



Environmental
Protection
Scotland



Newsletter May 2018

Welcome

Freedom of speech is a democratic right most of us take for granted. Back in the mid-1980s, however, it was still possible to lose your passport for speaking out about pollution problems in some of the Soviet-backed states of eastern Europe. That is exactly what happened to Polish-born Dr Andrzej Jagusiewicz, the current EFCA President, when he spoke out about his Government's failure to tackle pollution. We are very grateful Dr Jagusiewicz granted the Newsletter an interview this month and we think his views on a variety of environmental topics provide for fascinating reading.

We also have the latest news on Clean Air Day in Scotland on Thursday June 21.

Noise Action Week is currently under way and co-ordinator Mary Stevens has provided an update.

There's also details of the launch of the UK Government's Clean Air Strategy and coverage of the INEOS legal challenge against the Scottish Government's moratorium on hydraulic fracturing.

Meanwhile, we've reviewed two new books on air quality by Sotirios Papathanasiou, a Greek-born environmental researcher and writer.

In line with the new GDPR regulations, we have updated our privacy policy. Details can be found here www.ep-scotland.org.uk/privacy-statement

“I was considered a political refugee after I criticised Poland's environmental policies in a radio interview” – Dr Andrzej Jagusiewicz, President of the European Federation of Clean Air Associations (EFCA)

He is one of the 'founding fathers' of the United Nations Convention on Long-range Trans-boundary Air Pollution – the first instrument which aimed to improve air quality between countries and grew from his doctoral thesis at university in his home city of Warsaw.

But Dr Andrzej Jagusiewicz, the current EFCA President, was made to give back his Polish passport - leaving him a 'political refugee' in Geneva for four months after he dared to criticise the Communist Polish Government's environmental policies in 1986.

Poland was being led at the time by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, who controlled the security services apparatus and the army and had previously brought in martial law to crush the pro-democracy Solidarity movement led by Lech Walesa.



Dr Jagusiewicz, on holiday in the Swiss Alps

Read the full interview [here](#)

CLEAN AIR DAY

With less than a month to go, many of Scotland's local authorities are planning events to link into Clean Air Day on Thursday June 21.

In Edinburgh, road closures will be in force for a two-day summer summit celebrating CAD and the city's placemaking policies. The council has decided to use the event to also highlight plans to transform areas of the capital as part of its aspirations to be a more healthy active city – and to raise awareness of its Low Emission Zone. Details are still being finalised, but it is hoped to involve a procession of school children from The Mound.

Glasgow City Council is to seal off George Square – and the road outside the City Chambers - entirely for Clean Air Day activities with a growing list of participants thanks to efforts by the organiser Colin Hughes. They include demonstrations of electric bicycles, electric cars from Renault, Nissan, BMW and Tesla, (thanks to excellent work by the staff at Home Energy Scotland) an electric Hackney cab, other cycle displays and demonstrations, information about the South City Way by Sustrans, Scottish Cycling stands and stalls provided by other cycle shops including by Billy Bilsland. Cycling Scotland will also be there. People will be able to quench their thirst by drinking delicious smoothies from the back of a specially converted bicycle operated by Bernie Strachan's 'healthy 'n happy enterprise.' One of the main draws will be a 19m x 6m BMX track for use by visitors, provided by the Glasgow 2018 Championships team. The city also hopes to will raise awareness of its LEZ plans. Meanwhile, leading health experts will gather in the City Chambers for a health conference which will examine the importance of tackling air pollution. Organised by the UK Health-Alliance, the event will be introduced by EPS Policy and Communications officer John Bynorth at 11am and run until 1pm, when delegates will be able to go outside and see the festivities in George Square. An excellent list of speakers has been lined up; Jackie Hyland of NHS Tayside, Councillor Anna Richardson, the City Convenor of the Sustainability and Carbon Reduction committee and Scottish Youth Parliament member Ben Edwards. Free tickets are available from http://bit.ly/CleanAirDay_Glasgow

Dundee is also planning a major event with Jamie Landwehr's team in the city's environmental health finalising plans for an outdoor event at a prominent city centre location. Additionally, a CAD promotion will be situated in the main foyer at Ninewells Hospital to promote the aims and initiatives surrounding active travel and healthier lifestyles. Health staff are inviting the public in Tayside to use their smartphones to take pictures of themselves engaged in active travel. These are being emailed to the health board with the best pictures featured in a future newsletter.

Fife Council is planning to promote the fact it has the first hydrogen powered bin lorry in the UK; Inverclyde is planning to raise awareness of its No Idling fines campaign which sees motorists fined if they refused to switch off their engines and others, such as Falkirk, Perth and Kinross and East Lothian, also have activities planned.

John Bynorth has accepted an invitation from Highland Council's climate change team to speak to pupils at Crown Primary School in Inverness on June 14 about air pollution. It is hoped an electric car will put in an appearance in the playground!

