



Timber Talks

regular news from
WLW & PRO

Issue 194

November/December 2010

**Hardwoods • Machining • Worktops • Cladding • Decking • Gates • Fencing
and so much more.....**

Did you Know? Its more than just timber

Some interesting facts and figures relating to timber and the environment.

For one tonne of timber -

It takes approximately 435 Kw of energy to extract a log sawmill it, dry it and from that point, to machine it into components, to assemble and make a window or a door.

In the extraction of iron ore from crushing, to smelting, to pouring into Pig iron ingots and then finally into sheet metal rolled for car bodies this takes approx 3780 Kw of energy.

Aluminium for a similar process but imported from overseas to rolled sheet the energy consumption is 20169 Kw of energy.

Timber is our only naturally, renewable resource which is easy to use with most hand tools. Its variety of use stretches from construction to veneer.

There are over 30,000 species of trees with 600 different types found in the UK. Some are indeed difficult to source nowadays. It's easy to convert and it's availability as a local building material has given

timber a wide acceptability in the building industry.

Timber is an excellent insulator, in that the vessel structure offers good thermal and acoustic insulation. Species like Balsa are excellent with regard to the thermal insulation. In fact it's used still in some aircraft construction and in Royal Naval Mine Sweepers within the structures for lightweight construction. In the event of an accident it is a predictable material in that they have found that it will react in crush or explosion as a most amazing energy absorber, which is being tested by Vosper Thornycroft in Southampton.

A tree will absorb 1.48 tonnes of carbon from sapling to maturity. This is a very positive step in the fight against global warming, for every tree with a girth over 450mm it off-sets the same amount of carbon dioxide that a family of four produces each day. They scrub the atmosphere, producing more oxygen and locking up base metals from the soil into the heartwood to help the environment. Trees can also transpire huge quantities of

water and in certain locations can dry out wet areas and give rise to water courses in others.

There are Thirteen general strength tests to compare timber with other timbers. There is a test to check durability called the grave yard test, tests relating to its predictability in fire, tests in chemical resistance in fact the list is endless, timber is one of the best materials on the planet for cutting apart and joining together. It is a material which has many unique qualities. Perhaps the only negative issue is the lack of planting and the lack of useable forest timber for the future in relation to the UK. We have less than 11.4% of our land mass in timber and in the future timber will be required to impact on power generation.

We still have much woodland that is not properly managed in the UK, we need to bring these areas back into production and need adequate management schemes to ensure future supplies.

Offer

**Unsorted Scandinavian redwood
25 x 150mm
25 x 225mm
38 x 225mm
50 x 225mm
63 x 225mm
75 x 225mm
Truck bundled
part kiln dried for
stability.
P.O.A**

Inside this issue:

VAT - UP IN THE NEW YEAR	2
FROM OUR RETAIL SHOP	2
ENGINEERED TIMBER	2
ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES	3
PROOF OF DELIVERY	3
TREE DISEASES	3
A PEEP IN THE PAST	3
MADHURST	4
And finally..	4

Christmas 2010 — A Happy Christmas to our Customers

Please note that we will be closing for the Christmas holiday from midday on Thursday 23 December 2010 and returning on Tuesday 4 January 2011.



Timber Talks



VAT—20% from 1st January 2011

I think that you will all realise that VAT will increase with effect from 1st January 2011. With that in mind we must remind you all of the implications when placing an order.

Any orders placed before 31 December 2010, but delivered and invoiced from

January 2011 onwards will attract 20% VAT.

To ensure that you only pay the current 17.5% VAT, we must receive the order and deliver and invoice before 23 December 2010.

If you are in a situation where you would like to

avoid the additional 2.5% VAT, but are unable to take delivery until the new year, we can take the order up until December, but the order will be invoiced in December and will be treated as a December invoice with regard to due payment.

Offer

Draw side Sycamore (colour no defect) ex Through & Through kiln dried and planed 2 sides.

15mm random width

£626.85m³ +vat

And from our Retail Shop

VAT held on timber items!

As we have said above, we will have to pay an additional 2.5% VAT from the beginning of January 2011. We unfortunately, will have to charge this on all items which we buy in to sell and so every item excluding the timber and turning blanks, will have the

increase applied. However, to re-price all of the timber items would entail a job of mammoth proportions and we have decided that we shall keep existing prices as they stand. All new timber items added from January onwards will be priced with the 20% VAT added.

Coming soon!

We have been fortunate to acquire a good quantity of Oak burrs which we feel will be the start of a continual supply. We hope that these will be with us in the very near future, so watch our shelves!

Finally, we are beginning to be asked about next year's **WESTS WOOD SHOW**. Well the dates will be **Friday 6th**

Engineered Timber

There is increasing pressure on our forests internationally. For example in the last 20 years India's population has gone from 600 million to 1.2 billion people. There is increasing pressure to utilise as much of the tree as possible.

So the use of Engineered Hardwood and Softwood timber components is increasing. Engineered Timber is free from excessive shrinking; is stronger and more stable. To some customers it is more attractive as the defects are removed and the timber's natural beauty is enhanced.

As the timber components are manufactured, a variety of thicknesses, widths and lengths are possible.

After much research and development we have established a partnership with a manufacturer and would welcome all enquiries in European Oak, American White Oak, Sapele and Softwood (Unsorted Redwood).

When market research was first done into mobile phones, 98% of people said they would not be interested in having one. Engineered timber gets a similar response in the UK, we've found that new users of engineered components are similar to those using iPods and the latest gadgets, in that they are innovators not followers.

