



There'll be plenty of light onboard this wide-beam thanks to Wesley Marine's large arch-topped windows.

GREAT GLAZE

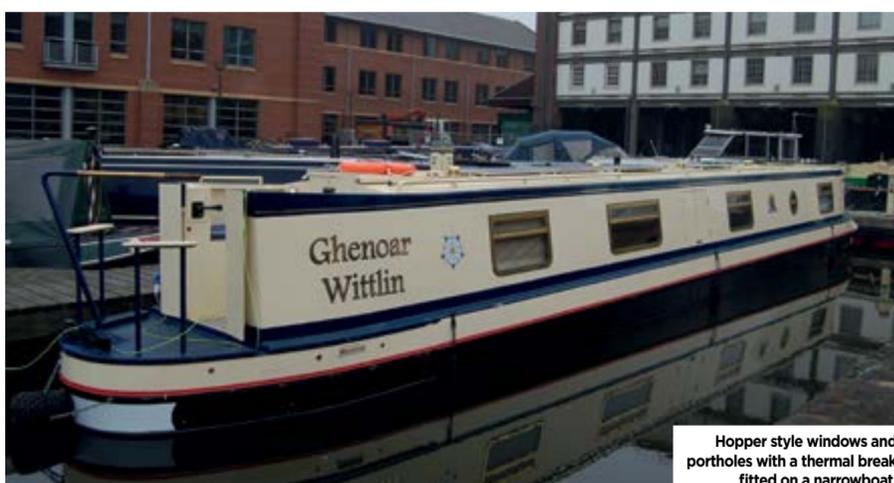
A spur-of-the-moment decision to purchase window-making equipment spawned a successful glazing business that just keeps growing. *Amelia Hamson* finds out more

Wesley Marine Windows is a manufacturer of custom-built windows for narrowboats. Operating since 2003, the Nottinghamshire-based company has established a reputation for quality glazing solutions with excellent customer service. More recently the company expanded into the shower sector, offering glass doors and cubicles in narrowboat-friendly proportions.

History
Owner Angela Dickinson, a qualified accountant, came into the marine market in 2003 with no previous experience of the industry. When the equipment and jigs for constructing windows came up for sale from R&D Fabrications, Angela took a chance on purchasing the lot. However, it's not as entirely bonkers as it sounds – her husband John's career, which started in 1969, centred on the waterways and covered a wide range of sectors including sales and running a hire-fleet and marina. Now retired (although still found in the Wesley Marine office most days!), John has supported Angela and the business since day one.

After acquiring the equipment, Angela invited son Gary to join her in learning the basics of window making from R&D's owner. After several months of getting to grips with jigs and mastering glass cutting, the pair were able to produce Hopper windows – the type most commonly installed on narrowboats. Confident they could develop their new-found skills further, Angela moved the business into new premises and recruited the expertise of an engineer, who began designing portholes and arched windows.

Thirteen years later and it's clear Angela's confidence has paid off. The company has successfully expanded its product range and she now employs 11 staff who design, manufacture and supply windows for private customers, boatbuilders, chandlers and marinas. It's more recent, and successful, venture into small space showers is testament to the skills of the workforce and the company's ability to diversify. Wesley Marine has developed a firm reputation in the industry and has picked up a few local awards along the way, including Best Business Growth in Newark 2006 and Angela's gong for Newark's Businesswoman



Hopper style windows and portholes with a thermal break fitted on a narrowboat.

of the Year 2008 at the height of the economic recession.

Windows

Wesley Marine designs and builds all of its windows in its factory in Newark, Nottinghamshire. It uses 4mm toughened glass that meets the industry standard for all its single or double glazed products. Constantly seeking to improve its range, in 2014 the company

developed double glazed windows with a thermal break. This works to prevent the condensation that commonly forms inside traditional double glazing. The new technology is popular with customers, becoming a bestseller in the last couple of years. All the windows are available with or without the thermal break, depending on the customer's budget and design preferences. The traditional Hopper-style

windows are a common sight on the waterways, and a practical choice for many boats. The top section drops down to allow for air circulation and they can be fitted with a sliding opening underneath for additional ventilation. Wesley Marine's comprehensive range of windows also includes: escape windows with removable toughened glass; arch-topped windows, popular for Dutch barges; fixed bulkhead and door



Wesley Marine supplied portholes for this unusual spaceship-like pod project.



An arch-topped window with a thermal break to prevent condensation.



Wesley Marine works with boatbuilders like Viking Boats.

windows, great for allowing light to enter the cabin; traditional portholes; and deck or 'Houdini' hatches.

The windows can be supplied in a range of finishes in keeping with the style and décor of the boat. Aluminium can be anodised to give either a satin or shiny finish in gold or silver. Alternatively, powder coating provides a tough and long-lasting finish and comes in a huge range of colours. The windows are installed with either hidden fixings or clamp fixings and to ensure a neat and professional finish inside the boat, the company can produce liners and trims in hardwood, softwood, aluminium, spun brass or fibreglass to match the existing interior.

Narrowboats and other vessels come in a variety of shapes and sizes. So if your boat doesn't fit the norm, why have windows that do? Wesley Marine can design bespoke window solutions in any style or size, or can even come up with a new and unique glazing solution for all kinds of doors, windows and hatches. The company's windows have been used on land-based projects too, with portholes and unusual designs installed in domestic and commercial properties.

quadrant shower doors complete with trays and walls, so a complete cubicle can be designed and installed for customers. This side of the business has been a huge success, with shower doors becoming some of the company's best-selling products.

Wesley Marine's Newark showroom is open from 8.30am until 4.45pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4pm on Fridays. Customers are welcome to visit to view examples and discuss requirements. Alternatively, the comprehensive websites have details of all its products and there is always a friendly and helpful member of staff at the other end of the phone.

Find out more...
Wesley Marine Windows
 v 01636 704363
 w wesleywindows.co.uk
Wesley Shower Doors
 w wesleyshowerdoors.co.uk



This Peniche features Wesley Marine's arch-topped windows.

Showers

In response to customer needs and gaps in the market, around six years ago the company began producing shower doors. With the skilled staff and equipment required to hand, it seemed an obvious way to diversify the business.

With their reduced headroom, narrowboats require low-profile showers, often made to measure for tight spaces. Identifying that loft or cellar conversions and mobile homes like caravans have similarly restricted areas, the company set up a separate website (wesleyshowerdoors.co.uk) in order to tap into those land-based markets too.

The company manufactures a range of bespoke bi-fold, pivot and



Wesley Marine designs low-profile shower doors, trays and walls.



The bi-fold design was the company's first shower door.



A shower with sliding doors installed on a narrowboat.



Its showers can be fitted on boats and caravans as well as in loft and cellar conversions.