John also spoke at the Greenfleet Motor Trade Show on April 4 at the Royal Highland Showground about Global Action Plan's Clean Van Commitment and CAD.

Nine MSPs have now signed a private members motion on CAD put forward by the Highlands and Islands MSP David Stewart in the Scottish Parliament. Meanwhile, actor Colin McCredie tweeted a picture of himself wearing a CAD t-shirt last week. He wrote: "I'm supporting Clean Air Day" and used #CleanAirDay and #EPSScotland in the tweet.

In addition to receiving many re-tweets, the excellent image, right, was shared on the Breathe Scotland Facebook page more than 1,500 times.

Any local authorities needing ideas or advice about how to participate in CAD should contact EPS on 0141 333 6655.



NOISE ACTION WEEK – 21-26 May 2018



NOISE Action Week is in full swing with events and attention being drawn to the campaign through social media as never before.

Twitter has given the event an even higher profile this year with @EPScotland and other environmental organisations in Scotland and south of the Border re-tweeting organiser Mary Stevens's tweets and blog posts, and using Twitter to highlight their own work on noise.

The week-long campaign got off to a strong start with a report by the London branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, which published a study of 885 parks in the UK capital and found many were severely affected by traffic and other noise pollution. NAW co-ordinator Mary Stevens said: "The CPRE report fitted in exactly with what our campaign is about and highlights the level of work going on with sound-scaping policies and urban design to make it easier for councils to deal with noise problems."

Local authorities have also been running campaigns to highlight the work of their noise officers, with Nottingham City Council's officers raising awareness among its large student population in the need to keep intrusive noise down, with coverage on BBC Radio Nottingham.

In Weston-Super-Mare, the University Centre Weston have been getting behind the event talking to people about healthy attitudes, and Gloucester City Council attracted interest in a talk on noise with a city centre BBQ. At this weekend's Malton Food Festival in West Yorkshire noise specialists from NAW sponsors Cirrus Research will be on hand promoting healthy attitudes to noise.

Mary said: "Noise Action Week has been picked up by a lot of local authorities this year which have put out a lot of information about their services. Next year we can build on this and raise even more awareness of noise."

Find out more here www.noiseactionweek.org.uk

"Double the number of people are now living in cities compared to 1950 and the world is very much in an urban age"

– Duncan Booker

Last month Duncan Booker, Glasgow's Chief Resilience Officer, spoke to the Environmental Protection Scotland Newsletter about the Low Emission Zone plans for the city.

In the second part of a wide-ranging interview, Mr Booker discusses how Glasgow's membership of the Rockefeller Foundation Global Resilience network of 100 worldwide cities has helped drive its long-term environmental, education and public health agenda and allowed officials to exchange experiences with the US steel city of Pittsburgh.

He discusses contaminated land, the 2014 Commonwealth Games legacy, community empowerment and how the communities in the north of the city are helping the city anticipate climate change.

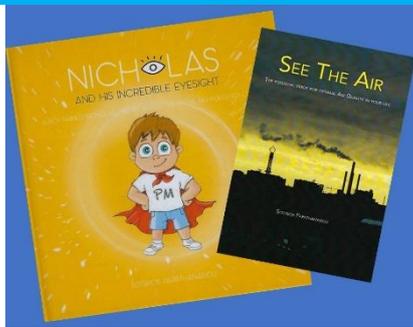
Read the full interview [here](#).

EVENTS

EPS is planning to run a Noise Update event in early autumn. Full details will be made available to members nearer to the time.

Just a reminder that our Survey Monkey is still active and we would like members to let us know what sort of events they would like us to run in 2018. We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to provide some feedback as to what would work well for you, and what you would like to see from the events you attend. To complete the survey, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XBTWSSL>

BOOK REVIEWS



Two books about air quality – aimed at different audiences – have been written and published by Sotirios Papathanasiou, a Greek researcher, writer and blogger who is based in Spain. ‘See The Air’ (£8.97 book/£3.75 Kindle) is a pocket-sized personal guide to optimal air quality which covers the basics of how outdoor and indoor pollution affects human health and clearly explains the science behind NO₂, PM’s, Black Carbon and other pollutants and their impacts on human health. Sotirios has a very clear style and gives concise information about air quality whilst throwing in his views as to whether legislators are dealing with air pollution. In one

