

# WEDGEWORLD

**WEDGE**



## SCOTTISH GALVANIZERS REACH NEW HEIGHTS

Ewan Lawrie, a metalworker and sculptor from Fort William, was commissioned by Nevis Range Ski Centre to create a bespoke sculpture of an eagle to stand proudly outside of its newly-constructed hotel in Fort William. He enlisted local businesses, MacPherson Welding & Engineering Services Ltd, and Scottish Galvanizers, to support the project.

Ewan said, "Having used timber previously - which looked brilliant to begin with but weathered easily - I now work exclusively with steel to enhance

longevity. I've worked with Scottish Galvanizers on a previous project, so was keen to enlist their help yet again to ensure my latest piece would be protected for 70+ years.

"Due to the planned location of the bird, exposed to the harsh highland weather conditions including frequent snow and ice, I knew that a hot-dip galvanized finish would provide the most suitable protection."

The sculpture, constructed from 5mm steel, took four months to complete and used 500kg of steel.

## TWO LOCAL BUSINESSES 'COME TOGETHER' TO COMMEMORATE ICONIC LIVERPOOL BAND

Merseyside Galvanizing had a little help from their friends at Diamond Precision Engineering with their latest project. Last year, Paul McCartney celebrated his 80th birthday and The Beatles Story Museum at Albert Dock, alongside Hofner Guitars, commissioned a sculpture to commemorate his illustrious six-decade career.

The guitar, which measures a staggering 4 metres long and 3 metres high, pays homage to the

iconic scouse band and takes pride of place in Liverpool City Centre.

Oliver Pitt, Director at Diamond Precision Engineering, says: "Both the guitar and panels surrounding it are made from 6mm mild steel, which we laser cut and secured to a box section frame. We then sent it over to the team at Merseyside Galvanizing to protect it from the elements, before it was powder coated and wrapped in vinyl logos."



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE...**

**2**



**GALVANIZING PROVIDES LONG-TERM PROTECTION AT UK'S BUSIEST MARINA**

**3**



**PLANT INVESTMENTS**

**4**



**GALVANIZERS SPONSOR SPORTS SUPERSTAR**



## GALVANIZING PROVIDES LONG-TERM PROTECTION AT UK'S BUSIEST MARINA

Wessex Galvanizers was called upon by steel fabricators ML (UK) to provide its hot-dip galvanizing treatment to 121 tonnes of steel, which has been used to support an existing structure forming the main sea defence at Brighton Marina.

The existing concrete structure was showing signs of deterioration and ML (UK)'s strengthening work, delivered as part of a major development at the marina, will provide ongoing stability required to

maintain the breakwater's in what is often a hostile and corrosive environment.

Graham Ferguson, Engineering Manager at ML (UK), explained: "This has been a huge reinvestment to ensure the longevity and structural integrity at Brighton Marina, the UK's largest marina and one of the most popular harbours for yachts and motorboats.

"We called on the team at Wessex Galvanizers to process over 120 tonnes of steel.