Generally these are the younger recruits to the timber industry who get frustrated with the natural qualities of timber and embrace the use

of engineered timber components. Our more experienced and traditional timber users are reluctant to change from solid wood. The situation is similar to time served carpenters using kilned timber when it was first introduced. They always said that it was not as good as traditional air dried and indeed there were advantages and disadvantages to both applications.

Engineered timber is now widely accepted across Europe as a successful construction material. It utilises small dimension timber which previously would have been wasted. Visually it can be constructed such that visibility of joints are minimised.

Give this product a go, see if it will help in your projects.



Engineered Oak in a Door Frame

Environmental schemes — business friend or foe?

Being a little controversial attracts comment. So, are schemes like FSC and PEFC as widely asked for as we are led to believe? They certainly take a lot of resource to maintain, especially for the smaller businesses. But are they too complex. We were recently pulled up because one of our suppliers invoices had the wrong markings on the

invoice, (each invoice and delivery note must have the correct FSC/PEFC marking). Our supplier is a traditional English estate, no risk, no likelihood of illegal logging, but technically we should have refused the product as FSC. My concerns are that we may have a situation where processes and procedures are written by people who have become institutionalised

and do not understand the reality of business. Are we generating too many schemes, and in reality, shouldn't we merge many of them together, are there too many rules and regs? Well many questions, maybe you have a few answers or comments:

fteditor@wlwest.co.uk



Proof of Delivery—The Customer's Role

As with most companies, we supply delivery notes or collection notes with all deliveries. It is important that you check your delivery when you receive it and sign ALL delivery or collection notes.

We have noted a number of D-notes being returned either unsigned or with

'UNCHECKED' written across the page.

We can no longer accept this situation and where 'UNCHECKED' is written, queries on the delivery will not be accepted.

This method is your opportunity to ensure that what you receive is what you

ordered. It may take a few minutes more, but it will pay dividends in the long term. We have instructed all of our drivers that all sheets must be signed and dated and stock checked. That is our commitment to ensure correct deliveries, your commitment is to double check.



Tree Diseases—update

We told you in the last issue about some of the diseases that the industry is experiencing. One of our team recently went on a field trip about

Sudden Oak Death, it seems that there still is not enough knowledge about what causes it. It is important that we recognise the symptoms

which are bleeding bark, and evidence of a D shaped insect hole. It is not known yet if the two are linked. More info as we get it.

A peep in the past

During the Second World War a prisoner-of-war camp was established on the Midhurst common just half a mile from the timber yard in Midhurst. The company was engaged during the war in cutting timbers for railway wagons to help with what was known as "the war effort". Labour was in short supply as most able bodied men had been enlisted and consequently we were assigned two German prisoners and three Italian prisoners as labourers. The

Italians were with the company for a longer period than the others and some became quite friendly.

The Italians were craftsmen in a more artistic field and would spend hours outside working hours, weaving wicker baskets in willow, bending fencing wire into handy items like toasting forks and the like. In fact there is still a small side table in the family which was made from Scots pine but which had been decorated by pokerwork in

which a thin metal poker was heated in a fire and used to draw and make designs into the wood of the table. This method is also called pyrography and today we sell small electric powered tools to achieve a similar effect.

The prisoners were repatriated in 1945 and were thanked and given presents in appreciation of the hard work which they had undertaken.

Offer

English Lime 54 & 100mm well air dried. Based on 1st grade stocks.

Ideal for gilding and carving work.

£675.00m³ +vat

Minimum quantity



Big enough to cope, small enough to care — a family run business.

W. L. WEST & SONS LTD



MADHURST—Music & Art

If you are local to us you may have heard of MADHURST, launched this year it is a festival of music and art in the Midhurst area. We hope to be part of this next year and have music in the sawmill. We are looking for a group/ band to take part. As with all new ventures it has to be low cost. If you are interested in making music in the mill call Dave West on the office number.

And finally.....



'Doris' showcases a variety of hardwoods and Frank has certainly personalised her to meet his needs. Every domestic requirement is



exceptions, we are pleased to say that Frank selected his timber from our stocks,

a great showcase of timbers. Simon Smith and Dave



West visited Frank the week before she was launched. Thanks for choosing us for your supplies Frank.

Many of us have aspirations of a life afloat and think we could build our own craft, but few of us actually achieve our dreams.

One of our customers, Mr Frank Gander, certainly has met his dreams. He bought a new steel hull and deck in a Dutch style and fitted the craft out himself. Already a busy joiner, he fitted the build in with an already heavy workload.

catered for from a dishwasher to a DVD.

Having launched Doris in the Thames, he is using the remainder of this year, and perhaps a bit of next to fine tune the craft prior to cruising in Europe.

With a couple of small

Offer

Scottish Elm PTG Flooring for stick down or secret nailing.

Minimum of three faces from 70, 80, 100, 130, 150mm, 19mm thick.

Random lengths, great character and colour.

£35.00m² +vat

Minimum quantity 30m²

Go to www.wlwest.co.uk for our normal monthly offers



Member of the
Timber Trade Federation



CONTRACTORS HEALTH & SAFETY ASSESSMENT SCHEME
Accredited Contractor
www.chas.gov.uk



FSC
TT-COC-1710



THE FENCING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
QUALITY AND SERVICE



PEFC
PEFC/16-37-134

W.L. West & Sons Ltd
Selham
Petworth
West Sussex
GU28 0PJ

Phone: 01798 861611

Fax: 01798 861633

sales@wlwest.co.uk

www.wlwest.co.uk

PRO Fencing
4 Coxbridge Business Park
Alton Road
Farnham
GU10 5EH

Phone: 01252 726391

Fax: 01252 726392

enquiries@profencing.co.uk

www.profencing.co.uk