chapter he questions why people need to drive around in what he describes as ‘big SUVs’ and whether buses can ever fully provide a solution to air quality issues. The 60-page book is a useful tool for newcomers or others who need to pull out some facts at short notice. It certainly helps achieve Sotiros’s aim “to make the world a bit better by raising awareness.” His other enterprise is a children’s book “Nicholas And His Incredible Eyesight’ (£11.63 book/£8.95 Kindle) about a boy called ‘Nicholas,’ from Oban, whose move to London with his parents literally opens his eyes to air pollution. His dream move to the UK capital is dashed when he begins to suffer the effects of air pollution – firstly with stinging eyes, which eventually turn blue. It turns out he has an ‘amazing gift’ of special vision which allows him to see and draw Particulate Matter. The book uses lovely illustrations and words to explain what PMs are and how they affect his new classmates’ health. He so incensed by London’s pollution he gets his teacher to persuade the board of governors to ban parents from driving children to school in petrol and diesel cars. The book ends with the family moving back to Oban – a good advert indeed for Scotland’s air quality. This book, aimed at primary school age pupils, is an excellent attempt by the author to explain air quality to young people. It also has a simple glossary of air quality terms and could be used by schools or stocked in the children’s sections of libraries...so there is perhaps an opportunity here for local authorities looking to improve awareness of air pollution.

Both books are available from Amazon.

We have three signed copies of ‘See The Air’ to give away to the members drawn from a hat who answer the following questions correctly:

1. How much oxygen does a person consume in a day?

- A. 550 liters per day
- B. 11,000 liters per day
- C. 1,800 liters per day

2. Nitrogen dioxide NO₂ is a toxic gas, how is it produced?

- A. While using a gas stove
- B. While using combustion engine vehicles
- C. Both

3. According to the World Health Organization guideline values, What are the Air Quality Standards for PM_{2.5}?

- A. 10 µg/m³ annual mean | 25 µg/m³ 24-hour mean
- B. 50 µg/m³ annual mean | 100 µg/m³ 24-hour mean
- C. 25 µg/m³ annual mean | 25 µg/m³ 24-hour mean

Send the answers to admin@ep-scotland.org.uk marked **BOOK COMPETITION**

CLYDE ESTUARY’S POLLUTION SECRETS DUG UP

THE secrets of the Clyde estuary have been dredged by environmental scientists searching for a breakthrough in the fight against Antimicrobial Resistant Organisms (AMR)

Samples taken from a 30-mile stretch of the Clyde’s banks from the Cuningar Loop in Rutherglen to Greenock have been analysed for levels of heavy metals (or Potentially Toxic Elements - PTE) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) to determine pollution dating back as far as the mid-19th century.

The multi-disciplinary research project has been run by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) over the past two years and represents a collaboration between the University of the West Scotland’s (UWS) Institute of

Biomedical and Environmental Health Research (IBEHR) in Paisley and the University of Strathclyde's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Read full story [here](#)

IN THE PRESS

On Tuesday, Environment Secretary Michael Gove announced the UK Government's Cleaner Air Strategy. The document which can be seen here www.gov.uk/government/news/new-clean-air-strategy-to-be-launched-by-environment-secretary-michael-gove aims by 2025 to cut in half the number of areas where people are living in locations with PM concentrations above the World Health Organisation guidelines of 10ug/m³.

The strategy includes action to tackle the worst polluting wood burning and solid fuel stove/boilers; funding for new research to cut PM's emitted from car brakes and tyres, more powers for English local authorities to tackle air pollution and a requirement for farmers to invest in the necessary equipment to cut the release of ammonia. Mr Gove, who made the announcement as he visited Imperial College in London to see their PM monitors, said: "Sixty years on from the historic Clean Air Act a clear truth remains - air pollution is making people ill, shortening lives and damaging our economy and environment."



The legal challenge by INEOS against the Scottish Government's moratorium on hydraulic fracturing has started in the Court of Session in Edinburgh. A report on the proceedings by Holyrood Magazine can be read here www.holyrood.com/articles/news/ineos-legal-challenge-fracking-ban-begins

John Bynorth's speech on CAD and the Clean Van Commitment at the Greenfleet Motor Trade Show gained coverage in its online magazine. The article can be viewed here www.greenfleet.net/features/05052018/supporting-scotlands-eco-goals

NEXT MONTH – CLEAN AIR DAY SPECIAL

Next month's edition will concentrate on a round-up of Clean Air Day's main events around the country. There will also be reaction from political leaders, locally and nationally, to the event, and images from the day and a look at how it has impacted on attitudes to air quality in Scotland.

We hope to have full coverage of the draft Transport Bill, which the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Humza Yousaf, has indicated will be laid before Parliament in June.

It is expected to have policy implications for LEZ's, bus services and 'smart' ticketing to encourage more people to use public transport.

We also hope to have a full report on the success of Noise Action Week.

Please email any suggestions to admin@ep-scotland.org.uk - marked **NEWSLETTER**

EPS is the continuation of an eminent line of charities going back to the days of the National Society for Clean Air and more recently Environmental Protection UK. Our objectives include the support and development of the work of Scotland's environmental regulators and scientists based on sound science, objectivity and best practice. We seek to work towards a cleaner, quieter, healthier sustainable Scotland.

WE HAVE MOVED

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