

# What's the Buzz



## Spring 2021 Newsletter

It's time to...



Over the past 12 months we have carried out a full review of all the packaging we use as a company. Of course it is a fine balance that must be found between ensuring the product is fully protected between leaving our factory and being installed on site, whilst keeping packaging to a minimum. The review looked at each item of packaging and asked a series of questions: Is it necessary? Can it be reduced? Can it be made greener?

As a result we have switched to external door bags and hardware bags made from recycled polythene, pallet wrap made from lower gauge material, and cardboard boxes changed to buff boxes that are more easily recycled. All polythene that can be recycled on site with carry the triangle logo.

We are not stopping there either. We are continuing to work with our supply chain and customers to find alternative ways to

protect our products during delivery and installation to further reduce the impact on the environment.

Look out for the 'Go Green with Ian Firth' logo on our goods going out to sites.



# PVC is greener than you think!



All together better



Contrary to what most would think PVC-U is a highly sustainable product, robust enough to be recycled and repurposed up to 10 times without its quality or performance deteriorating, giving it a lifespan in the construction industry of 350 years.

Ian Firth's PVC profile supplier, Eurocell, are at the forefront of recycling, processing up to 70,000 old PVC-U window frames per week, or around 39,000 tonnes per year. Once recycled, it is used to create a variety of new products, from thermal inserts to window systems. By doing this they are able to reuse almost 100% of our production waste.

At Ian Firth we retain any PVC off-cuts and damaged frames, and these are collected for recycling by Eurocell. Products manufactured from recycled PVC-U are actually stronger than those made with virgin plastic because of the chemical transformation of the polymers it contains when it goes through the recycling process.



## New machine arrives to increase capacity



We, at Ian Firth Hardware Ltd, are pleased to announce that we have just commissioned a new, top of the range, automated CNC machine to add to our current production line. This latest addition is expected to increase our capacity of External Doorsets by 50%, ensuring that we can take on extra business whilst maintaining the service levels for all our customers.



# Why buy a GRP Doorset from Ian Firth?

- ✓ PAS24:2012 and PAS24:2016 SBD certified
- ✓ High quality independently sourced GRP fully finished door
- ✓ Mila 3D adjustable hinge system
- ✓ Winkhaus multi-point lock with adjustable keeps
- ✓ 3\* TS007 Security Solution lever handle & cylinder
- ✓ Part M Rated Threshold System
- ✓ ISO9001 & ISO14001 factory processes
- ✓ Full scheduling service available on request
- ✓ Excellent technical support and experienced sales office team
- ✓ Field sales and after sales on hand to offer extra support when required
- ✓ Made and distributed from our factory in Yorkshire



## The carbon cost of crime

We can easily count the cost of crime in monetary terms but it is a little known fact that in the UK the carbon cost of crime is 6,000,000 tonnes every year! The carbon cost of officers attending a scene of crime and the carbon involved in replacing damaged property all adds up. However by using Secured by Design approved products within approved new build schemes that design out crime, the likelihood of burglary is reduced by around 75%. It has been proven that by using the design and layout of a development, to create passive surveillance, reducing unadopted public spaces, along with improving the physical security of windows and doors, gives an 85% reduction in crime and antisocial behaviour. It isn't about creating fortresses, but designing out the opportunity for crime, and creating pleasant neighbourhoods for people to live in. So winwin! Using Secured by Design doorsets, tested to PAS24:2016, not only improves the security of a home giving the occupants peace of mind, but also helps the environment.

## Babies are like buses...

*...you wait for ages for one to come and four come at once!*

Congratulations to four members of our staff, Joe, Neil, Jake and Simon, who all became dads over the past few weeks. Best wishes go out to them, their wives/partners, their families, and of course the new arrivals!

## The truth about cleaning hardware

We have spent the past 12 months hearing that the best way to keep safe is to wash our hands, cover our face and keep our distance. We are also told the most effective way to wash our hands is with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If we can't get to a sink then hand sanitiser is the next best thing. Interestingly, we ironmongers have been saying the same about cleaning hardware for years. The best way to keep door handles and letterplates looking as good as new is to regularly wipe them with a soft cloth and warm soapy water. In actual fact many household cleaners are bad for plated hardware as they can attack the finish and cause premature deterioration. So what is best for our hands is best for the handles!

## Education update

Here at Ian Firth Hardware we actively encourage all our staff to get involved with the GAI Education Programmes whether they are just starting their careers in the industry, or are continuing to keep their knowledge up to date. In 2020 the pandemic delayed the GAI exams, however we are pleased to confirm that two members of our staff were successful in passing Stage 1 of the three year diploma course and have already started Stage 2. A big 'Well Done' to Alex Smith, from the External Doorset section of our Sales Office, and Tea Eatherley, our Buyer. Keep up the good work!

An additional three members of our team have recently enrolled on the Foundation Stage of the course, therefore we have 5 students currently studying with the GAI. Nine of our number are fully qualified DipGAI, with 4 of those completing regular CPD and coursework to maintain full RegAI status. Even with the pandemic halting actual meetings and events, the GAI have run a series of online webinars attended by our staff to continue their CPD training.

