

150 Excellence in Galvanizing

WEDGE

Est. 1869

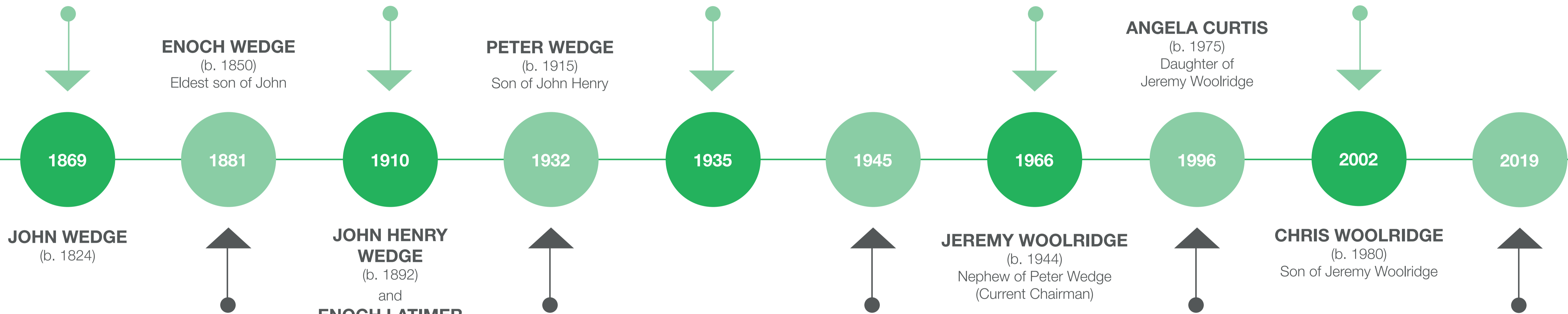
From 1865 John Wedge is a publican running the Albion Public House in Union Street, Willenhall. It is here circa 1869 where he began to galvanize in a backyard workshop.

In 1910, Bertram Eugene Wedge (eldest son of Enoch) of Gower St, Willenhall dies aged 28. It is Bertram who B.E. Wedge is named after. Bertram's younger brothers; John Henry (18) and Enoch Latimer (17) carry on the galvanizing business in their brother, Father and Grand Fathers footsteps.

In the 1930's the business had two elements, galvanizing and a vehicle repair garage. John Henry, now the eldest brother ran the galvanizing side of the business and Enoch Latimer ran the garage called JH Wedge & Co. Their relationship by all accounts was difficult and the partnership was dissolved in 1935.

Jeremy Woolridge, nephew of Peter Wedge began working for the company in 1966, becoming Managing Director in 1974 and Chairman in 1987.

Chris Woolridge, son of Jeremy Woolridge begins work at Wedge Group Galvanizing in 2002, becoming Managing Director in 2014.



Circa 1881 Enoch Wedge lived at 30 Stafford Street, Willenhall; profession Galvanizer Master employing 2 men and 6 boys.

John Henry bought Edward Howell & Co (now called Edward Howell Galvanizers Ltd) which at that time was located in Birmingham and specialised in the galvanizing of nails. This was deemed a good opportunity for Peter Wedge to learn about galvanizing and so in 1932 Peter Wedge joined the business from school.

Peter joined the company in 1932 and was chairman from 1945-1987. In 1939 following the outbreak of the war, Captain Peter Wedge was ordered by the British Government to construct and take out to North Africa all the plant, equipment and consumables required to build a galvanizing plant and selected a band of men from the business. The 'No1 Galvanizing Section Royal Engineers' was born. On the 15th August 1945, the day it was announced hostilities in Japan had ended John Henry Wedge died and Peter Wedge was subsequently released from his military duties returning to the business.

Angela Curtis, daughter of Jeremy Woolridge begins working at Hasco Thermic (sister company of Wedge Group Galvanizing) in 1996. Becoming Managing Director in 2006.

150th Celebrations