

BUILDING UPDATE

ISSUE: 668 September | www.solutionspublishing.co.uk

Environmentally friendly plastic lumber

At Building Update, we are proud to announce that we have selected Kedel as the recipient of our Commitment to Excellence Award for its ongoing efforts in producing eco-friendly plastic products for a more sustainable future.

Kedel is a family business founded on ethical and ecologically sound principles. Dedicated to making sustainable living attractive, Kedel believe that by incorporating sustainable recycled plastic products into personal and working environments, it can create a happier, healthier and infinitely more sustainable future for generations to come.

Established by three brothers, Kieran, Dermot and Lewis Walch, Kedel is based in Burnley and supplies nationwide. We spoke to Dermot who explained what commitment to excellence means to them and how they feel they achieve it. "Commitment to excellence is an attitude towards work. You're only as good as your weakest link, so we try to give our staff an autonomous responsibility around servicing our customers and through this we are achieving service excellence. Because of this, people can make quicker decisions and our customers end up 100% satisfied much quicker. Eco-Friendly Plastic



is what we do. Not many people believe plastic can be green but it can. We manufacture plastic wood made from waste polystyrene, and are also suppliers of many other types of recycled plastic profiles from other manufacturers, which allows our customers to keep their carbon footprint down. We maintain excellence throughout our business through our sustainable products, sustainable supply chain and sustainable manufacturing policy."

Winners of the Feefo Trusted Service Award, Kedel's range of recycled plastic lumber reflects the future of the construction industry. From plastic fencing pales and edging board pegs to round posts, boards and planks, tongue & groove planks, decking, and so much more, Kedel's extensive product range comes with a number of benefits. Of course, the largest advantage of plastic lumber in general is that it does not rot, absorb water and is highly resistant to damage. This much more versatile material means it has a life longevity to be placed in all weathers and climates making it a perfect material for use in construction, leisure, education, gardens and any water applications.

Some could claim that plastic wood is bad for the environment, however, Kedel would argue that yes, initially the cost of plastic wood may be higher but the



outcome is that you have a product that will last a lifetime due to its extended longevity and zero maintenance properties. To add to this, Kedel only uses recycled plastic that would otherwise go to landfill, therefore, its contribution towards a circular economy is something to be highly commended.

Moving forward, Dermot explained what the future holds for the company. "We are about to increase the working hours of our extrusion plant to be operating 24 hours a day 5 days a week which will double our production time, and to support this we are recruiting more extruder operators. In the future, we plan to build a network of resellers around the UK, as the current cost of transport is at an all-time high so we are looking at ways around this for better business practice and to allow for an eco-friendlier way of working."

In closing, we asked Dermot how he felt receiving our award, he responded, "We are thrilled. It shows we are doing all the right things and going in the right direction and we will endeavour to live up to it."

For more information, please see below:
T 01282 861325
www.kedel.co.uk



Vandecasteele
see them on.....VI-VII



Bartels & Vedder
see them on.....VIII



Swifix
see them on.....IX



LS Products
see them on.....XI



Tuff Water Proofing
see them on.....XII



Checkedsafe
see them on.....XIII

The Zero Maintenance Alternative to Wood



Recycled Plastic

- 100% recycled and recyclable
- Impervious to fungi, algae, insects
- Never rots, splinters or cracks
- Graffiti resistant
- UV Protected
- Eco-friendly and low carbon
- 100% maintenance free
- Lasts a lifetime



Please contact us on 01282 861325
sales@kedel.co.uk | www.kedel.co.uk



Industry-leading solutions for EWI

SWIFIX is a multi-award-winning company that designs state-of-the-art solutions for securing external furniture through External Wall Insulations (EWI). Established in 2016, the range has been increasingly extended, including a recent, winning design partnership with SKY telecommunications for a new product for securing cables and small pipework.



Here at Building Update, we have been so impressed with SWIFIX, that we have previously awarded it with our External Wall Insulation Company of the Month and coveted Product Innovation Award, for its outstanding industry-leading services. Other prestigious accolades include: The INCA Innovation Award Winner in 2021, and has also been recognised as industry-leading by the wider building & construction industry and energy sector and has won a whole host of awards: The E2 Media Award of Excellence, Award for Innovation from Solutions Publishing and Best Practice Construction Award from Building & Construction Review. The company has also been named in 2023 as a finalist in the, Offsite Awards, Energy Efficiency Awards, INCA Awards and shortlisted in the Oscars of construction: The National Building & Construction Awards.

The Insulated Render and Cladding Association (INCA) is familiar to many in the industry, as the recognised trade association for the EWI industry across the UK. Awards are primarily reserved for exceptional work in the industry.

SWIFIX brings a unique design approach, offering a fresh way of looking at securing external furniture through EWI. Timber pattresses had always traditionally been the preferred manner for securing the fixing of satellite dishes through to utility boxes upon reinstatement. That was until SWIFIX introduced its genius, design range and became a heavyweight opponent. The Exeter-based company is now part of one of the fastest growing areas across the UK construction industry.



We spoke to Director and Founder extraordinaire: Paul Brown to find out more about this multiple-award winning company, "Our unique design approach has brought robust solutions to market, for securing external furniture through EWI. These include: satellite dishes, rainwater goods, canopies, light alarms, signage, cables, pretty much any item that needs reinstatement."

"We work with a broad range of loyal and new customers from Architects, Local Authorities (LA's) to major contractors and system designers providing surefire solutions for securing external wall furniture, through insulation and cladding, across a range of properties, including retrofit, new build, and the off-site modular sectors."

"SWIFIX are highly recommended by many system designers as a product of choice, due to the fact that by using the solution and the way in which they are installed, they protect warranties and guarantees for the systems installed."

What's more, the SWIFIX range is PAS2035-compliant for quality assurance and with easy installation and added cost efficiency, it's easy to see why they are the leading choice for many customers.

From a quick glance, the innovative products look effortlessly simple in design but as we know from History, even the simplest design takes blood, sweat and tears. The design was years in the making, including vigorous testing across wind loadings, shear and load testing and the crucial element of thermal loss and heat transfer., until the finished design was completed.

The finished range offers industry-leading, watertight solutions to the devastating impact of water ingress. With its versatile design, it is compatible with many different formats and can hold higher weights.

The cherry on top is the eco-efficient characteristics, made from partially-recycled plastics, with all parts fully recyclable. The packaging is naturally recyclable too, making this a desirable product range, as part of the circular economy.

