

Fusion News

Celebrating **50** Years

50th Year Celebration Special

May 2022



1971 - 2021

50 Years Exhibition



Welcome to this special 50th celebration edition of Fusion News. We wanted to share with you some of the amazing highlights, stories and photos from our recent 50th year celebration event.

Fusion celebrated 50 years of business in 2021. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we were unable to celebrate in our 50th year and had to postpone the celebrations until this year. This gave us the opportunity to bring together our colleagues, past and present, customers, clients and partners for a showcase exhibition and gala dinner event, and we were delighted that so many made the journey from all over the world to celebrate with us.

On Thursday 28th April 2022 we held an exhibition for our customers and clients at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Sheffield Park. Included on the day was an interactive exhibition, a Fusion Assist demonstration and a site tour of our premises at Chesterfield. Further details on the exhibition and site tour can be found on the following pages.

Thursday closed with a networking evening and buffet at the DoubleTree which allowed our customers to relax with some food and drink and share thoughts and ideas with Fusion staff and other customers.

After a busy few days travelling and spending time at the exhibition, Friday morning allowed our customers some down time. They had the opportunity to take part in various activities including a visit to Chatsworth House and gardens or taking a walk in the Peak District.

This was a chance for some of our overseas customers to get to experience the local surroundings and some highlights of Derbyshire and South Yorkshire.

Friday evening was time for the main event! We celebrated the Fusion 50th Gala dinner at The Devonshire Dome in Buxton, a truly magnificent venue in the heart of Derbyshire.

Over 300 people were in attendance including employees and partners, ex-employees, customers, and some VIP guests.



Two of the VIP guests included **Her Worship The Mayor of Chesterfield Councillor Glenys Falconer** and her Consort, **Councillor Keith Falconer**.

The evening started with canapés and fizz upon arrival, which was followed by a 3-course meal. Throughout the evening there were speeches from senior figures throughout Fusion's 50 years and a silent auction also took place with some fantastic lots up for grabs. The evening finished with entertainment from local band 'The Feel Good Fridays.'

Read on to see some amazing photographs from the evening and to find more information on the speeches and silent auction.



We were delighted to welcome visitors from all over the world to our interactive exhibition and Fusion Assist demonstration

"I wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Fusion 50th celebration. We had colleagues and customers traveling thousands of miles to be with us and it helped make the event so memorable. It was a pleasure to meet you all in person and I really do hope you all had a fantastic few days celebrating 50 years of Fusion!"

Mark Palmer, Group Managing Director

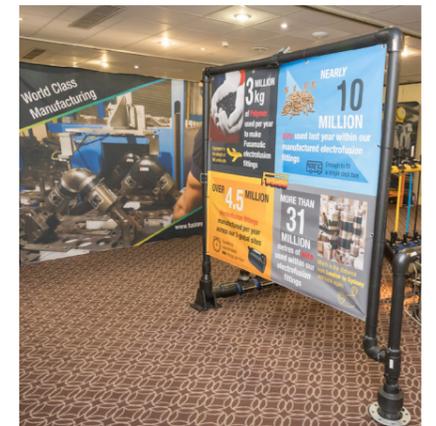


The showcase event held on Thursday was split into 3 main features; an interactive walkthrough exhibition, a live demonstration of our mobile app Fusion Assist and a tour of our manufacturing and testing facilities in Chesterfield.

The interactive exhibition took customers through the Fusion journey, starting in 1971, ending in the present then looking to the future. On display were some of the original equipment and products that were made and used early in our history in the 1970's

and 80's. Specially made rigs of pipe and products ushered visitors around the room moving from old to new.

Halfway through the exhibition there was an opportunity for customers to manually wind the coated resistance wire onto a coupler core, which was the original method used to produce an electrofusion coupler before the development of automated winding. The groups of visitors really enjoyed assessing each other's attempts at winding, some were definitely better than others...



Exhibition

Site Tour



The final element of the day was a tour of our world-class manufacturing and testing facilities.

