

Hall of Fame

Landmark equipment that shaped the history of h&v

1867 – Welded and riveted mass produced heating boilers

[Hartley & Sugden]



In the 18th century the development of boilers was directed towards the raising of steam to drive steam engines, with systems of heating by hot water introduced in 1810. Early hot water heating boilers were small and crude and as such, heating in country houses, churches, and prisons continued to be carried out mainly by warm air.

Most early hot water boilers were of the saddle type, originally manufactured using riveted wrought-iron plates with steam heating for factories and large institutional buildings, such as hospitals and asylums, never achieving great popularity.

An important change to the heating industry came about in 1854 when Samuel Cook discovered a method of joining wrought plates by fire-welding. His first designs were saddle and cylindrical boilers and by 1863 he had established the Premier Works at Halifax in Yorkshire. This spawned a whole new industry for the boilermakers of Yorkshire, due to the

availability of coal, iron, water and good transportation links. Prominent among these early firms were Robert Jenkins of Rotherham, Lumbys (later Lumby, Son & Wood) of Halifax, and Hartley & Sugden, also of Halifax.

For over 120 years, Hartley & Sugden has manufactured steel and hot water boilers. Established in 1867 the company expanded quickly and in 1872 its improved wrought welded saddle boiler was awarded a gold medal at the Royal Horticultural Society's Show. Nineteen years on and its boilers, of which the patented Dome Top and the Climax were particularly successful, had been installed in thousands of buildings throughout both the UK and Europe.

The era of the mass-produced hot water boiler, in which Hartley & Sugden played a leading role, had arrived and it changed the face of the heating industry. Today, Hartley & Sugden markets one of the most comprehensive ranges of industrial and commercial boilers available in the UK.



More pictures and details of historical products can be found on the CIBSE Heritage Group website at: www.hevac-heritage.org