and the only disappointment was that we were rushed off our feet that we weren't able devote enough time to all our customers."

Shane Knight of F & P Wholesale also commented on the networking opportunities and chance to catch up with existing customers that a stand in Harrogate offers. He said: "The Hearth & Home Show offers the perfect opportunity for us to meet and engage with customers on a one-to-one basis, which is invaluable to our business. We really like to take a personal approach and it is always rewarding to see just how strong the relationships are between our staff and customers."

A high percentage of confirmed exhibitors for 2014 will be familiar names to regular visitors to the show such as Dimplex, Evonic Fires, Kiwa GASTEC at CRE, Legend Fires, Valor, Lows and Poujoulat UK, but there are new names such as The Chimney Balloon Company and the National Association of Chimney Sweeps who are looking ahead and have already confirmed their stands.

New exhibitors have much to gain from attending including the opportunity of networking with key figures within the industry and the chance to showcase new products to a targeted audience of retailers, installers and buyers. Craig Mollet of LogFire Stoves & Flues, a company that exhibited for the first time in 2013 said: "Hearth & Home proved the ideal platform for the successful launch of our latest product range."

Family run Rodtech Limited also exhibited for the first time this year and noted: "We were very green as to this large scale exhibition and would personally like to thank you for the hand holding through the process of becoming an exhibitor. It was clear for all to see, in the presentation and effort that was put into this show from your end, that the show was very professional indeed. The show is all encompassing and what we gained it the way of contacts from countries as far away as New Zealand will be invaluable in our companies strategy and growth plan."

Brand new for visitors and exhibitors to the 2014 show will be the opportunity to take advantage of a free 'Smart Stand' service enabling visitors to obtain exhibitor contact details where they are unable to talk directly to a company representative. David Spencer said: "We are all too aware that stands can get incredibly busy and visitors are often short on time. The Smart Stand service gives exhibitors the ability to create and print QR codes containing company contact details or even specific product details. The exhibitor then prints and displays the QR code on their stand for visitors to take advantage of should they need to. That way visitors get all the information they require, even if pushed for time, and exhibitors can ensure that they reach as big an audience as possible."

QR codes can be scanned by most mobile phones and tablets and require a free of charge app to do so and David added: "Exhibitors will be able to take advantage of a number of optional reporting services available with the system to track leads and, ultimately, boost sales."

The 2014 Hearth & Home Exhibition will take place at Harrogate International Centre from the 8th - 10th June 2014.

To reserve stand space or to discuss you requirements contact David Spencer on **0845 643 2075** or email him at **david@fireplacemarketing.co.uk**

Alternatively visit **www.hearthandhome.co.uk** for the latest information on next year's show.

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NATIONAL CHIMNEY TRAINING CENTRE

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- An official HETAS Approved Training Centre
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Alternatively please email: training@nacs.org.uk or call 01785 811732

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DINAK APPOINT NEW UK DIRECTOR

Dinak SA have announced the appointment of Peter Cook as Dinak UK Director. Peter has been in the fireplace, stove and chimney industry for many years. Working for the main part within the Stovax group and prior to taking on his new role was with Poujoulat.

Peter said of his new role "I am excited to be working with a major European manufacture in the flue and chimney industry. Dinak is the leading Spanish manufacturer and market leader in it's field, we offer complete solutions to meet all chimney, flue and ducting needs. Our self supporting chimneys are the first to be CE marked. I am looking forward to the challenge of building the brand in the UK, we have historically sold our products via national distributors, M & E contractors and through our own commercial projects. We are moving the business forward and are looking for new partners across the UK in every sector".

Since taking over the UK operation Peter has increased warehouse staff and capacity by 30% and is increasing the staff levels in the sales office, he is putting into place training program's and is in the process of employing 2 apprentice's. "Dinak has seen demand for its product range increase over the past 18mths and at its present growth rate will be looking for new premises in the coming 6-12mths. Our aim is to offer a quality product at a fair price, whilst maintaining customer service levels that are second to none. The Dinak brand across Europe has been built upon the simple ethics of quality, service, development and quick turnaround at a reasonable price" said Peter.

For all of your flue, chimney and duct needs contact Dinak on **01603 482706 or ordersuk@dinak.com**

UNREGISTERED INSTALLER OF WOOD BURNERS IS PROSECUTED

WARNING
Please see below the press release from Dorset County Council who successfully prosecuted a non-registered installer, and who also claimed to be a NACS Registered Chimney Sweep. The NACS had to provide a witness statement confirming he was not a Member of our Association. If you know of anyone falsely claiming to be NACS Registered then please contact the NACS Office and we will report them to the relevant Trading Standards department.