The tour involved a walk around Fusamatic with talks from General Manager **Paul Brecker** and Operations Manager **Neil Allman**. The tour showcased some of the robots and automation that are used to manufacture our products on site.

Customers were able to experience the whole manufacturing process flow from raw materials, component preparation, socket and tapping tee manufacture, through to final inspection, packaging and despatch. Customers took the opportunity to ask questions as they walked around the 'shop floor'.

The customers then had the opportunity to visit our world-class

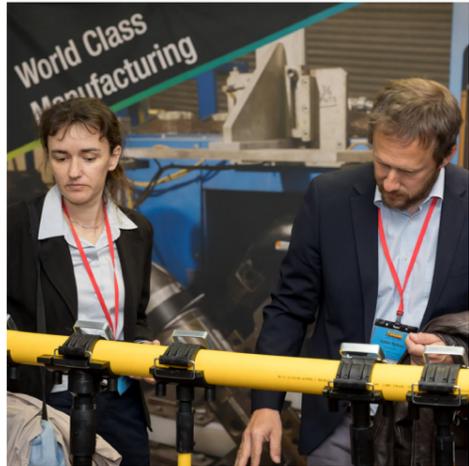
testing facilities and were hosted by Group Director **Lisa Shelton** and Test Laboratory Manager **Shawn Shelton**. They explained the Test Laboratory capability and how our products go through various stages of testing to meet a number of industry product standards and test methods around the world. They then demonstrated material tests, decohesion tests, and examples of good and bad electrofusion welding.

Several customers were even challenged to knock a correctly installed tapping tee off a pipe (unsuccessfully), and then carry out the same challenge on a poorly installed tapping tee with greater success. This was to demonstrate the importance of correct installation practices.

The tour was also made available to some of our non-English speaking

visitors through translators. The tour was kindly translated into Polish, Indonesian, Turkish and Italian so that everyone could fully understand what was being discussed during the tour.

- WORLD-CLASS MANUFACTURING
- ROBOTICS
- AUTOMATION
- STATE OF THE ART TESTING FACILITIES
- PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATIONS
- CUSTOMER INTERACTION
- QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS



The exhibition then moved from manufacturing excellence into how our products are prepared and installed on piping systems. There were examples of Electrofusion and Butt Fusion good practice as well as a rig showcasing how our products can provide the perfect solution within water and gas pipeline systems.

Our AVK colleagues were on hand with products from their offer including the Pentobox and valves used for gas and water. This area showcased the great synergy between the businesses and how we have

been working together in new product development. The customers were then able to ask any questions they had to our experts, who were on hand to support.

In a separate room from the exhibition, **Stephen Tann**, Group Technical Manager delivered an interactive Fusion Assist demonstration, showing how the app is used and how it can help our customers with the traceability of their assets. As well as traceability, customers could download the app on their own devices and see some of our products in Augmented Reality (AR).

The demonstration received some excellent feedback and we hope the app will help resolve some of the issues our customers may be facing.



Site Tour

Gala Dinner

Celebrating **50** Years

The Gala Dinner on Friday evening was held at the remarkable Devonshire Dome in Buxton. For a time, this dome was the largest unsupported dome in the world and was a Hospital for a number of years before being acquired by the University of Derby. The venue was perfect to host our 50th year Gala Dinner.

As guests arrived, they were greeted to a red-carpet reception with fizz, canapés and stilt walkers. Screens around the venue showed images of Fusion employees and customers, past and present, with some so old they were black and white... It was brilliant to see the smiles, laughter and hugs from people seeing old colleagues and friends.

John Batty was the master of ceremonies for the evening. Some of you may remember him from his time at Fusion as Marketing Manager. John still works closely with Fusion and was delighted to be asked to speak on stage and introduce our speeches.

