SUMMER 2021

CUTTING EDGE

UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION



Kewell Celebrate 50 Years

Obviously, it's been a challenging time for everyone and here at KCL we're extremely grateful to hear that the majority of our clients and suppliers have started to witness the green shoots of recovery. Many projects or production lines that had previously been on hold are now taking off again and we've definitely seen a strong uptake in orders and enquiries as the year has progressed. We are cautious, but hopeful, that the trend will continue throughout the remainder of this year and into 2022. *(Continued on Page 2)*

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THIS ISSUE:

Anniversaries • New Member • New Products • Member Survey

Kewell Celebrate 50 Years



(Continued from Page 1) This year we are very proud to be celebrating our 50th anniversary and hosted a party in August for our staff to mark this monumental achievement - whilst raising a glass or two! KCL was founded in 1971 by Colin Kewell and today his two sons, Nick and Marcos, head up the company and continue his legacy. Colin's principles around design, service and innovation are still at the core of everything we do.

As part of our ongoing commitment to growth and development, we have welcomed a new Sales Manager – Kevin Tate into the Team. Kevin brings almost 30 years' experience of Sales, Customer Service and Operations from the Managed Print Services industry and we're very happy to have him on board. He will be focusing on working with our dedicated teams to ensure our high standards are upheld and helping expand our portfolio amongst both existing and new clients.

It's also great to see so many in-person events starting to open up again. Not only are we looking forwarding to attending some of the UKGSA events over the coming months, but we also plan to attend the Foam Expo in Stuttgart, during November. This is the showcase event for our industry, often highlighting the future of technical innovation, applications and manufacturing components for the technical foam supply chain.

Message from the Chairman



Simon Winfield
Chair, UKGSA
Director, MacLellan Rubber

Welcome to the Summer Issue of Cutting Edge post Freedom Day 2 and pre-Lockdown 3. I hope that I am joking about Lockdown 3; our political leaders are adamant that we will have to learn to live with Covid whilst it persists, and the public are by and large relieved to have more freedoms. Personally I try not to look at the daily statistics.

The positive news is that the economy is recovering, as it should be given the amount of public spending during this period, and many of our Members are continuing to report record activity as highlighted in our recent member survey (read our article in this issue). In the background though, challenges are multiplying and compounding. I have commented previously on inflationary concerns and there are several pieces on the UKGSA website and in the broader news platforms about raw material shortages, import and export shipping costs, and added administration costs due to Brexit, that are fuelling significant price rises. This is again highlighted in our survey as a significant area of concern and, when talking directly to Members they are seeing a raw material increases up to 40%, and import shipping costs predicted to increase seven fold from 2019 rates by the end of 2021.

Whilst not all of this will flow through to end user pricing, the government's 'wait and see' policy seems naïve. Perhaps the plan is simply to use inflation to effectively increase GDP and ultimately make the amount of government spending during this time look smaller by comparison. Ultimately, the public will have to absorb these cost increases and that in turn will lead to wage inflation, and then it's a difficult cycle to escape.

Despite all of these challenges we continue to see success and investment by our Members, with the majority feeling a real optimism for the remainder of 2021 and moving into 2022, and many of the articles in this issue validate that optimism. Investment in people, products and technology continue at an increasing pace and are clearly seen as key to our Members' success in a global market.

I will finish by welcoming Gee Graphite into our ranks and the new owners of JA Harrison – one of our founding members, we also congratulate Kewell Converters celebrating 50 years in business and RGH Rubber and Plastics' 35 years. As with all of our Members, these are high quality businesses offering outstanding products and services to almost every industrial sector. This is something the UKGSA is proud to promote and will continue to work hard to support and develop whatever the future holds.



Gee Graphite Joins the UKGSA



The UK Gasket & Sealing Association (UKGSA) welcomes Gee Graphite Ltd as the latest Member to join the organisation.

Gee Graphite are global leaders in converting expanding flexible graphite into a wide range of gaskets, sealing products, foils, tapes and specialist sheets. They are continually expanding their range of products and services which are delivered through the company's five divisions.

Sharon Greenwood, sales manager at Gee Graphite, said: "We have significant experience manufacturing and converting gaskets and have recently established a Gaskets Division to reach out to the industry and help them understand that we are not just graphite, but use an array of materials. We hope that joining the UKGSA will provide an opportunity for us to network with companies who operate in the gasket market and we look forward to attending events and meeting fellow members."

Established in 1989, Gee Graphite offers customers a range of industrial gasket and sealing products based on expanded flexible graphite and operates five divisions from their 62,000 sq ft site in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

The UKGSA is a trade association representing a number of leading manufacturers and suppliers who convert materials into gaskets & seals and has continued to welcome new Members despite COVID-19.

Simon Winfield, chairman of the UKGSA and director of MacLellan Rubber, said: "It is always a pleasure to welcome new members, especially during these difficult times, and we look forward to Gee Graphite contributing to and benefitting from the UKGSA collaborative network and the huge technical resource therein.

"Due to coronavirus restrictions we have had to postpone many of our networking events, however, our Annual Golf Day and Charity Dinner will go ahead in September. It is our most popular event and therefore is a perfect opportunity to introduce all our Members to Gee Graphite."

Keith Payne, UKGSA Committee member for Membership, said: "Congratulations and welcome to Gee Graphite who have now re-joined the UK Gasket and Sealing Association after a long absence. Their membership and range of products will strengthen our organisation."

For more information about the UKGSA visit:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/

For more information about Gee Graphite visit:
https://geegraphite.com/

MacLellan Joins JOSCAR Register

MacLellan Rubber, your Polymer and Rubber Sheeting Partner are proud to announce that we have been successfully accepted into the JOSCAR register and are now recognised as a fully compliant supplier for several defence companies and major organisations.

What is the JOSCAR register?

JOSCAR stands for the Joint Supply Chain Accreditation Register. The JOSCAR register is a central register of approved suppliers which are used by several major defence organisations including BAE Systems, NATS, Airbus and the MOD when implementing new projects.

This register is strictly invite-only and requires successful completion of a qualification process.

This seal of approval means that our current and future clients can have extra confidence in MacLellan Rubber and our services as we have the capacity and technical ability to deliver on projects of this scale.

In addition, all of these organisations have strict security requirements and this is becoming more and more important to clients of all sizes, especially in the wake of GDPR. This again helps to inform our clients that we meet these high levels of protection for their systems.

How can I find out more?

If you are interested in finding out more, further details are available on the Hellios website.



Following successful projects, MacLellan Rubber are proud to be involved in local and national industry and look forward to working closely with partners in further exciting projects next year and beyond.

To speak with our specialist team call us on 01902 307711

Email us on sales@maclellanrubber.com

What's been happening at Munsch/PTM?

The time spent working from home during the pandemic allowed us to re-assess our IT systems, SEO plans and websites.

We already had cloud-based accounts software so when running on skeleton staff in the office, our homeworkers, were able to work effectively.

