



November/December Newsletter 2018

Welcome

If there was a simple health warning that could be stuck on the smoke that belches out of vehicle exhausts then surely it would be: “Air Pollution – it’s bad for your health.”

That was the message related by Dr Colin Ramsay of Health Protection Scotland at the recent Low Emission Zone conference in Edinburgh. Dr Ramsay explained why the air quality situation in Scotland needs to be put in context against media headlines about air quality. However, the simplicity of the message he conveyed could work wonders if it can be got across to the public to change their travel habits.

EPS also attended the IAQM ‘Routes to Clean Air Conference’ in Birmingham, before returning to the city just two weeks later for our sister organisation, EPUK’s annual conference where Brexit was uppermost in most delegates minds following the publication of the UK Government’s draft Brexit deal.

We were delighted with the success of our BS4142 event/workshop in Glasgow, which highlighted the continuing need for noise/acoustics training. Our AGM reflected on a great year for our charity, highlighted by the success of Clean Air Day.

Glasgow introduces Scotland’s first LEZ at 23.59 on Hogmanay and we have a festive stocking filler to give away in the shape of a signed copy of Dr Gary Fuller’s new air pollution book ‘The Invisible Killer.’



This is our last newsletter for 2018, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the staff may we wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a cleaner, quieter, healthier and sustainable New Year.

“AIR POLLUTION; THE POINT IS – IT’S BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH”

EDINBURGH staged a major conference which examined the impacts of air pollution and Scotland’s four proposed city-wide Low Emission Zones (LEZ) on public health and other areas of society.



The Halloween event at the Novotel Hotel was chaired by Professor Campbell Gemmill shortly before he was appointed to lead a review of the Scottish Government’s Cleaner Air For Scotland (CAFS) strategy last month.

Dr Colin Ramsay, Consultant Epidemiologist in Environmental Public Health at Health Protection Scotland (HPS) used his presentation to put Scotland’s air pollution issues into context. He said: “The point is it’s bad for your health. But the media do not explain the complexity of this.”

Glasgow councillor Anna Richardson said the city’s forthcoming LEZ, which begins initially with a proportion of buses, was “not only about improving our overall health, but is about tackling the health and social inequalities the city has faced for far too long.

There were also excellent contributions from Sustrans, the Road Haulage Association and Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland on the potential impact of LEZ’s and what can be done to engage more with their members. Read the full report [here](#)

HOW TO CONSTRUCT/ASSESS A COMPETENT BS4142 ACOUSTIC REPORT – EPS WORKSHOP



EPS held a successful day-long event which aimed to provide guidance to local authorities and consultants from private sector organisations on how to construct and assess a competent BS4142 report at the IET Teacher Building in Glasgow on November 22nd.

Noise experts from North Lanarkshire and West Lothian councils, Jacobs and SEPA gave presentations which led into a challenging afternoon workshop in which delegates participated in round-table discussions and critical analysis of anonymised noise reports. Read a full report on the day [here](#).



“EVERY TIME YOU HAVE A NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO AN ISSUE, YOU’RE DENYING YOURSELF THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE”

Birmingham hosted the two-day Institute of Air Quality Management’s ‘Routes to Clean’ Air’ conference with around 100 delegates in attendance on October 29th/30th.

Independent consultants, environmental scientists, including academics and air quality experts, a senior civil servant from DEFRA’S air quality unit and a representative from the Dutch Government’s air quality monitoring scheme were among those to take part.

They all gave excellent presentations and took part in Q&A’s on subjects ranging from the impacts of air pollution on public health, in particular on lower socio-economic groups, to ammonia to real-time emissions from motoring, the impact of wood burning stoves on air pollution as well as emerging topics such as indoor/built design in office buildings and even some

emerging research into the effects of chemicals used in the build of new car interiors on vehicle occupants. Read the full report [here](#)

EPUK ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT - BIRMINGHAM

EPUK'S annual conference held at Aston University took place on November 15th. It coincided with a day of turmoil for the UK Government with a number of ministerial resignations following publication the previous evening of the draft Brexit deal that was subsequently agreed at a meeting of EU leaders.



