



HALE & CO.
(Drybrook) Ltd.

Timber & Builders' Merchants

180
Years at Nailbridge



80
Years of trading as Hale & Co.

50
Years of incorporation



2011

In 2011, Hale & Co. at Drybrook in Gloucestershire is celebrating the opening of a brand new plumbing and heating centre and kitchens and bathrooms showroom as well as 50 years of incorporation and some 100 years of trading (80 under the name of Hale & Co.).

During its substantial period of development, the company has established itself as the largest supplier of products to the Building and Home Improvement sector in the Forest of Dean and surrounding areas.

Our History

In 1830, Cornelius Hale moved from Ruardean and set up a blacksmith's forge at Nailbridge. This family trade was passed from father to son.

In 1913, Leslie Hale, great grandson of Cornelius, establishes a sawmill on the same site, passing this to his brother, Frederick, to run from 1915.

In 1927, Frederick with his father John, registers the name Hale & Co. - a builders' merchants - supplying the needs of local miners and other workers in the area.

In 1945, Jim, Frederick's son, joins the firm after working as a Bevin Boy at Northern United Colliery.

In 1953, Fred Hale dies, leaving Jim to run the business, supported by his wife, Dorrie, and later by his half brother, Chris Cook. At this time, Hale & Co. consisted of two corrugated iron sheds, the original blacksmith's shop, and just one employee.



1910s



1920s



1970s

The 1960s sees the business become a limited company, Hale and Co. (Drybrook) Ltd., which continues to expand with more buildings and the acquisition of more land.

In 1996, Jim dies and the business passes to his sons Roger and Leslie. Roger retires in 2000 with Les taking the company forward as Managing Director.

In 2009 a disastrous fire destroys some of the buildings, but with a determined attitude shown by all staff, impressive new facilities rise from the ashes.

2011 sees not only the completion of the rebuilding work, but also the fiftieth anniversary of the company's incorporation and some one hundred years of trading. To top it off, Hale & Co. announce the acquisition of a tool hire company, providing a complete service for the building and DIY trade.

The present day management celebrates the opening of the new plumbing and heating centre with a dedicated kitchens and bathrooms showroom on the first floor. Roger's son, Stephen, is now working in the business and Leslie's son, Jacob, is now joining after six successful years working for Rolls Royce plc. in Derby.

As Leslie says, "managing a company with origins stretching back some 180 years places a special responsibility on you to guide and develop its future with care. This has always been a family firm, and I am delighted to see the new generation coming forward".



1960s

The Original **ONE STOP** Concept

Local people will argue that Jim Hale had already perfected the “One Stop” concept years before the competition did. Not only did he stock ‘everything’ but he advertised it and his reputation for vast stocks travelled far and wide.

This ‘One Stop’ service was, and still is, a time saving boon for builders who are able to buy anything and everything they need at the depot quickly with a first rate service.