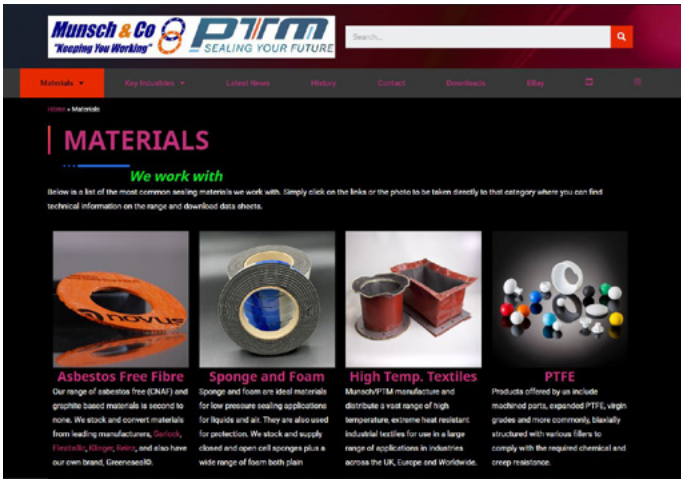
Fortunately, in 2019 we upgraded our telephone systems to BT Cloud Voice which allows us to pick up our "desk phones" calls from anywhere.

A lot of SEO work was done on the websites, and we have seen big increases in search engine rankings, leading to several new high-profile customers.

The biggest development work, however, was on the websites' designs.

Plastic-Curtains.co.uk got a complete overhaul using new website design software, providing a full screen appearance and a new logo. We have also introduced the first stage of online shopping with options for schools and playgroups to buy online.

epdm.co.uk is undergoing the biggest upgrade though, with plans to have it finished by the close of the year.





Dark/Night Mode

You may have heard about dark/night mode for computers, phones, and tablets. The basics are quite straightforward, changing the text to a lighter colour on a darker background.

Dark mode is already available on mobile phones, several browsers and social media websites such as Facebook.

One of the advantages of dark mode is that it uses less battery power on devices running on batteries, and often, makes reading text easier on the eye.

On our plastic-curtains.co.uk and current epdm.co.uk websites, we have added the option of being able to turn dark mode on and off.

EPDM.co.uk is being re-designed completely in dark mode, with vibrant colours highlighting our products and services.

The screenshots below show the current versus future designs of EPDM.co.uk and the alternative options on plastic-curtains.co.uk.

Our other PVC website, pvc-curtains.com will undergo an upgrade once EPDM is finished.

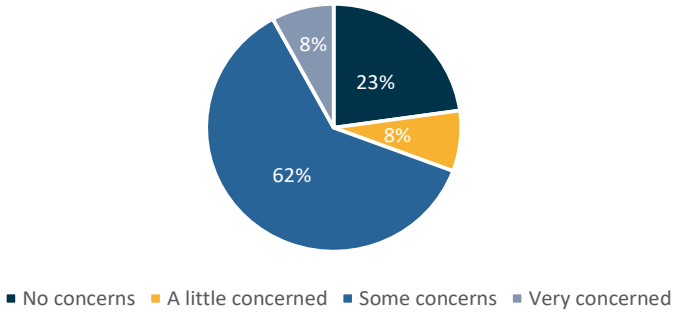
Member Survey Summer 2021

Import Issues Remain Biggest Concern for UKGSA Members

The results of our latest Member survey have been reviewed and responses from Members are summarised below.

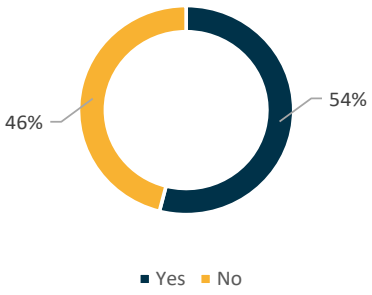
How do you feel about the ending of COVID restrictions?

62% of our Members expressed 'some concerns' about the ending of restrictions whilst 23% had 'no concerns'. Almost all of our Members continued to work during lockdown and all have put stringent measures in place to keep workplaces safe and restrict the spread of the virus. Whilst some organisations, particularly those in the hospitality sector, welcomed the lifting of restrictions, for many the enforced isolation rules have created a headache. However, from 16 August further changes took effect in England allowing fully vaccinated adults to avoid self-isolation in some circumstances and to take a PCR test.



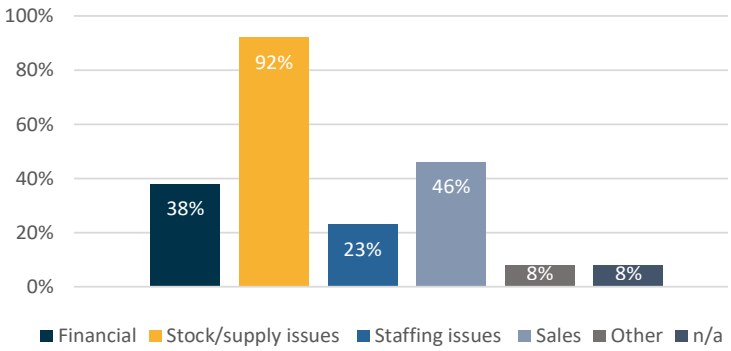
Did you access any grant coronavirus schemes during the pandemic?

We're pleased to report that just over half of our Members were able to access coronavirus grant schemes providing some much needed support during the worst of the pandemic.



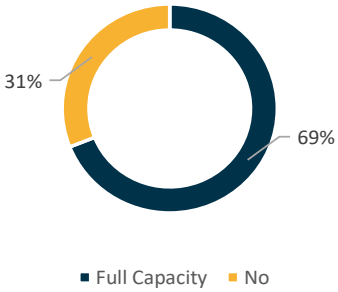
What negative impacts has the pandemic had on your business?

As expected, Stock and Supply issues has been by far the biggest negative impact for our Members, many of whom have some reliance on imported materials. With some customers closed during the lockdown and partially operating during restrictions, Sales have also been impacted greatly.



Is your business currently operating at full or below capacity?

We're delighted to report that many of our Members are now operating at full capacity. This shows that within our sector at least, levels of confidence are increasing with activities starting to get back to pre-pandemic normal.



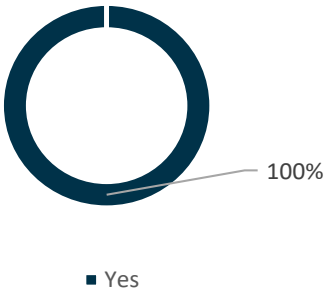
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Member Survey Summer 2021

(Continued from Page 7)

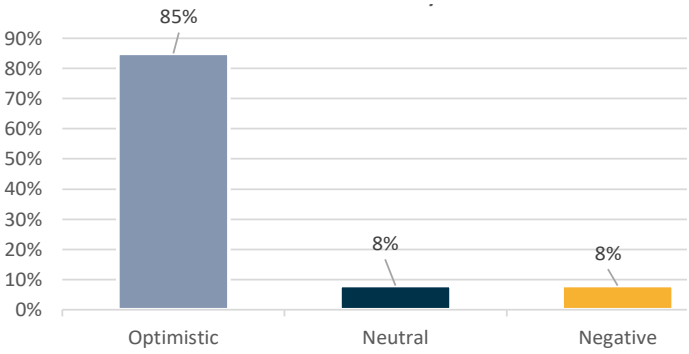
Has your business been negatively affected by import or export issues as a result of Brexit?

