

# NEWS



# THE BLAST SHOP

A simple line drawing of a pencil, oriented horizontally, positioned below the text 'THE BLAST SHOP'.

- OPEN DAY 2020  
POSTPONED
- COVID19  
RESPONSE

- RESHARPEN
- NYLOC NUTS
- YOUTUBE
- MEMDESUK

NEWS FOR THE MEMORIAL INDUSTRY

## COVID-19

Keeping the lights on.....

When media accounts of a new bug, Coronavirus, were first reported in Wuhan, China in December last year, none of us realised the implications. Who could have foretold the distress and disruption caused to the professional and personal lives of families and businesses throughout the world.

As we enter April, the country and a significant proportion of the whole world is under some form of national guidance to prevent the spread of the disease.

In light of the current guidelines, this is what we are doing to support our customers and protect our staff:

We're still functioning with a skeleton crew who cannot work from home. We are explicitly following all the current Government guidelines surrounding separation and working practises.

Telephoned and emailed orders will be taken Mon-Thursday and shipped on a Friday.

We have at least 3 months of stock, and our suppliers have informed us that they're operating normally.

Hopefully, things will improve for us all in the very near future but until guidelines are changed we will continue to support those masons that can also work in a safe manner.

## RESHARPEN SMART KNIVES



We have changed the way that we deal with the exchange of Smart Knives, most of you know as 'Resharpener'. It's a bit more flexible, fair and puts the onus on you managing the returns.

If we receive a smart knife for sharpen before, or at the point of sale, you will receive the new unit for £9.99.

If we receive the smart knife/knives retrospectively, we will issue a credit of £5 on to your account. This will add value to those of you who have collected a hoard of smart knives over a period of time.

You should only ever really require two or three units max to facilitate a productive rotation, keeping a 'new' unit on the shelf at any one time, whilst one is being returned for exchange.

## 'SPRING' WASHERS Vs NYLOCK NUTS

As you all should know, in order to meet the fixing criteria of BS8415, we are required to use some form of locking nuts.

We have been using NYLOC style Hexagonal Locking Nuts for a while now and feedback from Mason's is that they are a bit like Marmite; you either love them, or hate them.

We have offered an alternative for some time, but in case you weren't aware you can also use an aptly named 'Spring' washer in conjunction with your standard washer and still meet the fixing regulations. A 'Spring' blessing for some of you...

## YOUTUBE

If you are self isolating or on furlough, you may want to check out our YouTube channel:

### TheBlastShopOfficial

Here you will find quite a bit of information, ranging from Dustless blasting to Photoblast production.

We've recently added a video that showcases our own gilding technique from start to finish, which has become quite popular.

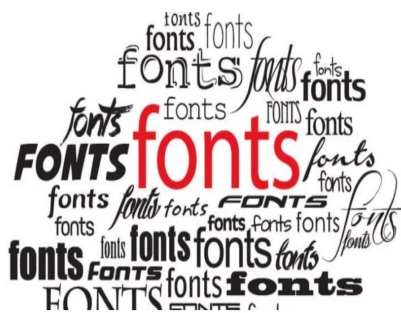
### MEMORIAL DESIGNER

Customers who have purchased, or are subscribing to our Memorial Software package, Memorial DesignerUK, should have received your annual update.

The annual update is a self-installed and consisted of new Memorial shapes, new designs, Honed granite fills and an improved text editing tool.

Any new purchase receives their first annual update for free, subsequent ones are included in annual support costs.

While on the subject of MemorialDesignerUK, we recently had a request from one customer who required a specific font. We created the font for them and set it up on their system. This font will now be rolled out to all the other MemorialDESIGNER users as part of the upgrade next year.



AS more and more users come on line with the software, we are are looking into creating a MEMDESUK community where you can view, share and contribute any work you have done amongst other users.

We're looking at various platforms to handle this...

## AIRBRUSHING

As part of our ongoing Health & Safety improvements, we are in the process of installing a brand new spray booth and integrating it into our production line.

Historically, we have spray-painted our inscriptions in our Futura automatic cabinet and relied upon the cabinet's extraction to remove the paints potentially dangerous and harmful vapours.

However, after a visit from the HSE, we were advised that this was not adequate and we should have a dedicated spray booth.

So here we are...



It's an investment that we did not foresee, but you cannot put a price on the Health & Safety of our staff and will ultimately allow us to produce even better quality work for our customers.

## OPEN DAY POSTPONED

As previously stated on email, we have had no option but to postpone our Open Day which was due to take place in May.

We are obviously disappointed, as it was gearing up to be a huge event with a record amount of exhibitors and visitors.

However, we are also confident that the current situation will turn around, albeit it may take more time than expected, and this is why we have set our sights on the following firm dates for our Open Day 2020:

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> & Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Names already on the waiting list will be transferred over to the new dates, and if you would like a space, please let us know. Something to look forward to.