

**WORDS OF WISDOM
FROM LEATHER WISE**

Issue VI



We hope that you are all suitably refreshed after your summer holidays, have packed the kids back off to school and are now looking forward to getting back into the swing of things back at work; we certainly are!

DO YOU WANT TO CALL THAT "GENUINE LEATHER"? Did you know that the British Standard BS2780 says that Leather should have its original fibre structure intact and should not have a surface coating that is more than 0.15mm thick? Clearly, there are some who do not know that this is the case as it is surprising how many products there are in the shops being described as "Leather" that do not meet these criteria. Many are made from materials such as Bonded Leather Fibre (the MDF of the leather world) or coated leather (having a surface coating that is more than 0.15mm thick). Are you sure that your products are correctly labelled? If not Trading Standards could (and do) prosecute. If you are in any doubt, don't worry – Leather Wise can help by examining your goods with a microscope that is able to evaluate the structure and measure the finish thickness. The cost is only £35 + VAT and results are issued very quickly. Contact Amanda on amanda@leatherwise.co.uk for more details on this or any other of our scientific services.



*This belt is made from coated bonded leather fibre – it certainly is **not** leather!*



TRAINING COURSES

Ever fancied actually having a go at making a piece of leather? Well, now's your chance! Leather Wise in partnership with the British School of Leather Technology at the University of Northampton invite you to attend their 5-day Appreciation of Leather Making Course on 8-12th October 2007. This course is suitable for all sectors; footwear, upholstery garments, leathersgoods etc and is designed for anyone who wants a better understanding of leather and how it is made. Contact Chris on chris@leatherwise.co.uk if you want more information about this, or any other of our training services. Remember, we can offer many of our courses when you want them and deliver them at your own premises if you wish.

WELL FANCY THAT!

Up until about 25 years ago, the diaphragms in gas meters were made from leather! The gas meter leather, which was usually made from sheepskin, had to be thin and very flexible and was rendered impermeable to air and gas by treating it with oils. Due to concerns over accuracy, leather diaphragms have sadly now been replaced with synthetic materials.

If you require any further information about Leather Wise's Services contact Amanda or Chris