Eighteen months on from the UK leaving the EU on 31 January 2020, import and export issues remain the biggest negative impact on our Members. Issues with availability and pricing of shipping containers, long delays at borders and increased trade barriers, as well as Coronavirus have compounded an issue that we knew was going to occur following Brexit, and there does not appear to be light at the end of the tunnel any time soon.



What is your opinion on the outlook for the remainder of 2021 for your business?

Despite the doom and gloom of import and export issues, 85% of our Members are optimistic about the remainder of the year which we find very encouraging for our sector.

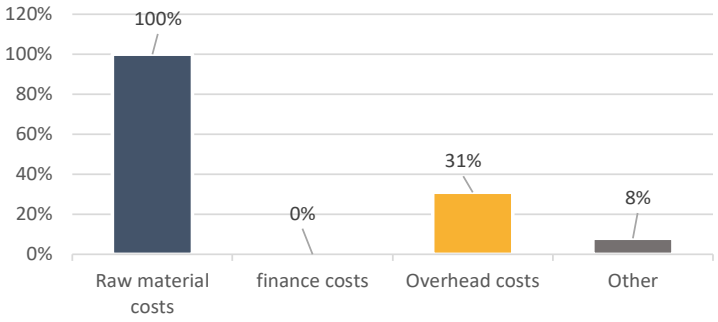


Is your business under pressure to raise prices?

Given the issues of importing/exporting noted above, it goes hand in hand that our Members are feeling pressure to raise prices, particularly as a result of raw material costs.

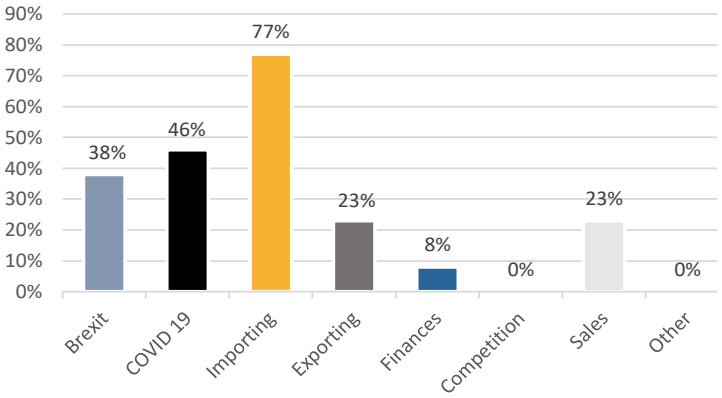
(See Diagram opposite)

Is your business under pressure to raise prices?



What are your main business concerns for the remainder of the year and into 2022?

Whilst our Members successfully negotiated the challenges of a global pandemic, issues around Importing remains one of the biggest concerns (77%); with 38% of Members quoting Brexit issues as a continuing challenge for them.

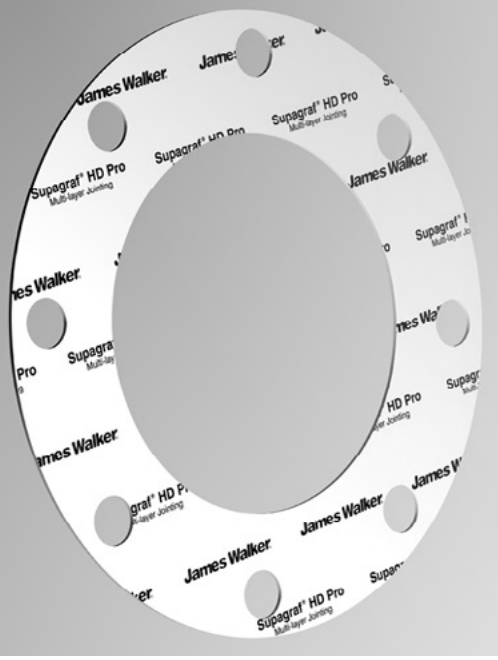


Where the UKGSA supports Members

Despite a pandemic and the repercussions from Brexit, new Members have still joined the UKGSA seeing the trade association as a mechanism for marketing opportunities including networking at B2B events, providing increased exposure on social media channels and opportunities for Member to Member benefits.

If you are interested in finding out more about the UKGSA, visit our website. https://ukgsassociation.co.uk

James Walker launches new TA Luft approved graphite gasket material



James Walker®

As part of a comprehensive overhaul of its graphite gasket options, James Walker has launched a new laminated material aimed at higher pressure applications in industries including petrochemicals and nuclear power.

As part of a comprehensive overhaul of its graphite gasket options, James Walker has launched a new laminated material aimed at higher pressure applications in industries including petrochemicals and nuclear power.

Supagraf® HD Pro is a high grade TA-Luft approved gasket sheet made of multi-layer stainless steel and highly oxidation-resistant flexible graphite. The layers of graphite and stainless steel sheets are laminated with a high strength, non-adhesive joining system, whilst the impregnation of the sealing layers reduces leakage and improves handling properties.

Capable of effective sealing from cryogenic temperatures up to 550°C and pressures up to 200 bar, this new high-performance material is compatible with steam, hydrocarbons and a wide range of chemicals, offering exceptional resistance to blow-out and crushing.

Industry approvals include API 6FB fire safe, Shell MESC SPE 85/203 compliance and TA Luft tightness criteria of 10-4 mbar.l/m.s of VDI guidelines 2200 and 2440.
HD Pro now completes James Walker's range of Supagraf® graphite gasket options, providing effective sealing solutions for a wide range of pipework, vessel and flange applications.

For further information, visit: https://www.jameswalker.biz/products/787-supagraf-graphite-jointing-products

JA Harrison Acquired by Amcomri Group

Amcomri Group, the fast-growing business focused on British precision engineering and quality manufacturing activities, has confirmed the acquisition of JA Harrison & Co (Manchester) Limited, the leading specialist manufacturer of gaskets and seals and provider of sealing technologies on a worldwide basis.

Originally founded in 1900 as metal foundry and mill furnishers serving the textile industry, JA Harrison's expertise is renowned around the world and across many specialist industry sectors providing products and technology to OEMs and other manufacturers. The business has expanded through organic growth and strategic acquisition and now provides the widest range of gaskets and associated sealing products.

JA Harrison relocated to Middleton, Manchester in 2017 where it occupies a purpose-built 38,000 square foot factory and office complex. This is complemented with a manufacturing plant in Cardiff specialising in quick turn round gaskets and a modern machining centre for metal machined parts.

This perfectly complements the PTFE and plastic machining centre in Manchester

The business has maintained its market-leading position through continued investment in the latest machinery and quality-focused accreditations.