Martin P. Glynn
NACS President & CEO

A man who falsely claimed to be registered to install and work on wood burning stoves has been prosecuted by Dorset County Council's trading standards team.

On 4 November 2013 at Weymouth Magistrates Court, Nicholas Dominic Joseph Jerrard, aged 40, of Castlemaine Road, Weymouth, pleaded guilty to six offences under The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. He admitted misleading three consumers about his registration and authorisation to sign off installations of wood burning stoves. He was given a two-year conditional discharge, ordered to pay costs to the county council of £415.50 and a £15 victim surcharge.

In March and April 2012, the first victims were looking for someone to supply and fit a wood burning stove. They contacted the defendant, who was trading as Weymouth Chimney Services, and during the conversation Mr Jerrard informed the victim that he was "registered with the appropriate bodies in order to ensure that the wood burning stove was fitted correctly and signed off with the relevant bodies". He then went on to state "Notice plate and sign off" in a quotation detailing the supply and fitting of a wood burning stove. This was a further statement which misled the victim that he was in a position to carry out the works, sign them off and ensure the necessary notification would take place. On this basis, the victims engaged the defendant to supply and fit a stove and transferred £1,947.95 to Mr Jerrard's account. The defendant failed to supply the wood burner or carry out any work at all.

At about the same time another consumer in Weymouth was looking for a registered installer to sign off some work, and employed Mr Jerrard. The defendant went to the property, inspected the works and provided a plate for the installation which he completed with the name "Jerrard" and the number "01920". The defendant also supplied a commissioning form on which was handwritten the number "2920" next to the statement "Registered member of (e.g. HETAS, NACE, NACS)".

A trading standards officer carried out checks with the various registration schemes who confirmed that Mr Jerrard was not registered. She wrote to Mr Jerrard in November 2012 detailing the allegations and requesting that he contact the service. He failed to reply.

In March 2013 a further victim was misled by Mr Jerrard. Again, he claimed to be authorised to carry out and sign off works on a wood burning stove and provided a data plate and commissioning form as he had done before.

In mitigation, Mr Jerrard's solicitor said that the defendant did not know that he wasn't registered. He had been registered with HETAS during his past employment and had not realised that it lapsed when he left.

Richard Herringshaw, principal trading standards officer for Dorset County Council, said: "These consumers were actively looking for a registered installer and were clearly misled by Mr Jerrard. Using a registered installer means that works are safe and that it is notified to the local council's building control department. Operators of registered installers schemes ensure that the installer is trained, often monitor a sample of works carried out and have dispute resolution services to help when things go wrong. Claiming to be registered when not also gives the unscrupulous trader an unfair advantage over those who comply with the law.

"Where such installers are brought to our attention we will investigate and take legal action in appropriate cases"