We're looking forward to seeing which awards SWIFIX wins next!

For more information, please see below:
T 01884 560477
info@swifix.co.uk
www.swifix.co.uk

High-capacity mowing systems

In this issue of Building Update, we are pleased to announce that we have selected LS Products BV as the recipient of our Product Innovation Award.

As a response to the increasing market demand for an upgrade to the 15-year-old electrically driven rotary mowers, the company started working on a newer, more improved version. Combining his years of experience and expertise, Syb Leijenaar – LS Products BV owner and Eco Clipper® inventor developed a new line of electric mowers that graced the market in 2018, and this was when the Eco Clipper® was born.

Built from experience, the Eco Clipper® Mowing System has evolved from the mowing system that was originally developed in the nineties on the turfgrass farm of the Leijenaar family in the Netherlands. Since the first electric mower product launch in 2002 to the latest Eco Clipper® range, LS Products BV has developed an extensive portfolio of machinery and equipment that has grown rapidly and been revolutionary to the turfgrass industry.

"Eco Clipper® is a range of large area mowers with a high productivity that help field managers to minimise their mowing costs, while producing a professional cut. Our mowers are electrically driven and use a special mowing deck design with small mowing blades. The mowing decks have good contour following capabilities and disperse clippings well, even in wet grass. This means we have a few important advantages over other mowers. These include delivering the highest mowing speed possible thus producing a higher productivity, they are quieter and more fuel efficient because of the small blades and electric drive, and they are more versatile to schedule because they can deal with wet grass and any other adverse weather conditions," said Syb.

The Eco Clipper® Mowing System offers many advantages over traditional cylinder and rotary mowers. Because it consists of an independently suspended 106cm wide deck section, it is cleverly linked together in larger, flexible contour following mowing decks. The entire design and development of the Eco Clipper® Mowing System delivers a clean cut, even clippings dispersion and excellent



following of the ground contours with minimal soil compaction.

The system also caters for bespoke requirements so customers can attach the decks to different frames, whether it be Carried or Towed. Offering three options, the Front Mower consists of a single deck with 2-6 sections, a Towed Mower consists of three separate decks of 10-14 sections wide, and a Carried Rear Mower is combined with a Front Mower and consists of 10-14 sections wide.



"If you compare the Eco Clipper with other rotary mowers, you'll see that the main difference is the greater clipping dispersion of the Eco Clipper. Furthermore the mowing speed of the Eco Clipper usually is a lot higher than the roller mowers and the Eco Clipper mowers are much easier to handle because of the lighter weight and the front mounting that provides a good view on the mower. Another development for mowing sports fields is the use of robots. The idea is to save on labour and costs. In practice the mowing costs with the small mowing robots only go up, because they require a lot of unplanned attention to keep them running. As an alternative, customers should know that they can cut the costs in half by mowing with the Eco Clipper FM4 sport," added Syb.

Municipalities, sports field and park managers have taken delight in the advantages that the Eco Clipper FM4 Sport brings. The EC-FM4 Sport is a 4.11 m wide mower that has four independent cutting decks. The forward position provides excellent visibility and comfort for the tractor operator. Due to the electrically driven blades, the mower is very economical and quiet. The low noise is not only more comfortable for the operator, but also a delight for the neighbours. The large wheels and clever deck linking system ensure good contour following and enable high mowing speeds.

Launching next year, LS Products will be bringing out a new large autonomous mower based on the Eco Clipper. Syb explains further, "In 2024, we will launch a 3 and a 5m wide mowing robot based on the Eco Clipper mowing system. This autonomous mower is aimed for the turfgrass industry to further reduce the mowing costs. We found out that also robots need quite a high capacity to be able to beat the mowing costs of our larger Eco Clipper models. Therefore the new machines will give a mowing width of 513cm and mowing speed of close to 8mph for the largest model."

For more information, please see below:
T +31 (0)6 46 75 35 60
info@ecoclipper.com
www.ecoclipper.com

Varnish

The Home of Le Tonkinois Varnish UK

B& D Murkin are a small family run business based in Maidenhead. Providing varnish and sander products, they are the sole importers of Le Tonkinois Varnish and the Flexidisc Sander.



They have been importing Le Tonkinois Varnish and the Flexidisc sander for almost 40 years.

They demonstrate and sell these products on various shows throughout the UK and operate a first class mail order service.

Le Tonkinois Varnish is a traditional oil based varnish, manufactured using a 200 year old Chinese recipe. It contains Linseed oil, Tung oil & natural resins. No solvents or water therefore it is environmentally friendly and is a pleasure to work with, no nasty smells and no brush marks.

Le Tonkinois Varnish is 100% waterproof and does not crack or flake off, even on oily woods like Teak and Iroko. It also withstands hot pans and boiling water. It produces a high quality and professional finish and requires very little maintenance, simply add a top up coat every few years as required.

Le Tonkinois Varnish has gained world recognition for its results and is regarded as one of the world's best varnishes for indoor, outdoor and marine use.

www.letonkinoisvarnish.co.uk

LE TONKINOIS VARNISH

LE TONKINOIS VARNISH IS A NATURAL OIL BASED YACHT VARNISH, USING A CHINESE FORMULA DATING BACK TWO OR THREE CENTURIES AND WHAT A FORMULA!

IT REMOVES YOUR BRUSH-MARKS, BRINGS OUT THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE TIMBER, DOESN'T CRACK OR FLAKE OFF, AND IS PERMANENT, SIMPLY ADD A FURTHER COAT EVERY FEW YEARS.

LE TONKINOIS CLASSIC IS THE ORIGINAL CHINESE RECIPE, WHICH HAS PROVED TO BE A FIRST CLASS RESILIENT AND RELIABLE VARNISH FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY. TRADITIONALLY USED BY THE FRENCH NAVY FOR ALL THEIR SAILING VESSELS, AND WIDELY USED BY TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMEN FOR YEARS. IT TENDS TO GIVE A THICKER COAT THAN MARINE NO 1.

Please visit www.letonkinoisvarnish.co.uk
Telephone 01628 629892 or email mail@letonkinoisvarnish.uk



H.D. Services Ltd: Sewage Treatment and Water Boreholes

Founded in 1984, H.D. Services Ltd. aim to provide the highest quality percussion drilled boreholes, sewage treatment systems and Open-Loop ground source heat pump installations in the Southeast. Feasibility of any project can generally be confirmed upon receipt of a site postcode.

