

Issue No. 79 - June 2014

Chimney

JOURNAL



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear All,

Welcome to the June 2014 edition of the NACS Chimney Journal Magazine.

Firstly I want to thank all the exhibitors at this years' NACS Exhibition, who contributed to our largest and most successful exhibition to date. Also, thank you to all the NACS Members and visitors who attended the exhibition. I am sure everyone at the exhibition will agree it was a busy and thriving show. Next years' NACS Exhibition is already being planned and details will be released towards the end of this year.

I am delighted to announce that the NACS are now official agents for the Rodtech Power Sweeping Rotary Equipment and items can be purchased via the new re-designed NACS web-shop www.nacs.org.uk where there is a special discount for NACS Members.

The NACS are exhibiting at the Hearth & Home Exhibition in Harrogate this year, if you are attending then please come and say hello to the NACS Team on Stand A19 where we will be taking bookings for training courses and membership enquiries, as well providing a raffle and giving away some great freebies. Our stand will also include a Rodtech UK section where you can talk to the professionals from Rodtech UK, watch live demonstrations, and also purchase the Rodtech Equipment.

The NACS National Chimney Training Centre in Staffordshire has been very busy over the past few months, and following the huge success of the training centre we are delighted to announce that we have expanded our training centre even further and invested heavily into new appliances and facilities. This has enabled us to offer even more training courses including the HETAS H004 Wet Appliance Installer Course, and the H005DE Biomass Installer (Direct Entry) Course. The Training Centre continues to very popular with Chimney Sweeping and HETAS Courses and we urge anyone interested in booking a course to secure their place early to avoid disappointment. In addition to the Chimney Sweeping and HETAS Courses on offer, the NACS National Chimney Training Centre also runs a CCTV Inspection & Survey, Chimney & Flue Maintenance, Flue Smoke Testing, Rooftop & Ladder Safety, and NVQ Chimney Engineering Courses.

Finally, there is a 50% discount off the NVQ course fee for the first 10 NACS Members who apply and book. Book ASAP and enhance your skills and qualifications. Offer ends 30.09.14

Best regards,

Martin P Glynn
NACS President & CEO



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



IN MEMORY OF...

In memory of Philip Stevenson: 7th July 1930 - 15th April 2014

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Philip Stevenson. He was a founder Member of the NACS and was a sweep for nearly 40 years. In 1997 Phil had turned 67 and was still Chimney Sweeping when he asked me if I fancied being a Chimney Sweep. I replied it's something I had never thought about! However I thought I would give it a go. I went out with Phil for the next 3 months and I never looked back. He was always there to give me advice and share his vast knowledge of chimneys with me. He would always be cheerful, whistling away all day long. It was always a pleasure to spend a day with him. I hope after 17 years of sweeping that I have managed to carry his great reputation forward.



He will be greatly missed, but will be remembered for ever. Our condolences and thoughts are with Phil's family.

David Donald
NACS Director of Safety

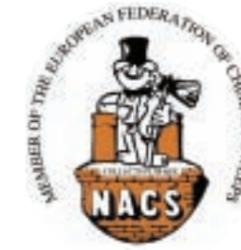
In memory of Edward May

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of NACS Member Edward May. Edward was married to Mary for 34 years, and they lived in Cockermouth before moving to Broughton and later to Dearham. As a very young man Edward served his National Service in Swindon and Lichfield. On leaving the army Edward became a window cleaner and then in 1963 became a very well-known Chimney Sweep, a profession he continued until he died.



Edward is survived by his loving wife Mary, his daughters Carole, Evy and Maggie, and step-daughter Eliza, along with his son-in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



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HEARTH & HOME EXHIBITION 2014

Things are gathering pace ahead of this year's Hearth & Home Exhibition with all of the stand space across Halls A, B and C at Harrogate International Centre now sold.

A diverse mix

This year the organisers will be welcoming back a number of familiar faces as well as those marking their first appearance in 2014. Visitors can expect to see a diverse range of UK and European manufacturers at the show, as well as representatives from further afield.

All the key areas from our industry will be featured this year. A plethora of major appliance manufacturers such as Dimplex, Crystal Fires, Valor, JetmasterFires, Peve Enterprises, LogFire Stoves & Flues, Evonic Fires, Town & Country Fires, Flamerite Fires, Firenzio Fires UK and ACR Heat Products are exhibiting. The flueing trade is well represented with big names such as SFL Flues & Chimneys, Specflue, Schiedel Chimney Systems, Poujoulat UK, Docherty Group and Midtherm among the chimney and flueing specialists to have already confirmed their attendance.