Press Release Issued by:
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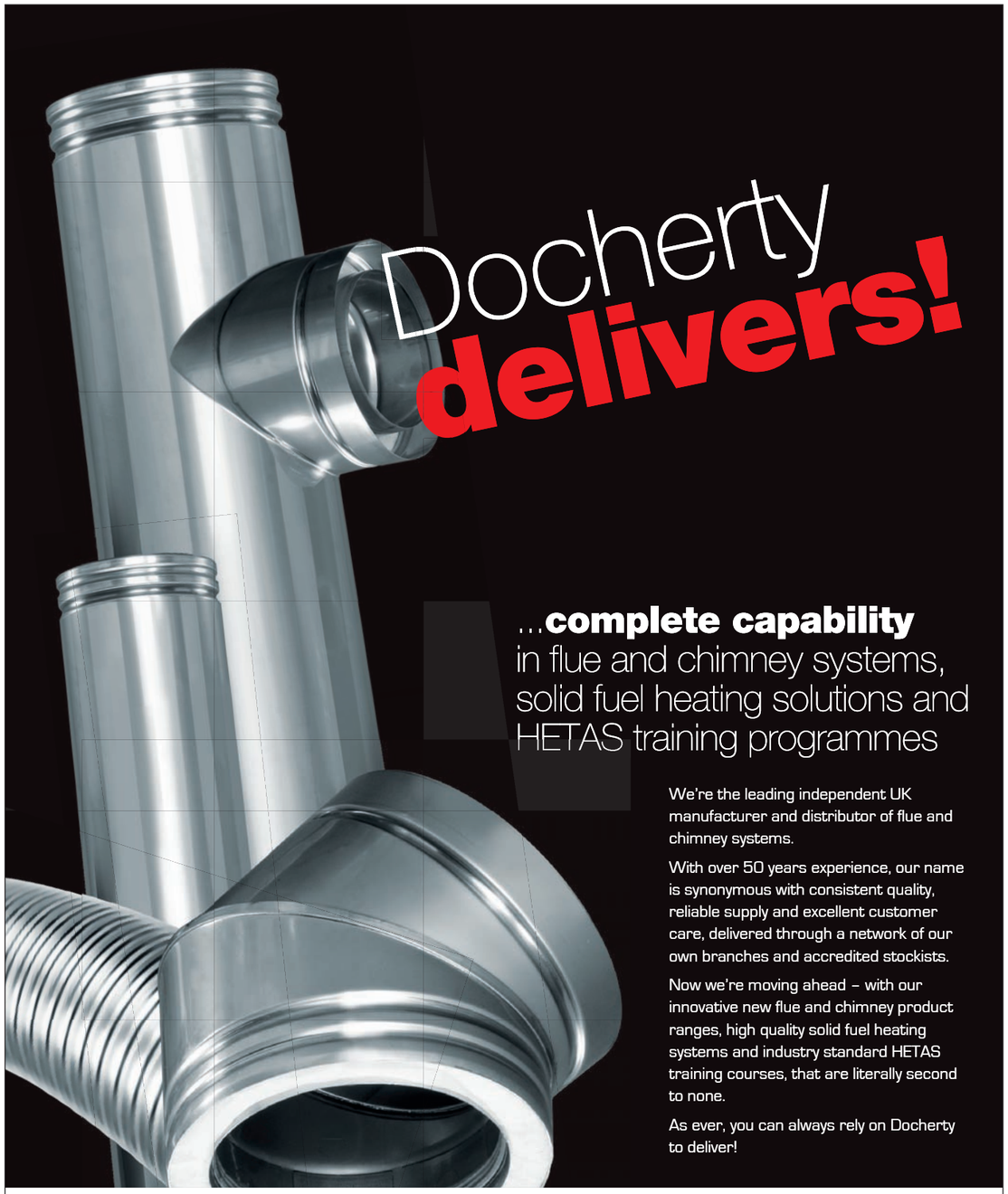
Dorset County Council

FAST 137 facts



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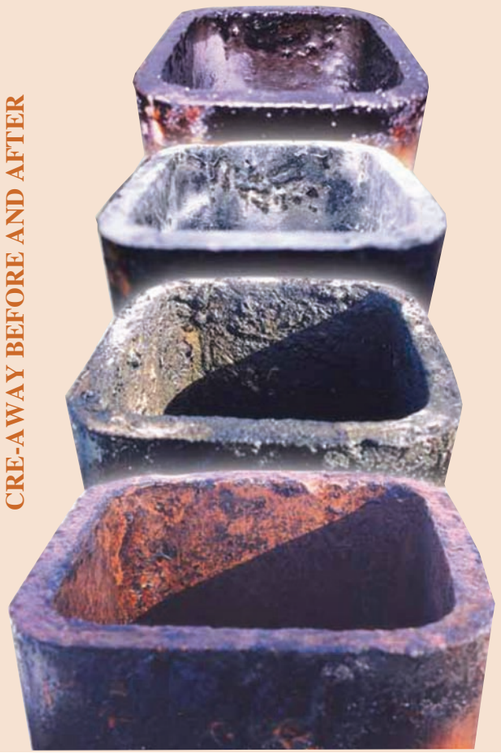
LANDY VENT UK LTD

The well known Warwickshire chimney lining company, renowned across the UK and Europe for its Eldfast Ceramic chimney lining system is making impressive headlines again for a fantastic range of products that they are importing from the USA.

Landy Vent UK Ltd started as UK distributor for Swedish company Landy Vent AB in 1998 and has grown from strength to strength in a few short years. They gradually built up a UK network of reliable and trained contractors, most of which are also enjoying the financial benefits of the Eldfast system. In 2008 they took the extraordinary step of a "product buyout", giving them all sales rights to the UK and Europe. Since this turning point in Landy Vent's history they have rapidly moved into the overseas markets, now with fully trained contractors in the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, The Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Belgium and are currently in discussions with companies in Romania and Latvia.

Dave Ashmore of Landy Vent says "with our new range of exciting products, we have something to offer the specialist sweep that is serious about taking his business to the next level".



CRE-AWAY BEFORE AND AFTER

Cre-Away, a professional product for application by the sweep, not the home owner, is applied from within the house (no need to access the chimneys top) by heating the flue to warm the white surface of the creosote within and blow the Cre-Away powder through the flue to stick to the creosote surface. The householder then must burn fires for one or two nights to begin the reactive process with warmth catalysing the Cre-Away to break down the deposits. The flue should be swept after the two day heating process and the system of heating and coating repeated. With only 2 or 3 applications the flues inner walls will be free of tar and back to clean face masonry.

