

NEWS FROM THE UK LEATHER FEDERATION AUGUST 2017

Spotlight on a UKLF member – Thomas Ware & Sons

Thomas Ware has been in operation at its site in the heart of Bristol since 1840. A traditional veg tannery, one of



only three in the UK, they produce high quality leather mainly for the equestrian and shoe trade.

As much as 35% of its annual leather production is exported to the far east including markets in China, Japan and Australia.

Thomas Ware currently employ 36 staff members and processes approximately 300 hides per week, with all hides sourced from within the UK. However, Thomas Ware also produce niche products, including Buffalo hides for the production of snooker cue tips, which are sourced from Thailand.

Alistair Brearley told UKLF that one of Thomas Ware's biggest challenges is investing and sourcing durable machinery equipment to be able to innovate and create new products.

New membership offers

The UKLF have recently applied to join the British Association of Trade Federation's which will have

numerous benefits for our members including discounts on courier costs, insurance and trade fairs. Full details of the services and how to access them will be circulated once live.

BBC Countryfile live



Thank you to all the members who sent literature and leather samples to showcase the diversity of leather

produced in the UK at the BBC Countryfile live event. We had some fantastic enquiries from classic car enthusiasts, farmers and artists plus some interesting conversations with the general public on how leather is produced. A huge thank you to Owen Barry who teamed up with UKLF to support the event and help man the stand. We have plenty of ideas for how we can grow this opportunity in 2018.

A future for chrome tanning

Our director, Kerry Senior, has written an article for the International Leather Maker newsletter on chrome tanning and can be found here:

http://internationaleathermaker.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/4436/A_future_for_chrome_.html

UKLF welcomes new member



We would like to welcome a new member to the UKLF family. SATRA is an

independent research and testing organisation established in the UK in 1919. It has technical facilities in Europe and China serving customers throughout the world. SATRA is considered a leading technical authority for footwear and leather. Pictured is Christine Powley-Williams, of SATRA with the company's pinwheel machine.

Website development

The UKLF are currently redeveloping the website so that it is more functional and representative of the leather making industry. We will be in touch with all members to discuss the membership directory and gather information to fulfil an individual profile page with company details. If there is anything specific you would like to see on the website, please get in touch.

MP visits UKLF headquarters



We were fortunate to have a visit from Daventry MP Chris Heaton- Harris (pictured left) who gave the UKLF an insight into influencing regulation on leather labelling within government post Brexit.

Inspiring the next generation

16-year-old student Ben Hooker took up work experience at SATRA during the Summer. We took the time to talk to him about some of his observations about opportunities within the leather industry.



What have you learnt from your time at SATRA?

I've learnt that in a working environment, whilst given a refreshing amount of freedom, you can be given lots of flexibility in your role, maybe

more than first anticipated. This does mean that in departments within a leather orientated business for example, you are able to take on lots of different types of tasks and you aren't at all limited by your specific job title. This has led me to believe that young people may be more inspired to join the industry if the idea of freedom in the working environment is communicated to them effectively. People will be more inclined to join the industry if they believe that they can shape their own paths and will be able to shift around the industry and find whichever type of role they enjoy the most.

What has surprised you and what can the industry learn?

Within the testing side of the industry, you should focus job promotion on the entertaining, imaginative and thought-provoking sides to the jobs involved, whilst telling young people about the jobs that are available. Using social media with fun graphics and interesting facts as an advertising tool is more likely to grab the attention of the younger generation too.

Leather is my job!

As part of the EC-funded 'Leather is my Job! 2' project, the UK Leather Federation recently commissioned the University of Northampton to make a video promoting careers in the leather industry. The full length video link is now live on our YouTube channel and the URL is: https://youtu.be/93M5rV_kDF4