A number of industry associations including NACS and the Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps will be present, as will Kiwa GASTEC, the industry's leading Notified Body and UKAS-accredited testing laboratory. 2014 will also see some new faces come on board. Teddington Group, founded in 1928 as the British Thermostat Company Ltd, manufactures approximately 750k pressure and temperature measurement and control devices a year from its Cornwall factory.

And Roundham Trading, a wholesale and trade log basket supplier will also make its first trip to Harrogate.

The organisers are also delighted to welcome back regular previous exhibitors such as J D Burford Ltd, Drugasar, Landy Vent UK ... the list goes on. For an up to date list of exhibitors visit www.hearthandhome.co.uk

Rewarding excellence

Exhibitors at this year's show will, as always, have the opportunity to enter the Hearth & Home Exhibition Awards.

This annual awards presentation is designed to recognise the very best in the industry and this year the opportunities for exhibitors to be rewarded are even greater. All exhibitors are entitled to enter up to six products in 2014* with the first two entries being completely free of charge.

Awards Manager, Erica Royle commented:

"I'd urge all exhibitors with new products at this year's show to enter. The first two submissions are completely free of charge and the potential publicity from securing a finalist certificate or winner trophy is excellent."

Moving with the times

This year will see a number of changes to the award category definitions, particularly for wood burning and multi-fuel appliances. The previously single category of Wood or Multi-Fuel Appliance of the Year has been replaced with five individual appliance categories as follows:

- Wood Log or Multi-Fuel Appliances up to 5kW rated output
- Wood Log or Multi-Fuel Appliances >5kW and up to 10kW rated output
- Wood Log or Multi-Fuel Appliances >10kW rated output
- Pellet or Wood Chip (Non-Boiler) Appliance of the Year
- Pellet or Wood Chip (Boiler) Appliance of the Year

Speaking about the rationale behind the changes, Erica Royle added: "There has been much feedback from both exhibitors and visitors, and the Awards' judging panel in recent years on the categories definitions, particularly on the subject of solid fuel appliances. While we recognise that no awards programme can be all things to all people, I'm confident these category revisions address the feedback received and acknowledge the diverse mix of appliances burning solid fuel in today's market."

"This is a fast moving industry with new technological developments and government initiatives appearing all the time. We must take our time as exhibition organisers each year to consider these changes and reflect them in our Awards programme." Full details of all the Hearth & Home Award categories and entry procedures can be found in the Exhibitor Manual which can be downloaded from the website.

Don't miss out

The 2014 Hearth & Home Exhibition is the place to be to see all the very latest that our industry has to offer, all wrapped up in a neat three-day, single venue package in one of the most picturesque parts of the country. Accommodation can be easily arranged via the link on the website at preferential rates. Whether you are looking for bed and breakfast comfort or luxury five star treatment, Harrogate has something for everyone.

The show couldn't be easier to get to either. Just a short hop from the A1(M) and with



inbound flights to Leeds Bradford airport (just down the road) from Aberdeen, Belfast City, Belfast International, Bristol, Dublin, Glasgow, Isle of Man, London Heathrow plus a number of European cities, Hearth & Home is accessible from all parts of the UK and Europe.

Making life easier

The organisers have launched a number of incentives this year to make life easier than ever for those exhibiting at or visiting the show. In association with Harrogate International Centre, a special discount voucher with a saving of up to 25% and valid in a number of restaurants, bars and cafes throughout the town, will be made available to all visitors and exhibitors. The discount is valid from the Monday to Thursday so whether you are just popping up for the day, or extending your stay, you can take advantage.

The new 'Smart Stand' service has been designed to make everyone's life easier. Giving exhibitors the ability to create and print QR codes, containing company contact details or even specific product details, to display on their stands, the Smart Stand service means that even when the show is at its busiest, visitors can gather the information they need and exhibitors can be sure of not missing a single lead. Exhibition Director, David Spencer explained: "QR codes can be scanned by most mobile phones and tablets via a free of charge app. Exhibitors will also be able to take advantage of a number of optional reporting services available with the system to track leads and, ultimately, boost sales."

Two entrance points will make access to this year's show even quicker with the current entrance into Hall A remaining for pre-registered and on-site registration, and a new entrance point into the back of Hall C, via Springfield House, for pre-registered visitors only. Pre-registration is now open at www.hearthandhome.co.uk and all the team at Fireplace Marketing look forward to welcoming you to this year's show.

Hearth & Home Exhibition 2014
8th - 10th June Harrogate
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*Conditions apply. For full details see the Exhibitor Manual.