We offer a one stop shop for self-builders, developers, contractors, consultants and architects, providing waste and drainage solutions, independent water supplies and renewable heating options – all specifically tailored to meet individual needs and suited to the geology of the Southeast.

Sewage Treatment, Boreholes and Soakaways

We have been involved in the design, supply and installation of sewage treatment systems for over 30 years. We can either provide package solutions or we can design bespoke systems to meet individual client needs.



Portable Buildings



ModConCabins
Manufacturer of Modular, Containers & Cabins

Steel AV Cabins • Smoking Shelters • Chemical Stores & Storage Units
Staircases & Steps • Effluent Tanks • Water Bowsers • Turnstiles



















INTRODUCING



MODCONCABINTRADER
www.modconcabins.co.uk

info@modconcabins.co.uk

ModCon Cabin Trader, the Modular, Portable Building & Plant Industry related, Resale/Auction website!

+44 (0)333 404 8822 07842 318869

Projects undertaken throughout the southeast range from small solutions for single households to larger scale solutions for estates, business parks, farms, schools, caravan sites, hotels and public houses.



We offer a support service for consent to discharge applications to the Environment Agency – a requirement when installing sewage treatment systems.

Ground Source Heat Pumps

We are award winning installers of Open-Loop GSHP installations. These systems utilise ground water as a heat source. Groundwater is pumped from a water supply borehole directly to the heat pump where temperature is extracted.

For more information, please visit: www.hdservicesltd.co.uk

Surveyors

Unrivalled professional expertise

Fennell Green & Bates is a chartered mineral, waste, energy and building surveyors practice, with a specialism in project co-ordination and management in the construction and mining industries.



The company had evolved substantially since its inception in 1875 when founders Mr Fennell and Mr Green, took over the practice from the eminent mining engineer: Mr J Tolson White.

Under the expert direction of the current director, the company has expanded exponentially, employing experienced staff with chartered surveying expertise. From its convenient central base the UK in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, customers can be reached easily within three hours, excluding the southern counties of Devon and Cornwall, which takes a little longer.

As leading specialists in construction project co-ordination and management, the company's range of services includes: building surveys, land condition surveys, coal and other mining reports, contaminated land audits, land and mine surveying, geotechnical advice and site investigation.

T 01924 255666
M 07483 164372
fennellgreenandbates@gmail.com
www.charteredurveyorswakefield.co.uk

FGB Fennell, Green & Bates

MINING ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Fennell Green & Bates Chartered Surveyors is a 150 years old practice based in Wakefield. At FGB, we specialise in building condition surveys, house structural surveys, project management, town & country planning, coal mining risk assessments, site investigation and remediation of brownfield land.

Fennell Green and Bates have been involved in over 1,740 projects over the past 22 years dealing with contaminated land, ground stability issues, phase 1 contaminated desk top studies, phase 2 site investigation projects, coal mining risk assessments and soil sampling for housing, commercial and industrial developments in north of England and the Midlands. Our practice also acts as mineral advisors to several building materials companies and that work has taken our surveyors all over the UK and to Ireland, Europe, Russia, South Africa and Australia to work on a wide range of projects.

At present we are managing the remediation of a glass works tip on behalf of a client for the site to be used as housing after the materials on site have been processed and re-engineered on site for the development platform. We have recently completed the verification of the works for a medium sized housing development in Yorkshire in a former quarry that has been backfilled with engineered fill from site.

Our team is experienced in all types of site engineering and soil management that includes materials testing that can save costs due to the re-use of these soils and a reduction in muck away.



Fennell Green & Bates
Old Joiner's Shop, 59 Oakenshaw Lane
Walton, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF2 6NJ

Tel: 01924 255666
Mob: 07483 164372
Email: fennellgreenandbates@gmail.com
Website: www.charteredurveyorswakefield.co.uk

Class leading waterproofing & sealing solutions

CARLISLE Construction Materials Europe (CARLISLE CM Europe) manufacture high quality waterproofing systems for new build and refurbishment flat roofing projects, along with the ARBO® range of sealants and EPDM tapes for façades, providing complete building envelope solutions for the construction industry.

CARLISLE CM Europe is a dynamic company, driving innovation in speed and ease of installation, sustainability, and waterproofing performance across a variety of roofing technologies, including EPDM, TPO and liquid Waterproofing. Offering expert technical advice to specifiers, CARLISLE CM Europe supports optimised specifications, leveraging the variety across the company's waterproofing and sealants ranges.

CARLISLE's RESITRIX® single ply waterproofing for flat roofs is the only roofing system that combines the properties of EPDM synthetic rubber and polymer-modified bitumen to create a durable hybrid membrane. An extremely flexible, single-layer waterproofing membrane, it can be applied on almost all substrates and provides fast and neat installation, with each section of membrane welded together quickly, easily and safely using a hot-air device without any need for naked flames.

Suitable for mechanical installation using induction technology, CARLISLE's HERTALAN® EPDM system enables roofs to be made watertight quickly, with the company able to produce EPDM membranes up to 30m in length and in various widths up to 20m, thanks to its vulcanisation factory in Mansfield.

Another hero product within the CARLISLE range is the ARBOFLEX® PU single component liquid waterproofing system. Made from pure polyurethane, which, once cured, forms a



seamless elastic roof covering without any joints, ARBOFLEX® PU delivers air tightness and waterproofing on most substrates.

A high performance and wear-resistant membrane, ARBOFLEX® PU can adapt to any surface, including uneven, curved or irregular

substrates. With its rapid-curing properties, it allows foot traffic within 24 hours. The single component liquid waterproofing can be applied straight from the tin, allowing fast and easy installation, and it is green roof compatible.

In addition to offering state of the art flat roofing and façade solutions, CARLISLE supports expertise and knowledge sharing with the company's training courses at the CARLISLE® ACADEMY. Designed by professionals for professionals, CARLISLE CM Europe training courses enable attendees to learn about the proven advantages of EPDM waterproofing solutions in an up-close, hands-on manner, ensuring construction industry professionals can maximise the products' performance benefits on site. For more information, visit: <https://www.ccm-europe.com/gb/academy>

Anticipating change creates opportunity for innovation and exceptional customer service. CARLISLE has recently strengthened its sales and distribution network for the UK and the ROI market, welcoming new professionals to the company's sales team. For sales and distribution enquiries contact our Mansfield office.