Chamber Coat is a heat proof coating that is applied to the fireplace gather giving a brand new face and finish, always previously an extremely difficult area to deal with evenly and efficiently, not now with the Eldfast Spray applicator. Crown Coat is a fantastic way to finish the top of your chimney stack with a weather resistant fibrous mix, simply brush on.

Paint n' Peel is an ingenious 'paint on' rubberised solution that once dry will peel away those awful sooty deposits on brickwork, stonework and even tiled hearths including all grout and mortar joints leaving them as good as when first built. Great for the ex open fire converted to free standing wood burning stove where the opening is in a desperate need of a cleanup – just another great add-on sale.

PAINT N' PEEL BEFORE AND AFTER

Finally, **Water Repellent** to be used on external brickwork, stonework in fact any masonry materials i.e. render etc to protect it from moisture attack. This range of products now in stock can be seen on Landy Vent's website www.landyvent.co.uk under the Saver Systems page.

The Warwickshire based company is starting to grow the range of products that are ideal for the specialist chimney sweep that is looking to the future and wanting to expand his business. Dave Ashmore says "the products such as Cre-Away, Paint n' Peel, Chamber Coat, Water Repellent and Crown Coat will widen the chimney sweeps market place and provide them with an excellent range of products that can only aid them in becoming a more professional outfit, whilst achieving add on sales with great profit margins".

Landy Vent have developed a support network which is continually growing and want to add sweeps in all areas who are interested in taking on their range of Saver Systems products so they can pass on customer details directly to the most local sweep, Rod Murdoch of Sootbusters says about his arrangement and use of the range;

"I have seen the results of Creaway. The Flue used was badly tarred/creosoted (like black gloss paint). Even after the 1st application, it had removed a large amount of the tar deposits. By the 3rd application and being swept, the flue was nice and clear and back to brickwork. From what I have seen, the results are amazing. "
Rod Murdoch NACS Director

"We at Chimneyline have had access to the Eldfast Ceramic lining for a number of years and have found it ideal for the lining of masonry chimneys, Also for the repair of defective clay liners and cast linings, an ideal solution for faulty flues with little reduction in the flue size, Landy vent have always found to be very supportive and been on hand to assist with any out of the ordinary installations."
Alan Davies (Director Chimneyline)

"Eldfast is very successful when you need to have the full diameter of the flue for maximum updraft and reducing the flue with a flexible liner won't do. Also, gas block systems can't be lined any other way. The service received from Landy Vent is friendly and informative, the work on site is very efficient and professional."
Vic Crompton of Vic Crompton Ltd

"I use a variety of products at work and they all purport to support the user, however Landyvent took ownership of a defective batch of Eldfast that would not cure properly and at their own cost took over the worksite, stripped out and relined the flue. Customer and contractor happy!"
Paul Harrison of Able Vac

"D. & N. Chimney Services - lining chimneys with Eldfast since 2002.

We have found Eldfast and its subsequent evolution to its present formulae to be unequalled. The material has proven to be extremely durable creating an insulative fire proof lining whilst strengthening the masonry structure in older properties. It is extremely versatile - repairing modern clay liners and gas flue block systems giving unequalled solutions and savings to alternative costly chimney repairs and re builds.

Our clients are impressed by the minimal distubance within the properties - often lined directly through the fire or stove with no damage to décor.

The Landy Vent team are always available, just a phone call away to give advice and if we are experiencing perplexing problems will quite literally travel across the country to offer on site help at short notice.

D. & N. Chimney Services specify Eldfast on all municipal dwellings as its unaffected by high acid smokeless fuels and slumbering appliances."
Nigel Burling and Derek Harvey Directors of D & N Chimneys

Landy Vent UK Ltd look forward to hearing from any sweeps out there who would be interested in representing their products in their own area, or chimney lining companies who would be interested in learning more about becoming an Eldfast ceramic chimney lining installer. Either call us on **01527 857814** for an initial chat or take a look at the range on our Saver Systems page on the **www.landyvent.co.uk** website where you can fill out a contact form and someone will respond to your enquiry.

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STOVE FLUE CONNECTIONS

Following a call from a senior NACS officer the other day about rules associated with flue pipe connections to freestanding stoves, I was mindful to share this advice with the wider membership.

The question related to the minimum length of fluepipe permitted off the top of a stove before a bend. This issue can be confusing to some as there are two differing scenarios to consider.

To start, it must be stated that wherever possible fluepipe and chimneys should ideally be straight and vertical. If offsets are unavoidable there should be no more than 4 at an angle no greater than 45 , and the fluepipe should contain no more than 2 of those 4 bends.