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- H003** – Dry Appliance Installer Course
- H003R** – Dry Appliance Installer Refresher Course
- H004** – Wet Appliance Installer Course (Coming Soon)
- H005DE** – Biomass Installer (Direct Entry) (Coming Soon)
- H006** – Twin Wall Installer Course

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For more information on training courses please visit:
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NACS BECOMES RODTECH AGENT

Chimney sweeping tools manufacturer Rodtech has announced that it has reached an agreement with the National Association of Chimney Sweeps (NACS) whereby NACS will act as an agent for the company's Click range of power sweeping tools.

Martin P Glynn, President of NACS, commented: "The Rodtech Click range is the only power sweeping equipment that the Association recommends and we are delighted to sign this new agency agreement as a further endorsement of the brand."

NACS will now include a module on power sweeping, using the Rodtech Click range, within its training courses.

In addition, the Rodtech range has been both field and classrooms tested by NACS prior to the agreement and all of NACS' Directors use the equipment. Rodtech also has dedicated training



facilities, with tailored courses on offer, at its newly opened premises in Hingham, Norfolk.

Tony Russell of Rodtech added: "We are delighted with this agreement with NACS as further recognition of the consistency and reliability of our product range. We look forward to supporting NACS on its stand at the Hearth & Home Exhibition and offering visitors further information on the benefits of the product."

For full details on the Rodtech range visit www.rodtech.co.uk and see the company on the NACS stand (A19) at the Hearth & Home Exhibition.

NACS - Stand A19



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FLEXIBLE LINERS

I recently received a question about whether it is OK to join two lengths of flexible liner.

Typically, the answer is not straightforward. Historically, it was always stated liners could only be joined by the manufacturer to order, particularly when the required length was greater than the standard coil. However, today some liner manufacturers and stockists offer jointing pieces for the purpose. Is this kosher I hear you ask?

Having researched this question it appears the simple answer is – ‘so long as the manufacturer agrees and you are using their specific component’. In other words – do not be tempted to cobble together parts from other products or from third-party suppliers. Remember, the weight of the liner is suspended from the top and any joint must therefore be capable of holding the sections secure and remain gas tight. Similarly, any surface damage caused by screws will increase the risk of localised corrosion.

Virtually all flue manufacturers offer a design service and are happy to advise installers on recommended practice. Therefore, use only their own components and follow installation instructions. But beware, not all manufacturers recommend this practice.

Of course, this question is subject to whether you are installing a liner or you come across an existing job where a joined liner is already fitted. Commonly, you will have no idea whether the installer has taken advice from the manufacturer, nor what parts have been used and whether the joint is gas tight.

All you can reasonably do is to ensure the flue is clear and clean and there is sufficient draught for safe effective operation. Of course, in practice you will be unable to determine whether the liner is joined anyway.

If there appears to be a problem which could be indicated leaking flue gasses at any joint or corrosion due to condensation then obviously the flue would be condemned as unfit for purpose.

Another issue which arises from time to time concerns flexible liners fitted upside-down. There is a 50/50 chance of getting it wrong but too often the installer makes this fundamental mistake. Sadly, on unsupervised projects I believe the fitting of the liner is left to the least experienced team member.

Many manufacturers mark the outside surface with an arrow indicating which way up it should point but the best indicator is the direction in which the internal overlapping leaves point. The best explanation is to imagine the leaves resemble roof tiles which overlap in order to prevent rain entering the house. Similarly, it is imperative that any condensate is unable to seep into the space between the inner and outer surfaces

of the twin-wall construction. Acidic condensate entering this annular will shorten the life expectancy of the material and invalidate the manufacturer’s warranty.

Lastly, I am often asked about the necessity to insulate flexible liners. Most liner manufacturers do not make this mandatory and leave it to the installer to decide. As a guide my advice is to consider whether there is a risk that flue gasses will be exposed to low temperatures, thus exacerbating the risk of condensation and corrosion.

If a chimney is situated on a North facing wall, exposed to cold winds, it is possible for the brickwork to be chilled which will affect the temperature of the flue gasses. These gasses require a minimum temperature to maintain buoyancy and up-draught. Cold flue gasses become heavy and are less inclined to rise rapidly to atmosphere which will impact on appliance performance. Added to this, modern high efficiency appliances by definition send less heat up the chimney, therefore cooler flue gasses result. In such cases, I would recommend insulating the liner. Alternatively, in a terraced or semi-detached property the chimney is surrounded by warmer internal rooms and therefore heat losses from the chimney are reduced. Insulation is less imperative, but will do no harm.

I am sometimes asked about the risk of Vermiculite absorbing moisture and causing dampness in the chimney. My answer is simple – there should be no moisture present in the chimney! If water is present it can only come from three places, all of which can be addressed.