You can watch installation videos for CARLISLE CM Europe products here:



T 01623 627285
info.uk@ccm-europe.com
www.ccm-europe.com

ARBOFLEX®

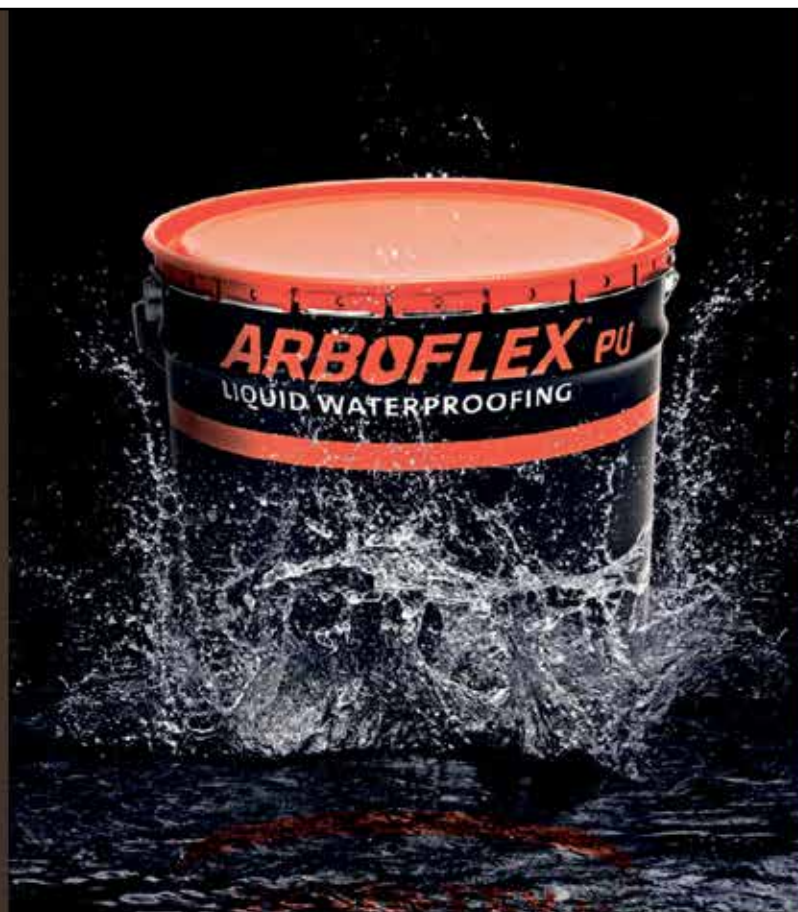
Liquid Waterproofing you can rely on

One component PU liquid waterproofing

- ☑ Fast and easy installation
- ☑ Weather-resistant: can be used all year round
- ☑ Green roof compatible
- ☑ BBA Certified
- ☑ Seamless finish, adapts to uneven, curved or irregular surfaces



www.ccm-europe.com



CARLISLE
CM EUROPE

Bluerun Ltd once again achieves excellence in the workplace

In this issue of Building Update, we are proud to announce that we have selected Bluerun Ltd as the recipient of our Commitment to Excellence award.

Upon reopening its doors in May 2020 after the COVID-19 pandemic, Bluerun Ltd has gone from strength to strength with its trusted brand now being known as one of the best in the joinery industry that has recently attracted big name brands turned clients, Starbucks and Waitrose.

2022 was a great year for the company in terms of revenue and new business. It has managed to maintain a strong conversion rate despite the current economic crisis and has found that enquiries for larger jobs as opposed to 'single window' types of jobs has been more popular especially from domestic clients which mimics that of its regular commercial clients.

Based in Wimbish, near Saffron Walden in Essex, Bluerun manufactures quality, bespoke joinery items and everything is made to order, nothing is 'off the shelf.' Dee commented, "We manufacture items for the commercial market from door and window packers, to shopfronts, reception desks, mainframes, pub doors, and years ago we even made a trebuchet for Stansted Mountfitchet castle!"

Of course, the company has the capabilities to manufacture most things from timber, hardwood, softwood, panels and sheet material. Some common items Bluerun Ltd manufacture for the domestic building market include windows, doors (exterior and interior), bi-folding doors, staircases, bespoke storage units and wardrobes, all



Dee Newman, Finance Director at Bluerun Ltd presented the Commitment to Excellence Award

of which come with the option of being sprayed in primer or to a finish.

If you're looking for items made from both hard and softwood or even veneered and painted panels, Bluerun can reproduce an array of items including replacement sashes, where it can manufacture a brand new one on a like for like basis, so the mouldings will match. "Similarly, if a domestic client has found an image of a door, for example, that they would like us to reproduce, we can usually do that. Recently we have started using a glass supplier that can supply us with stained glass effect units, complete with leading that has been aged and soldered, which looks absolutely breath-taking," added Dee.

Bluerun only produce purpose made joinery to client's drawings and specifications. Its unrivalled level of customer services means that free quotations are normally provided within 2-3 days or less, and the company can usually deliver a quick turnaround of any manufactured items required. And, because it has an experienced spray operative in charge



of a modern spray paint and lacquer facility, articles can leave the factory in a fully finished state, ready for installation on-site.

What really sets Bluerun apart is that since its establishment it has never used computer aided machinery for any designs. Crafted to perfection, all items are finished by hand, drawings are prepared with pencil and paper, and everything that is manufactured by the team has been done so with the utmost attention to detail. It also has the ability to obtain colour matches of any paint colours for clients that would prefer something sprayed to a finish.

Apart from needing the item to fit out its workshop doors upon completion, there is no limit to any project that Bluerun will endeavour to take on. Inspired by a challenge, Bluerun will do its utmost to cater to all enquiries.

T 01799 599995
dee@bluerunltd.co.uk
www.bluerunltd.co.uk

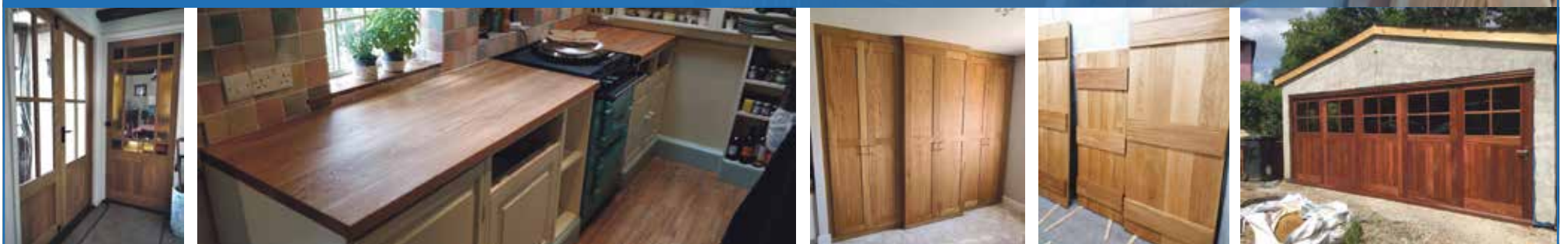


Bluerun Limited
quality bespoke joinery since 1991

QUALITY, CUSTOM MADE JOINERY



Bluerun Ltd have been manufacturing top quality, purpose made joinery for the domestic and commercial markets for over 30 years.