There were a number of speeches during the dinner including Group Managing Director **Mark Palmer**, **Her Worship The Mayor of Chesterfield Councillor Glenys Falconer** and **Petra Bridgstock**, wife of the late **Eric Bridgstock**, founder of Fusion.

More details of the speeches can be found later in the magazine. John also gave attendees the details of the silent auction. The lots were displayed on TV screens as well as on a bidding table where people could fill in a silent auction form and place their bid for charity. More details of the silent auction and the fantastic amount raised for charity can be found towards the back of the magazine.

Between courses entertainment was provided by a Magician. He dazzled guests at their tables with various magic tricks that included fire and disappearing drinks. On each table there were commemorative chocolates and a programme of events. The chocolates were supplied by local business Charlotte's Chocolates in Buxton.

After dessert had been served and the speeches had been completed it was time to wrap up the silent auction. As the last bids were placed it was time to introduce the entertainment for the final part of the evening. Local 9-piece band 'The Feel Good Fridays' were on hand to get the party started and get people on the dance floor. They played a mixture of new and old and brought a real party atmosphere to the event. As the band played and the dancers took to the floor, it was also the perfect opportunity for others to

catch up with friends, colleagues and customers. Some of our visitors from overseas presented wonderful gifts and statues to mark the occasion. By the end of the evening, the dancefloor was full and the band were being asked to play one more, and then another...

A truly fantastic evening was had by all. The evening showcased exactly what Fusion is, and has been about for its 50 year life, truly great people and spirit.

It was a fitting celebration to mark 50 years of Fusion from all those who have worked so hard over the years to make the business successful. Again, another thank you to each and every person who helped create such a truly memorable night.



Fusion

Speeches

Throughout the evening we had the pleasure of hearing some really proud and emotional speeches given by a few of our guests and senior staff members. John Batty had the delight of welcoming each speaker onto the stage at various points throughout the meal.



Mark Palmer

First to take to the stage was **Mark Palmer**, Group Managing Director. He welcomed the Mayor of Chesterfield and her Consort, our distinguished guests, customers, business partners and members of the Fusion family, both past and present. As Mark is relatively new to Fusion, he chose to talk about his first impressions since joining. Our entrepreneurial history, reputation for well-designed quality products and being recognised as experts in our field. He then referred to the strength of the Fusion identity that runs through the business and the pride that goes with it. Mark finished off by explaining how excited he was to be part of Fusion's future and wished everyone an enjoyable evening.



Her Worship the Mayor of Chesterfield, Councillor Glenys Falconer

Next to speak was **Her Worship the Mayor of Chesterfield, Councillor Glenys Falconer**, who stated that it was an honour to be able to speak at the event. She spoke about Chesterfield's strong manufacturing heritage and thanked the late Eric Bridgstock for choosing Chesterfield as his base for Fusion all those years ago. She concluded that Fusion had made a major contribution to the lives of many local people and wished this to continue long into the future.



Petra Bridgstock

We were delighted to welcome **Petra Bridgstock** to the stage to share a few words. Petra spoke about her late husband Eric and the delight he would have in seeing Fusion reach 50 years old. She mentioned that all those years ago they had never dreamed that Fusion would be a truly global business and it was down to the hard work and dedication of Fusion's staff that it had become so successful. Petra was deservedly given a standing ovation as she closed her emotional speech.

The penultimate speech was from **Lisa Shelton**, Group Director. Lisa has worked for Fusion for nearly 35 years and so was perfectly placed to be able to speak about the most important part of any business, its people. She told stories of pantos, bonfires, fun days, Christmas parties and had everyone reminiscing of the good times and fun that was had. She spoke about the fantastic people who had worked for the business over the last 50 years, with

many of them having incredibly long length of service, which speaks volumes of the culture and dedication of everyone here.



