

Sustainability

Teaching down the drain?

Security & Sustainability of Aluminium Rainwater Systems benefit schools...

The new generation of schools in the UK are designed to be stimulating places to learn and work. Many of these buildings use modern cladding and glazing and fluid shapes with curving walls and wave form or barrel roofs. Managing director Mike McKee, of architectural aluminium experts Guttermaster, involved in projects such as Retford Oaks St Giles' and Valley Comprehensive in North Nottinghamshire, advises that security and sustainability are vital.

Many new school buildings are PFI's. Therefore the investment companies that build and own the school buildings have long term obligations that are often formalised in a service level agreement. Under these arrangements, if classrooms or other facilities are not available the owner of the building faces a financial penalty. Against this background, sound engineering design in the architectural details, the use of resilient, low maintenance materials and consideration of the practical threats that the building faces are essential.

Rainwater down pipes are a good example. Traditional designs are available, but these stand proud from the walls, have traditional mouldings and so are easily scaled or vandalised. By

making climbing easier they are a security risk for the building. New buildings such as Retford Oaks and Valley Comprehensive are more suited to the use of smooth, flush fitting no-climb designs and use Guttermaster Anti-Climb rainwater downpipes. These have smooth lines and no gaps at the back for hand grip, fixings are hidden to prevent tampering and an interlocking design is used for strength and to preserve the clean line of the pipe.

Modern rainwater down pipes stop access to the roof where intruders could cause harm to themselves, cause damage to roofing and skylights or gain access to the building and cause more problems.

Roof designs on new schools often have concealed gutters and projecting aerofoil fascias. These soften the lines of the building and accentuate curved frontages. Also, aerofoil fascias are themselves a climbing deterrent. Climbers cannot easily get over their smooth contours and access the gutter.

At Highfield Community Primary School in Sunderland, Guttermaster supplied semi spherical aerofoil fascias at the eaves and stepped shadow curve verges on the building gables. The

shadow verges disguise the depth of the highly insulated roof and emphasise the vault curvature. Taking sustainability to a higher level, these buildings also have green roofs from Bauder. These have carpets of sedum plants on the roof to reduce storm water run off, absorb carbon, reduce solar heat gain and help the building to sit more comfortably in the landscape.



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More Information
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Totally green pedestrian lighting

TraxEyes™ light the way with revolutionary green glowing pathway stud....

TraxEyes™, a UK invention, is lighting the way ahead for councils to use totally green technology to save massive amounts on the cost of street lighting, while substantially improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Currently being deployed by Bristol City Council, TraxEyes™ is a revolutionary green glowing stud to light pedestrian and cycle pathways. The device, which costs less than four pound each, glows brightly for 12 hours after just eight minutes of daylight and is guaranteed for five years operation. Importantly, no wiring, electricity or batteries are required and installation is quick and simple.

As TraxEyes™ inventor, Grant Taylor points out, you can't get lower than zero running costs for pedestrian lighting, which is why several cash-strapped UK councils, whose street lighting bills run to millions, are urgently testing his company's TraxEyes™ Safety Illumination system.

Bristol city's installation is typical of the contribution TraxEyes™ can make to council's enormous electricity bills. It costs from £36 to £90 a year to run just one street light as opposed to zero running cost of Traxeye™.

It is not just councils who are attracted to TraxEyes™. For example, English Heritage has deployed 100 of the units

to highlight the edge of the pathway on top of Berwick-upon-Tweed Ramparts. However, here the focus is firmly on safety. British Waterways Partnership in Lincolnshire are now currently testing TraxEyes™ for similar vital safety reasons, along with Network Rail and several other UK utilities.

