

CASE STUDY – THE USE OF ECOGLAZE IN LISTED BUILDINGS

THE CLEAR VIEWS OF MRS BRIGGS!

The first floor flat of Mrs Shirley Briggs is a cosy, warm and welcoming place thanks, in part, to clever innovation shown by the former schoolteacher and a lovely cup of coffee!

This is no ordinary flat. It's grade II listed and forms part of what were the servants' quarters at the side of a Georgian country house situated in the northern extremities of North Yorkshire.

One of its distinguishing features is the double glazing or rather the secondary glazing, given that listed property owners are not being allowed to install the former. It's just one of many listed and period properties across the UK to call on the expertise of Access Plastics, who supply and distribute the EcoGlaze secondary glazing system.

The two lounge windows and two dining room windows have so far been Ecoglazed with acrylic sheets attached to the interior frame with a magnetic strip.

She has now ordered the same EcoGlaze sheets, supplied by the West Yorkshire-based firm, for a number of her other windows

"It's a very simple solution with a quick and easy installation," explained Mrs Briggs "and it's also very easy to take them down when they are not needed or if they require cleaning.

"Condensation was another issue. This has rotted my window frames in the past but it's been eliminated with this solution.

"I considered a few secondary glazing options but was attracted by a glowing article about Access Plastics in a national newspaper. It was far and away the most cost effective and simplest option" she added.

"For someone living in a listed property there are a lot of advantages in getting secondary glazing such as this. For a start there's the heat retention, which you immediately notice it in the morning when you walk into a much warmer lounge and dining room.

"Although I'm not close to a main road, EcoGlaze has also significantly reduced the noise I can hear from outside, such as the gardeners working in the grounds of the hall.

"Safety is another issue for anyone in my situation, and Ecoglaze is light and safe! I've recommended it to many friends," enthused Mrs Briggs.

This historic building, constructed in 1742, is one of a number of distinguished and listed locations that is now showcasing a much clearer view of how we should be "Ecoglazing" our properties.

Paul Day, who owns a Georgian country farmhouse in Staffordshire, is another recent convert to EcoGlaze. He recently ordered panels for over 40 windows at his rural listed property.

"Overall, I'm delighted!" exclaimed Paul. "Since installing the secondary glazing I've seen a noticeable reduction in sound, no condensation to clean up and, most importantly no drafts any more!

"Living in a listed property does present challenges and when you cannot install double glazing it can be difficult to find a solution that doesn't affect the fabric of the building.

"EcoGlaze is a flexible and cost effective solution that I read about in a national newspaper recently, and I contacted Access Plastics as a result.

"I've ordered a range of panels of all sorts of sizes to secondary glaze every window in the farmhouse, it's so easy to put up! It's working out on average about 15 minutes per window to install and it comes down in seconds.

"I'm also looking forward to seeing a big reduction in our energy bills!" added Paul.

Janine Fleming of Access Plastics commented: "We are seeing a lot of demand from listed and period property owners right across the UK including some very prestigious locations. Indeed we have recently supplied EcoGlaze for a house in the grounds of Woburn Abbey.

"The limitations imposed on listed properties often make secondary glazing the only option to reduce energy loss from windows, noise pollution and condensation, and whilst there are a number of options available it seems EcoGlaze is the simplest and most cost effective on the market. A crucial consideration during an economic downturn," added Janine.

EcoGlaze has a U-value (amount of heat transferred or conducted through a material) of 2.7 compared with around 3.1 for double glazing and 5.8 for single glazing. Given that most homes lose between a quarter and half of heat through windows EcoGlaze combines outstanding performance with an unrivalled return on investment. The amount of condensation and noise is also dramatically reduced.

It seems that the innovation shown by Mrs Briggs and many others could well prove to be a clear view of the future, and a real window of opportunity for listed properties owners keen on making their homes more environmentally friendly.

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