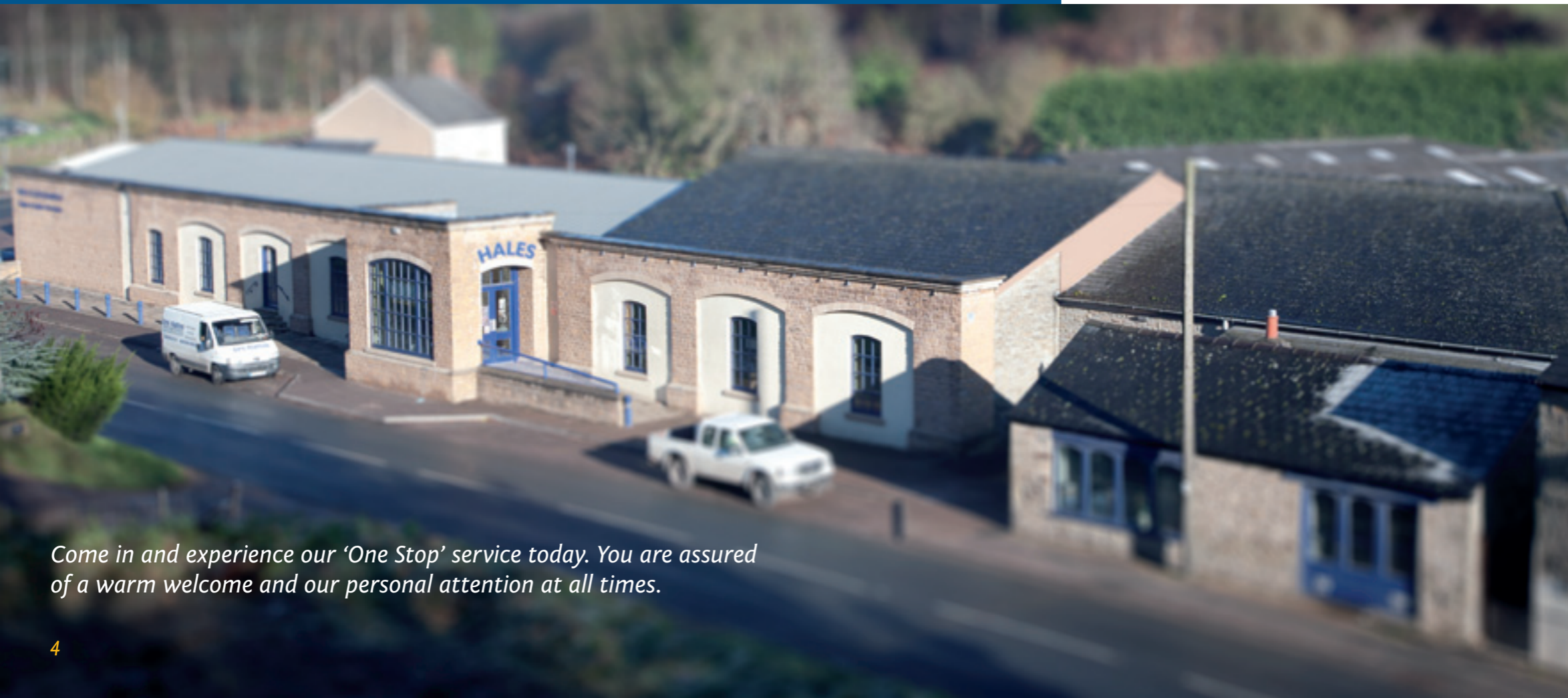
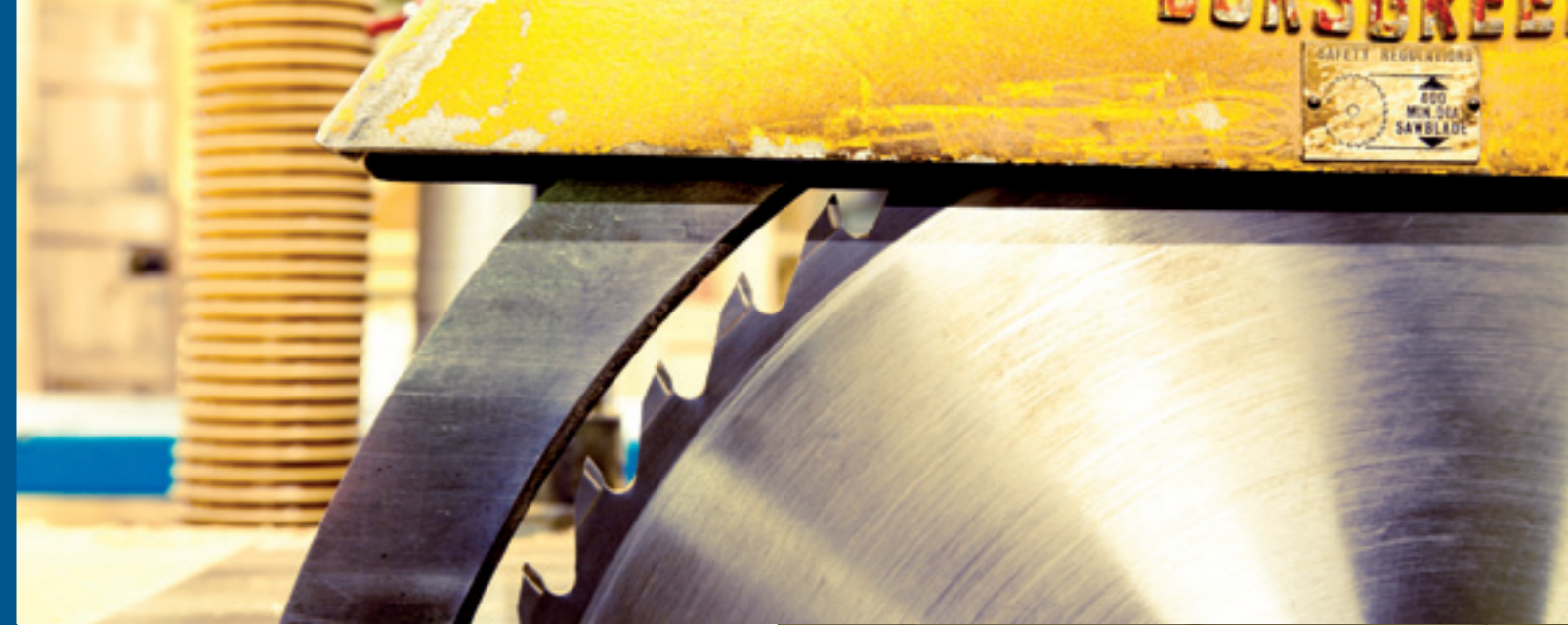
Availability of stock and competitive prices are high on our list of priorities. But, at Hales, personal attention from our staff is just as important.