The charity's President Lord Whitty, pictured on the right of trustee Professor John Murlis, arrived in Birmingham fresh from receiving the 561 page draft document and expressed his fears about the impact of the country's impending divorce from Brussels on environmental safeguards.

The air quality side of the conference was concerned with questions about how England's towns and cities will implement Clean Air Zones in order to meet the stringent guidelines on NO_x and NO₂ that have been laid down by the European courts. There was also concern as to whether Environment Secretary Michael Gove's proposed environmental oversight body would have the 'teeth' to uphold the standards for air quality and other issues after we leave the EU on March 29 2019. Read a full summary [here](#)



EPS TO PARTNER BROWNFIELD LAND SCOTLAND 2019 EVENT

The 12th Brownfield Land Scotland is returning on Wednesday February 6th 2019 with actionable guidance specific to the management of brownfield land in Scotland.

This conference will update you on the current planning and regulatory backdrop for brownfield land development in Scotland, as well as providing practical solutions to many of the current challenges faced when risk assessing and remediating contaminated and derelict land.

Bringing together Contaminated Land Officers and Environmental Health Officers in Local Councils, Regulatory Agencies, Brownfield Consultants and Contractors for one information-packed day, this event provides an opportunity to share first-hand experiences and solutions to many contaminated land and groundwater challenges. The event also includes extensive networking opportunities, Q&A discussions with our expert speakers, and a focused exhibition.

Local authorities benefit from a discounted price (£147), but EPS have secured a 10% discount on the full price for all our Corporate/Consultant members. Just quote the discount code **EPS10** when you register.

[Find out more](#) | [View the programme](#)

'OUTSTANDING' TRUSTEES STEP DOWN AT AGM

Dr Bernadette McKell and Moira Cartwright stepped down from the EPS Board of Trustees at the AGM in Glasgow on November 22nd 2018. EPS Chair Nigel Kerr paid tribute to both Dr McKell, who also chaired SNAG, and Moira for their hard work and dedication to the organisation, particularly in their specialist fields of noise. He said: "Bernadette was a founding trustee of EPS and an integral part of the National Society for Clean Air (NSCA) and EPUK. Moira became a trustee in 2015, and had huge input into the Board's work. We would like to thank them both for their hard work and dedication." The board unanimously approved a decision to make Dr McKell an honorary trustee.

Dr McKell, one of the world's leading authorities in acoustics engineering, was working for Glasgow-based Hamilton & McGregor acoustics (rising to become Head of Acoustics Practice when it merged into AECOM in 2008) when she first became involved with the NSCA. She later chaired the EPUK national Noise group. Dr McKell, who now plans to spend more time on her family life, said: "I got involved because I liked the ethos of the NSCA and the role we played in getting information about acoustics out to people. We had a vibrant noise community in Scotland and there was always lots going on. I've very much enjoyed being part of the work of the NSCA, EPUK and EPS."

Moira, who became a trustee of EPS in November 2015, is a senior EHO in the Pollution Control Team at North Lanarkshire Council. Moira is also keen to devote more time to family life, but the good news is she plans to remain on the Scottish Noise Advisory Group. She added: "I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with my colleagues in EPS across all areas. I've found it really rewarding, both through being involved in the noise events we organise and the work of the board itself."

EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS

LAND QUALITY

A Land Quality Expert Advisory Group meeting is to take place at EPS's offices on Thursday December 13th from 10.30am-12.30pm. Chair Roslyn McIntosh, a contaminated land officer at Inverclyde Council, has recruited a number of highly qualified practitioners from local authorities, academia and the private sector to complement the existing group members. It is hoped the meeting will provide a springboard for 2019.

SCOTTISH NOISE ADVISORY GROUP

Steve Williamson was elected as the new Chair, to succeed Dr Bernadette McKell, at a meeting held at EPS on Tuesday December 4. Steve brings a wealth of experience as an EHO and is currently Regulatory Operations Manager at the City of Edinburgh Council. The meeting also welcomed Ewen Scott, of the Scottish Government, who will be attending future meetings. The group discussed the recent WHO updated guidelines on Noise for the European Region, the Scottish Government's Noise Action Plans and Noise Action Week. The group is particularly keen to hear from people involved in the private sector/industry who would be interested in joining SNAG.