Hugh Whitcomb, CEO of Amcomri Group, said, *"JA Harrison is a well-invested and well-run business that fits well into our specialist engineering division alongside Industrial Valve Services which repairs, refurbishes and re-certifies industrial-scale valves and recently acquired the Valero-focused business of Emerson in Pembrokeshire."*

"We are delighted that Keith Shepherd has decided to remain with the business both as Managing Director and a minority investor and we look forward to working with him to continue the success the business has enjoyed over many years."

European Union regulatory bodies are considering restricting the manufacture and use of PFAS – Should we be concerned?

MacLellan Rubber shares a thought paper about restricting the manufacture and use of PFAs.

You may not be aware of the current initiative of five European countries - Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Norway in coordination with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) - to restrict the manufacture and use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a diverse group of over 4,700 chemicals that contain carbon-fluorine bonds.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a large, complex, and ever-expanding group of manufactured chemicals that are widely used to make various types of everyday products. For example, they keep food from sticking to cookware, make clothes and carpets resistant to stains, and create firefighting foam that is more effective. PFAS are used in industries such as aerospace, automotive, construction, electronics, and military.

PFAS include PFOA, PFOS and GenX compounds many of which have been phased out of use in most western economies but continue to be used extensively elsewhere in the world. As PFAS do not break down and can accumulate in the human body over time, there is evidence that sustained exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects.

Fluoropolymers are one specific class of PFAS that possess a unique combination of properties that make them essential to modern life and a wide variety of industries. Their properties include fire resistance, weather resistance, temperature resistance, chemical resistance, non-wetting and non-sticking properties, and high-performance dielectric properties.

The proposed PFAS Restriction under REACH is to potentially restrict or ban the use of PFAS in non-essential applications across the EU by 2025, with allowance for a transition period.

These national REACH authorities are considering **regulating all PFAS as one group** simply based on structural characteristics, ignoring safety, societal benefits, and existing regulatory frameworks governing such substances. Essential uses of PFAS would be exempt from the scope but currently there is no formal definition of what constitutes an 'essential use.'

Chemours, as one of the major global manufactures of Fluoropolymer materials, maintains that the expanded definition of PFAS being applied by REACH is too broad to enable effective, science-based assessment and regulation of chemical compounds. They state that 'Fluoropolymers and F-gases are critical for nearly every major sector of the economy, offer unique combinations of properties, and are safe for their intended uses. Furthermore, no universal alternatives exist that offer the same unique combination of properties, uses, and societal benefits that F-gases and fluoropolymers provide.'

What will happen now?

It is important to note that this is the first of many official steps in a Restriction procedure and the formal process envisages at least two opportunities to incorporate stakeholder feedback and adapt the final regulation. Chemours is following the progress of this Restriction closely and will continue to engage with the relevant authorities as well as trade partners, including MacLellan Rubber, and associations to provide information and relevant data.

The UKGSA does not believe that fluoropolymers should be considered in this Restriction. They are vital across a wide spectrum of industries, offer unique combinations of properties, and are safe for their intended use.

There will be opportunities to participate in this Restriction process, for example through an upcoming questionnaire which will be published by the Competent Authorities after the publication of the ROI. We would like to urge everyone using Fluoropolymer based products including Viton's to consider engaging in this questionnaire to raise awareness of this potential Restriction and the impact it could have on the gasket and sealing industry.

The Five Divisions of Gee Graphite



Gee Graphite Ltd comprises of 5 divisions and are leaders in graphite based products, gaskets, sealing solutions, supply of double & triple offset butterfly seals, our energised division and finally offering our waterjet cutting services. We are continually expanding our range of products and services.

Gee Graphite Division

Converting expanded flexible graphite into a wide range of gaskets, sealing products, foils, tapes and specialist sheets. We are able to offer Spiral wound gasket fillers slit in-house from graphite, PTFE & mica, alongside our reinforced graphite laminate sheets all to our customers own requirements.

Gee Gasket Division

We are certainly not new to Gaskets, but we do have a new Division. Our extensive knowledge in manufacturing graphite gaskets has now opened us up to supply gaskets made from PTFE, rubber, cork, mica, paper, ceramic paper and non-asbestos material. All with a possible yield of 120 gaskets per cycle, our entire gasket range is manufactured on site here at Gee.

Gee Valve Division

Gee Graphite have unrivalled experience in the manufacture and supply of fully machined laminated double and triple offset butterfly valve seals. With our expertise in flexible graphite and precision waterjet cutting, we can assist valve designers in producing laminated valve seals to suit specific applications.

Energised Division

Delivering a full range of products designed to eliminate costly plant leakage problems.

Water Jet Cutting Division

Our state of the art water jet cut machines are some of the best in the UK. We can provide you with Precision Cutting on our Abrasive and Water only machines capable of dealing with customers' most demanding cutting requirements.

For more information

Visit our website: www.geegraphite.com

Call our sales team: 01924 480011

Email us: sales@geegraphite.com

Follow us: LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

Investing in the Future

At SBR we recognise the importance of future-proofing the business and investing in apprentices. Over the past five years we have taken on several additional personnel including three apprentices (soon to be five). One of our apprentices is Nic Wilde.

Nic is a keen sportsman who enjoys playing both rugby and golf. Having studied Media, Business Studies and Sport at A'Level he looked at University courses to further his education but, partly due to the pandemic, he decided that it would probably be better to learn on the job rather than compete with lots of other people who had similar degrees. Of course there was the added attraction that he would get paid too!

Nic decided to pursue a career in Business Management - SBR appealed as it is a relatively small company but big enough for him to work in different departments. Nic already had an idea as to what SBR was all about as he helped out during the Easter weekend of 2020, assisting in the manufacture and delivery of gaskets to BAE as part of the ventilator challenge – one of his proudest achievements. Nic has already mastered the admin and invoicing systems and is now moving on to Sales as he comes towards the last third of his 12 month course – Management Consulting Level 4.

It's not just learning the systems but also some coursework. This consists of five written statements on five projects which are also backed up with evidence. Nic will have to choose one of the projects to give a presentation on too.

The first of these projects was breathing life back into an aviation-spares sales platform. SBR's subscription had been allowed to lapse and no time had been invested in making it live again or attracting customers to SBR through this medium. Nic rejuvenated it and has once again made it a useful tool.

Nic has found his colleagues at SBR to be very supportive, which is understandable as some of them also began life at SBR as apprentices. He likes the fact that there is a clear line of



progression and is taking on more responsibility all the time. It's not all one way either - apprenticeships bring mutual benefits to businesses and apprentices alike. Here are some comments from his mentors:

- Nic has proven that he is adaptable and dependable – he has performed a variety of jobs across different business functions to high standards and in a timely manner. This makes Nic a dependable member of the team who ensures strong company performance across departments.
- Nic demonstrates a desire to learn new skills and further his knowledge across the company's served industries and products. This attitude to work and the company will serve him well in the future as his career progresses.
- Nic has strong interpersonal skills and is able to develop strong relationships which enables him to work well within a team and also with external stakeholders. He is a good team player with strong communication skills and this allows him to manage suppliers and forge good customer relationships resulting in orders.

