

THE BEAUTY OF STONE

A successful Yorkshire family business is celebrating 50 years of restoring historic buildings to their former glory. Heather Barron finds out more...

In a half-century, an oak of a business has grown from an acorn, and is now one of the leading names in the region for building restoration. Founder of Building, Restoration and Cleaning (Leeds) Ltd, Richard Lock, joined the painting and decorating company his father set up in 1958, before establishing BRC in 1971.

From small contracts working with local authorities and architects, to restoring banks and building societies throughout Yorkshire and Lancashire, the company gradually expanded to include stone repairs, pointing, and exterior cleaning.

Richard's son, Justin, joined BRC in 1990, to run the company alongside his father, after spending 11 years on-site, learning the ropes.

With the advent of their 50th anniversary, BRC is now recognised as a premier name, with many substantial contracts, and many satisfied customers.

Ed Batty, of Leeds University's Estates Department says: "BRC Leeds Ltd is an excellent, local firm of highly-skilled building restorers that are always our first choice. They're a small, very professional team, who have sympathetically, and tastefully, cleaned, repaired and restored many of our heritage buildings on the campus, over more than 40 years - the most notable being the Parkinson Clock Tower, in 2012."

It's not only commercial properties that BRC takes on. The company was recommended to home-owner, Richard Outhwaite, by a client. Chevet Grange, in Wakefield, is an historic property that needed



Grantley Hall
Photography by Jack Hardy

attention. "They repointed it all, and, where some stones were eroding, they repaired them. They've done a superb job. When you look at the house, you can't tell what they've done - but with an historic property, that's what you want. They're very passionate about what they do."

Dating from the 17th century, Grantley Hall, in Ripon, has also benefitted from the BRC touch. Richard Sykes, managing director, says: "We are delighted with the

work BRC did for us in the restoration of Grantley Hall. They are a highly skilled, local company, which fits perfectly with our ethos to use as many Yorkshire-based businesses as possible during the project. BRC Leeds Ltd brought the original stonework of the Grade II* listed building back to life through specialist cleaning. They did a fantastic job, and were an absolute pleasure to work with."

Justin says: "We are a family business that has really stood the test of time - a particularly significant achievement, especially during this economic uncertainty."

"We've been fortunate to have carried on working through most of 2020, and business remains buoyant."

"We're very proud of our skilled workforce - the face of BRC - who are often complimented on their skills and restoration expertise. Without them we wouldn't be the success we are."

Plans to celebrate their half-century will take place when current restrictions allow, but, in the meantime, BRC Leeds Ltd will continue to reveal the beauty of historic buildings around the region.

buildingrestorationandcleaning.co.uk



Chevet Grange