

Low bar, high risk

Despite the shocking tragedy of the Grenfell fire in London last summer, an online poll has revealed that 50% of tradespeople don't feel confident in advising customers on fire door safety.

Despite extensive media coverage about the dangers of inadequate fire protection in offices and homes since the disaster, less than 20% of tradespeople polled have seen an increase in demand for fire safety products or parts such as replacement intumescent strips for fire doors.

The poll followed a national survey of 2,000 adults across the country, carried out by online trade supplier Ironmongery Direct and supported by the Fire Industry Association. The results illustrate an alarming lack of general public awareness of the life-saving role of fire doors which are a legal requirement in all commercial, public and multi-occupancy buildings.

A particularly disturbing outcome was that 70% of respondents would not know who to contact if they noticed a problem with a fire door. In addition, almost one in two people surveyed admitted that they do not know how to identify a fire door.

Ian Moore, CEO at the Fire Industry Association, said: "Fire doors are one of



many essential elements to keeping safe from fire. In all cases, a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment should be carried out by the responsible person – usually the building owner. A fire risk assessment should determine, through thorough inspection, any potential risks or hazards so that they may be resolved. "If you are worried about hazards and risks from fire, you can always contact us, the Fire Industry Association, for free and impartial information and we will be able to direct you to an expert on the subject." □

Ben Penson, ERA's technical & quality director has formally handed over the chairship of the Association of Composite Door Manufacturers (ACDM) to Andrew Fowlds, group chief executive officer for Distinction Doors.

The ACDM was formed to represent manufacturers of composite doors and associated components following the rise in the popularity of such products in both the private and public sectors, and the proliferation of the number of suppliers. The objective of the nine founder members was to establish recommended standards and to provide the specifier with clear information on which companies meet those standards. Membership has grown to 29 companies.

Andrew Fowlds, who took up the office on 1st September says: "I must thank Ben on behalf of Distinction and the other members for his work in leading the ACDM during the past 10 years to become a strong, representative organisation for our industry. His contribution is especially significant bearing in mind that his personal involvement in the composite door industry has reduced appreciably in recent years." □



Celebration & transition

The Glass and Glazing Federation's (GGF) annual report for 2018 (which reports on the year ending December 2017) highlights a year that saw the GGF celebrate its 40th anniversary in a period of change. The year saw the GGF putting in place a new structure and laying down long term plans.

The increased support for consumers facing members as well as the technical, marketing and political work the federation carried out in 2017 is highlighted and the accounts show the financial stability of the organisation.

John Agnew, GGF president says: "I thank all connected to the federation who made 2017 so remarkable. It was a year of celebration but also one of transition. With our plans firmly in place, we now look to achieving greater things



Kevin Buckley, GGF Group chief executive

in the future for the benefit of our members."

Kevin Buckley, GGF group chief executive says: "2017 was certainly a year to remember. We reflected on our past achievements and developed our plans to exceed them, to ensure the federation remains valuable to its members by remaining the leading trade body for the glass and glazing industry." □

Couldn't say no

Three Veka Group directors ditched their duvets and buttoned up their winter coats for a chilly overnight stay at Burnley FC's Turf Moor recently.

The Turf Moor sleep out event was planned to heighten awareness of homelessness in the local area and raise money for three charities: Burnley FC in the Community, Emmaus, and SafeNet domestic abuse service for Jane's Place women's refuge.

Veka's marketing director Dawn Stockell, sales director Neil Evans and finance director Graham Fitton joined other regional business leaders, football fans and fundraisers on October 12th to raise money for these causes.

Evans said: "It certainly felt strange staying over at the Burnley ground, but there was no way I could say 'no' to such an important event. The charities involved provide a range of vital community services including support for education, recreation, homelessness and domestic violence, and I'm proud to 'do my bit' to drum up awareness and funds."

Stockell said: "Veka (and its entire



workforce) is well known for getting stuck in to charity work, community causes and local projects. It is a significant part of the company's ethos and one that we are very proud of. So I was pleased to swap my bedside lamp and feather pillows for floodlights and a football pitch on a cold October evening. It was all for a good cause (or three) and that is the Veka way." To support the Turf Moor sleep out via JustGiving go to www.vekauk.com/about-us/working-atveka/ □



After winning a Queens Award for Enterprise In Innovation last year, Liniar has now been nominated for three more awards. Liniar's trading company, HL Plastics, has been announced as a finalist in the Amazon Growing Business Awards 2018. HL Plastics previously won the Growing Business of the Year Award in 2014. HL Plastics has also been shortlisted in the Midlands Business Awards 2019 in the Midlands Manufacturer of the Year class. The category is for manufacturing organisations that have shown outstanding leadership leading to long-term business success. Liniar has also been nominated in two different categories in the Systems company and bi-folding National Fenestration Awards. And Liniar has been nominated in two different categories in the National Fenestration Awards: the systems company and bi-folding door manufacturer for the ModLok™ bi-fold. □

Maurice Anders

Maurice Anders of T A Anders and Co, has died aged 91. T A Anders was a founding member of the Glass and Glazing Federation.

Anders had worked in the glass industry all his life. He went straight into the business after leaving school and following the death of his father. Anders senior had founded the company in 1931 after leaving Pilkington Glass.

The family were from St Helens and it is believed there were members of the Anders family working at Pilkington Bros since the 1840s. When Maurice joined, the business was located in Rusholme, Manchester.



Maurice Anders

Having been involved in the Plate Glass Association (PGA) and the Flat Glass Council (FGC) and then Glass and Glazing Federation, he continued to play an active role well into his eighties, attending meetings in London. Until recently he was still making an appearance at the annual Glassman's Christmas Luncheon.

Even into his nineties he would come to T A Anders' new premises on Guinness Road, Trafford Park, to dispense his wisdom, sage advice, sharp (and dry) wit to all. And all who met him were keen to listen.

Peter Stuttard, GGF regional manager who knew Maurice Anders well says: "Maurice was a true gentleman and will be very sorely missed by so many. My sincere sympathies go to his family and friends." □