



By Appointment to
Her Majesty The Queen
Scaffold Contractor
Coventry Scaffolding
Company (London) Limited

COVENTRY
S C A F F O L D I N G

LONDON EST. 1950

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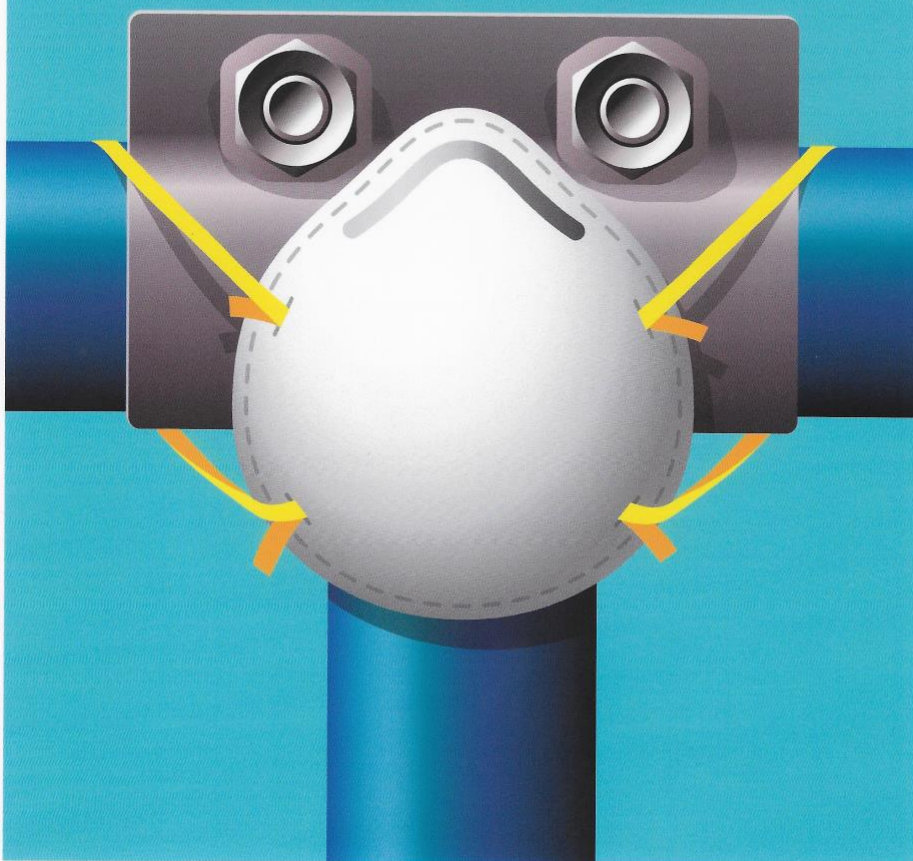
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SCAFFOLDER'S QUARTERLY

HOW COVID-19 IS CHANGING THE SCAFFOLDING INDUSTRY

The greatest crisis Britain has faced since World War 2



PLUS CISRS Card changeover proves an uphill battle

Attracting a new generation to the sector

Coventry Scaffolding: A phoenix from the city's ashes

COVENTRY SCAFFOLDING: A PHOENIX FROM THE CITY'S ASHES

Modernity rules in Coventry's architecture today, save for a few corners spared the devastation of a World War II blitz that flattened the heart of this cathedral city

That scarred scene inspired Coventry Scaffolding. The company may have been born in London in the immediate aftermath of the conflict, a time when everything had to be rebuilt, but its name was chosen in solidarity with another region torn apart by bombs.

Established in 1950 by former Royal Navy serviceman Patrick Hanifan, 2020 marks 70 years for the firm. Plenty has changed since the first jobs were created at the original HQ, a bombed-out church on Monck Street in Westminster, London. But the principles of delivering innovative and rapid solutions to major construction briefs have remained.

"With the City of Coventry being so heavily bombed during WW2, there was huge public sympathy toward the Midlands City," explains Perry Hanifan, Director of Coventry Scaffolding. The second generation of family owners, he knows the company's founding story well. "For Pat, naming the company Coventry Scaffolding was therefore a natural choice, not only to associate the company with an area in great need of the service but also to show solidarity with the city."



ABOVE: Perry Hanifan, Director of Coventry Scaffolding; **OPPOSITE:** A snapshot of Coventry's past projects including Buckingham Palace, Whitehall in winter and Perry's father, Patrick at work.