1. Rain entering via the pot, which is less of a risk that many believe, but can be resolved by fitting a suitable rain-cap to the terminal. However, sometimes rain caps can create a restriction which would reduce the draught.
2. Rising damp, which is a construction issue.
3. Water ingress from leaking lead flashings around the chimney stack. I believe this is the most common cause and often goes unresolved due to the inability of roofers to understand the nature of the problem. During wet weather, large quantities of water flow down the roof which is shed by the lead-work. Any hair-line crack in the lead will allow water to penetrate by capillary action allowing the brickwork to become saturated. Also, flashings which are inadequately bedded into the pointing will allow water to seep in behind the mortar. In both scenario water will soak through into the flue resulting in dampness.

Jim Lambeth
NACS Technical Advisor
e: advice@nacs.org.uk

FIREBOX STOVES ANNOUNCE RAFFLE WINNER

The lucky winner of the Firebox Stoves new account holder raffle which was drawn at the NACS Exhibition in April was Michael Russell of Russell Stoves from Yeadon in Leeds. Michael won the superb Firebox Stoves component hamper.

Firebox Stoves are very happy to deal with NACS & HETAS associated Sweeps & installers, for further information please contact Firebox Stoves on 0117 9415678 or sales@fireboxstoves.co.uk





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"Very good result. The client is very happy with the improved burning and less down draft. Many thanks for your help. I look forward to fitting more cubes if it makes all my clients this happy!"

"Having removed the old pot, so-called spinning cowl and replaced it with FlueCube we have notice there is less smoke, less down draft, burn cleaner and it now copes with wet and blistery weather, unlike the previous cowl when the house would have been smothered out! Excellent piece of kit. Thank you."

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NACS EXHIBITION 2014 – A GREAT SUCCESS!

The NACS Exhibition took place on 10th & 11th April this year at the Ramada Hotel in Sutton Coldfield. The months of preparation that took place behind the scenes clearly paid off as this became the largest and most successful exhibition that the NACS has organised.

Amongst the regular exhibitors at previous NACS Exhibitions were a few first time exhibitors, who had travelled from far and wide, and were a great asset to the already popular show.

NACS Exhibitors included Ability International, AMAC, Brewer Cowls, Camvac, C-Caps, Colt Cowls, DEKS, Docherty, Dustcontrol, Eurocowl, Firebox Stoves, FireSpares, HETAS, Kompozit'all UK, Landy Vent, Midtherm, NFU, Pennine Systems, Percy Doughty, Poujoulat, Robeys, Rodtech UK, Schiedel, SFL, Snaplok, Specflue, Sturdy Vac, The Stove Box, Topstak, Trollull, Wakefield Brush, Wohler, WT Knowles, and not forgetting the NACS own stands!

Jim Lambeth the NACS Technical Advisor returned with his ever popular seminar, details of which can be found inside this magazine. Along with Jim, there were also seminars held by David Fleming on behalf of Kompozit'all UK, and Bob Russell of Rodtech UK who also demonstrated the Rodtech equipment.

Not only did this years' exhibition prove how popular the NACS Exhibition has become within the industry, but it also provided visitors

with an experience of new products and services that are out there in the marketplace.

The NACS Exhibition 2014 was sponsored by Vitcas, who are an Associate Member of our Association. Vitcas is an independent manufacturer of refractories, heat resistant products and high temperature insulation materials, which follows the tradition of refractory and heat resistant manufacturing in Bristol, UK, since 1882.

Their products include fire cement, fire bricks, refractory setting cements/mortars, plastic mouldables refractories, zircon refractory products, acid resistant cements and refractory castables for use in industries including steel plants, heat and power stations, foundries both ferrous and non-ferrous, cement producers, lime producers, glass works, ceramics, coke plants, incinerators, renewable energy, chemical works, sugar refineries and petrochemical industry.

The NACS Exhibition 2014 was an undeniably successful event experienced by all who participated, and with preparations already underway for the NACS Exhibition 2015 it is exciting to think what the next event will bring. All we can say is if you miss it then you will definitely miss out!



Sponsors of the NACS Exhibition 2014

SWEEP'S ROOF FALL COSTS £20,000

Fines totalling £20,000 have been imposed on a firm of chimney and roofing specialists after a fall suffered by one of its employees.

A prosecution was brought by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) after Chimney Sweep Dylan Skelhorn who was sweeping a chimney from the top, fell and fractured two ribs, suffered a collapsed lung and fractured his pelvis.

His employers, D. Henderson Chimney Specialists and Roofers Ltd of Clackmannanshire, were found to have failed to take precautions to prevent the fall, not carried out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment, nor provided adequate training or employed a safe system of work for employees engaged in Chimney Sweeping.

HSE Inspector Kerry Elliot said, "This incident was entirely preventable. Investigations clearly showed that this chimney could have been cleaned from within the property, something this company did not even consider at the time. If it is not possible to avoid working at height then employers must ensure that they provide employees with the necessary equipment to keep them safe".