We are proud to be a family owned business with a long tradition of good, reliable service. From our early beginnings we have developed from a small sawmill to a thriving builders merchants with modern shops, showrooms, warehouses and storage yard, occupying a 7 acre site in the Forest of Dean.



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Come in and experience our ‘One Stop’ service today. You are assured of a warm welcome and our personal attention at all times.



Our Services

Made to Measure in the Mill

We can tailor timber to your requirements. Our sawmill has an extensive range of machinery with four fully trained staff available. We offer the following:

- Cross Cutting
- Planing
- Resawing
- Spindle Moulding
- Panel Sawing

Our timber stocks are extensive and we can supply the exact quantity of materials required instead of providing them in fixed pre-packed amounts.

Joinery

We offer a specialist bespoke joinery service producing quality windows, doors, staircases and other commissions.

Call in and discuss your requirements with the Joinery Team!

Estimating Service

Bring in your professionally prepared plans for either extensions or new builds/self-builds and we will provide you with a cost and quantity estimate for all the materials required.

Paint Mixing & Key Cutting

Visit our Trade Counter to take advantage of our Paint Mixing Service. We can also cut a range of domestic cylinder & mortice lock keys while you wait.

Glass Cutting

Glass can be supplied and expertly cut to your requirements. We stock:

- Horticultural Glass
- Laminated Security Glass

We can supply to order:

- Toughened Safety Glass
- Double Glazing

Our Departments



Today the company is headed by Managing Director Leslie Hale, supported by his 45 staff within the following departments:

- Shop & Trade Counter
- Sawmill & Timber Yard
- Cement & Plaster
- Heating & Plumbing
- Kitchens & Bathrooms
- Heavy-side Yard
- Tool Hire & Equipment Showroom & Yard
- Sales
- Transport
- Accounts

Tool Hire

On the 1st November 2010, Hale & Co. (Drybrook) Ltd announced the acquisition of the equipment hire, repair and light garden machinery business from Taylor Tool Hire.

Not only will you find everything you need at Hales, whether you want to improve your home, carry out routine DIY repairs or build a new house, you can now hire the tools to get the job done cost effectively, quickly and efficiently too.

Equipment in the building industry today can be very expensive. To enable you to get the right tool for the job, why not hire? No maintenance costs and no capital outlay.

Our showroom and warehouse has a massive selection of top quality equipment available on a hire basis to suit your needs – whether you are a DIY enthusiast or tradesman. We can also deliver the equipment to your door when you need it.



New for 2011

Kitchen & Bathroom Centre

Kitchens & Bathrooms

One of our major attractions is the extensive range of kitchens and bathrooms displayed in our large, attractive showroom. This department provides builders with a useful extra that can be used as a personal showroom, sending their customers along to browse among the displays before making the final choice of fixtures and fittings that they want in their homes.

Our showroom staff provide a full estimating and planning service and will visit homes and sites to measure up and advise on the best use of space before drawing up full plans and costings. After you have made your choice and agreed your layout and specification, we can offer a free local delivery service using one of our specialist vehicles which ensure that kitchen and bathroom suites always arrive in showroom condition.

Heating & Plumbing

We are proud to be the main Rayburn stockists for the area. We have many Rayburns on display in our showrooms including a working demonstration unit where we stage our regular programme of breakfast mornings and cooking demonstrations. We also offer a wide range of quality wood-burning stoves (with clean-burn technology), boilers, programmers, controllers, pumps, radiators, flues and copper tube. In fact, anything required for domestic heating.

And, why not 'free your walls' with Polypipe Under Floor Heating!

Contact Us



HALE & CO.
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