Freestanding stoves may be fitted within a room, on a suitable hearth, with the fluepipe connected into an adjacent flue system. Alternatively, they are often fitted into a fireplace recess connected to a flue within a masonry chimney within the chimney breast above. Clearly, there are likely to be more physical constraints in the latter situation.

Good Practice states that a freestanding appliance, not in a fireplace recess, shall have 600mm of vertical fluepipe before any change of direction – and this forms the basis of the commonly accepted principle.

However, where the appliance is fitted into a chimney breast it may not be possible to fit such a length of pipe. Often, the masonry flue is not central to the chimney breast, particularly when a bedroom fireplace exists in the room above. In these cases one is forced to utilise two 45 bends off the top of the stove to reach the centre line of the flue. This is considered to be acceptable practice.

Of course, two factors must be assured – 1. It must be possible to sweep the chimney, either through the appliance or via a suitable sweeping and cleaning access in the flue system, and 2. There must be sufficient draught to comply with the appliance manufacturer's minimum requirements for safe and effective operation.

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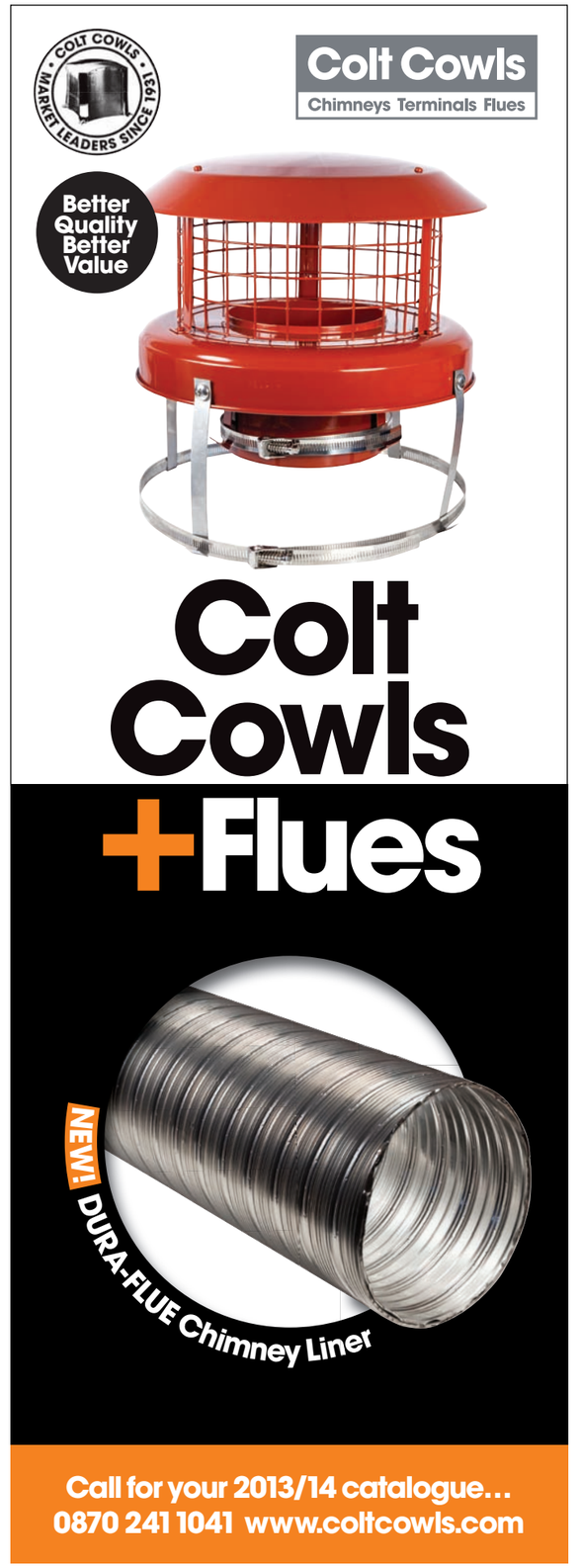

THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

After 26 years in the chimney industry as a chimney sweep, liner, trouble-shooter, designer and builder and now as a consultant, I find myself increasingly being asked to advise in connection with changes. The changes in legislation, practice and technology are coming thick and fast and I want to share some of what I have been dealing with of late with the sweeps who were my first port of call when I needed help in 1987.

