

NEWS



OPEN DAY SPECIAL

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NEWS FOR THE MEMORIAL INDUSTRY

OPEN DAY 2023



We're getting really close now to our Blast Shop Open Day 2023, which will take place on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd September here at our premises in Manchester.

With only two weeks to go, we've been really busy finalising details with our other exhibitors, getting confirmation from customers who have booked places and arranging for showcase items to be here on time.

We just need to make sure that all of the demonstration areas are clear and ready to accept visitors – Which isn't as easy as you might think with large steel and tape orders arriving around this time...

We still have limited space available, but are likely to stop accepting requests completely the beginning of the Open Day week.

For those that are still undecided and as a reminder to the lucky ones who have already booked places, here's a brief summary of what we have planned.

There will be three presentations taking place throughout the day, based around 'The Customer Experience' - looking at how you can differentiate and make your

business stand-out from the competition; including a detailed look at our new Memorial Order Management System, Or M.O.M.S.

We will have a number of hands on demonstrations where you will get to play with some of our toys, including sandblasting with the Goldmann dustless sandblaster and Futura automatic cabinets. Lee will be looking after the impact etching machine, showing how easy it is to transfer digital images from a computer or smartphone to the engraver to be reproduced as a high definition etch on stone.

Gantries and lifting devices are proving very popular, particularly when removing 'securely' anchored memorials from the cemetery. We will have a dedicated area where you can try out our 2 gantry solutions as well as electric sack trucks from Armorgard.



In our stencil preparation room we will have the ever popular Graphtec and Summagraphic plotters connected to the latest version of Memorial Designer UK.



In the Photoblast room Monika will be helping you to create your own Photoblast stencils. We use an automatic washout system but also available for demonstration use will be the Letralite kit from Rayzist. This system is more suitable for most masons wanting to create their own high resolution artwork and designs. We recommend getting the stencils created in the morning sessions so that you can blast and paint your designs later in the day.

No Open Day would be complete without other stands to visit. Confirmed suppliers include CJ Imports, Odlings Memorials, Armorgard, Hodge Clemco (Blast Pots) and Graphtec (Plotters Thursday Only).

NAMM have confirmed they will be attending as have Bridge Insurance who, as well as offering business insurance, provide 'Stoneguard' Insurance for memorials. It really is a mini-trade show!

The same content is run on both days, so just choose which day

suits you best, you won't miss out on anything.

As on previous open days, there will be a competition running over the 2 days, only attendees will get the opportunity to take part and win over £350 worth of Blast Shop goodies. Also available to attendees is a much sought after Blast Shop Goodie Bag. No cuddly toys included, just useful stuff for your business.

For those that can't make it, we will be running live feeds via our Facebook page, so look out for those on the Thursday and Friday.



NEW (OLD) PRODUCTS

SUPER PRIKERS

Most of you will be aware that late last year, our popular Prikpens were discontinued as the company that supplied them mysteriously disappeared overnight.

Although probably considered a relatively small product in terms of stature and sales; it's loss had a huge impact on us all.

Both Rob and Lee have spent an unbelievable amount of time looking at viable alternatives. Everything from awls and scribes - right through to eyebrow weaving beauty products -

Well we think we've found the perfect replacement – The Super Priker! (Snazzy Name).

It's very sharp and pointy, easy to use, is more durable, won't bend and even comes with it's own resharpener blocks. Built to last, so you need to keep them safe...

We have limited stock available, as when we released it on social

media, lots were snapped-up immediately, however - if you look closely, you might find one in your open day goodie bags...

BRUSH SETS

We now have Pro Arte Nylon Brush Packs in stock - Contains Size 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10.

The Budget Wallet Sets are chosen with craftworkers and art students in mind. Although they are manufactured from less expensive materials they are still well made to both Pro Arte & The Blast Shop standards.

211 STENCIL FILLER

Well after years of waiting, we finally have the Anchor 211 Stencil Filler available.

As previously mentioned, it comes in a U.S. Gallon tin, which is approx 3.75 litres – We are no longer able to decant it due to health & safety reasons as it's classed as hazardous materials.

211 stencil filler is specially formulated to work with most stencil products' adhesive and create a better bond to the substrate during sandblasting. This extra bond helps small, intricate designs and lettering to stay attached to the substrate and not lift when sandblasting pressure is applied. 211 filler is a formulated high tack adhesive for use with Anchor stencil product.



The data sheets (along with those of other products) are available in the NEWS section of our website:

www.theblastshop.co.uk/news

DOMINIC

Dom joined us in January 2017, and has been an integral part of The Blast Shop's team ever since.

He's built-up a huge rapport with all of our customers over the years, meeting many of you face-to-face during his weekly visits around the UK and many more at our recent trade shows.

We've bucked the trend in recent years by keeping Dom on the road, other suppliers having removed many of their vans and sales reps from the road, particularly after covid restrictions were lifted. Sales of one off equipment such as the Futura cabinet, etching machines and our Memorial Designer software have continued to improve but ultimately we have made the decision that we can better serve our customers by providing dedicated support from the office rather than having Dom on the road each week. This isn't a reflection on Dom himself, lots of you will have built up a good relationship with him and we appreciate the work that Dom has put into the role.

Dom will leave The Blast Shop next week. If you have any outstanding queries, Lee or Rob will be able to help you.

We're sure you would like to join us in wishing Dominic all the very best of luck on his next adventure and thank him for his stellar service over the last six and half years.