COINS FOUND IN INGLENOOK

Coins dating back to George III were discovered in an inglenook chimney by Kent Chimney Sweep Peter Greaves. They were discovered in a small pot on a ledge about six foot up the chimney when he inserted a video camera to check for flue defects. The soot covered pot contained about a dozen coins, one of which was two hundred years old.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROB PAGE, NACS MASTER TUTOR

NACS President & CEO Mr Martin P. Glynn presents NACS Master Tutor Robert Page with his Certificate of Achievement for his Level 3 Award in Assessing. A big congratulations to Rob, and the NACS look forward to working with him in the future.





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SUITABLE FUELS

I should like to take this opportunity to dwell on a subject which is close to my heart, yet seldom discussed here. This is the apparent mystery surrounding solid fuels – which are suitable or otherwise?

Unlike gas and oil, there are many different products available in the marketplace ranging from softwood logs to anthracite. I estimate the public could potentially choose from up to 40 different solid fuel types, so the decision is not easy. Obviously, in some cases the choice may be restricted due to the design of the appliance, but customers with a multi-fuel stove could select from a mind-boggling array of products. The UK market for wood is still in its infancy when compared to mainland Europe where wood burning is a long established tradition. Consequently, many UK consumers lack basic knowledge relating to suitability of certain wood species and the importance of only burning wood with minimum moisture content. Conversely, Western European consumers can call upon generations of experience and a well established wood supply infrastructure to ensure only best quality fuel is burned.

However, whilst there is a variety of tree species to choose from, in practice selection is limited to what is locally available and sometimes of dubious quality from itinerant traders. Guides to wood types and their uses are available from a number of sources and all stress the importance of ensuring moisture content is at a minimum, and certainly below 20%. Without doubt, the greatest confusion surrounds the selection of solid mineral fuels – to the novice this means fuels derived from coal related products or blends thereof.

When we speak of coal many people will relate to bituminous housecoal, mainly used on open fires capable of providing an attractive long flame fire with ample radiant heat. Not the most efficient way to heat the home but certainly the image most people associate with a cosy winter evenings in front of the fire in your favourite armchair.

Of course, fashion now dictates every home should have a stove to provide the psychological comforts of the open fire in a high efficiency and controllable package. Some stoves are designed for wood burning only but many are designated multi-fuel allowing customers a wider choice.

And this is where the confusion begins. Most stove manufacturers do not recommend burning bituminous coal on their appliances due to the high volatile content and the potential for soot deposits to block the flue. However, there are many smokeless fuels suitable for the purpose. All offer high calorific content and will burn unattended for many hours. Anthracite is a naturally smokeless fuel, the majority of which is supplied from South Wales. It is suitable for larger closed multi-fuel appliances, plus cookers and gravity feed boilers. Smokeless fuels ovoids and briquettes are

manufactured for both open fires and closed appliances. Thankfully, whilst many multi-fuel stoves are designed to burn wood they are equally suited to smokeless products. There are nearly thirty smokeless fuels suitable for closed appliances listed in the current Official Guide to HETAS Approved Products and Services. All have been independently tested and meet the required criteria.

Quality and price will vary and offer customers a wide choice of fuels depending on need and affordability. In addition, many Coal Merchants supply blended products which often prove popular with less well-off customers. In reality the final list of fuels on offer probably exceeds fifty although for some brands the availability may be localised.

Questions often arise about petroleum coke, a product which is much maligned. Petcoke as it is often called, is not a coke as defined, and is an imported by-product from the petroleum refining industry. When first introduced into the UK it was a cheap high calorific value fuel with very low ash content. Unfortunately, it quickly gained in popularity together with a bad reputation for damaging cast iron and steel fire-box parts because the high fire-bed temperatures caused distortion and burning of components. It should only be used when blended with an ash bearing fuel. As a consequence, virtually all appliance manufacturers banned its use and warned customers that their warranty would be invalidated.

However, for some years petcoke has been sold blended as a 50/50 mix with other fuels, such as hard coke, to create an acceptable product which has proven popular with customers. Recently however, rises in the cost of petroleum coke has rendered these products less popular.

But petroleum coke has not disappeared. Almost all smokeless fuel manufacturers add a percentage of crushed petcoke to the fuel blend to improve the burning characteristics and reduce the ash content. The proportion of petcoke varies depending on the quality of the other constituents and the intended end product. In this context petcoke is considered beneficial.

Therefore, when advising end-users, retailers and installers should not fall into the trap of condemning fuels because petcoke is included in the blend. Many of these products have been tested and approved by HETAS for use in multi-fuel appliances. To preclude these products from the list of recommended fuels would reduce the choice to anthracite only.

