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Glass and Glazing Federation

The GGF Members Quarterly Magazine

Autumn 2019

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Welcome to Glassi

The magazine exclusively for GGF Members

From the Top

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Glass*i*.

In this edition of Glass*i*, we look forward to major events in September that will give Members the platforms to; debate the industry's issues, gain key information on the political and legislative changes ahead as well as take advantage of good networking opportunities.

Firstly though, the GGF has recently restructured its internal management which will see the Federation follow a more focused strategic direction with greater emphasis on strengthening the technical resource under Steve Rice, the GGF's new Managing Director. I am sure our Membership will continue to give Steve and the rest of the GGF staff full support to ensure the GGF maintains its position as the leading trade organisation in the glass and glazing industry.

Our political activity has been at the forefront this year, with responses to government consultations on fire safety, energy efficiency and skilled labour. Following the recent election of Boris Johnson as UK Prime Minister, we will engage with the newly formed cabinet and continue our dialogue with relevant government departments to ensure that all Members are kept fully up to speed with any policy or legislative changes.

With Members' Day on the 26th September fast approaching, the GGF is firming up its plans to make the day an interesting and memorable occasion for all Members.

On the agenda, an overview of the political landscape will be covered by our keynote speaker and moderator, Kevin Schofield, Editor of Politics Home and guest political commentator on Sky News.

In addition, our keynote speakers are two well respected industry leaders in the construction industry. Andrew Warren, Chairman of the British Energy Efficiency Federation and Peter Capelhorn, Chief Executive of the Construction Products Association will present on the future implications of energy efficiency and fire safety respectively. All three guest speakers are bona fide experts in their given fields and promise to make Members' Day one of the most engaging and topical ever.

In addition to Members' Day we are holding a special networking event at The Museum of Brands in Notting Hill. All Members are invited to both events which are part of your Member benefits. You can find out more details on these events and how to book your place in our special double page feature in this issue of Glass*i*.

The Glazing Summit takes place on the 12th September in Edgbaston, Birmingham and the GGF is the headline sponsor. At the event, the Federation will participate in the expert panels and debates. In this edition of Glass*i*, we interview Andrew Scott, who launched The Glazing Summit last year with great success.

Finally, our Spotlight on a Member in this edition, shines on David Thornton of The Window Company (Contracts) as he discusses his company's success in being the first, and to date, the only GGF Member to achieve Gold standard in the GLASS Charter Merit Scheme.

Enjoy Glass*i*.

John Agnew
GGF President

Edition
Autumn
2019

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GET IT IN THE Diary

Your **2019 Calendar** of GGF Meetings and Industry Events

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

Dates and venues

THE GLAZING SUMMIT
12th September, Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham

SELF-BUILD SHOW
13-15th September, Citywest, Dublin

MEMBERS' NETWORKING EVENT
25th September, Museum of Brands, Notting Hill, London

GGF MEMBERS' DAY
26th September, Hilton Olympia, London

VITRUM 2019
1-4th October, Fiera Milano Rho, Milan

UK CONSTRUCTION WEEK
8-10th October, Birmingham NEC

CONSTRUCTION MARKETING AWARDS
28th November, Hilton Bankside, London

G19 AWARDS
29th November, Park Lane Hilton, London

AUGUST

14	Home Improvement Technology (HI-TECH) Group	Solihull

SEPTEMBER

3	North West Golf Day	Chester
13	London Regional Meeting	GGF Offices
18	Republic of Ireland Members' Meeting	Dublin
19	Northern Ireland Members' Meeting	Belfast
25	Members' Networking Evening (from 6pm)	Notting Hill, London
26	GGF Members' Day 2019 (from 9am)	Hilton Olympian, London

OCTOBER

8	East Anglia Regional Meeting	Norwich
10	North West and North Wales Regional Meeting	Dukinfield, Cheshire
15	West of England and South Wales Regional Meeting	Exeter
16	Consumer Management Group	GGF Offices
22	Kent, Surrey and Sussex Regional Meeting	Chatham
22	Midlands Regional Meeting	Solihull