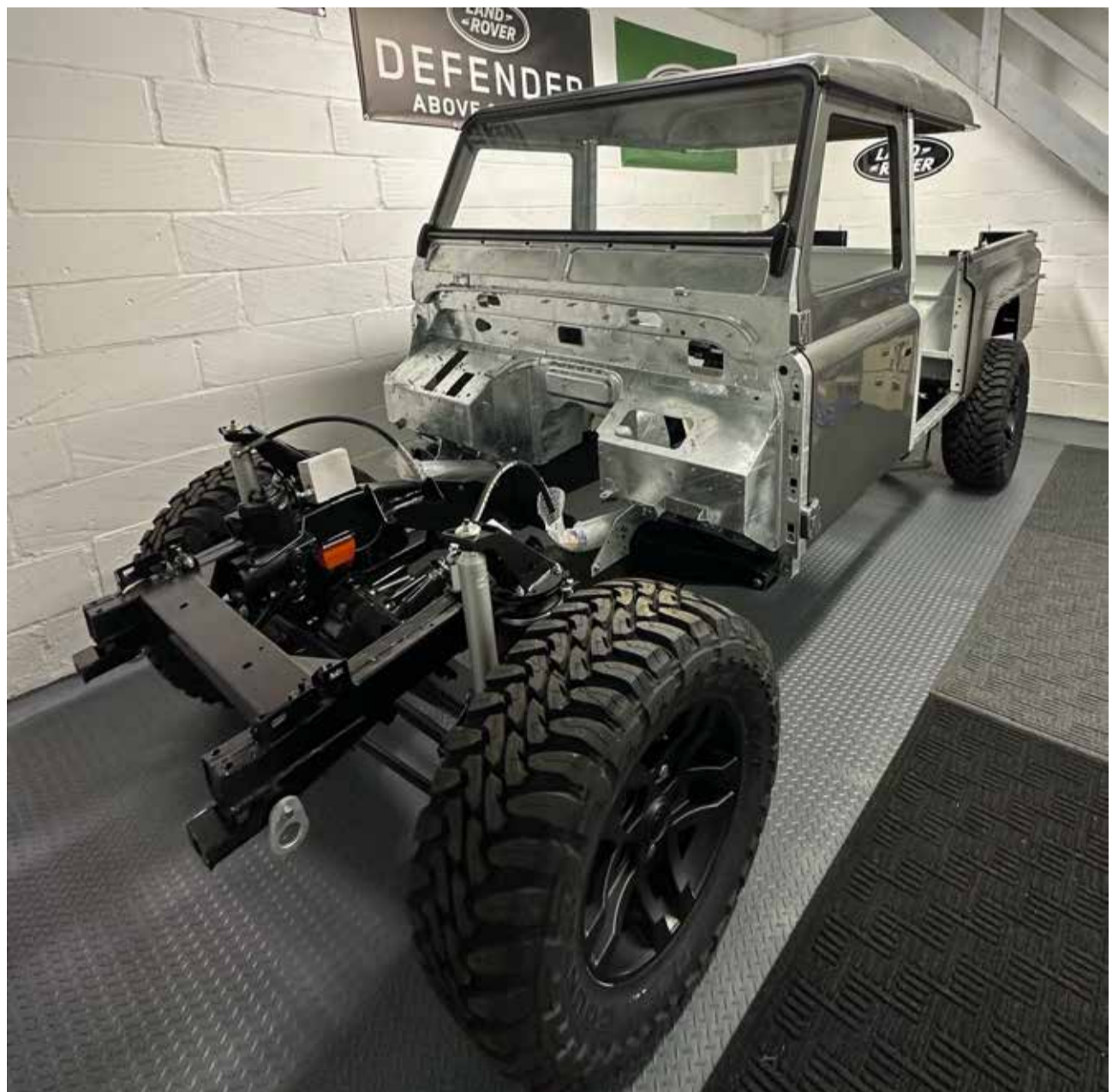
## GALVANIZERS ACCELERATE RESTORATION PROJECT

Edward Howell Galvanizers is assisting part-time Formula 1 Contractor, Rob Sapinski with the restoration of his classic car collection and ensuring his work stands the test of time.

Rob said: "I've completed many projects to date, but often my biggest obstacle is rust. A few months ago, I contacted Edward Howell Galvanizers for help, and I'm incredibly grateful that a firm of their stature agreed to accept my Land Rover's very intricate steel parts – as others have previously been unable to handle the delicate pieces."

The major steel components - including the chassis, bulkhead and axles – are acid dipped at local business, Surface Processing in Dudley, before Edward Howell Galvanizers collect and galvanize them.

"Jim and the team take great care when galvanizing to prevent the thin steel from buckling, and this precision and attention to detail is really appreciated," Rob continued. "But my latest project consists of parts that are too small as they need hanging. Luckily, another galvanizing plant in the Wedge family, B.E. Wedge, specialises in smaller centrifuge galvanizing and was able to help".



# PLANT INVESTMENTS

After months of developments, we're pleased to finally see the results of major investments at our Wessex and Manchester plants, which ensure they're fit for the future.