Please visit our website: www.bluerunltd.co.uk

Tel: 01799 599995 | Email: dee@bluerunltd.co.uk f bluerunltd @ bluerun_joinery



A CLEAR CERTIFIED VISION

Vandecasteele Houtimport are one of the leading European timber importers and have ambitious aims to trade only in certified timber by 2025

The Belgian fifth-generation family company, founded in 1883, Vandecasteele Houtimport specialises in the import, trading and export of tropical hardwood from Africa, Southeast Asia and South America, Scandinavian and North-American softwood, North American and European hardwood.

Sustainability and reliability are an essential part of Vandecasteele Houtimport’s DNA. With over 140 years of experience, the company is determined to achieve the goal of trading only certified timber by 2025. The challenge lies with the hardwood and especially the tropical hardwoods. Today they are at 80% certified and have a clear vision: only certified timber has a future.

A long-term goal that can only be achieved by including all partners. Substantial investments have been made over the years to be able to realise this future goal. You cannot achieve this goal overnight. This is a long-term job in which all partners must be included. If we want to assure our customers that we keep our promise to only trade timber that comes from well-managed, certified forests, we need to be sure that all our trading partners share the same strictest certification and sustainability processes as we do.

Vandecasteele Houtimport has a unique business model. Importing timber from all over the world, keeping in stock for several years, in some cases, even decades. Stock is our strength and our specialty. In times when supply is difficult or tight, we can count on our invested stocks to guarantee continued supply.

To achieve our goal, we have taken several actions within the company. First, we were assisted by external experts to get the procedures and protocols in place. Secondly, the team at Vandecasteele was reinforced with two forest engineers in Brazil. That way we can keep a finger on the



pulse of every shipment, and we are able to accurately apply the ever-changing legislation in Brazil with great precision. This sends an important signal to our suppliers. They know that doing business with Vandecasteele Houtimport means complying with a procedure that is continuously refined and adapted. All timber transport requires our approval. When in doubt the timber is not accepted.

Masters in diversification
Vandecasteele has a long-term commitment to preserving the forests. The family business imports more than 130 different species of timber coming from 40 countries and has over 120,000 cubic meters in stock, mainly certified hard and softwoods. We support the LKTS program of FSC® Denmark with which we want to help promote the use of lesser known species. We keep these lesser-known species in stock and offer them as alternatives. Timber is too often prescribed from a specific well-known species. From the point of view of responsible forest management, we must dare to choose the right durability class for an application instead of a specific timber species.

Rethink everything: a positive evolution in consumer purchasing behaviour
Customers are increasingly asking questions about certification and the origin of the timber. Buyers are becoming more and more aware of the

need to use certified timber. Importing tropical wood goes further than just asking for timber. There is a continuous evolution, because of new insights and new legislation.

We work together with external experts, we are broadening our internal knowledge and we continually make progress. Making progress is an ongoing process. Considerable steps have already been taken with the EU Timber Regulation but we can and should do better. We want to see and monitor a stronger application and support for certified timber. Vandecasteele communicates continuously with the users via its website and campaigns in order to spread that message. This is necessary because the purchase of FSC® certified wood contributes to 14 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The purchase of FSC® certified timber contributes to biodiversity.

Since the year 2000, Vandecasteele Houtimport has committed itself through the Corporate Durability Charter by signing up to environmental objectives exceeding the applicable legislation. In 2018, the charter started a partnership with CIFAL Flanders, the local HUB of UNITAR, the Training and Education Centre of the UN. In 2020, Vandecasteele Houtimport was the first timber company in the world to obtain the international recognised ‘SDG Pioneer certificate’ from UNITAR CIFAL. In 2022, we were the first timber company in the world to have achieved the ‘SDG Champion award.’

Our company continues to make efforts to embed sustainability into the business. We validate our organization’s sustainability efforts with the Voka Charter for Sustainable Entrepreneurship (VCDO).

Contact
T +32 56 43 33 00
www.vandecasteele.be



RE:
THINK
WOOD



Nature's
first choice



My VDC
View and
order stock
online



Prompt
delivery



2025 – our aim is to
trade in Certified
timber only from
2025 onwards



VANDECASTEELE
HOUTIMPORT

vandecasteele.be

Meet the Dutch masters: From black swan to the largest floating office in the world

In this issue of Building Update, we are delighted to select Bartels & Vedder BV as our Engineering & Consultancy Company of the Year.

Black swans are rare across Europe, with only small pockets of feral populations and in the stock market, it is categorised as an exceptionally rare event, with often severe consequences. However, if you visit the inland rivers and streams of Oostknollendam, North Holland you will might chance across one, in the guise of a stunning, jet-black houseboat. The floating house has been named, 'Black Swan' by its owners due to its striking exterior design, inspired by the traditional black barns of the low-lying North Holland polders. The first floor is designed below sea level, allowing prime vantage for river life and at night, with the large feature windows, it is the perfect spot for star gazing. The floating black swan is completely energy neutral and typifies the work of emerging Dutch engineering consultancy powerhouse: Bartels & Vedder BV.

The co-founders of Bartels & Vedder, Chiel Bartels and Jelle Vedder began building floating structures on water with the firm Aqua Life Nederland BV in 2004. Bartels & Vedder BV was later founded in 2011 and is now synonymous with innovative floating structures and buildings, such as engineering the largest floating office in the world: The Floating Office Rotterdam (FOR) and an incredible 6,000m² floating ferry terminal in Malaysia.

Once only the stuff of dreams, Bartels & Vedder have brought floating villas, parks, ferry terminals and hotel into the known realm of imaginative engineering design.

The Dutch company specialises in bespoke, engineering infrastructures, land-based designs, floating structures

niche area in construction, requiring ample capital and space. We are however known for our expertise in the area and seen as engineering and floating building/structure experts. We are fully versed in all the nautical details such as: stability, calculating drift forces from waves, and current and wind factors, to engineering access bridges and mooring facilities."