NOVEMBER

6	HI-TECH Group	GGF offices
7	Joint Conservatory Association and Window and Door Group	Solihull
12	Joint Insulating Glass Manufacturers and Glazing Components Group	Solihull
19	Wessex and Channel Isles Regional Meeting	Southampton
20	North East and Yorkshire Regional Meeting	Brighouse, West Yorks
27	GGF Scotland Members' Meeting	Glasgow

DECEMBER

5	Joint Meeting of Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland Members	Belfast
12	North West and North Wales Regional Meeting and Christmas Social Event	Venue in Manchester TBC
12	Fire Resistant Glazing Group	GGF Offices
17	London Regional Meeting	London

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INTERESTED IN ATTENDING GGF Meetings?

Contact your Secretaries today!

GGF – TECHNICAL GROUPS

GROUPS	SECRETARY	CONTACT
Conservatory Association	Bridie Joyce	bjoyce@ggf.org.uk
Consumer Management Group	Petra Akinsiku	pakinsiku@ggf.org.uk
Curved Glass Group	Steve Rice	srice@ggf.org.uk
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Fire Resistant Glazing Group	Adrian Blaydon	ablaydon@ggf.org.uk
Glass Repair Group	Michael Sulston	msulston@ggf.org.uk
Glazing Components Group	David Borland	dborland@ggf.org.uk
Hardware Group	Michael Sulston	msulston@ggf.org.uk
Heritage Window Group	James Lee	jlee@ggf.org.uk
Home Improvement Technology Group (HI-TECH)	Michael Sulston	msulston@ggf.org.uk
Insulating Glass Manufacturers	David Borland	dborland@ggf.org.uk
Laminators Group	Ben Wallace	bwallace@ggf.org.uk
Modified Glass Group	Michael Sulston	msulston@ggf.org.uk
Mirror Group	Steve Rice	srice@ggf.org.uk
Safety Glazing Group	Ben Wallace	bwallace@ggf.org.uk
Special Glass Applications	Steve Rice	srice@ggf.org.uk
Systems House Group	David Borland	dborland@ggf.org.uk
Tougheners Group	Ben Wallace	bwallace@ggf.org.uk
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GGF Republic of Ireland	Noreen McNairney	nmcnairney@ggf.org.uk
GGF MENA Region	Steve Rice	srice@ggf.org.uk

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Silver to Gold

Spotlight on a Member, **David Thornton**

With more than 40 years' SME experience, David Thornton created the award-winning The Window Company (Contracts) Ltd in 2010.

He has been on the GGF Home Improvement Executive since 2016 and was elected Chair of this Executive Committee in 2017, when he was also elected onto the GGF Board. In 2018, his company became the first ever to attain Gold Level on the GGF's GLASS Charter Health and Safety Merit Scheme. In this interview, David discusses the journey and benefits of attaining GLASS Charter Gold.

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HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THE FIRST COMPANY TO ACHIEVE GOLD STANDARD IN THE GGF'S GLASS CHARTER HEALTH AND SAFETY MERIT SCHEME?

We're very proud to be able to say that we were the first company to achieve Gold – it's a tremendous achievement and a real accolade for the whole team. Gold is only awarded to those companies who can demonstrate that a health and safety culture is embedded right across the business and that the very highest standards are adhered to at every level. It definitely shows just how seriously we take our responsibility for our own workforce and to the homes and businesses that we work in.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE IN YOUR JOURNEY OF ACHIEVEMENT?

We already held the GLASS Charter Silver Level 3 when we went for the Gold Level, so were already a long way down that journey. However, the biggest challenge we still had to overcome was to eliminate any risk to our fitters when climbing onto roofs of our vans to retrieve ladders. We did that by working with a specialist provider to adapt a new pneumatic lifting and lowering mechanism for our ladders which enables them to be raised or lowered using just a pole. It took us some time to develop the adaption kit and positioning, but it is proving really successful and could easily be rolled out to other installers around the UK.

HAS IT CHANGED THE WAY YOUR EMPLOYEES WORK?

Aside from our new ladder mechanism, achieving Gold Level was all about identifying incremental improvements which together make a difference for our fitters. It prompted us to review every aspect of how we do things and to drill right down to make sure there were no areas we had overlooked. That has been a good exercise for all of us and not just for the management team responsible for health and safety.

