

# Want a renovating fairytale? Call in the specialists ...



**When you have a characterful older property, the challenge is to bring it up to the twenty-first century without losing any of its traditional charm. And when Michael Axler renovated his Edwardian home, he decided not only to modernise but to prepare for the future.**

*"Our home is rather unusual," Michael explains, "in that it's part of a very large Edwardian manor which has been divided into separate apartments. But at the same time, it's a very normal scenario – before we renovated, we had a conventional boiler, antiquated pipes and poor water pressure which we had to boost with two rather noisy pumps. Our ideal heating system would be multi-fuel, so that it could be connected to our solar panels and wood burner as well as to our gas supply, and one which was flexible enough to be adaptable to our future requirements. We also hoped to find a system that would dispense with the lengthy and antiquated pipework in the property, as well as improving our water pressure."*

This may seem like a lot to ask, but the Axlers weren't disappointed. *"Well," Michael says, "we found everything we were looking for in the DPS Heatbank. We've connected it to our solar panels and our wood burning stove and removed those unsightly pipes – although we were able to leave some of the original radiators as period features. Now it's much neater, with everything in one place. And we have control over the heat we use: if we want to use more energy from the wood burner or our solar panels, we just adjust it accordingly. In fact, now we tend to only use the gas supply for 'backup', so we've definitely saved a lot of money on energy bills."*

In fact, the DPS Heatbank brought even more advantages than they'd hoped for. *"For one thing," Michael says, "our water pressure is now so good we've dispensed with the pumps entirely, which is a huge benefit as they were just so noisy and quite unreliable. Unlike the DPS Heatbank, which comes with a twenty five year warranty on the store itself, so I have complete peace of mind. And now, when I take a shower, I know the water isn't from a tank where it's been stored for ages, but is arriving freshly heated from the mains supply. The other benefit is that hard water isn't a problem any more. When we removed the old pipes, they were almost completely furred up on the inside with limescale: in a one and a half inch pipe, only a quarter of an inch remained unblocked. It's good to know that hard water won't be a problem any more: the DPS Heatbank itself is a closed system so isn't affected by limescale build up, and we had it fitted with a water softener so that all our pipes and appliances are protected too."*

It may seem like a renovating fairytale, but the project had its teething problems. Michael explains, *"when we first decided to overhaul our heating and hot water, we asked the company responsible for installing our wood burning stove to install a new system. Unfortunately, they installed completely the wrong type of tank in the wrong location with the wrong connections. Luckily, when we called in our plumber to try to undo some of the damage, he suggested we speak to industry experts DPS, who were excellent. It just showed us how important it is to have people who know what they are doing: it takes a lot of planning and experience to understand what's needed for each particular situation. DPS have decades of experience and are relatively rare in that they understand all aspects of the systems, from the different energy sources to the electrics. They came out to oversee the installation of the DPS Heatbank twice and were simply excellent."*

So, the question is, would he recommend DPS and the DPS Heatbank? *"Definitely," he says, "I would recommend both DPS and the DPS Heatbank without hesitation."* **So, if you're looking for a multi-fuel, reliable heating and hot water system designed and manufactured by industry experts, it seems the DPS Heatbank is one way to get your renovating happy ending!**

## DPS Commentary:

We were called in to have a look at Mr.Axlers property by Nick Manual of Griffon House. Nick has described the job as 'very interesting' and he was not wrong. On our first site visit we were shown around the property, including two existing wood burners and a large solar array. One of the wood burners had been plumbed up dangerously using plastic fittings and no vent pipe, the solar system did not work, and in the basement boiler room we saw three types of storage unit from previous attempts to get the system working. In addition to this one of the existing gas boilers had blown apart due to a lack of expansion vessel and safety relief, and the pipework was a mess.

Mr. Axlers also wanted another multifuel stove and a 40kW gas boiler to be added into the system, along with simple controls that allowed summer/winter modes to be used, where the gas boiler can be brought into backup the wood burners and solar if demand so required.

We agreed on a suitable location for the new Heat Bank and went over the possible pipework layout with Nick, as well as how best to integrate the solar, wood and gas and ensure the entire system is protected against overheating (even during power cuts or with pump failures).

The system was quoted, ordered by the customer, and supplied to site within a week. The following week we attended a site meeting to finalise a few minor installation points, and go over the system with the customer.