"We always consider optimised, renewable energy

sources, from solar and heat pumps and factor this into all our designs. Next to that we even engineer and check floating solar parks which provides solar energy to the surrounding area."

"Looking towards the future, we want to grow the company as organically and sustainably as possible."

Bartels & Vedder BV offer a bespoke end-to-end service

that is world-leading across the current market. Bartels & Vedder BV can help with structural calculations, 3DBIM drawings, structural advice, monitoring and guidance, or just general structural advice.

For more information, please visit:
T +31 (0)6 422 398 53
info@bartelsvedder.nl
www.bartelsvedder.nl

BARTELS & VEDDER

Interdisciplinair Ingenieurs & Consultancybureau



Reference: floating park, floating office and floating houses in the Rijnhaven Rotterdam, The Netherlands



Reference: floating villa's in the Lentse plas Nijmegen, The Netherlands



Reference: 6.000m² floating ferry terminal, Malaysia



Reference: floating dairy farm in Rotterdam, The Netherlands

BARTELS & VEDDER BV is an engineering firm, specialized in engineering structural and infra structural projects on both land and water.

We have developed an expertise in 'Flood Proof' building, such as floating.

Some of our referenced projects are shown in the pictures. Our engineering and advice concern the following types of 'Flood Proof' projects:

- Floating houses and villa's
- Floating parks
- Floating offices
- Floating islands
- Floating neighbourhoods and cities
- Floating solar
- Floating jetties
- Mooring structures
- Fendering
- Bridges

We offer the following services:

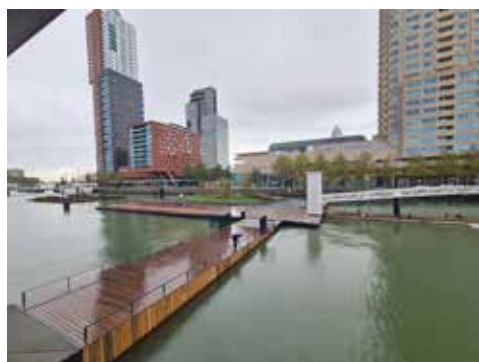
- Structural calculations
- (3D BIM) drawings
- Structural advice
- General project advice
- Monitoring and guidance

For more information, we invite you to visit our website:
www.bartelsvedder.nl

Call us:
+31 6 422 398 53

Email us:
info@bartelsvedder.nl

info@bartelsvedder.nl WWW.BARTELSVEDDER.NL **+31 (0) 6 422 398**



and flood-proof buildings, with impressive projects all over the world from The Netherlands, UK, Dubai, to Malaysia.

The secret to the success of Bartels & Vedder is the in-house team of specialists, who execute integrated and interdisciplinary approaches to traditional construction, infrastructure, non-residential construction, offshore and floating projects.

We spoke to co-founder Jelle Vedder to find out more about this unique company, "We have a passion for what we do, priding ourselves on working as a team to complete these incredible projects, from parks, islands, jetties, bridges, villas, to hotels, from urban green spaces to utility projects."

"With green biodiversity on the agenda, we have worked on projects such as: Steigerpark in Rotterdam. With a total overhaul of the area, the park will be 350 metres long, with phase 1 supported by nine concrete hulls. But also, durable and floodproof housing projects such as the project in Rhenen, where houses are built in a flood zone and designed in such a way, that damages during a flood are managed. Or floating houses in the project Schoonschip, where there will be no damage at all in case of flooding."

"We design at a 50:50 ration for land/water designs and floating structures are generally speaking, still a





INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS TO ENABLE FIXING THROUGH EXTERNAL WALL INSULATION

Our products are one of the most cost-effective solutions to enable the fitting of external furniture through external wall insulation and rain screen cladding, with the added benefit of being designed specifically for the job. Fully Pas2035 compliant for the future of retrofitting and the Modular housing sectors and the ideal solution for a longer term maintenance provision.

All fittings meet stringent technical requirements by preventing the compression of insulation and providing a watertight seal. They are also approved by many leading manufacturers and organisations developing modern methods of construction to support the requirement for new homes in the UK.



INNOVATIVE

A new cost-effective way to fit external furniture through walls and cladding



ROBUST

Super-strong to prevent insulation compression and provide a watertight seal



EASY TO INSTALL

Simple yet effective next generation solutions. See for yourself



To find out more, please visit www.swifix.co.uk,
call **01884 560477** or email info@swifix.co.uk

Make your project possible

DCON Safety Consultants Limited offers leading health and safety consultancy and construction statute advice services. The company prioritises and specialises in the highest levels of informed and intelligent advice, senior project resource allocation and compliance assurance. Informed by industry expertise, DCON Safety Consultants Limited knows that every project has potential risks, no matter what its potential benefits, so its team of highly experienced construction professionals helps to ensure clients' statutory conformity.

Upon gaining understanding of the specific needs, goals and desires of each client and their project, DCON Safety Consultants Limited is dedicated to implementing a design and construction management plan that will meet or exceed these requirements. And, DCON Safety Consultants Limited ensures that there is honesty, integrity, trust and professionalism underpinning every project.

Moreover, the company's services are centred on three delivery principles:

- **Maximising Quality:** The company implements proven health, safety and wellbeing strategies to help clients achieve high quality and cost-effective work commensurate with the design of their projects.
- **Minimising Risk:** The company effectively manages design and delivery risk on projects to match each client's desired risk level profile.
- **Managing Compliance:** The company relies on its extensive background working on a wide variety of projects to assist clients in developing, monitoring and maintaining compliance performance.



This excellent service would not be possible without the leadership of Diarmuid Condon, a construction industry leader who brings unique perspectives to encourage, support and mentor the abilities of his colleagues. As a construction professional with a surveying background and experience spanning two decades, Diarmuid is emblematic of DCON Safety Consultants Limited's commitment to providing outstanding services to clients.

Diarmuid has contributed his invaluable expertise to over 400 projects over 20 years, with a client list including public sector departments, corporate owners, real estate developers, main contractors, design professionals and infrastructural bodies. With this incredible portfolio, Diarmuid is helping DCON Safety Consultants Limited to become a leader in health and safety consultancy across the construction industry.

Key to DCON Safety Consultants Limited's services is working as a Project Supervisor for the Design Process and



CDM Advisor in various sectors across the Irish construction market. No project is too simple or too complex for the company's construction safety consultants, all of whom are construction professionals with an average of 20 years' experience in the built environment. The ability to maximise this knowledge and skillset means DCON Safety Consultants Limited can generate distinctive and innovative ideas from traditional PSDP service inputs and outputs.