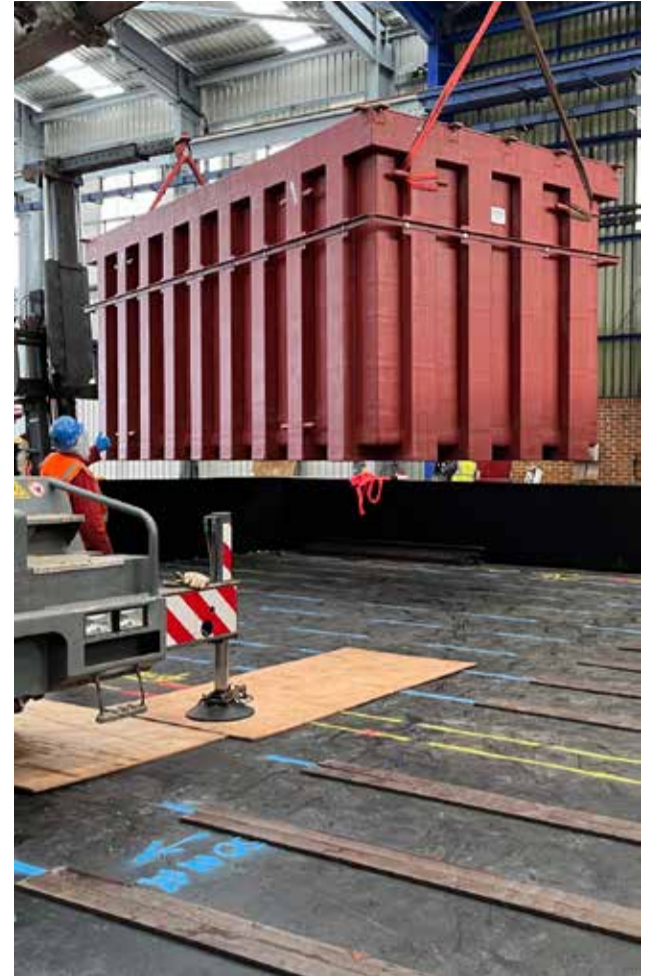
Wessex Galvanizers has seen major improvements to its new processing line, with a new degrease tank, acid tanks and water rinse system installed, as well as an additional crane and a large extension to its building. These advancements will help to speed up production as well as increase the sustainability and efficiency of the plant.

Manchester Galvanizing has also undergone major redevelopment at its Heywood site which has seen it replace its old galvanizing bath, and introduce new equipment aimed at boosting

productivity, quality, and sustainability.

Mark Waters, Commercial Manager at Manchester Galvanizing, explained: "Our new bath replaces our old one which has come to the end of its life, and our new furnace and heat exchanger will also enhance our efficiencies and further improve the quality and capabilities that we can provide to customers"

Chris Woolridge, Managing Director, said: "This is excellent news for both Wessex Galvanizers and Manchester Galvanizing, and we're pleased to see both the plants now back up and running at full capacity. This is also a significant investment for Wedge Group as a whole, as we're continuing to offer the very best service and quality."



## LONG-TERM CUSTOMER SEEKS GALVANIZING SUPPORT FOR LATEST ANIMAL PROJECTS

Artist blacksmith, and long-time customer of Humber Galvanizing, Katie Ventress, has sought their support to galvanize two fantastic animal sculptures.

The first, which was funded by charitable donations, York Housing Association and Karbon Homes, was a sculpture of a Humpback whale tail. Standing at 1.8m tall

and approx. 1.73m wide, it was constructed using an internal steel skeleton to form the shape and strength, with 2mm panels of sheet steel then welded to it to replicate the whale's skin.

The second was a baboon garden sculpture, commissioned by a customer who previously lived in Africa.

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# GALVANIZERS SPONSOR SPORTS SUPERSTAR

Newport Galvanizers, along with Newport-basedSmartyre, have sponsored SLN Racing, a family-run team established in 1992 by experienced racer Mike Nippers. He's since handed over the drivers' seat to his 20-year-old son, Tom, who is currently competing in the Formula Ford Series – a motorsport that's hosted young talent for the past 50 years.

Tom Nippers said: "I massively appreciate the local support I've been shown by those in my home town of Newport, as well as those following my journey and cheering me on. Alongside my studies at Bath University, I worked at Newport Galvanizing Ltd and made many friends along the way. I can't thank them enough for all their support."

Tom finished the 2022 Championship season with a firm position on the podium - taking third place in the Quarter final, and qualifying in the Final. The 2023 season of the Formula Ford series

begins in March and stretches the breadth of the country, with rounds being located at some of the most iconic race tracks in the UK, including Silverstone, Donington Park and Brands Hatch.



# EVENTS CALENDAR

## UK Metals Expo

We are exhibiting at the second UK Metals Expo, this event brings the entire metals supply chain together with the engineering and manufacturing sector.

**13 – 14 September 2023**  
**NEC, Birmingham**

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