

"It's all in the preparation"



Just recently we have had a number of calls from enthusiasts with GRP (Glass Reinforced Plastic) paint requests. Maybe it's because they have seen the 1963 Stingray Corvette on our website so this led me to think that I would demystify the painting of GRP.

Fibreglass as a substrate, the base for painting, is no more complex than aluminium, or steel for that matter, but needs proper and different preparation for success. Many paint shops are uninspired when asked to paint GRP because they have had or heard about paint disasters when dealing with this material. Over the years we have dealt with GRP many times and with great success and I was pleased in our September Newsletter to picture a Gilbern still winning awards 28 years after its repaint by us with no retouching. As I often say "it's all in the preparation" and with GRP there is no truer adage.

Firstly, degreasing the product and making sure all release agent is removed from the gel coat, this is critical. Moulds are waxed to ease release of the moulded product, so being thorough here will pay dividends later. Next, consideration for adhesion is paramount. The surface must be suitably abraded and hard to get at shapes and corners must not be ignored. We like to carry out gel coat repairs with liquid resin to ensure full penetration of any open glass strands before any paint and filler application.

Now, if the body or panel is ready for paint we will apply a high adherent epoxy primer to act as a stabilising base coat before following a normal refinishing process.

If you have a GRP paint requirement we are always pleased to talk to customers and give advice to ensure you get the final outcome you desire. Remember, any substrate has a correct process and if during repair and refinishing you stick to it, the outcome will be successful.



Looking Backwards.... Looking forwards

Reflecting on the past year, it has been hectic. Setting up the new workshops, ensuring we get to the right shows and exhibitions and most importantly having a team around us with the same values and ethics as our own. To that end, I think we have done well and we want to continue that into 2010. So what do we have in store for the coming year.....



Looking Backwards.... Looking forwardsContinued

Our first event this year is in February when the MG Owners Club will be joining us for an exclusive open day for their region and we are looking forward to welcoming them. There has also been interest from a number of other regions from other car clubs and we are just in the process of firming up dates with them

In March on the 19th to 21st we will be exhibiting at the British Leisure Show being held in Windsor. We have negotiated a special ticket price for our customers – 2 for the price of 1, so if you would like to attend, book online and quote the code '**gandrclassics**'. Daily adult tickets are £10, family £20 and OAPs £5.

On the 2-4th July we are at Goodwood Festival of Speed and on the 23rd to 25th July at the Silverstone Classic

17th to 19th September sees us at Goodwood Revival, always an exciting weekend with so much to do for all the family

The final show of the year for us will be the NEC Classic car Show which is on the 12th - 14th November. A busy end to a very busy year

You will find all the team manning the stands at different times over the weekends, we have Graham who is so approachable and happy to give advice on any problems you may have with either your paintwork or bodywork. Keith is more than happy to talk paint to help you make decisions and come to conclusions yourself. The new boy – Terry (You can read about him further on in the newsletter and on the website) gets very chatty and excited about all things fabrication. Dan, the apprentice, who is starting to be very competent and is demonstrating knowledge on the processes we use. He will talk to anyone! Finally Ruth, can only give an overview but will keep you entertained until one of the technicians are free to talk.

We have a number of open days throughout the year, so do look on the website for more detail, we are always happy to welcome those who are interested enough to want to look around our workshops.

We look forward to welcoming you to our workshops and if you are at any of the events above, do come and say hello



Meet The Team....

Let us introduce you to the newest member of the team, Terry Smith. He has joined G and R Classics as a fabricator working with Graham on various projects. He did his training at the Colchester Institute, the School of Automotive Engineering and has not looked back since. He loves to problem solve and create. He has currently been working on the J4 Dormobile for the editor of Practical Classics and has made a superb job of the work so far. His past experience has largely been with classic cars, however, in his private life, his interests stick with the Dalek fraternity. So when you attend events where you see Daleks charging around all over the place for charity, one of them might well be Terry – we have been assured that he will not exterminate anyone!

G and R Classics Ltd. Unit 3a Spring Lane North Malvern WR14 1BU, 01684 578808,

E-mail : graham@gandrclassics.co.uk, www.gandrclassics.co.uk



PASSION • DRIVING • PERFECTION

Created in-house by Daniel Whitehouse