The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) may well have slipped in under your radar but it has implications for all who install appliances, re-line or build anew. I want to add a little detail to what Jim Lambeth wrote in last June's issue now that CPR is in place. From 1st July this year, construction products with a harmonised European Standard (hEN) or a European Technical Assessment (ETA) must be CE marked and, as Jim rightly said, this will be policed by Trading Standards. The penalties for using sub-standard products in any building are a criminal conviction with a maximum £5000 fine or 3 month term of imprisonment. A familiar hEN is BS EN 1856 -2 for steel flue pipe and flexible linings but how can you be sure a product which isn't one of the familiar types is up to standard.

It took Kompozitor, manufacturer of FuranFlex, two years to develop their ETA and then another four months to have the testing carried out by independent laboratories. Every detail of the ETA must be agreed by all 33 national standards bodies, like BSI, but across Europe! So how are we to know that what subsequently comes out of the factory is the same? Because an independent Notified Body, again like BSI, must check that the factory production control is capable of achieving that and then continue to check that the factory is keeping to that system. Not unlike our own BSI Kitemark system. But, national building regulations differ across Europe and the CE Mark is not the end of the story. To get UK Technical Approval for Construction FuranFlex RWV (the sootfire resistant version) was subjected to further tests at BSRIA before the British Board of Agrément would issue a Certificate.

So let the buyer (you) beware and check that, whichever lining you recommend for your clients, it has been tested with the full suite of tests and certified to comply with UK Building Regulations. Then the manufacturer's Declaration of Performance (DoP) will support the CE Mark and protect you from risk.

Footnote:
"My thanks to Kompozit'all UK and to Kompozitor Plastics Developing for allowing me access to their entire testing and certification process and records. This has been a textbook 'how-to-do-it" example in the three fields of product testing and certification, obtaining an entirely verifiable CE Mark and proving compliance with national Building Regulations and I have learnt a great deal from their unique example."

Jim Kinnibrugh
of Kamintech
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What is an ETA?

An innovative product for which there is not yet a Type Standard can be CE Marked if the manufacturer develops a European Technical Assessment - what amounts to a custom standard. This is a very long expensive process as it is subject to the same rigours as the development of Type Standards like BS EN1856. In the case of chimney products they must, of course, meet the criteria and limit values in BS EN1443:2003 so as to comply with the same requirements which existing systems must meet.

Composite Lining Material

The new technology utilises composite materials which are glass-fibre reinforced, thermosetting resins. In the case of a composite chimney liner, the resin includes mineral additives to confer the required properties and a catalyst to irreversibly cure the soft plastic to a resilient, hard structure when heat-cured. The unique technical advantages of FuranFlex are:

- Greater strength than steel at low wall thickness and therefore it is self-supporting
- Does not require 'breaking through' to install around bends
- Can adopt the cross-section of the old flue
- Alternatively can reduce the cross-section to serve more efficient appliances
- No joints and therefore virtually no leakage on P1 test
- 25 year+ corrosion resistance

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FIRESPARES TO SUPPLY NEW REGIN RANGE

REGIN Products, in conjunction with Firespares, has announced the introduction of a range of stove care and repair products.

Based in Cambridgeshire, Regin Products has been supplying the heating and plumbing trade for over 20 years. The company said: "The quality associated with Regin products is already well known to gas and oil maintenance engineers throughout the UK. Its range has now been extended to cater to the stove industry with a full complement of attractively labelled, eye catching lines."

Regin's stove fan.

The range includes a selection of paints, polishes and cleaners, as well as a 1,500 degree heat resistant silicate sealant which is available in both natural and black colours. Regin added: "At 1,500 degrees this is probably the highest heat resistant silicate on the market."

Established in 1993, Firespares was created to offer a one stop shop facility for solid fuel heating spares, appliances and ancillary products.

Heat resistant gloves.

Based in South Yorkshire, Firespares has over 8,000 sq feet of storage and a dedicated fleet of despatch vehicles.

Commenting on the Regin range Firespares said: "We are delighted to have been asked to supply Regin's new Stove Care and Repair products and have taken large stocks to ensure availability is second to none. Paying particular attention to quality, the presentation of this group of products is guaranteed to appeal to end users, bringing them back into stores for repeat sales, a real advantage for retailers.

Flue 'n' Fire Seal.

Regin's stove fan is one of only a few brands available with the backup of spare parts in the unlikely event of a component failure, and it also comes withthe choice of three different coloured fan blades - gold, silver and black. One of the more inspirational lines is the protective glove made with Kevlar, a material more commonly associated with the production of protective clothing for the armed forces. With protection from temperatures of up to 350 degrees centigrade every stove user should use a pair."