Additionally, DCON Safety Consultants Limited offers planning compliance assurance services. The ability to strategically support a positive planning decision is exclusive to the company. Its Draft Construction Management Plans (DCMP) inform the overall planning, co-ordination and control of a project from the beginning of construction to completion. The DCMP also safeguards the obligation placed upon a client to produce a safe, functional and financially viable project.

DCON Safety Consultants Limited also provides its

main contractor clients with intelligent, practical, and reasonable physical site safety advice to support compliance and good practice adherence. Behavioural safety outcomes inform how the company approaches each solution with the contractor and their supply chain, identifying opportunities for improvement.

To complement this, DCON Safety Consultants Limited can also help with clients' health and safety strategy. Its holistic and integrated approach can help unlock substantial benefits for clients by providing a structured, objective and SMART framework for full optimisation through the creation of an environment that embraces health, safety and wellbeing.

This means DCON Safety Consultants Limited helps clients to improve their health, safety and environmental performance; enhance staff satisfaction thanks to improved performance; improve risk management and corporate governance with a clear audit trail; gain confidence from long-term planning, better sustainability and performance; and improve overall corporate reputation, including greater staff satisfaction and a more efficient procurement and supply chain.

Finally, DCON Safety Consultants Limited can offer a safety expert witness service, which is headed by Diarmuid himself. He has extensively supported safety-related matters, and is a certified and competent safety professional who will work with clients to identify exactly what kind of safety expert is needed. Then, he will use an extensive network of contacts to recruit the right person to protect clients' interests.

DCON Safety Consultants Limited's fantastic service offering and proven track record of offering leading health and safety consultancy services makes the company a worthy winner of our Commitment to Excellence award. Such achievements are proof that DCON Safety Consultants Limited is well-placed to help ensure your safety, health and wellbeing and make your project possible.

If you are interested in finding out more information on DCON Safety Consultants Limited's full range of excellent services, head to the website or get in touch directly using the contact details below.

T +353 (0)1 611 1556
diarmuid.condon@dconsafety.com
www.dconsafety.com



Leaders in Built Environmental Safety and Health and Wellbeing Consultancy

Consulting on various aspects of project design, constructability and operational lifecycle matters for local and global commercial clients.



OUR SERVICES

- DESIGN SUPERVISOR
- PLANNING COMPLIANCE
- CONSTRUCTION HEALTH & SAFETY
- HEALTH & SAFETY STRATEGY
- EXPERT WITNESS

Please visit: www.dconsafety.com

Email info@dconsafety.com • Phone +353 (0)1 611 1556
DCON Safety Consultants, Suite 5, Fitzwilliam Square East, Dublin 2



eco clipper®



'Dedicated to offer the best mowing system for maintaining large area turfgrass'

Has clean cutting results in all weather conditions, improved efficiency (at least 20% more fuel efficient), easy maintenance and repairs and low cost of ownership.

Please visit www.ecoclipper.com

Call +31(0)646753560

Email info@ecoclipper.com

The seriously multi-purpose GRP Roofing System

Established in 2012, Tuff Waterproofing Ltd is the UK's premium designer, manufacturer and supplier of heavy-duty GRP waterproof flat roofing systems. TuffStuff® has a dedicated product development team that work closely with customers and its own UK based manufacturing facility to produce an evolving product range that is suitable for multiple flat roof applications.

From its base in Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire, TuffStuff® is the UK's premier GRP flat roofing system and supplies its products through a dedicated stockist network throughout the country.

The advanced TuffStuff® formula uses the latest liquid polyester resins, glass fibre mat reinforcement and flexible trims, to create a fully integrated waterproof, seamless attractive finish with a 25-year guarantee on materials.

Tuff Waterproofing has further expanded its TuffStuff® product range and is now offering its latest GRP roofing innovation; TuffStuff® flexible GRP. This is a single resin solution that provides an exceptional combination of versatility and durability. It is extremely quick to lay and does not require stripping or re-decking of the roof, saving customers both time and money. It can be applied to a variety of surface types and structures including vertical sections.

Managing Director, Greg Gimenez commented, "Standard GRP is rigid when it is cured, and it is specifically designed for flat roofs. However it can only be applied to OSB3 (Timber), and while this has been very successful, contractors have been looking for overlay systems which can go over other substrates." TuffStuff Flexible GRP can go onto many



substrates including felt, asphalt, single-ply, GRP, concrete, timber and metal.

While other companies have standard GRP, TuffStuff® knows that this flexible GRP provides an exceptional combination of versatility and durability. TuffStuff® flexible GRP has become a very important product already, for a number of reasons. It is a one-pot system, whereas standard GRP comes with a base coat as well as a top coat, and this saves a contractor plenty of time and, comes with a 20 year product guarantee on the full system.

However, the major advantage is that while it is curing, it is actually showerproof, and Greg commented, "If contractors experience a rogue shower while installing, they may have to go off-site, but upon returning they can carry on knowing that their work is not ruined (showerproof whilst curing), as it would be with standard GRP. This aspect of our product will really excite contractors that work with GRP regularly." This plus the fact that it is crack resistant, with no weak points has meant that facility companies have also begun using the flexible GRP for patch repairs too.

TuffStuff® Flexible GRP will form a highly flexible, extra tough and seamless waterproof membrane – an ideal solution for areas of heavy-duty foot traffic.

Tuff Waterproofing Ltd will be exhibiting at the UK Construction Week in October in Birmingham, during which clients can find out more about this amazing new product.

For more information, please see below:
T 01977 680250
info@tuffwaterproofing.co.uk
www.tuffstuff.co.uk



Sewage Treatment Systems

With over 30 years experience, we offer bespoke solutions for the domestic market across the South East.
Feasibility of a project can usually be determined with a site postcode.

AWARD WINNING RENEWABLE HEAT INSTALLATIONS

Open-Loop Ground Source Heat Pumps could meet all hot water and heating needs by utilising ground water as a heat source.
Ideal for installation in new or self-builds.

enquiries@thehdgroup.co.uk | 01494 792000 | www.hdservicesltd.co.uk

SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS

We can provide package plant or bespoke systems
All systems are designed to meet the needs of individual clients and comply with strict discharge legislation.
Servicing contracts are offered on all installations.

