

Ian Firth

The story so far...

Originally selling from generic industry catalogues, from 1991 there have been a range of brochures covering product ranges from hardware to doors and from radiators to bird boxes

Drawn up by Ian Firth himself in 1982 the first company logo has gone through various incarnations before evolving into the familiar gold/black logo of today.



1982

The story begins



Taking advantage of a government backed loan scheme for small business start-ups, the company is formed on the 1st March 1982 working from the 1st Yorkshire family home of Ian and Bernice Firth, selling ironmongery to local housebuilders, delivered in a transit van driven by Ian himself.

The company moves to its first premises in July 1983, an old mill complex on Chapel Lane, Heckmondwike. The product range includes lever handles, hinges, lock and latches, and was ever growing.

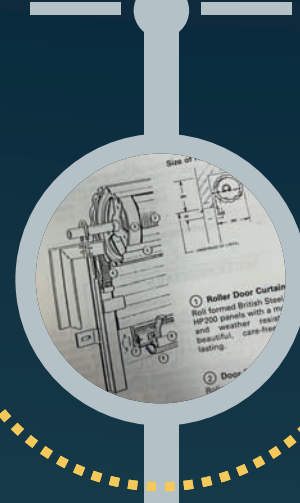


1983

The First Move

1988

Product range expands



After moving again to 9,000sq ft premises on Lady Ann Road, Batley, and with turnover reaching £1m Robin Firth joins the company as Sales Manager selling an expansive range of products including brass door furniture and garage doors.

Previously selling from generic industry brochures, the company prints its first unique catalogue in the form of a hardback book and the IF coding system was born.



1991

First unique catalogue



1994

Further expansion



With turnover on the rise additional staff are brought in to expand sales and distribution nationwide and the premises at Lady Ann Road are extended by 6,000 sq ft.

Importing steel faced door slabs from North America, a new manufacturing division is created to meet the growing demand from housebuilders for an alternative to softwood/hardwood external doors.



1995

Manufacturing is born

1996

Land acquired



A £3m investment begins with 3.53 acres of land purchased at a newly created business park in the Shaw Cross area of Dewsbury. The building, boasting 23,250 sq ft of warehousing and 6,766sq ft in office suites, is designed to meet the growing needs of the company now achieving around £10m turnover with a large product portfolio that includes loft doors, ventilation products, ducting kits, builders' metalwork and even kitchen sinks!

Former press secretary to the late Baroness Thatcher, Sir Bernard Ingham officially opens Lady Ann House, the company's new home. In his speech to company staff, customers and suppliers, Sir Bernard makes reference to the 1982 government loan scheme that enabled Ian and Bernice to begin the company's journey.



1998

Grand Opening



1999

Manufacturing division expands



With turnover exceeding £12m, staff numbers over 150, more space is needed to satisfy the growing demand for external doors. A 15,000 sq ft extension to Lady Ann House is added to enlarge the production facilities.

A 97m2 exhibition stand is designed for Interbuild UK, Birmingham, showcasing the full product range including brass lever furniture – both traditional and contemporary, locks and latches, hinges, moulded and glazed internal doors, steel faced external doors and sliding patio doors.



2000

Interbuild



Undeterred by the dramatic events of 2020, the company bounces back with turnover reaching over £16m for the first time in the company's history. 2022 promises to be another year of progress for the company with further investment in machinery and introduction of improved sales order processing software. Always thinking ahead, always innovating, always here to help!



2022

Record Turnover ahead of Anniversary Year

2019

CNC increases output



£250k CNC machine commissioned to further expand the external composite doors production section to enable the company to increase its customer portfolio.

With demand for around 50,000 internal doorkits per year, further CNC machines are needed along with additional production operatives. The Quicksemble Doorkit system becomes widely recognised in the housebuilding sector.



2018

Doorkit production grows

2015

Product ranges covered



With certain new products not adequately featured in earlier catalogues the company publishes five new brochures featuring External Doors, Internal Doors, Hardware, Associated Building Products and Environmental Products. In addition Ian Firth appoints three new Directors to the board, each having worked their way up through the ranks.

Meeting the interest for low maintenance products the company begins welding goalpost PVC doorframes in-house and develops a pre-hung doorset system around a newly designed GRP door slab.



2012

PVC Frames introduced

2013 sees further investment in PVC frame production machinery to offer more designs of external doorsets including frames with fanlights and sidelights, all made in-house.

2011

Secured by Design



Continuing with product development and testing the external doorset range is covered under the police approved Secured by Design scheme. New Italian CNC machinery increases capacity for external doors as the demand for GRP faced rather than steel starts to accelerate.

To meet the needs of the Code for Sustainable Homes a new product range is launched offering the housebuilder a one-stop-shop for compost bins, recycle bins, water butts, clothes airers, cycle storage, bird and bat boxes and even fold-up bikes! In 2010 the company gains ISO14000 status.



2009

Eco friendly

2007

Silver Jubilee



To mark 25 years in business a commemorative Rubik cube is produced and the senior managers and directors are invited to a celebratory dinner.

Delivering a quality service for over two decades the ISO9000 certification, covering the whole company's management systems and processes, gives customers assurances that they are being looked after to the highest standard.

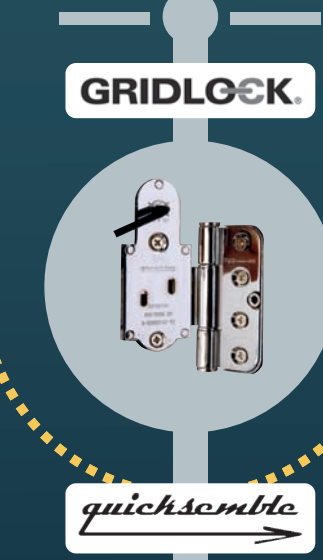


2006

ISO9000 Registered company

2004

Product Development



Working with hardware designers with a proven track record of product innovation, the company develops its own range of locks and latches under the Gridlock brand and a snap-in, fully adjustable hinge system for the growing internal doorkit market under the Quicksemble brand.