HOW HAS IT WORKED FOR YOUR COMPANY AND CUSTOMERS?

Health and safety is a key area of scrutiny for all our commercial customers so it's a real commercial advantage for us to be able to prove that we have met the very highest industry standards. It gives our customers absolute confidence in our processes and disciplines and of course, also sends out a really good message to existing and potential staff about how we put their wellbeing at the heart of what we do.

IN A NUTSHELL, HOW WOULD YOU SUM UP THE GGF'S GLASS CHARTER MERIT SCHEME?

Because it's got the backing of the GGF, the scheme has got real credibility in the industry – it's easy to access and provides a really useful, structured path to success. We have never just paid "lip service" to health and safety, but even so, this scheme has involved people at all levels in the company and brought health and safety very much to the forefront of people's minds. We would certainly recommend it to others.

In 2018, David's company, The Window Company (Contracts) Ltd, became the first ever to attain Gold Level on the GGF's GLASS Charter Health and Safety Merit Scheme. Here, Katie Thornton, Director of Compliance and Administration, is presented with the Gold Award.

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Steve Rice, GGF Managing Director provides an update on the GGF Technical team's activity and responsibilities.

TECH talk

The GGF Technical team has seen some major changes in the last few months. There's been a fond farewell to a loyal servant, a warm welcome to a very experienced arrival and a re-shuffle of responsibilities.

In April, David Borland joined the GGF as a Technical Officer. David is vastly experienced and will be a great asset to the GGF Technical department with his decades of knowledge of glass manufacture, glazing and processing, both in the UK and internationally.

David's arrival overlapped with the retirement of Russell Day who left the GGF in June. Russell has been a stalwart for the GGF, joining the Federation nine years ago as a Technical Officer and going on to become our Director of Home Improvement for several years. On behalf of all connected to the GGF, I would like to thank Russell for his outstanding service and wish him all the best for the future.

Though the department is going through a transition, we are continuing to provide our services seamlessly to ensure Members are kept up-to-speed with all the technical issues and changes that are happening in the industry.

One area which we have been highly focused on is fire safety. Recently, the GGF had a strong presence at FIREX International which was a huge success. At this high-profile exhibition, the GGF had a large stand showing live exhibits of how fire resistant glass performs, highlighting the before and after effects of exposure to fire and smoke. In addition, Adrian Blaydon, GGF Technical Officer, conducted a presentation on "The Importance of Fire Resistant Glazing" to a packed audience who queued afterwards to receive a copy of the GGFs Fire Resistant Best Practice Guide.

Staying on events. In May, the GGF Laminators and Tougheners' Group, piloted a "Safety and Security Technical Forum" in Solihull which was well received by delegates from across the glass manufacturing and processing sectors.

David Borland, GGF's new Technical Officer, far left. **Russel Day,** GGF's recently retired Director of Home Improvement.

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REVIEW OF BUILDING REGULATIONS

The final report from Dame Judith Hackett was published on 17th May 2018. It is a 156 page report with an 11 page executive summary from which the Construction Products Association held a complete review of the Building Regulations. The GGF attended the review meetings and since then the Government released a consultation entitled "Building a Safer Future". The GGF has responded to this consultation.

The full response to the consultation and a summary of key points is available on the GGF website Members' Area. To access, please see links below:

Building a Safer Future
GGF Response – SUMMARY

Building a Safer Future
GGF Response – FULL VERSIONS

INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS REGULATION (CPR)

A full article was released in July outlining the GGF's guidance on this important compliance issue.
To access, please see link below:

Technical update and CPR and insulated glass units

LOW SIGHTLINE INSULATING GLASS UNITS AND COMPLIANCE TO THE CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS REGULATION (CPR)

The GGF recently released an article offering guidance on this issue. The GGF's position in relation to these IGUs being placed on the market without the necessary test evidence is given in our publication – Narrow Cavity Insulating Glass Units (IGUs) with Reduced Spacer-bar Sightlines, which can be downloaded from the GGF Members' Area.
To access, please see link below.