Lisa Shelton

The final speech was from **Paul Hubbard**, Chairman. Paul discussed the recent history of Fusion with the acquisition by AVK and the conversations he had previously had with Fusion long before we became part of the AVK group of companies. He spoke about the fantastic passion and hard work of the Fusion family, past and present and his desire for this to continue long into the future. He also highlighted what the plans were for the future of the business and how he wanted to continue to build on the success of the past and carry it forward. Paul finished by thanking everyone for attending and acknowledged and appreciated the distance some had travelled to be with us for this special evening.



Paul Hubbard



£5417.17

Silent Auction

Thank You's



During the evening we held a silent auction to raise funds for a number of charities.

Firstly, we would like to thank the individuals and businesses who donated some spectacular items for us to auction. Without your generosity, none of this would have been possible. A list of those who donated can be seen below.

We had a total of 17 lots ranging from football tickets and holidays to spa breaks and jewellery.

Bids were placed silently throughout the evening and were coupled with bids from employees who were unable to attend the evening.

We were delighted that all lots were sold.

In total from the 17 lots, we raised a truly incredible...

£5417.17

Thank you to every person who placed a bid and congratulations to the winners of the lots. The money raised will be distributed between the charities below and will go to changing thousands of lives.

The charities below were chosen by Fusion Group employees with many citing close personal reasons for having connections with the charities.

The 50th celebration would not have been possible without the help and hard work of a number of different suppliers.

We wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed, many of them going above and beyond to ensure it was a great success. Below is a list of names of the suppliers we used. Thank you goes to all staff and individuals at:

The Devonshire Dome, Buxton
Gala Dinner Venue
www.devonshiredome.co.uk

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sheffield Park
Exhibition Venue and Hotel
www.hilton.com/en/doubletree

Charlotte's Chocolates, Buxton
Boxed Chocolates
www.charlotteschocolates.com

The Feel Good Fridays
Band
www.facebook.com/TheFeelGoodPartyBand

City Taxis
Taxi Provider
www.citytaxis.com

John Batty
Master of Ceremonies and Marketing
www.bluejohnmarketing.com

Cover Story Weddings & Events
Event Dressing
www.coverstoryweddingsandevents.co.uk

Winterworks Entertainment
Stilt Walkers, Champagne Lady and Magician
www.winterworksentertainment.com

Vanilla in Allseasons
Catering
www.vanillainallseasons.co.uk

Rollercoaster Productions
Sound Technician
www.rollercoasterproductions.com

Core Displays
Banners and Graphics
www.facebook.com/CoreDisplays

Banner Box
Banners and Graphics
www.bannerbox.co.uk

J R Centrepieces
Table Centrepieces
www.jrcentrepieces.co.uk

Chris Smith Photography
Photographer
www.chrissmithphotos.co.uk

R.P. Davidson (Cheese Factor)
Cheese Cake
www.cheese-factor.co.uk

The Kings Ferry Limited
Transport - Coaches
www.nets.nationalexpress.com/the-kings-ferry

Lonsdale Direct Solutions
Printing
www.lonsdaledirect.co.uk

Richard Dobney
Handcrafted Cheese Boards
www.rickdobney.uk

AVK UK Christine Sweetmore	Bridgstock Ltd Fusion Equipment Adorn Jewellers (Chesterfield)	STAR Piping Systems GMBH Hong Kong & China Gas Co Crack The Code (Sheffield)	Wolseley	Fusion Group PT-AVK Fusion Indonesia
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Ashgate Hospice - Ashgate Hospicecare is a charity that provides compassionate, specialist palliative and end of life care to patients with a life-limiting illness and their families across North Derbyshire.



Parkinson's UK - Parkinson's UK is the main Parkinson's support and research charity in the UK.



Cancer Research UK - Cancer Research UK is the world's largest independent cancer research organisation.



Alzheimer's Society - Alzheimer's Society is a United Kingdom care and research charity for people with dementia and their carers.



Mind - Mind is a National Mental Health Charity that aims to provide advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem.



Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice - Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice is a South Yorkshire based charity offering palliative care and support to families who have a child or young person with a shortened life expectancy and complex medical needs.





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Years

2021

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