For further details on the full range of Regin's Stove Care and Repair range visit **www.firespares.co.uk** or contact **01226 715100.**

STOVE TO CHIMNEY POT – COLT COWLS PROVIDES THE CONNECTION

Colt Cowls has been making chimney cowls for over 80 years providing the best quality and value offer available. That has been followed up by developing and introducing a complete range of tested and certified flexible flue liner, as well as products manufactured in an ISO 9001 factory, designed to connect all fuel burning stoves to the chimney pot.

In addition to the well established Holetherm rigid twin wall flue system Colt Cowls have added an unique flexible flue liner system - DURA-FLUE and a range of connectors both to the stove pipe and to the chimney outlet pot. This new range of high quality, very competitively priced flexible flue liners and connectors give an installer the ability to fit an all fuel fire and to provide the necessary system for evacuating smoke and fumes to the outside.

At the chimney pot end Colt Cowls have also introduced an extremely high quality chimney cowl called the High Top Flex to connect the top of the flue liner to the pot. This stainless steel cowl is a great new method for installing flue liner negating the need to remove the chimney pot during installation. There are now 2 versions of this cowl the High Top Flex Stainless Steel which is powder coated brown and the new polished stainless steel High Top Flex Natural. For situations when the pot is removed the necessary fixing plates, brackets and insert sleeves have also been introduced.

This means that any fireplace installer can now obtain all the products necessary to service a client's needs for smoke and fume evacuation. All the new products are available with the company's traditional next day delivery service.

The Colt Cowl 2014 catalogue has just been released. Bigger, better and more comprehensive this new catalogue includes all the new products and the usual popular range of Colt Cowls with prices unchanged.

The Chimney Cowl and Flue range is available from Builders Merchants, fireplace centres and many hardware shops throughout the country.

The Colt Cowl catalogue can be obtained by calling Head Office on 0870 241 1041 or visit www.coltcowls.com.

For further information on the subject content only please contact James Stedman, Managing Director, Metro House Northgate Chichester PO19 1BE Telephone: 01243 781559

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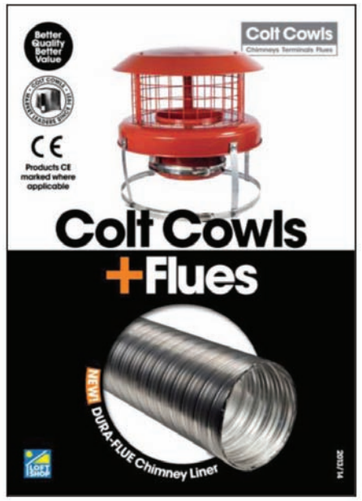

www.coltcowls.com
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Editorial in the Chimney Journal Magazine
The NACS publishes the Chimney Journal magazine twice a year, in June and December. If you have any newsworthy information about your company or products then we would be more than happy to include it.
To submit your editorial and accompanying pictures, please email office@nacs.org.uk or to discuss your requirements please contact Sally Caine on 01785 811732.

FLUE PIPE AND FLUE LINER SIZES

Something I am regularly asked about the correct flue size for the fitting of a stove.

Stove manufacturers produce appliances with a flue spigot on the top or to the rear of the appliance. These spigots are sized to take an appropriate diameter of fluepipe suitable to remove flue gasses from the fire. Installers should never be tempted to fit a smaller diameter of fluepipe than recommended.

Incidentally, fluepipes are intended to fit inside the spigot not outside. I know of some continental manufacturers who supply appliances with odd sized spigots which will not accommodate UK flue pipe sizes. They suggest the fluepipe is fitted outside the spigot which is not good practice – firstly, it is very difficult to apply fire cement seal to the joint from inside the fire and secondly, any condensation within the flue will leak out onto the top of the stove and burn off, causing a bad smell. In cases such as this I have sometimes suggested having a suitable adaptor made to provide a gas tight connection.

Building Regulations determine minimum flue sizes. A flue within a chimney must never be smaller than the diameter of the fluepipe and that size must be maintained throughout the length of the chimney. Any restriction may impair the performance of the flue and the appliance. Again, Building Regulation guidance states that for a closed appliance up to 20kW rated output which is DEFRA exempted or burning smokeless fuel may be fitted to a flue with a minimum size of 125mm internal diameter. Closed appliances up to 30kW rated output and burning any fuel, such as wood, must have a minimum of 150mm internal diameter flue.

Unfortunately, some customers (and installers) get confused with the difference between a fluepipe and a flue liner which leads to some interesting issues over correct installation practice.

Similarly, some installers (and customers) think it is OK to fit a 125mm liner to serve a wood burning stove because it is difficult to get a 150mm liner down the existing chimney. Technically, this would contravene Building Regs. The reason for the increased flue size is to accommodate the additional chimney deposits which result from burning high volatile fuels such as wood and bituminous coal. As you will all be aware, blocked or obstructed flues lead to smoking back and a potential carbon monoxide poisoning incident.