Narrow Cavity Insulating Glass Units (IGUs) with Reduced Spacer-bar Sightlines

TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

Currently, the Technical team is also working on the following technical documents including:

- 3.1 – Glass Sustainability Data Sheet.
- 4.2 – System Design & Glazing for Insulating Glass Units.

  A two-part Data Sheet; 4.2.1 will incorporate the current part 1 of 4.2 and will be revised once the final revisions of EN 1279 have been published. A new datasheet 4.2.2 will be created and will incorporate the current parts 2 & 3. These will be revised once BS 6262-5 has been written and published, likely to be late 2019.
- New series of Data Sheets – "Glass in the Home" is being created. This series will include, glass furniture, showers and baths, kitchen worktops, splashbacks and glass related white/brown household goods.
- All GGF Health and Safety Data Sheets are being completely revised.
- Revision of the GGF's 'A Guide to Best Practice in the Specification and Use of Fire-Resistant Glazed Systems'.
- Fire-resistant IGUs', a draft has been produced by the Fire Resistant Glazing Group and further to approval by The GGF Standards Committee, will be circulated for Members' comments in due course.
- Consumer guide for Conservatories is in progress and launch is expected in autumn 2019.

JOIN THE GGF TECHNICAL TEAM

It's a busy time for the GGF Technical Department and we are looking to expand the team even further to ensure we are comprehensively covering the key technical areas for our Members.

If you are interested in working for the GGF full-time in our Technical department, please send in your CV and covering letter in the first instance. For a full job description and more information on how to apply for technical positions, please email the GGF HR team **humanresources@ggf.org.uk.**

These are exciting times for the industry with considerable challenges ahead and our technical team is right at the heart of making a difference, not just for GGF Members, but for the entire industry.

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MEMBERS' day

Another memorable occasion awaits...

It's the annual highlight of the GGF calendar and it promises yet again to be an interesting, enjoyable and memorable occasion. GGF Members from all sectors and quarters of the UK will once more come together on 26th September at Hilton Olympia in London for Members' Day 2019.

Members' Day will have special presentations from our keynote speakers and updates on the GGF's activity. The day will also include the GGF Annual General Meeting and a special open forum for healthy debate on issues that affect the industry and possibly your own company's business.

In addition, Members will have plenty of networking opportunities during the refreshment breaks and sit down lunch, as well as at the special networking event the evening before at The Museum of Brands in Notting Hill. This free event starts at 6pm and finishes around 8.30/9.00pm, and includes drinks and canapes.

OUR SPEAKERS

This year's Members' Day will be hosted by Kevin Schofield, Editor of Politics Home. Formerly Political Editor of The Sun newspaper and currently a guest commentator on Sky News, Kevin will also present his views on the political landscape as the UK prepares to leave the European Union.

With Kevin also acting as moderator during the Members' Day Q&A Session, it should be a lively debate with all Members present invited to raise concerns or ask questions to the GGF Board and Senior Management.

The other keynote speakers are two leading voices in the construction industry and will present on two key issues that will affect most companies in the building sector.

Andrew Warren, founding director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy (ACE).

The Future of Energy Efficiency in Construction

He was a former Special Advisor to the House of Commons Select Committee on the Environment and participated in many House of Commons and House of Lords Select Committees. He has spoken at several hearings called by the European Commission and has spoken in every Member State of the European Union at a variety of conferences on energy and environment issues.

A former winner of the IBC Energy Journalist of the Year, Andrew writes regular monthly columns for several trade publications and also contributes articles to many international newspapers such as the Financial Times, The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph and The Independent. He is presently chairman of the British Energy Efficiency Federation, of which the GGF is a founder Member. At Members' Day, Andrew will share his knowledge and his experience of lobbying for improving energy efficiency in the UK.

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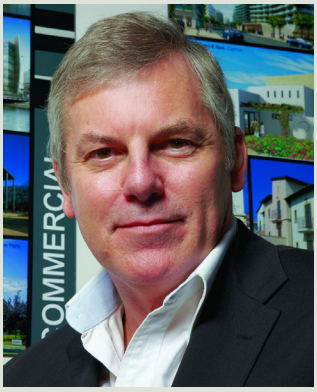

Peter Capelhorn,
Chief Executive,
Construction Products
Association

The Impact of The Hackitt Report

Following the Grenfell Tower fire tragedy in 2017, Dame Judith Hackitt was commissioned to conduct an Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety.