Between then and now the firm has grown. Slowly at first, moving to a new home on Regency Street, and then with increased speed, resulting in relocation to a larger site in East Dulwich from 1968. Before that, and relatively soon after launching, the company's first major scaffolding jobs got underway, the De Havilland Factory in Leavesden being one early example. The Ministry of Technology also approached the firm to test power cradles in Scotland, with such success leading to Coventry Scaffolding's Power Access Division eventually being created.

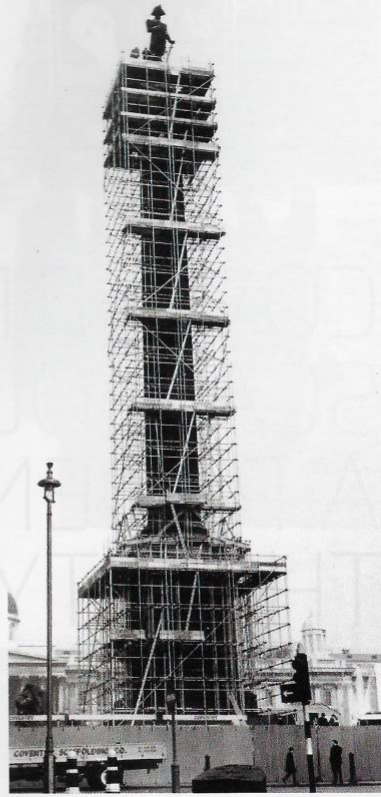
That reputation was cemented further by Operation Winter Working during the 1960s, which saw the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works in London's Whitehall draped in plastic sheeting, allowing heaters to be installed at ground level so painters and decorators could continue with duties during cold weather. Now a commonplace sight, it was a revolutionary idea back then. This decade also saw Nelson's Column become a Coventry Scaffolding project, ensuring the monument could be cleaned completely for the first time since its erection in 1844.

"The 1970s was a time of great political unrest. Tensions in Northern Ireland meant terrorist bombings on Mainland UK and in particular in London. This caused a lot of damage to some of the city's highest profile buildings," says Hanifan, of the years that would follow his company being established as an industry leader.

"Inevitably, when called upon, Coventry proved

// Business spotlight

BELOW: The Post Office Tower was one of the iconic buildings the Coventry team helped to repair.
OPPOSITE: Nelson's Column in London was given a thorough clean.



to be adept at quickly providing scaffolding to keep structures safe during this period, prompting the company to be referred to as 'the 24-Hour emergency scaffolders.'

One example of this in action involved urgent repairs following the Post Office Tower bombing (now BT Tower) in an alleged 1971 IRA terror attack. One member of Coventry's team, cradle-hand Benny Watts, was awarded a British Empire Medal for his efforts.

Twenty years on, the firm would again be called to help following an explosion, this time at The Baltic Exchange. Elsewhere, work to allow the external facade of Big Ben's clock face to be filmed, and the SLV3 Indian Rocket to be exhibited at The Science Museum, are all proud moments.

Harrods, Unilever House, the British Museum and Queen Victoria Memorial are also on the list of major projects completed, with the crowning glory Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Royal Warrant, granted in 2005 after almost 40 years work at Buckingham Palace.

"In 2018 we partnered with world-renowned artist Christo in his first major work in Britain. The majestic 'Mastaba' was floating on the Serpentine in London's Hyde Park for three months as the



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centrepiece of his exhibition. The enormous structure, formed of 7,506 horizontally stacked barrels, required the expertise of Coventry to deliver an infallible solution," Hanifan explains, when asked about recent undertakings.

This project won Coventry Scaffolding Project of the Year at the NASC Awards 2018. Endeavours such as East Ham Town Hall, the German Embassy and Methodist Hall near Westminster Abbey were also mentioned. Current work includes Theatre Royal, external refurbishment at a top secret government building, known as 'Project Chromaffin', and Bromley Town Hall.

"The company has grown beyond all recognition since inception in 1950," says Hanifan, before moving to the future of a firm in a sector that's always changing.

"It is impossible to guess what will happen in the next few decades but in keeping with its heritage, Coventry Scaffolding is committed to expanding organically in a sensible, sustainable way... A big challenge in the future will come from congestion and climate change and in particular, access for heavy vehicles into London and whether it is feasible to carry out night-time deliveries like many stores do now"



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ABOVE: The majestic 'Mastaba' in Hyde Park, London created by the world-renowned artist, Christo;
OPPOSITE: The impressive East Ham Town Hall.