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For bookings please visit www.nacs.org.uk/announcements

MEET NACS DIRECTOR – ROD MURDOCH

Rod Murdoch, NACS Director

for the National Association of Chimney Sweeps and of Sootbusters Ltd in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

1. How did you get into the business?
My wifes work colleagues husband had a chimney sweep business. They were selling up and moving to France. They approached us in 2007 and asked if I would be interested. I went out a few times with him and looked into it. I really enjoyed it and felt it was an opportunity not to be missed. I was unsure at first because I had never worked for myself, but with the full backing of my wife and family I went for it and here I am today!! If you had said to me 7 years ago I would have my own chimney sweep business, I would have thought you were mad!!!

2. What do you know now that you wish you knew when you started out?
How mad it gets in the winter season. It was so busy my first winter, I didn't know whether I was coming or going. Now we are more organised with bookings, more planning and grouping together so not driving here, there and everywhere in one day!!

3. What do you like the most about the business?
All the different people I meet every day and the houses and places that I visit.

4. And the least?
Turning up to your last job of the day when you think it is going to be a straightforward sweep and it ends up having a stinking horrible jackdaws nest! But it has to be done.

5. What accomplishments are you most proud of?
Becoming a Chimney Sweep and having my own business. Going on to be a NACS Regional Officer and then becoming a NACS Director this year. Also not forgetting my 3 kids!

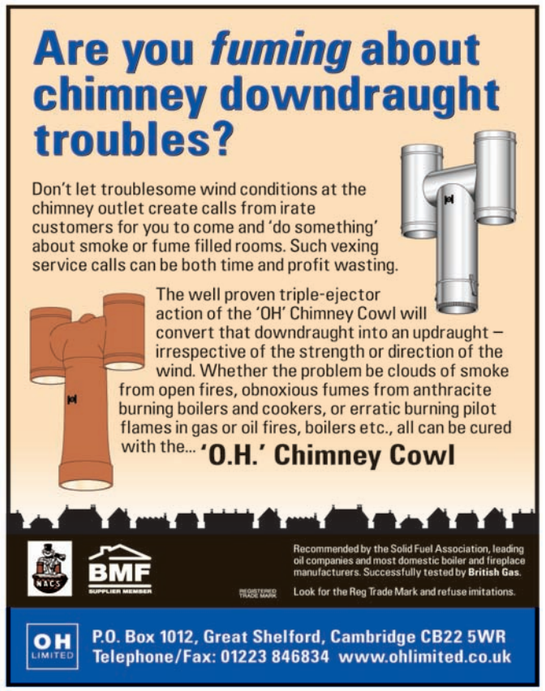
6. Who or what is your major influence?
My dad – he gave me my work ethic. He told me you to have to have something to get up for every morning.

7. Complete this sentence - "I still can't get the hang of..."
Doing a 20 point turn on a small drive in my van!

8. Do you have a 'tip of the trade' that you would like to share?
Sometimes when sweeping, the metal ferrules of the rods bind together. To undo them, I used to use Mole Grips and very often struggled, until an experienced Chimney Sweep gave me a tip – tap the metal ferrules with a small hammer. It works every time!

9. How do you like to relax after a long day/week/month?
Relax? – what with 3 children?! We are here there and everywhere what with football, theatre, dance! Spending time with my family is what I like to do, and also enjoy a pint or 2!

10. Tell us something about yourself that we probably wouldn't know?
I used to be a 'Punk' with blonde spikey hair! I like listening to lots of music, and enjoy going to watch live bands.



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Bright ideas for dark holes...

Discover the latest great idea from AMAC, the exciting new TWIN EYE diagnostic camera unit featuring twin lens CCTV and ultra bright LED illumination, a product purposely designed for ultimate chimney and flue inspection.

The easy to use system is robust and durable, featuring the latest in innovative technology to make your work effortless and thorough. Available solely from the manufacturer where you are always assured of the finest quality products at the best price every time.

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The CICO system benefits from British Board of Agrement product approval (certificate number 04 / 4122) only when installed to the CICO code of practice by a CICO approved installer.

CICO operate across the UK via a well established network of franchised installers, most of whom offer the full range of chimney services to complement the CICO system.

A limited number of areas are still available and we are always happy to discuss opportunities.

To find out how you could become part of the CICO network call

FREEPHONE 0500 833787

Or visit our website **www.chimney-problems.co.uk**

CICO Chimney Linings, North End Wood, Hinton Road, Darsham, Suffolk, IP17 3QS