From the review, in May 2018, Building a Safer Future, Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety: Final Report, was published, setting out more than 50 recommendations for government as to how to deliver a more robust regulatory system.

Peter Capelhorn, Chief Executive of the Construction Products Association, was asked by Dame Judith Hackitt to Chair the Regulations Working Group for the Review and has since led the Industry Response Group and discussions on the implementation of the recommendations made in the Hackitt Report.

At Members' Day, Peter will share his knowledge and concerns for the construction industry ahead of the changes in Building Regulations.

In addition to our keynote speakers, the GGF will also have presentations and updates from Steve Rice, GGF Managing Director, and Anda Gregory, Managing Director of the GGF's commercial companies including FENSA, BFRC, GGFi, RISA and Borough IT.

Both Kevin and Anda are well prepared to give you the very latest on the operations and activities of the GGF and its subsidiary companies.

It promises to be a special day for all attending at GGF Members' Day 2019. Make sure you don't miss out on this FREE Members' benefit.

BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE

Reserving your place at Members' Day has never been easier.

Just go to **our online booking form**, enter your name, company and email address, click the booking button and your place will be reserved.

Just click here to book your place.

The venue can only take 150 guests maximum so it is advisable to book early to avoid disappointment.

If you have any queries regarding Members' Day simply email:
marketing@ggf.org.uk

Our event host and speaker Kevin Schofield, Editor of Politics Home, formerly Political Editor of The Sun newspaper and currently a guest commentator on Sky News.

FREE
Evening Networking Event
From 6pm on 25th September. Includes drinks and canapes plus exclusive access to the Museum and the evolution of brands.

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Andrew Scott, the founder and driving force behind Glazing Summit, explains how the event is shaping up to eclipse the success of last year's inaugural event.

GLAZING Summit 2019

In May this year, the GGF agreed to be headline sponsors of the Glazing Summit 2019 (12th September at Edgbaston Stadium), a unique industry event that attracts companies from across the supply chain to share and gain industry knowledge on the key issues affecting the industry.

TELL US ABOUT GLAZING SUMMIT 2019?

Last year we had over 400 leaders from across the glass and glazing industry coming together for the industry's largest conference for many years. Suffice to say, it was a resounding success, and many have asked me to do it again. I realised that this event had captured the interest of the industry and so we set the date and have started the promotion to bring together business owners, directors and senior management from across the entire supply-chain for a packed one-day summit of presentations and forums. It promises to be even bigger and better than last year.

WHAT WILL CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR'S EVENT?

We will be more focused on making the content more relevant and useful to our audience. We're bringing in more industry experts and tackling the real issues affecting our industry with greater intensity. Like it or not, the regulatory landscape is set for serious changes in the next few years due to factors such as; the UK leaving the EU and the Grenfell Tragedy enquiry and resultant Hackitt Report. Major changes in the way construction operates is coming down the track and companies will need to be ready to cope.

ARE THERE OTHER AREAS OF GENERAL BUSINESS THAT GLAZING SUMMIT WILL ADDRESS?