Nic is now looking forward to completing his course and progressing his career in sales at Southbourne Rubber.

Annual Golf Day



The UK Gasket & Sealing Association's Annual Golf Day is a key networking event not to be missed! Due to coronavirus, we missed out in 2020 and the date was rearranged a couple of times to keep up with restriction changes, however the new date is Thursday 23 September and our venue is the Telford Hotel and Golf Resort in Shropshire.

The day starts with our Annual General Meeting which we keep short so we maximise golf time. If you are interested in joining our Committee and helping to guide the future direction of the association, please contact the Secretariat. info@ukgsassociation.co.uk

Members and visitors will be playing at the Telford Hotel Golf Resort which boasts a par 72, 18 hole championship golf course designed by John Harris and Brian Griffiths. The course includes strategic water hazards, tree-lined fairways and is a firm favourite with professionals.

The Golf Day provides an opportunity for our members and guests to network whilst playing golf and is a very popular event.

Charity Dinner

In the evening we hold our Charity Dinner to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. The Black Tie event (black tie attire is optional) is an opportunity for non-golfers to join Members and visitors and network over dinner.

If you would like to book a 6' table to exhibit your products or services during pre-dinner drinks, please get in touch.

During the dinner we present our golfing trophies to winners (and losers!) including Best Individual Round, 4 Ball Team Event, Most Accurate Drive, Nearest the Pin in 2, Hidden Team and the coveted Wooden Spoon trophy.

If you would like to sponsor our trophies, please contact the Secretariat for a list of trophies and costs. You'll also be able to present your trophy to the winner!

We also hold a raffle to raise money for our nominated charity. Raffle prize donations are welcome and again please contact the Secretariat. info@ukgsassociation.co.uk

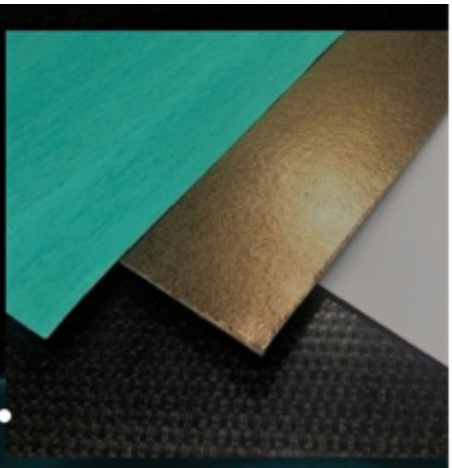
Spaces are filling up fast, so to ensure you don't miss out, download the event booking form on our Annual Golf event page.

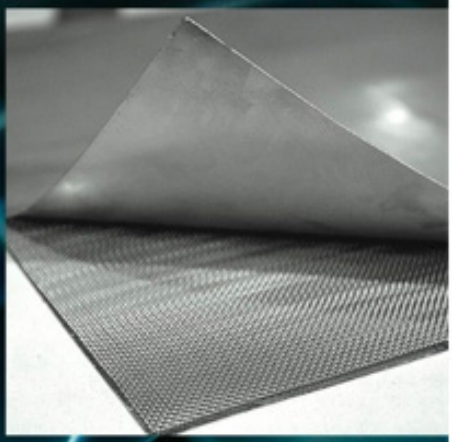
GEE GRAPHITE LTD

Specialist divisions to meet your requirements



Gee Graphite stock an extensive range of Sheets.









Geegraf Sheets

Our sheet range includes:

Pure Graphite
Nickel Reinforced NR
Stainless Steel Reinforced SSR
Stainless Steel Tanged SST
Polyurethane Reinforced Graphite
Non Asbestos Geenas
PTFE
Mica

Gee offer branded, tanged, reinforced & adhesive backed sheets.

We supply in full sheets or cut gaskets using our automated press or waterjet cuting machines, to your bespoke requirements.

GEE GRAPHITE

Contact our Sales Team for more information :

Tel +44 (0)1924 480011
Email enquiries@geegraphite.com
www.geegraphite.com

Antistatic Matting & ESD Flooring

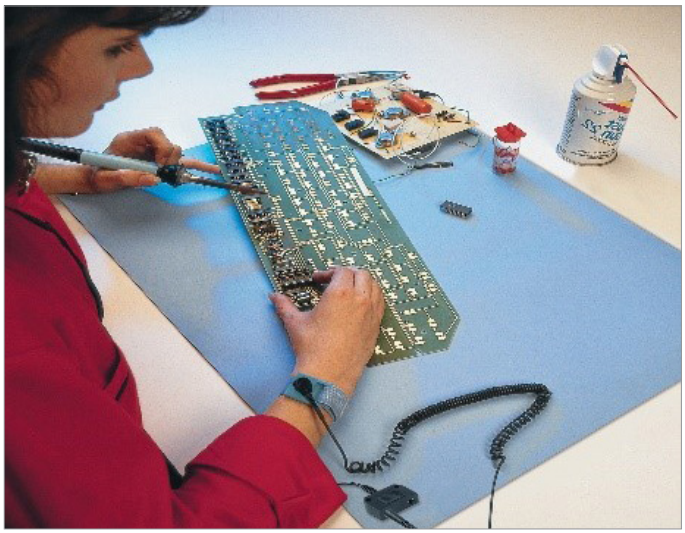
Antistatic & ESD (electrostatic discharge) mats and flooring are created with durable materials and are designed to drain static charges from items placed on their surface, thereby protecting those devices and employees from electrical shock.

Antistatic & ESM mats and flooring are not only used in manufacturing facilities where electronic components are produced, but also in environments such as data centres where the computer hardware can be easily damaged by electrical discharge, and chemical and gas plants where an electrical spark could ignite materials causing an explosive chain reaction.

ESD workstation and floor matting is designed to drain static charge from items placed on its surface and to effectively ground an item, it must be either conductive or dissipative and ideally be connected to a suitable grounding point.

Maclellan's ESD mats are generally manufactured using Vinyl or Rubber and can often be a composite of several layers especially in the case of standing mats where foam layers increase the level of comfort and reduce the amount of fatigue for standing workers.

The ability of the matting material to dissipate electrical charge is a measure of its surface resistance – this is because any static charge is conducted across the surface of the material, and then through a grounding cord, rather than through the material itself. A resistance value of less than 10^6 ohms is generally considered to be dissipative, anything between 10^6 and 10^8 is considered anti-static, and above 10^8 would be considered insulative (eg: electrical switchboard matting) and wholly inappropriate for ESD applications.





Choosing the right product for your work area is critical not only to ensure products and equipment are suitably protected, but also to provide a safe working environment for employees.

For more information on MacLellan Rubber Antistatic and ESD materials and matting contact your account manager.

