

Best in the business



For over 40 years the National Home Improvement Council (NHIC) annual awards have recognised excellence in UK housing and has grown to become a highly regarded event in the home improvement and modernisation sector.

Winners of the 2018 awards were announced at a gala presentation dinner 22nd November held at the National Liberal Club.

The winners in the fenestration categories were:

- *Delivering Community Benefit through Home Improvement*

Sponsor: Quality Assured National Warrantees

Winner: Guardian Warm Roof

- *Best Use of Aluminium Systems for Windows, Doors and Facades*

Sponsor: Schueco UK

Winner: Black Ridge House by Neil Dusheiko Architects

- *The Business that has delivered the Highest Levels of Consumer Confidence to its Customers*

Sponsor: TrustMark

Winner: SEH BAC

NHIC chief executive Anna Scothern said: "To maintain the highest standards of improvement in the nation's housing stock it is vital we reward those organisations who are striving for and delivering excellence. All winners are leaders in their fields; and I was especially proud to award the winner of this, the first year of The George Clarke Medal, to Guy Hollaway Architects for their entry The Cottage which demonstrated a beautiful restoration with poetic modern additions." □

The Veka Group has transformed a double decker bus into a reading space for a Burnley primary school, after it won thousands of online votes.

The new Whittlefield Primary School library was opened by the Mayor of Burnley who is a former pupil of the school. Veka worked with regional radio station 2BR to promote the Veka Community Challenge, where local projects could be nominated for a 'big fix' and Whittlefield Primary School was overwhelmingly voted the winner.

The transformation took five weeks with help from a host of businesses across Lancashire and more than 750 hours of volunteered time.

Head teacher Helen Kershaw says: "We had the bus donated and had begun to do the basic groundwork, but turning it into a usable and beautiful library became an overwhelming challenge we simply couldn't complete without help." □



Reviewing the team

The process for specifying, supplying, installing and maintaining construction products including architectural ironmongery is being reviewed as part of Dame Judith Hackitt's *Building a Safer Future* programme.

Following the Grenfell Tower disaster and the subsequent Hackitt Review, an industry response group was set up in July 2017 to take responsibility for implementing the recommendations of that review.

Its work is now being continued by the Steering Group on Competences for Building a Safer Future, and by 12 sub-groups looking at specialist areas of construction practice and consisting of representatives from installers, fire, housing, construction and professional organisations from within the industry.

Douglas Masterson, technical manager of the Guild of Architectural



Douglas Masterson

Ironmongers (GAI), is part of Working Group 12 which is focusing on construction products. Masterson will be using his expertise to make recommendations on the final frameworks for product specification.

He says: "Amongst the many products we will be reviewing as a group, we will be promoting best practice methods for specifying architectural ironmongery to ensure that everyone in the construction supply chain understands the important role door hardware plays in keeping building users safe." □

New holdings

Garner Holdings, owned by Roger Hartshorn, has purchased the former Sheerframe trade extrusion business from Synseal. This sale only affects the trade extrusion, including Hometrim Cellular Foam and Sheerline fencing & decking products. The Sheerframe window systems business and the Masterdor business remain owned by the Synseal Group.

Hartshorn says: "In order to build on one of the pioneers of UK PVC-U extrusion, and link to its rich heritage, we have renamed the new company LB Plastics Ltd. LB Plastics will continue to operate from the Firs Works site at Nether Heage, next door to Garner Aluminum Extrusions a new company formed to be a leading extruder and supplier of aluminum profiles. The new Aluminum plant is being installed in the spring of 2019 and will be commissioned by the end of the summer."

The PVC-U trade extrusion will be highly complementary to the aluminum profiles that we will look to develop and so it was an obvious fit for my future plans. This will also give the benefit of sharing resources across the single site and offering a total supply of complementary single sourced extrusions and mouldings.

"We plan to expand and invest in new machinery and products in order to



Rogar Hartshorn

restore the site to its former glory.

"The First Works site at Nether Heage has been owned by Garner Holdings for over two years and also remains home to Masterdor, a Synseal group company and Litchfield Investments, the privately owned property division, still owned by the Litchfield family.

"This acquisition is a 'win win' situation; it gives security to the staff and a springboard to build on for Garner Holdings and its sister company Garner Aluminum Extrusions." □

Certass has relaunched its CQ-Assured Scheme which includes 13 different work scopes to help installers who fit more than just windows and doors. It gives contractors the ability to register work they complete for their customers and provides them with a Certificate of Conformity (COC).

Membership benefits include free TrustMark membership, free alternative dispute resolution and free Certass Trade Association membership, as well as access to home improvement finance.

Jason Clemmit, managing director at Certass, says: "We know that many double-glazing installers are moving away from fitting windows and doors alone and expanding what they offer to become home improvement companies.

"That's why our CQ-Assured Scheme covers 13 different work scopes, including warm solid roof replacements, conservatory erection and roofline as well as new build windows and doors, joinery, roofing, plastering and rendering – it covers a full range of building fabric refurbishments.

"Installation conformity is backed by TrustMark's 3 cornerstones of quality – good trading practices, good customer service and technical competence. This third-party assurance gives consumers confidence that Certass members will deliver a great home improvement service." □



Jason Clemmit

John Wear, a tribute

We regret to announce the death of John Wear (pictured) at the age of 79.

A long serving GGF official he was the first standards committee secretary and in its earliest days developed the GGF's technical department. In this role he helped develop many of the early standards in the industry. In the late 80s, Wear was instrumental in helping the UK to harmonise standards within the European Union.

Rosemary, his wife of 36 years, was the GGF membership secretary and was involved in the negotiations which brought the four glazing associations (Glass Benders, Safety



Glass, Insulating Glass and Flat Glass) together to form the Glass and Glazing Federation.

John Wear was instrumental in driving industry standards forward, and helped develop the federation to become the credible face for all matters technical. In doing so, he enabled technical and legislative discussions at local, national and international governmental level.

Steve Rice, GGF director of technical affairs says: "John was an incredibly knowledgeable, loyal and passionate person. He was pivotal in the co-ordination and production of *The GGF Glazing Manual* in late 1977. It was a landmark, the first significant technical publication the GGF ever launched. I was extremely sorry to hear this news and my thoughts are with his family at this time."

Brian Waldron, chairman of the GGF standards committee says: "I was very sad to hear of John's passing and my sympathies go to his nearest and dearest. He contributed so much to the GGF and industry and those who knew him will never forget his commitment to raising the standards in our industry." □