Jim Lambeth
NACS Technical Advisor
e: advice@nacs.org.uk

OPIES UK LAUNCH NEW PRODUCT

This year we have launched a new size of Skamolex Vermiculite panel, 1000mm x 1260mm x 25mm in the plain board.

Later in the summer we will add to our range further with a 20mm version of the same board and then a Reeded version available in the 25mm thickness.

The benefits being when using it to line the recess of a fireplace, it will eliminate the join showing at the back of the fireplace behind the Stove. Also it works out to be more economical in price. So it is a win win situation all round.

If people would like further details please call Harriet or Lee on 01245 468977 or e-mail opiesuk@googlemail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all at NACS for their support over the years and wish you and your members a positive season ahead.

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DOCHERTY CONTINUES TO DELIVER...

2014 has already been a busy year for the Docherty Group. January 13th saw the opening of the company's renewable fuel appliance division, Adina Heating Products. Based in Ripley, next to Sure Fire Training Services, the facility boasts 6,300ft² of warehouse space, plus a developing showroom area set to open in April with live appliances from all the manufacturers Docherty represent.

On January 20th, Docherty opened its new 7,500ft² branch in Warrington. Situated close to the M6, M62 and M56 motorway networks, the new branch represents the company's clear vision to deliver excellence in all aspects of its business.

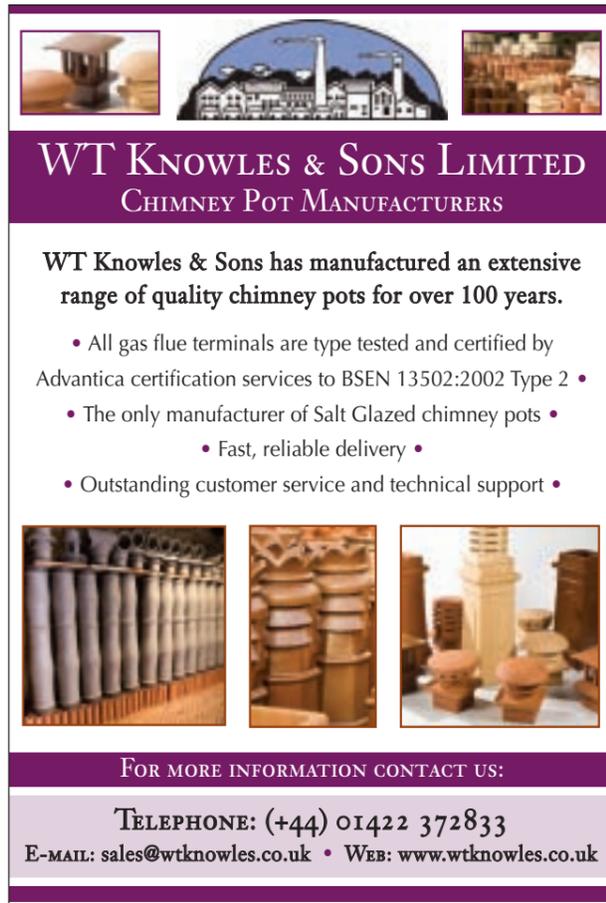
The company is delighted to announce that Neil Fenton joined Docherty Group at the beginning of February as a Consultant. Neil started Fenton's Flue and Chimney Supplies in Liverpool some thirty years ago and is well known in the industry. His reputation for delivering excellent customer service is renowned and Docherty is thrilled that he has agreed to join the team after closing his own very successful business. Neil's role is to guide and support the staff in Warrington by sharing his vast product knowledge and business expertise. Neil's team in Liverpool, Larry and Ray, have also joined the company, working under Warrington Branch Manager, Mark Garrett.

Docherty launched its new website in March 2014. It is easy to navigate and provides clear information about the business, its products, its services and its people. Plans are also underway to develop a trade login area where customers can purchase goods online, easily and securely. Please visit www.docherty.co.uk for more information.

Adina Heating has launched a new website with improved design and functionality. The new website can be accessed at www.adinaheating.co.uk. It is constantly under development to keep pace with our growing product range. Our goal is to make it easier for you to find and use important information. We hope you find our new websites useful.

Docherty is already making big plans for this years' Hearth and Home Exhibition in Harrogate on the 8th, 9th and 10th June. The business views this as the single most important and valuable exhibition for the industry. Consequently, the company has nearly doubled the size of its 2013 stand. Measuring an impressive 21 metres by 8 metres, the stand will display what is possibly the largest range of flue and chimney products available from one company. Live stoves and cookers will also feature, together with a brand new range of biomass boilers that will be launched at the show.