Gasket Business Goes from Strength to Strength

Direct Gaskets

CELEBRATING OVER 30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Here at Direct Gaskets, we have been continually working throughout the pandemic and seeing business increase rapidly. We have taken on another member of staff and continue to see our workload increase. We are incredibly fortunate to continue working and see our business go from strength to strength.

Supplying to all sectors, all over the country including marine, chemical, leisure and the food industry means we are always under demand for all types of gaskets whether they be standard or bespoke. We also supply to the public for one-off bespoke gaskets.

We carry over half a million 'O' rings in standard 70 shore Nitrile in both metric and imperial sizes.

We also stock Graphite Spirals from ½" to 24" in construction: Carbon Outer, Stainless inner and Graphite filled – other materials available on request.

5 standard styles off the shelf including Greasy, Graphite and PTFE in 8 metre coils. Specialist packings are also available on request.

There is always a large stock of Rubber on site in all thicknesses including: Neoprene, Nitrile, EPDM, Food Quality Nitrile, metal detectable rubbers, Silicone and Viton as well as a range of Non-Asbestos Fibres and semi-metallic materials such as Tanged and Stainless Steel Graphite Shim.

We can also offer PTFE, Cork, Felt, Sponge, self-adhesive Sponge coils and Oil Paper as well as being able to source various non-stocked items.

All our materials are available in sheet form, cut to strip or gaskets cut to order.

We pride ourselves on our pricing and lead times – always aiming to be affordable while adhering to a high quality of products and service.

RGH Turns 35!



What with the challenges and distractions of the last twelve months, our big birthday somewhat crept up on us – but we're delighted to announce that on 1st April 2021 RGH turned 35 years old!

Our business has evolved a great deal since we started back in 1986. We've extended our product range, built on the services we're able to offer our customers, and invested heavily in market-leading laminating, slitting, die cutting, pressing and digital plotter cutting machines to ensure we can continue to offer world-class solutions to businesses in a huge variety of industry sectors.

It hasn't always been plain sailing. For example, the recent pandemic has forced us to make adjustments to the way we operate in order to minimise risks to our staff and our customers, whilst maintaining the excellent delivery of service that people have come to expect from us.

We're not in a space that sits still either, which means we have had to continually push the limits of what's possible. And in order to survive and thrive, we've had to listen carefully to the demands of our industry and pivot our services to accommodate them.

But our determination, our ambition, our commitment to quality and our family-orientated approach are the values that have set us apart from our competitors in the last three and a half decades – and enabled us to grow into the robust and successful business we are today.

We wouldn't be celebrating 35 years in business without the loyalty of our fantastic customer base, and the hard work of our incredibly talented staff. Thank you to everyone who has made this incredible milestone possible.

Our birthday was a day of reflection; for turning our thoughts to the future, and what it might hold for our business; and, most definitely, for raising a glass to RGH and our outstanding achievements as one of the UK's leading conversion companies.

Multi-Channel Technical Support is Always Available



At MacLellan Rubber we have always believed that if we sell a product, we should be able to support it technically, and that support should be free to customers without obligation. Over the years we have tried to improve access to technical information for the more common queries we receive including:

- Chemical Resistance through our 'Media Compatibility' link on our website
- Explanation of common Technical Terms and Definitions through 'Ask George'
- Material technical parameters via downloadable data sheets
- Application data through our case studies
- Comparative common data through our downloads

But there are some elements of Technical Support that are difficult to put into writing and are learned through experience, product development and often good old-fashioned trial and error.

The world is changing more rapidly than ever, and as chemical medias become more complex, applications more demanding, REACH and RoHS legislation and Environmental controls more restrictive, materials that worked in the past can rapidly loose efficacy and have to be redesigned.

Base polymers may remain the same – Natural, Chloroprene, Butadiene, Ethylene Propylene, Fluoropolymer etc – but these may need to be blended with new compliant fillers, plasticisers or processing aids to meet the legislation, or enhance performance.

With this in mind, MacLellan partners with some of the biggest and best material compounders on the globe to ensure access to the latest research and unparalleled laboratory test facilities.

We work with these companies to develop new material formulations to meet new application needs and to ensure where we need to modify formulations to meet the increasingly stringent legislation, those materials meet ours and our customers' technical requirements.

However you want to engage with us, online, via email or in person, you can be assured that MacLellan's will offer the best advice available.

Latest News from HITEK



Sustainable Future

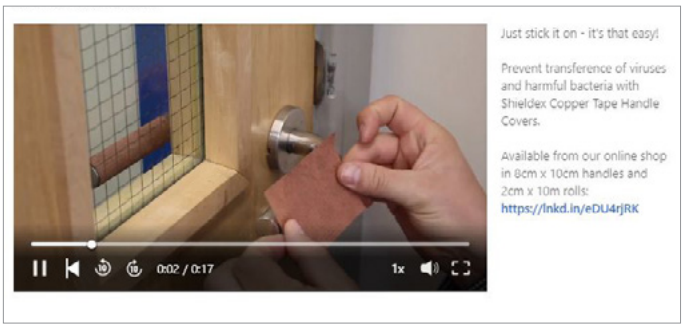
As part of HITEK's commitment for a #sustainable future, we have had 104 solar panels fitted to one of our units, producing as much as 40Kw/h of electricity. Using real-time applications, we can see how much free energy is being created and the amount of CO2 emissions that are being saved. (A time-lapse video is available on our LinkedIn Company Page).

Online Exclusives

Did you know we offer free shipping on UK orders over £40 on our online shop at https://www.hitek-ltd.co.uk/shop-homepage? We have also introduced Permabond Kits so that customers have everything they need for their application - these are an online exclusive allowing customers to save money by buying a bundle of products!

Nanoshield Protective Film

Our latest instructional video showcases our Nanoshield Protective Film and is available on our LinkedIn Company Page. Available in custom sizes to fit a range of touchscreen devices, order today from our online shop: https://www.hitek-ltd.co.uk/shop?Collection=Antiviral+Materials



Job Placements

We are proud to be supporting the government's Kickstart campaign in an effort to help young people who are currently at risk of long-term unemployment. We're offering a six month job placement that will give a young person the experience they need to #kickstart their career. To find out more about the Kickstart Scheme: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/kickstart-scheme



Strange Material Requests



Keith Payne of Keith Payne Products Ltd shares his thoughts on strange material requests.

We have a great number of very clever full colour 3D technical graphics of assemblies sent to us, with a minute space to add a gasket to keep everything water tight. The design engineers often have letters after their names but they do have trouble specifying the materials that they want.

Some examples of requested materials and their properties are listed below:- assemblies sent to us, with a minute space.

Rubbery	Klingery
Spongey	Deformable
Squidgy	Crushable
Squishy	Vitron
Foam	Sticky rubber

I was just wondering if other members have had any strange material requests. If so email the secretariat please there might even be a prize for you!

FREE Surplus and Off-Cuts Advertising (for members only)

UKGSA Members, remember you can advertise your Off-Cuts free on a first come first served basis.