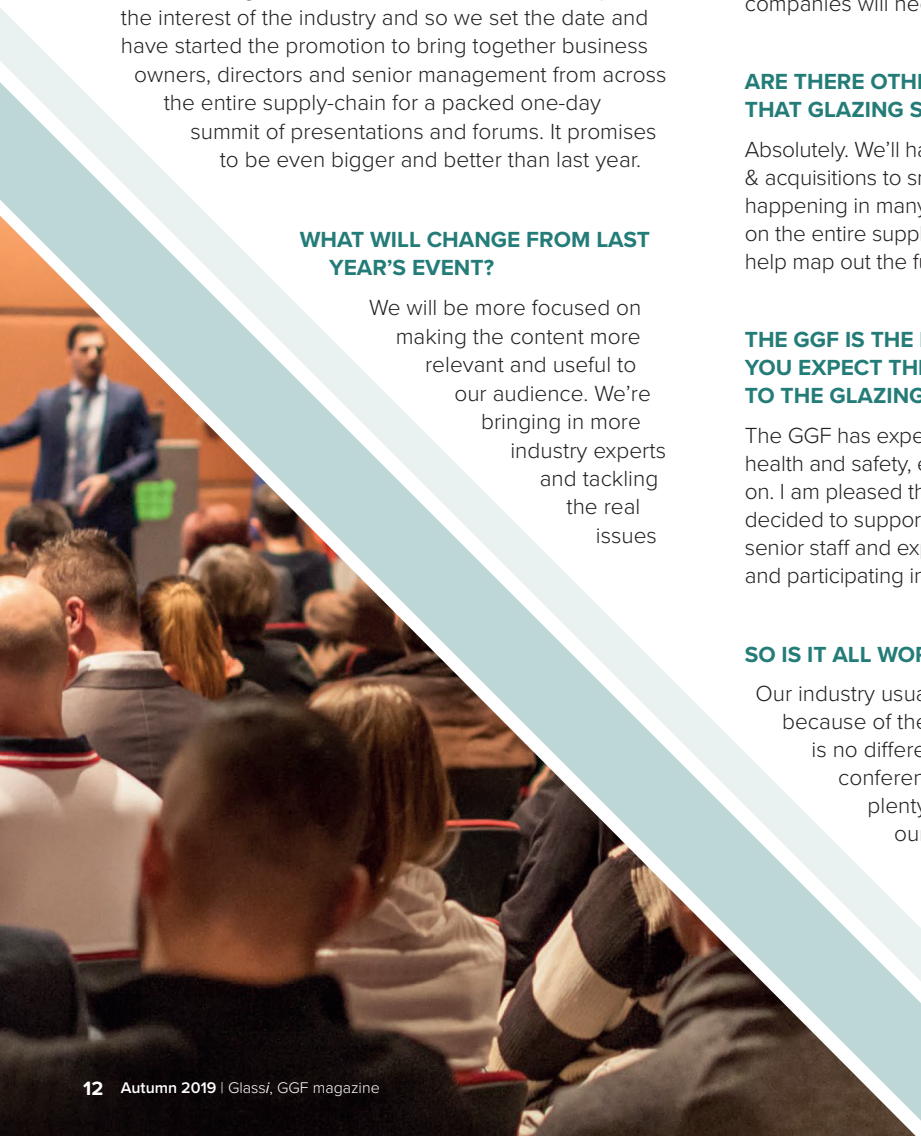
Absolutely. We'll have experts on consolidation, mergers & acquisitions to smart technology and the latest trends happening in many sectors and subsequently impacting on the entire supply chain. The Glazing Summit aims to help map out the future of the industry.

THE GGF IS THE HEADLINE SPONSOR, HOW DO YOU EXPECT THE FEDERATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GLAZING SUMMIT?

The GGF has experts in many areas, from technical, health and safety, energy efficiency, certification and so on. I am pleased the industry's leading trade body has decided to support this event and I look forward to its senior staff and experts within the membership, leading and participating in the panel debates.

SO IS IT ALL WORK AND NO PLAY?

Our industry usually attends these kind of events because of the social element and Glazing Summit is no different. We are planning a comprehensive conference, but we will of course still have plenty of networking opportunities in our refreshments lounge area and we are holding a "Leaders' Dinner" in the evening with fine dining and entertainment. So, there will be plenty of time for delegates to enjoy themselves.



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IN SUMMARY

WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE TO THOSE THINKING ABOUT ATTENDING THE GLAZING SUMMIT?

Our industry is worth over £4 billion, has over 15,000 businesses and employs tens of thousands of people. After Insight Data published the latest Window Industry Report, we were swamped with industry leaders wanting answers to some big questions.

The Glazing Summit aims to answer those questions - and many more. For professionals passionate about our industry and its future, the Glazing Summit is the 'must attend' event of 2019.