What's next for Docherty Group? This year will see the opening of a new facility in Scotland. The business is recruiting a Branch/Sales Manager who will assist in identifying a prime location and in making it fully operational. Anyone interested in applying for this position should contact Natalie Kiriusina at nkiriusina@docherty.co.uk



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Midtherm was formed by Ray Andrews in 1970 and the group now occupy five factories in Dudley and

one in Kidderminster, West Midlands. The business has grown steadily, adding complementary businesses along the way. The group now employs over 150 people. Midtherm Flues were one of the original factory products, and are still the core business of the company.

Recent investments include new factory lighting, plant and other equipment to reduce our power consumption. Midtherm use modern, well maintained delivery vehicles. We believe that because our goods are produced and distributed from our Midlands based factories that the delivery miles each piece of flue incurs will be at the lowest cost to the environment.

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REFRESHER TRAINING FOR HETAS REGISTERED INSTALLERS

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is in charge of authorising competent person schemes (CPS). To make sure that the standards are consistent, there are rules that scheme operators must follow and conditions they must meet. Competent Person Schemes (CPS) were introduced by the UK Government to allow individuals and enterprises to self-certify that their work complies with the Building Regulations as an alternative to submitting a building notice or using an approved inspector. A Competent Person must be registered with a scheme that has been approved by The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). HETAS is the only competent person scheme that specialises in the installation of solid fuel and biomass domestic heating appliances.

DCLG have put in place new conditions of authorisation for Competent Persons Scheme providers and their registrants. These new conditions of authorisation come fully into force from June 2014, all schemes, including HETAS, have until this time to put in place operating procedures in line with the new conditions. One requirement is to ensure that HETAS registrants are kept up to date with regulations and standards in order to maintain their technical competence against a National Occupational Standard (NOS) under a Minimum Technical Competence (MTC) assessment. The current and relevant MTC's

require Technical Qualifications to be renewed on a five year cycle. DCLG describes these new CPS regulations as aiming to improve "consistency and transparency, enhancing quality assurance and improving the level of compliance with the Building Regulations."

From June 2014 all HETAS registrants on the competent person scheme will be required to have attended a training course, or a refresher course, within the last five years. This provides registrants with an 18 month period to bring their training up to date.

In addition, HETAS registered installers have recently received a complimentary Technical Handbook, only available to HETAS registered installers. This will be updated periodically with regulations and standards updates. The monthly HETAS E-News will also keep registrants up to speed with the latest regulations and standards along with industry activity. Details on HETAS Refresher Courses can be found on the NACS Website www.nacs.org.uk

TORRENT GREENHEAT 3 – WOODBURNER

The heat delivered by a wood burning stove or biomass boiler can be used to deliver safe, cost effective and environmentally friendly domestic heating and hot water through the range of Torrent GreenHeat open vented thermal stores from Gledhill, the cylinder specialist.

Torrent GreenHeat is designed to reduce heating costs and offer householders complete flexibility to use renewable energy or fossil fuels, and provides more options than any other stove or cylinder. Homeowners can now choose to combine uncontrolled heat sources such as log burners and biomass boilers, with renewable technologies including solar thermal or heat pumps, with conventional gas, oil or lpg to deliver superbly efficient heating and hot water.

With the Torrent GreenHeat thermal store being open vented - it provides an inherently safe system with no need for discharge pipework, overcoming Part G Building Regulations regarding discharge requirements. This enables the store to be situated virtually anywhere in the house.

Gledhill managing director Jason Hobson explains: "Torrent GreenHeat is the perfect partner for uncontrolled heat sources such as wood chip burners or log burning stoves. It makes it easier than ever before to use a wood burner and other renewable energy sources for both heating and hot water, giving householders and installers more choice in how a home is heated.

"With Torrent GreenHeat, homeowners and installers can choose to combine a wood burner with solar panels or heat pump, and have a gas, electric or oil unit as back up. But using the correct controls, Torrent GreenHeat will revert to the expensive fossil fuel heat source only as a last resort. So for example, a house may have a wood burning stove with boiler in the lounge or kitchen which feeds energy into the Torrent GreenHeat thermal store, heating the home and providing hot water. As the heat in the store is used it is replaced by the wood burner, and the superbly insulated

Torrent GreenHeat ensures very low standing losses.

However if the wood burner is not producing enough heat to maintain the best operating temperature for the store, then the oil or gas boiler can be switched on to boost the store, and switched off when it is no longer needed.

Jason adds: "Torrent GreenHeat is the heart of the domestic heating system – offering smart flexibility in the choice of energy options."