Off-Cuts from Keith Payne Products:

- 75 Micron KAPTON 300 HN Polyimide Film 914 wide x .003” thick
- 15mm wide Adhesive Backed Neoprene/EPDM sponge strip x 3mm thick in 25 metre rolls.
- 0.25mm VALOX FR1 Polyester Film x 914 wide Flame retardant to UL94 VTM-0
- 6mm thick Commercial Neoprene disc’s 355 diameter 60 shore.

For more information, call: 01483 276000

Anthony Tanner appointed Flexitallic's South West business development manager



Flexitallic UK Ltd, the international market leader in the design, manufacture and supply of industrial static sealing solutions, has appointed Anthony Tanner as its business development manager for the South West region.

Highly experienced, he has spent the past 16 years working for Brammer, Buck and Hickman, the industrial supplies specialist, which is part of Europe's largest industrial distribution business, the Rubix Group.

Joining as onsite manager, he has carried out several roles including regional key account manager, regional insite manager before becoming engineering manager.

As onsite manager, he was responsible for purchasing, engineering and stores for a range of clients, including the Valero oil refinery at Pembroke, Rockwool, and The Royal Mint.

He spent two years as a regional onsite manager leading a 30-strong team to oversee several blue chip and leading industrial manufacturers, as well as acting as service centre manager for the South West, ensuring the opening and smooth running of a multi-functional facility.

Hailing from Bridgend, Anthony's first job was in sales with Anixter Fasteners, a position he held for five years.

He said: *"I've spent most of my time working on customer sites and I've built up a great deal of experience across a range of industries in sales, management and products.*

"I'm excited to join Flexitallic, which is a market leader in its field, and I look forward to continuing my customer-facing role and contributing to its ongoing growth and success."

Anthony, who is married with two children, is a keen rugby fan and is a referee, as well as coaching his local village team.

Sam Bradley, UK Sales Director at Flexitallic, said: *"We are pleased to have someone of Anthony's skillset join the company, given his drive and ability and knowledge of the industry."*

Industry Exhibitions & Events



Here are some upcoming industry events and we have highlighted the ones our Members are attending. If you are going to these events, please pop along and support your fellow Members or if you are attending any not listed, please let us know.

September 2021

Railtex
7-9 September
NEC Birmingham

IMHX Connect 2021
14 September
NEC Birmingham

CHEMUK 2021
15 & 16 September
NEC Birmingham
Flexitallic (Stand D12)
Gee Graphite (Stand C36)

PPMA Show 2021
28-30 September
NEC Birmingham

October

UK Construction Week
5-7 October
NEC Birmingham

Engineering Design Show
19-20 October
Coventry Building Society Arena
HITEK (Stand C55)

November

Foam Expo Europe
9-11 November
Stuttgart
Kewell Converters
(Stand 852)

March 2022

Surface World Live
2-3 March
NEC Birmingham

April

Mach
4-8 April
NEC Birmingham

Drives & Controls / Fluid Power & Systems / Plant & Asset Management / Smart Industry Expo / Air-Tech Exhibition
5-7 April 2022
NEC Birmingham

Claim Your FREE Advert

The UKGSA offer existing Members one FREE colour advert to appear in one issue of Cutting Edge e-newsletter per membership year. Many UKGSA Members already take advantage of the free news editorial in the e-newsletter to share their company updates, product developments, staff news etc, but the addition of the free advert provides Members with even more opportunity to promote their business across the Association and to our wider contacts. Non-members can also place adverts in the e-newsletter for a nominal charge. And new Members will receive a free half page advert when they sign up! To book your advert contact the Secretariat info@ukgsassociation.co.uk

Rates

	Members	Non Members
Full Page	£350	£440
Half Page	£200	£250
Quarter Page	£125	£155

Why Use Rubber Flooring?

Rubber Flooring or Rubber Matting can be designed to be used in many industrial, marine, transport and engineering environments, meeting a variety of technical requirements and technical standards. Rubber matting is manufactured from different polymers with various surface patterns and can be supplied as rubber floor tiles, rubber floor mats and rubber flooring rolls.

Why Rubber Flooring?

Because of the wide range of rubber compounds available, rubber flooring can be designed to meet technical applications including – Oil Resistance, Flame Resistance, Electrical Insulation, Static Dissipative, Antimicrobial etc.

Whether it is for a permanent or temporary floor covering, an entrance mat, workstation mat or a floor mat, rubber flooring is generally considered to be a highly economical solution. Surface patterns can vary depending on the location and application, with designs that feature ribs, buttons, and pyramids offering different levels of slip resistance mitigating the risk of slips and falls, or profiled designs to assist with cleaning or dirt removal. Flooring materials can be formulated to be resistant to most chemicals and substances and it is easier to maintain or replace than most other types of hard surface flooring.

Usually, flooring is considered to be environmentally safe and is manufactured with high quality compounds which can often be recycled at end of life minimising waste.

Types of Rubber Matting and Flooring

We supply Rubber matting and flooring under the following categories:

- Roll Matting
- Interlocking Floor Tiles
- Entrance Mats
- Site Matting
- Transport Matting
- Temporary Matting
- Animal Matting
- Events Matting

Advantages of Rubber Flooring

- Slip Retardance and Safety: Compared to other floorings Rubber Matting is very slip retardant and can prevent the risk of slips and falls in high traffic areas or areas where media spillage is a risk.
- Comfort and Noise Reduction: Rubber flooring is more comfortable to stand and walk on when compared to other hard surface flooring. It minimizes the noise created by footfall and wheeled traffic and provides anti-fatigue support to standing workers.
- Low Maintenance: Matting requires less maintenance in comparison to most other hard surface flooring. It can be easily cleaned with any ordinary detergent or replaced quickly and easily if damaged.

MacLellan's have a wide range of rubber matting and rubber floor tiles to meet almost all applications. For more information, samples or technical advice contact your account manager or phone our sales office.





New Resources Available



Over the past few months we've been busy collating and sorting through a plethora of information to develop a new Resources area. This area currently contains four sections and we're working on a fifth. Thank you to members who have contributed to developing this area which we hope will be beneficial to Members and website visitors.

Common Technical Names

A list of common technical names which are widely used across the gaskets and sealing sectors, along with their more commonly used names.

Visit the web page at:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/common-technical-names/

Material Storage Guidelines

Our Members recommend storage guidelines, subject to material type and guidance published in BS standards for Cellulose Paper, Felt, Jointings, Rubber.

Visit the web page at:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/material-storage-guidelines/

Member Product Trade Names

Product trade names used by UKGSA Members for products manufactured or supplied by them.

Visit the web page at:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/member-trade-names/

RECENTLY LAUNCHED...

Industry Standards

A list of industry standards used by UKGSA Members including ASME, ASTM, British Standards, ISO, JIS and more.