WATER SUPPLY & SOAKAWAY BOREHOLES & DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS

Independent water supply for irrigation or consumption*
Soakaway drainage fields and other drainage solutions
*subject to analysis and suitable filtration

FLEXIBLE GRP

Providing an exceptional combination of versatility and durability. Quick to lay, with no need to strip or re-deck a roof, this fast-curing system saves time and money.

It's a single-resin solution which can be applied to a multitude of surface types and structures including vertical sections.

With two coats applied within one hour, TuffStuff® Flexible GRP will form a highly flexible, extra tough and seamless waterproof membrane – can be a solution for areas of heavy duty foot traffic.

www.tuffstuff.co.uk

T 01977 680250
orders@tuffwaterproofing.co.uk

Complete compliance solutions

Since 2014, CheckedSafe has provided simple and inexpensive tailored compliance solutions. Established by Gary Hawthorne and Darran Harris, CheckedSafe is a SaaS platform compliance provider providing several apps and a web-based reporting system that is multi-functional and secure.

The CheckedSafe system offers organisations a complete solution, enabling them to manage and protect their workforce and comply with legal compliance requirements whilst reducing cost and liability. "We can provide you with a fully integrated solution – you can be completely paperless – also by using our system properly you will have a legally defensible product. We bespoke templates on the app to suit individual requirements, our latest release now means that the client can also do this themselves," said Gary.

Located in Burnley, its system is global and can be accessed from anywhere as long as you have an internet connection for the management portal, the app itself works off line and on-line so there is no restriction on using the app.

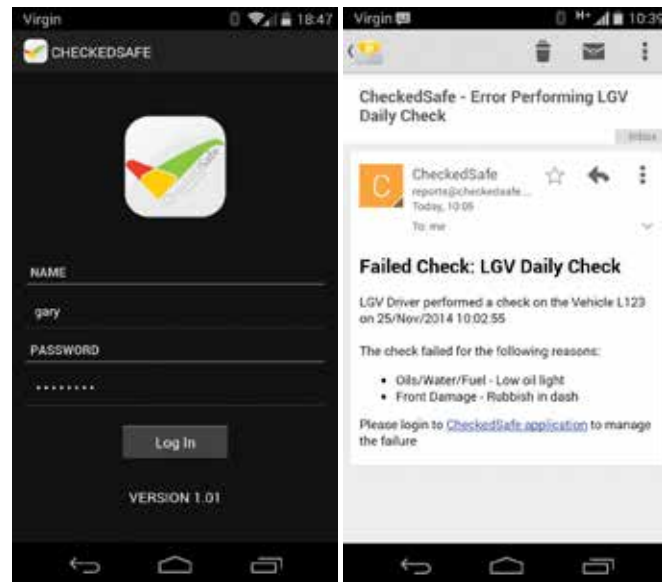
Both Darran and Gary's individual expertise has resulted in CheckedSafe being a nationally recognised company. "I am a transport professional with 30+ years in commercial transport, and Darran has 25+ years as a solicitor, so our individual skills set us apart from other 'IT' providers in the industry," said Gary.

CheckedSafe has a range of services from vehicle compliance solutions, compliance and regulations, risk assessment and incident reporting tools via the



App that enables them to offer the client a complete solution. Gary explained, "We constantly develop our product from user feedback. We release new features at least every quarter and a new app probably every four months depending on what features we have developed. Customer feedback is critical to us, we know a lot about transport, but the end users have great ideas that we take on board and use to develop free of charge and push out to the CheckedSafe community."

CheckedSafe's web-based reporting system is accredited by DVSA and the FLTA and utilised across all fleet types of HGV, PCV, VAN, plant or utilities. If



it needs a checklist, CheckedSafe can digitise and catalogue it, providing you with a cost-effective compliance solution.

With much of the industry yet to explore, over five million commercial vehicles in the UK and over 20 million pieces of plant, there is a huge market for CheckedSafe to expand into. "Our plan is to furrow into the fleet industry and develop new features, and if from this market we get new ideas then we will look to develop them further. We have recently developed our API to link with Dynamic 365 for a large crane operator which will come into development later this year/early 2022," stated Gary.

Despite COVID-19, CheckedSafe has managed to outsource all marketing resulting in an increase in in-bound enquiries. Utilising

platforms such as Zoom and Teams, less time has been spent travelling and more focus has been on growing the business from home.

Eight years ago, CheckedSafe was an idea, that today, has flourished into a fully successful business. Gary and Darran are passionate about what they do and provide a skill set that boasts professionalism and expertise. "We know our industry and our clients have an immediate infinity with us and put faith in us," said Gary.

T 01282 908429
info@checkedsafe.com
www.checkedsafe.com



The vehicle compliance system for all fleets

Paperless defect reporting and fleet maintenance, all for **£1 per vehicle, per week**



Driver's app



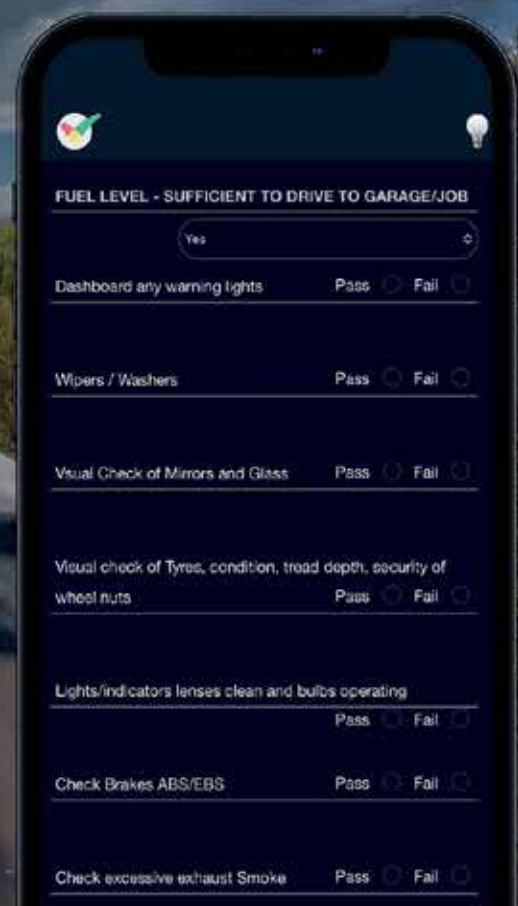
Fleet portal



GPS tags



DVSA compliant



Try free for 30 days at checkedsafe.com
 or call us on **01282 908 429**