AIR QUALITY

A well-attended meeting of the AQ group took place at Ricardo's offices in Blythswood Square on Thursday November 8. Representatives from the Scottish Government, the City of Edinburgh Council, Enviro Tech, Air Monitors, NHS Tayside, Glasgow City Council and Health Protection Scotland listened to a phone-in presentation by Lawson Wight, the Chair of the Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps, on the success of the 'BurnRight' initiative to instruct wood burning stove owners about correct practice.

IN THE PRESS, ON WEB & RADIO

WORKPLACE PARKING LEVY

EPS achieved prominent media coverage in the '[Evening Times](#),' and '[Glasgow Live](#)' and '[Air Quality News](#)' websites after Glasgow City Council revealed it was considering applying for powers to create a Workplace Parking Levy to create extra funding to improve the city's transport infrastructure, cut congestion and encourage active travel. EPS's John Bynorth also went up against Neil Greig of the Institute of Advanced Motorists on BBC Radio Scotland's 'Good Morning Scotland' programme on November 23, as he spoke of some of the advantages this could bring to the city in the wake of a similar scheme in Nottingham and workplace parking levy's that already exist at staff car-parks at Glasgow University. The full interview is here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000184w> (1hour 36mins)

'SUPER-SIZE' WIND TURBINES

The Herald included our response to research by the University of Glasgow in a feature that suggested high quality peat could be damaged by the need to built 'super-size' wind turbines in the near future. Read here www.heraldscotland.com/news/17234148.scotlands-ageing-wind-turbines-could-double-in-size-in-green-energy-drive/

GLASGOW AIRPORT FIVE YEAR NOISE ACTION PLAN

The publication of Glasgow Airport's latest five year Noise Action Plan drew a mixed response in the media in late October, with some Whitecrook residents suggesting they didn't go far enough. EPS welcomed the airport's plans for a Web-Trak initiative to help residents try and understand which aircraft are repeatedly causing the most problems. EPS was quoted in reports on the plans by the [Evening Times](#), [Clydebank Post](#) and [Glasgow South and Eastwood Extra](#) newspapers and websites. Click on the links to read more.

CHRISTMAS BOOK COMPETITION AND REVIEW

POLICY and Communications Officer John Bynorth became the first person to interview Dr Gary Fuller, an air pollution scientist at King's College about his new book – launched last week - which charts the history of worldwide and UK air pollution and what efforts can be made to tackle it. The paperback is published by Melville House, price £12.99.



We have a Q&A with Gary, who pulls no punches on the issue and who has also signed one copy to give away to a lucky Newsletter reader. To stand a chance of winning all you have to do is answer an historical air pollution question at the end of the article. Full interview [here](#)

CONSULTATIONS

SEPA's consultation on its update of Scotland's river basin district management plan closes on December 22, along with a simultaneous separate consultation on the River Tweed river basin district management plan.

https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/rbmp/river-basin-management-planning-in-scotland-statem/consult_view/

https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/communications/working-together-statement-of-consultation-steps-f/consult_view/

NEXT MONTH – INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR CAMPBELL GEMMELL

Professor Campbell Gemmell, the former Chief Executive of SEPA, who has extensive experience of dealing with environmental affairs both in this country and abroad, has agreed to be discuss his career and views on a range of issues. Questions should be emailed to admin@ep-scotland.org.uk by midnight on Monday December 11, and marked '**CAMPBELL GEMMELL**' in the subject field.

We also take a look at the Noise Action Week, and how the annual event in May could be better promoted in Scotland.

We dust down minute books and historic pollution literature to examine the origins of the Coal Smoke Abatement Society, which first met on December 5 1898 in London, after a campaign against air pollution by the environmental activist artist W.B Richmond.

If anyone wishes to write an article for the Newsletter please email admin@ep-scotland.org.uk and put the word '**NEWSLETTER**' in the subject field.

The next issue will be published at the end of January 2019.

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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