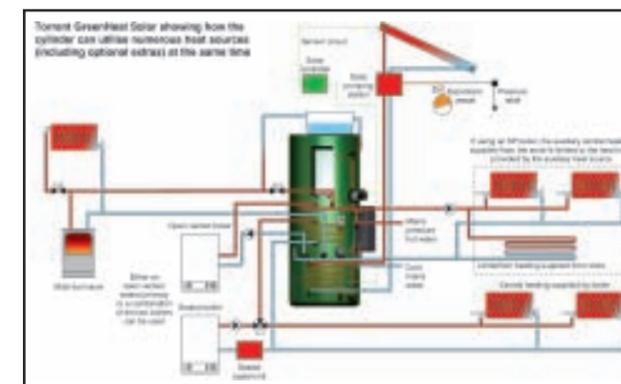
A key difference between Torrent GreenHeat and other units currently on the market including conventional cylinders, is the fact that Torrent is a primary store which circulates water directly through radiators or underfloor heating, making it hugely efficient, both in terms of receiving heat and delivering it to the home.

Mains pressure hot water is delivered via the plate heat exchanger linked to the primary store. That means domestic hot water for taps and showers is not stored water but instantaneously heated mains cold water, eliminating any risk of legionella contamination.

Gledhill's patented hot water control system monitors the temperature of the water and using intelligent control modulates the pump to control the output of the heat exchanger, ensuring safe water temperatures with no risk of scalding.

Torrent GreenHeat thermal stores are available only through the merchant network but are manufactured to order locally at 10 Gledhill depots situated around the UK. That means once an order is placed Torrent GreenHeat can be manufactured precisely to the installer's specification with the correct tappings and connections, and delivered to site within as little as 72 hours.

Torrent GreenHeat can be supplied as a replacement for an existing unit or as part of a heating system refurbishment or upgrade, and is designed to particularly appeal to self-builders and homeowners without mains gas who are looking for cost effective alternatives to oil and lpg. For further information on the Torrent GreenHeat range of cylinders and their applications visit www.gledhill.net.



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TOPSTAK ADDS NEW SKILLS THANKS TO NACS

Luke Adams and Damian Bamford from chimney and woodstove specialist, Topstak, have become registered chimney sweeps after training at the National Association of Chimney Sweeps (NACS) headquarters in Staffordshire.

NACS was formed in 1982 as a professional trade association, promoting high standards for the sweeping, inspection and maintenance of chimneys

Luke and Damian then cut their teeth on what is reported to be the widest inglenook in Wales, located in St Mary Church near Cowbridge. This latest accolade adds to the duo's cache of qualifications – they recently became HETAS registered installers.

Topstak has an ongoing programme of staff training, and is grateful to Welsh Government funding to make this possible. "We are keen to ensure that our staff are as highly trained as possible," explains Topstak director, Adam Pedersen. "In addition to our

sweeping service, we can service stoves, carry out chimney smoke tests and CCTV chimney inspections to check for damage."

Mr Pedersen confirms that now is the time to sweep chimneys, clearing away the soot, before they are needed again in the autumn. "Chimneys need to be swept annually as the coal soot deposits or wood tar deposits can build up to such an extent that they cause a chimney fire," he warns.

For further information about Topstak's chimney sweeping service please call 01446 771 567 or visit the website www.topstak.co.uk

MEETING THE DOMESTIC RHI CRITERIA

The domestic RHI criteria looks set to be launched within days, and in order to qualify for funding, householders must use an MCS registered installer, and a product which is both MCS approved and meets the emissions criteria for the domestic RHI scheme. HETAS has been involved with compiling the list of RHI eligible products which will be available on the OFGEM website. Part of the eligibility criteria for biomass appliances is an emissions certificate showing that emissions are within 30g/ GF particulates and 150 g/GJ NOx. The RHI Emissions Certificates can be seen on a brand new dedicated website www.rhieclist.co.uk and manufacturers can add their products by contacting HETAS with their MCS approval and emissions certificate.

Bruce Allen of HETAS said "The scheme will change the face of the renewables industry and provide valuable financial assistance to households who want to switch to renewables, particularly those in off-gas areas who wish to switch from oil. Up to £15,000 worth of funding over a seven year period is available for homes that want to install a biomass boiler. HETAS believes the domestic RHI is a robust scheme, and over 10,000 homes have already had the required Green Deal assessment as part of the criteria for funding".

To support the launch of the domestic RHI, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) will be attending a series of property and renewable energy roadshows around the country this spring. The domestic RHI scheme is targeted at home-owners and private and social landlords who want to install renewable heating systems in their homes in England, Wales and Scotland. It will provide long term financial support for those who install renewable heating systems and will mark a milestone in energy efficiency as it will be the first time every building in the country will be able to take advantage of financial incentives to install renewable heat technologies.

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.



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