

## WORDS OF WISDOM FROM LEATHER WISE

Issue V



Well, where has the year gone so far? We suddenly realised that our last Newsletter was a Christmas one so thought we'd better make amends and catch up! From a positive point of view it just highlights what a busy year we are having and now have some exciting developments to tell you about.



### NEW! NEW! NEW! FOOTWEAR ASSISTANCE

As part of our expanding range of services, we are now able to offer assistance with your footwear problems. We have appointed the services of a highly qualified footwear technologist who specialises in construction and materials used in all types of footwear (mens', women's and children), arbitration of consumer complaints, performance standards required and retailer specifications. Why not see how we can help with your footwear problems?

### TRAINING COURSES

Due to demand we will be holding an extra One Day Simply Leather Course on Thursday 14 June. There are still places available if you would like to join us - £175 + VAT per delegate.

We are also holding an additional Two Day Intensive Footwear Leather Course on Wednesday and Thursday 04/05 July - a bargain at £295 + VAT per delegate! Why not bring along your footwear problems to discuss with our new footwear technologist?

### APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships are not only the preserve of Sir Alan Sugar! Apart from our short courses this year we have been very busy working with Bridgwater College and Skillfast-UK on a Leathergoods Modern Apprenticeship. Many companies are now considering how they can regain some of the traditional skills they have lost and this is a perfect way to start. Let us know if you would like more information on the benefits for your business.

**WELL FANCY THAT!** Plant extracts were the very first tanning agents used to make leather thousands of years ago and they are still extensively used today. Many different plants are utilised; mimosa, quebracho, oak, chestnut plus many more. Did you know that quebracho comes from the Spanish word *queiebrahacha* meaning "axe -breaker" because the wood is so hard. Not only does it make good leather, it also has medicinal uses. When administered intravenously, quebracho extract significantly increases respiration so is used to treat asthma and other diseases of the lung. Another use is as a deflocculant for the mud produced when drilling for oil. The extracts colour the mud which is known as "red-mud". What a useful plant it is!

### LEATHER CONFERENCE - 29 SEPTEMBER 2007

Just thought we would give some advance notice of the 110<sup>th</sup> Society of Leather Technologists and Chemists Annual Conference and Dinner Dance. It will be held at the Macdonalds Blossoms Hotel, Chester (which is a lovely historic place to visit with lots of opportunity to carry out some retail therapy and treat yourselves to some new leather shoes, bags, clothes...). It's a great event and has a varied programme of speakers including presentations on testing and specifying leather, lean manufacturing, leather production and much more. [www.sltc.org](http://www.sltc.org)

