

# There are more to wooden windows than just the view

WINDOWS are the eyes of a building – its most important feature. Altering them can easily spoil not just the building but the character of an area.

Andy Walker director of window restoration specialist Timbercare Nationwide from Leicester says repairing original windows in old houses – favoured by English Heritage in conservation areas – is the best way of protecting the character of the building.

He adds: "It retains historic fabric, not just the joinery but also the original glass. In most cases the timber is of better quality than today's softwood replacement."

Local authorities and housing associations are showing great interest in the Timbercare Nationwide service, which has helped the company that employs 30 people at Wigston see an eight fold growth in business since starting up in year 2000.

With 98% of its business framed around repairs to windows of properties in conservation areas, it has attracted an impressive clientele, including Camden Borough Council from whom it has just secured a seven year contract for 14,000 of its properties.

Like those in the other 9,000-



**BIGGER PICTURE ... your sash widows could be 100-year-old antiques and properly repaired and maintained could last another 100 years or so, says Andy Walker.**

plus conservation areas in England – areas officially classed as being of historic architectural importance – these properties are

fitted with original sash windows, which are in frames made out of high-quality, slow-grown softwood timber that came from Baltic for

ests in the 19th century.

"The good thing about repairs on older properties is that their original features survive," adds Andy.

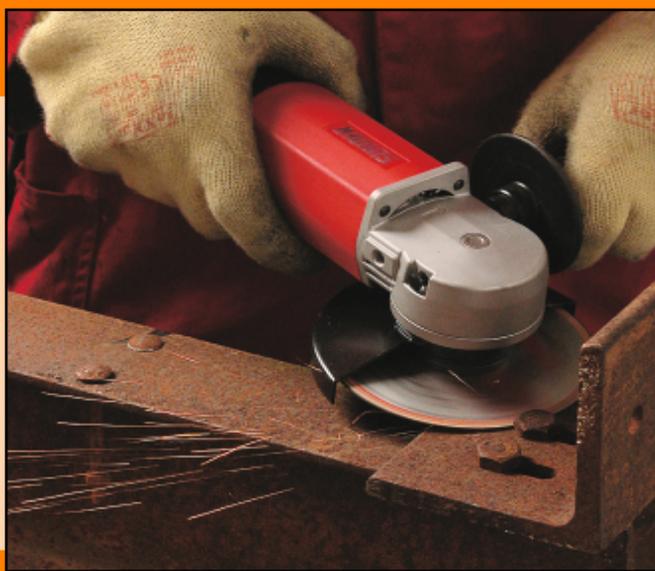
SUHNER's UWC 20-R has become a key part of the joinery repair job, first developed in the Netherlands, in terms of surface preparation and finishing.

Says Andy: "Things these days are driven by costs and timescales and when you are dealing with large sites, numbering maybe 2,000 windows at a time that is where you need a high speed tool.

"Paint has to be taken off back to its original stage, decayed wood cut out and replaced with a two-part epoxy resin and sanded so we use the angle grinder and SUN-disc abrasives to bring it back to a flat surface, so it becomes an invisible repair.

"Finish is everything in painting and decorating, or carpentry and joinery and the finish quality, resin application apart, is down to your finishing tool ...the faster it spins ...the lower the vibration ...the smoother the surface you get ... so the sanding tool is everything.

"Timber is 1,000 times more thermally efficient than plastic, plus you can maintain it. uPVC after 20 years is landfill."



## HANDY BUT POWERFUL

WEIGHING in at only 1.4kg the single-hand UWC 20-R electric power tool has a 500W motor with variable speed ranging from 9,000 to 19,000 rpm.

The angle grinder's high performance at different speeds allows for multiple applications – light grinding, deburring and polishing – all done with ease as the vibration-free performance and the low weight ensure full control over the tool.

SUHNER's UWC 20-R incorporates digital electronics, ensuring a smooth and joltless start and over-

load protection that prevents damage to the grinder.

The high-speed tool is suited for the general purpose SUN-fix aluminium oxide sanding discs that are approved for speeds up to 20,000 rpm. Because of the integrated cooling agent there is no discolouration or overheating of the work piece.

Recommended for use on most metals, including cast iron and stainless steel, Sun-fix VA/ST sanding discs are available in 36 grit, through to 120 and disc diameters 19mm, 25mm, 50mm and 75mm.