GLAZING SUMMIT

BOOK YOUR GLAZING SUMMIT TICKETS

The Glazing Summit takes place on Thursday 12th September at Edgbaston Stadium and Conference Centre in Birmingham.

To book your tickets please click here.

To find out more about the Glazing Summit please visit:
www.glazingsummit.co.uk

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Phil Pinnington explains how being in the GGF GLASS Charter can benefit your business.

The GGF GLASS Charter

ASPIRE TO BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

Health and Safety in our industry often expects companies to meet or exceed a set of minimum standards, whether it's in simple compliance with legislation, or in the case of an increasing number of construction projects, particular accreditations.

Before going any further, it has to be made clear that legal compliance is the minimum any business should be working to, but at the same time, it shouldn't be the only standard that a business maintains. Any business should strive to improve and become better. By striving for better Health and Safety standards, it's inevitable for companies to find improvement in staff retention and their quality of work.

Often when talking Health and Safety, one of the most common things that seems to hamper many business owners is the cost in time and manpower it takes to ensure good practice. It's not unusual to hear comments such as "This will take months" or "I'll have to employ someone to do this", and an old favourite, "I can't justify the cost of this".

These are often valid reasons, but if a company is in the position whereby winning that big contract relies on them having a good infrastructure in place, then rather than give reasons not to invest resource, thought and commitment, they should aim to ensure the right procedures and practices are in place.

Take the example of risk assessments. By law, they should be 'suitable and sufficient' but who decides, you or the client, or even the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)? Well, the simple answer is you, the company. It's your assessment as the 'expert', it's your employees doing the work, and inevitably if things go wrong, it's you that will have to defend your actions.

This may, on the face of it, seem very daunting and you may be searching the internet to find a Health and Safety consultant in your area, but hold fire. Yes, the worst case scenario is you may get called to account if things go wrong, but everything should be in perspective.

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As a GGF member, you have a Health and Safety resource, somewhere you can go to get competent advice, guidance, a sense check or perspective. We deal with many processors, installers, and fabricators, and as a neutral body, we share good practices to help businesses overcome unfamiliar situations.

Likewise, the GGF seeks support and acknowledges what good Health and Safety standards look like through the GGF GLASS Charter Scheme. It's simple to navigate and offers a signposted route to improved Health and Safety. The key driver – Improving Health and Safety is appropriate to your business.

The GGF offers a free Health and Safety audit giving you the opportunity to have your systems reviewed and access information on how other Members have addressed particular challenges. Members who have been through the GLASS Charter process have, without exception, found it valuable and it has given them added confidence in applying Health and Safety practice appropriate to their business.

Any Member interested in the GLASS Charter scheme should, in the first instance, download the GGF GLASS Charter booklet from the Members' area of the GGF website. If you would like an informal chat, an initial audit or simply more information on GLASS Charter, then feel free to contact the Health and Safety department via email **healthandsafety@ggf.org.uk**

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TWO UNMISSABLE EVENTS!

GGF

Glass and Glazing Federation

PART OF YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS

YOUR FREE INVITATION TO

GGF Members' Day 2019

- **Keynote presentations from four industry leaders**
- **Q&A Forum - join in the healthy debate**
- **Networking opportunities for all Members**

Hosted by Kevin Schofield, Editor of Politics Home magazine and Sky News Political Commentator

Thursday 26th September
Hilton Olympia, London
Registration and refreshments from 9.00am
Event: 9.45am to 3.30pm
Lunch: 1.15pm

RSVP: marketing@ggf.org.uk
or book online www.ggf.org.uk/ggf-members-day-online-booking-form/

PLUS

GGF

Glass and Glazing Federation

PART OF YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS

YOUR FREE INVITATION TO

GGF Networking Event 2019

Join us on the evening before Members' Day, **Wednesday 25th September** from **6pm** until 9pm for an exclusive networking event at **The Museum of Brands** in Notting Hill, where you can see the incredible evolution of many of the UK's favourite brands from Victorian times through to the digital age.

DRINKS & CANAPES SERVED FROM 6PM

RSVP: marketing@ggf.org.uk
or book online www.ggf.org.uk/ggf-members-day-online-booking-form/