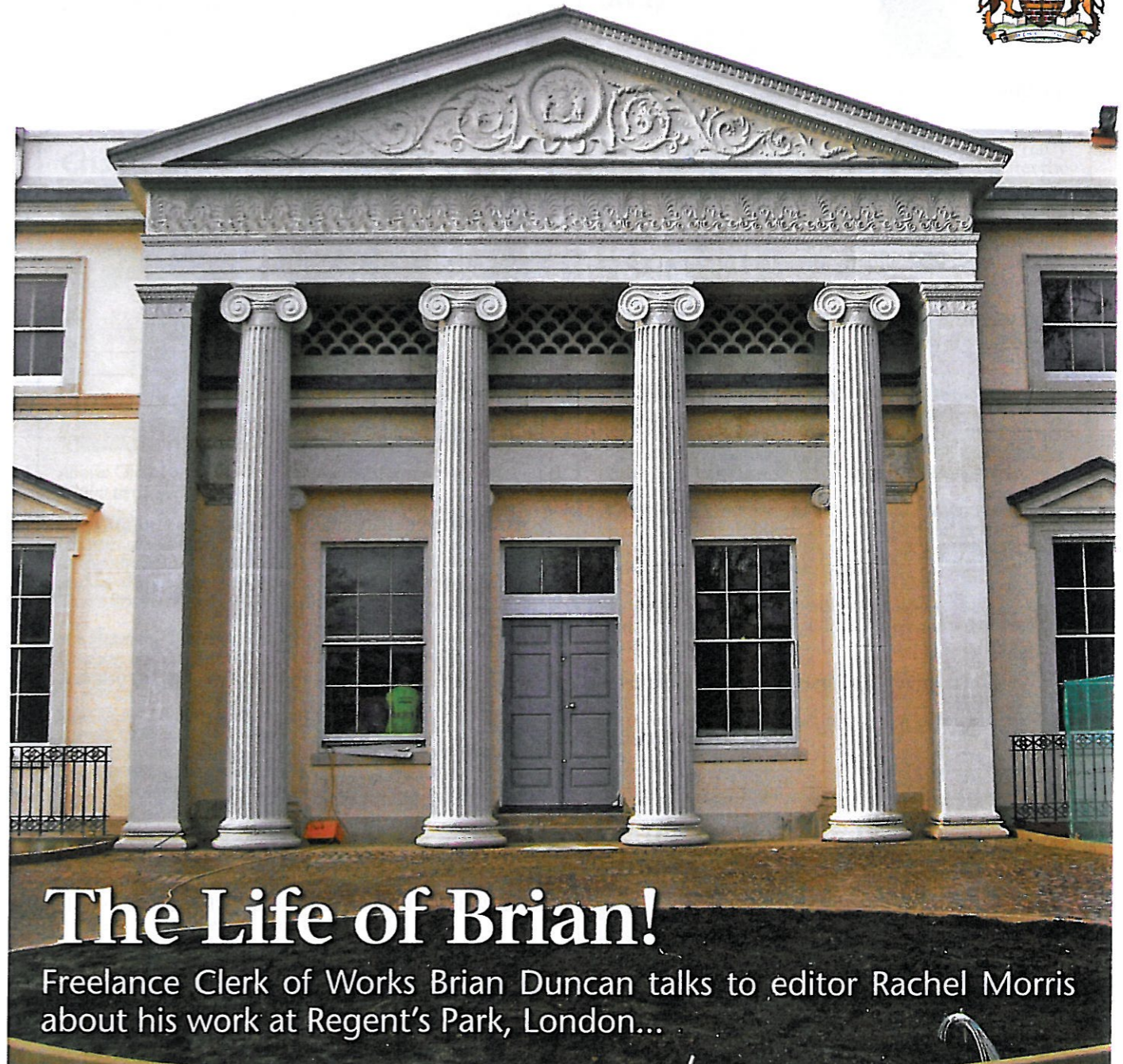
"TraxEyes™, with their zero installation costs, zero running costs, zero maintenance, zero CO2 omissions and proven safety benefits can make an enormous contribution." added Grant.

Gibs2000Limited
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www.traxeyes.co.uk

Site Recorder

For those involved in construction site inspection

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The Life of Brian!

Freelance Clerk of Works Brian Duncan talks to editor Rachel Morris about his work at Regent's Park, London...

A load of Bull!

Barry Thomas, FICW continues with his 'Snippets from the Past', focusing this time on cow dung.



Sustainability

Rainwater systems for schools & innovative lighting for pathways & streets that cost zero to run. See page 4.

