

Durrington Businesses

Michenall's Reinforced Plastics Factory



In the early 1950's, a small coachbuilding firm run by Fred Mitchenall and his sons Fred, Doug and Dave, built a sports car body for an R.A.F. officer, who suggested the use of polyester/glass. Doug Mitchenall had the idea of making a motor-cycle fairing of polyester/glass to give weather protection. Various shapes were tried, and at last the Avon fairing was put on the market.

Sales were slow at first, but streamlined fairings were coming into use on racing motor-cycles and it became fashionable to fit a fairing to ordinary machines. Mitchenall Brothers had success on their hands and by 1956 orders for 1,500 fairings a week were coming in.

Today the company employs about 150 men working on fairings, petrol tanks, pannier boxes and mudguards.



Mitchenall's on Bulford Road

(Information held by W.I. & retrieved courtesy of Dave Healing)

[The company was going well until the mid 1980's. The colour photo above shows it just before it closed]