Visit the web page at:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/industry-standards/

If you would like to add information to these Resources, please contact the Secretariat.

info@ukgsassociation.co.uk

What Our Members Have Been Up To

SBR (Southbourne Rubber) @SBR_aero · Aug 3

SBR (Southbourne Rubber) are proud to be sponsoring its very own Rob Cuffe for the 2021/22 Rugby, National Division Two South season. Rob will be part of the Worthing Raiders team and we wish Rob the very best for the long season ahead. #team #rugbyunion...



linkedin.com
Stephen Wilde on LinkedIn: #team #rugbyunion #sports
SBR (Southbourne Rubber) are proud to be sponsoring its very own Rob Cuffe for the 2021/22 Rugby, National Division Two South season. Rob...

Flexitallic @Flexitallic_ · Jul 23

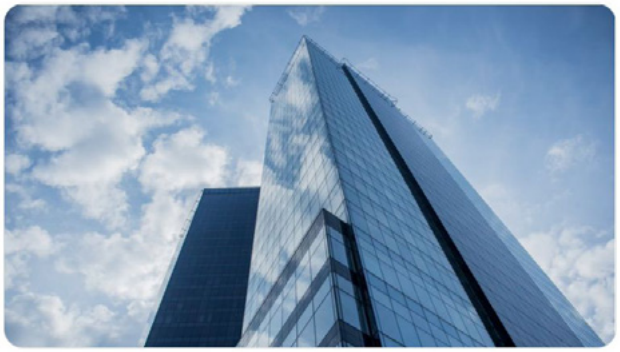
Keep uptodate with local community activities, join the Flexitallic Community page on #facebook #charity #cleckheaton bit.ly/3qvWQEk



1 1

Silicone Engineering @siliconeeng · Jul 21

Our kSil® silicone rubber is heading skywards as it's used in the latest skyscraper glazing designs, providing protection and cushioning. #ksil #siliconerubber #architecture #construction #design #curtainwall bit.ly/3wTSwSJ



1 2

The Seal Extrusion Company
2 August at 16:12 ·

We try hard to help...



REVIEWS.ME
★★★★★ Great Product
Martin H.: Great Product very helpfull and amazing dispatch time

Mark kelly • 1st
Managing Director at Flemings Seals and Polymers Limited
4d •

exciting times at Flemings
our two new members of our team start this week
Desks set up and we are all set
to take the business to the next level



East Anglian Sealing Company Ltd
76 followers
4d •

Another busy day of despatches with over 40,000 parts leaving our premises. Delivering to a wide range of customers in different industry sectors!
#gaskets #seals #mouldings



Follow the UKGSA on Social Media:
Twitter: @UKGSAssoc | LinkedIN: @uk-gasket-sealing-association/ | LinkedIN Group: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4707335/

Meet Your Committee

The UKGSA is led by a Committee who help ensure that the UKGSA's activities serve the needs of our members.

Here is the Committee for the year 2020/21:



Sandy McEwen
VICE CHAIR & FUNDRAISING

SAM BRADLEY
TREASURER



Andrew Crowther
OFFICER



ROGER DENT
OFFICER



Alison Ansell
MARKETING & EVENTS



Simon Carless
GOLD DAY



UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION



Simon Winfield
CHAIRMAN

Keith Payne
MEMBERSHIP



If you're interested in joining the Committee please get in touch.

UKGSA : What We Do

What You can Expect from Us and How We can Help You Reach Your Goals

Networking Events – serving our members with activities designed to promote success and growth, through collaboration and best practice. The Association aims to provide a platform for members to network with decision makers and influencers at the highest level and across all sectors of our industry.

Technical Events – industrial and manufacturing tours or presentations to member and non-member sites. These events aim to give insights to advanced manufacturing, best practice and material technical developments that will inspire our membership.

Technical Support – members have access to an unprecedented technical resource in their fellow members who are available to offer support on manufacturing issues, material selection and processing, and design & development.

Representing our Members

Behind the scenes we actively promote our members' activities and views through press releases to national and international trade magazines and general media.

We represent our industry to various technical bodies on international standards and actively look for opportunities to promote our values.

We aim to proactively promote our members' views to government and trade bodies and influence the decisions of those organisations to the benefit of our members.

Marketing Support

We actively use social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) and encourage all of our members to follow and tag us. We also publish member profiles on our website in addition to sharing news stories.

We are extremely active, developing strong media relationships with all of the mainstream manufacturing & engineering publications.

We also send out regular email newsletters to our members and our wider industry contacts with a variety of information as well as member news features.

Procurement Support

Through our affiliation with the British Standards Institute members are able to acquire electronic copies of UK, European and International standards at discounted prices.

Members have access to the **Joined Up Thinking Buying Group** giving access to hundreds of suppliers, products and services which are being constantly benchmarking to make sure members receive the very best value for money. The service offered by Joined Up Thinking is **Free-of-Charge** to our members.

Charitable Giving

We aim to support our chosen charity – Macmillan Cancer Support – through fundraising activities undertaken at our events, such as our annual charity dinner, and directly by our members.



If you are interested in joining the UKGSA Click Here.

UKGSA : Members List

AS Rubber & Plastics Limited
Elwell Street, West Bromwich,
West Midlands B70 0DN
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British Felt Co.
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Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT
T: 01908 320329 F: 01908 226599
www.britishfelt.com

Corseal Limited
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Acton, Suffolk CO10 0BD
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Direct Gaskets Ltd
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Hull HU8 7LA
T: 01482 219655 F: 01482 321162
www.direct-gaskets.co.uk

East Anglian Sealing Co. Limited
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Cleckheaton,
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T: 0161 832 2282 F: 0161 832 3263
www.jaharrison.co.uk

J P Polymer Sheetings Limited
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Birmingham New Road, Tipton,
West Midlands DY4 8XP
T: 0121 520 5020 F: 0121 522 4610
www.jppolymer.co.uk

James Walker & Co. Ltd
Joint Cutting Services, Gote Road,
Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0NH
T: 01900 823555 F: 01900 827138
www.jameswalker.co.uk

Jointine Products (Lincoln) Limited
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North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 9AU
T: 01522 690050 F: 01522 690060
www.jointine.co.uk

Keith Payne Products Limited
Unit 2, Manfield Park Industrial Estate,
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Surrey GU6 8PT
T: 01483 276000 F: 01483 278167
www.keithpayneproducts.com

Kewell Converters Ltd
KCL House, Station Road,
Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HL
T: 01732 864310 F: 01732 865206
www.kewell-converters.co.uk

Lonestar Leeds Limited
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Hudswell Road, Leeds LS10 1AG
T: 0113 2051900 F: 0113 2051909
www.lonestarleeds.com

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Silicone Engineering Ltd
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47, Aston Road, Waterlooville,
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www.sbr.aero

The Seal Extrusion Company Limited
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Acton, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0BD
T: 01787 827070
www.sealextrusions.com

V-Seal Ltd
Unit 2, Park Road Mills, Park Road,
Elland, West Yorkshire HX5 9HX
T: 01422 300009 F: 01422 363025
www.vseal.co.uk

W C Munsch & Company Limited
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Macclesfield SK10 5JZ
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www.epdm.co.uk

William Johnston & Company Limited
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www.williamjohnston.co.uk

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T: 01472 355596 F: 01472 355920
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