



## Newsletter JANUARY 2019

### Welcome

Welcome to the first EPS Newsletter of 2019.

We kick off the year by interviewing Professor Campbell Gemmell, who is leading the Cleaner Air For Scotland (CAFS) Review. Professor Gemmell's remarkable career included having the misfortune to find himself on South Georgia at the time of the Argentinian invasion that preceded the Falklands War. He also talked extensively about his work as Chief Executive of SEPA, and his role at the helm of the South Australia EPA, and the CAFS Review that is now under way.

We also feature an article on how the profile of Noise Action Week can be raised, with its organiser Mary Stevens discussing how the annual event can attract better funding in 2019.

Meanwhile, we look back over old archives at the creation of the Coal Smoke Abatement Society, set up by the artist and environmental activist Sir William Blake Richmond, and some of the environmental issues faced by Britain in the decades after it was set up.

There's details of EPS's latest conference - on air quality, health and the mechanisms needed to help heal Scotland's environment - which is due to take place in Edinburgh on March 18.

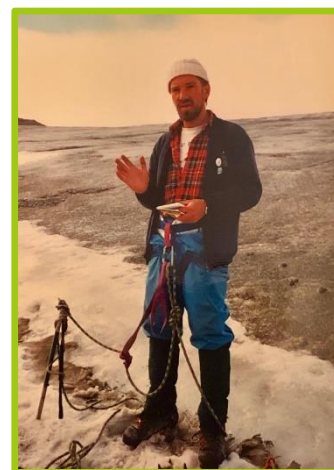
## FROM SAN CARLOS WATER TO CLEANER AIR FOR SCOTLAND

### INTERVIEW: PROFESSOR CAMPBELL GEMMELL

As a young glaciologist, Professor Campbell Gemmell was stranded by the Argentinian invasion of South Georgia in 1982 and then saw his ice and rock samples destroyed on board a Royal Navy frigate that was blown up during the Falklands War. In his native Scotland, the environmental scientist has had a gun pointed at him by a farmer as he tried to improve the environmental landscape.

The Chair of the Cleaner Air For Scotland (CAFS) review also ran SEPA for nearly nine years, before holding the same role at the South Australian Environment Protection Authority for two-and-a-half years. It's no wonder that he can claim to have forged a level of resilience that originated during his spell in the South Antarctic.

But just how did Professor Gemmell, pictured left briefing a field team on the Midtdalsbreen glacier in Norway, arrive at this point from his birthplace of Stirling, via the University of Aberdeen, the South Antarctic Peninsula, Norway, Switzerland, Oxford University, Alaska and Brussels enjoying a career as a policy consultant, running two environmental regulators and latterly a successful private consultancy? Read the full interview [here](#)



## Why the annual event could do with more funding to build a bigger profile in 2019

The organiser of Noise Action Week has called on the technology sector, education institutions and social housing providers to come up with funding to help boost the annual event's profile.

Mary Stevens, pictured below who coordinates the annual event every May on behalf of EPUK, said a combination of new funding from different sources would help give the currently relatively low profile event a huge boost in 2019.



Mary, speaking at the recent EPUK conference in Birmingham, suggested that last year's revised guidance by the World Health Organisation into the effects of noise highlighted the on-going importance of the event to the country and the potential fundraising opportunities that may exist.

Scotland has also witnessed a rise in media awareness of noise impacts with The Times newspaper publishing a prominent story earlier this month about efforts by some local authorities to tackle noise nuisance from street performers.

Read the full article [here](#)

## THE LEGACY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNER SIR W.B RICHMOND - 120 YEARS AFTER THE FOUNDING OF THE COAL SMOKE ABATEMENT SOCIETY

The artist Sir W.B Richmond is best known for his work on the mosaics which can be found in the quire of St Paul's Cathedral in London, and his artistic career which saw him become a fellow of the Royal Academy.

Amid his artistic influence, it is frequently overlooked that he held a deep desire to combat the problems of air pollution, which came to the fore as an issue towards the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It began with letter writing campaigns to newspapers like The Times, in which he spoke of the horrific effects of air pollution and the lack of regulation and the ad-hoc network of civil parishes that existed during that time.

But his environmental activism formally took shape when he launched Coal Smoke Abatement Society in 1898, a predecessor organisation of EPUK and EPS, with the aim of raising awareness of the horrendous levels of pollution from premises that left entire areas covered in soot and contributed to chronic ill health and suffering among populations of towns and cities nationwide. EPS has delved into the EPUK archives held at the Wellcome Library in London, to look at how the society came into being and the public debate around air pollution in the lead up to and after the 1956 Clean Air Act.



[Here](#) is the fascinating story.

## EPS CONFERENCE

**AIR QUALITY, HEALTH AND THE MECHANISMS NEEDED TO HELP HEAL SCOTLAND'S ENVIRONMENT – MONDAY MARCH 18**

We are in the final stages of confirming a one-day conference which will look at efforts to improve the quality of the air we breathe - one of the most important issues facing the current generation of policy-makers, regulators and campaigners.



Our event will stimulate discussion against a backdrop of headlines questioning whether diesel cars should be banned from city centres altogether, the roll-out of Low Emission Zones and efforts to encourage people to contribute to improving Scotland's environment and their own health by minimising their use of cars, supporting walking, cycling, and promoting the use of public transport.

It aims to tackle the problem head on and seeks to link with the independent review of the Cleaner Air For Scotland strategy, asking questions about what is being done, and what further action and emissions are being identified as we seek to improve Scotland's air quality, whilst also maximising the health benefits to society.

The final programme will be circulated shortly, however provisional bookings are currently being taken. Contact [admin@ep-scotland.org.uk](mailto:admin@ep-scotland.org.uk) or phone EPS on 0141 333 6655 for more details.

## BROWNFIELD LAND SCOTLAND CONFERENCE

EPS is delighted to partner with the annual Brownfield Land Scotland conference, which returns on 6<sup>th</sup> February at the Edinburgh Training and Conference Venue. It will highlight actionable guidance specific to the management of brownfield land in Scotland.



Delegates will be provided with up-to-date information on the regulatory framework affecting brownfield development, as well as practical solutions to many of the risk assessment and remediation challenges associated with contaminated land and groundwater. With emphasis on actionable guidance specifically applicable to the brownfield agenda in Scotland, this information-packed, one day event brings together representatives from regulators, consultants and industry to provide first-hand advice to your specific challenges.

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. To book click [here](#) The full programme can be found by clicking [here](#)

## CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



EPS members can take advantage of a 25% discount for the Climate Change in Scotland: Meeting Emissions Reduction Targets, which is to be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Glasgow on April 24.

The event which is being organised by Holyrood Communications will

see leading speakers discuss Scotland's ambitions climate change targets to cut emissions by 90% by 2050.

Meeting the goals of the bill will revolutionise how Scotland works, travels, builds, consumes and evolves at every level – but the event will look at how the country must work together to realise inclusive and sustainable success.



The event, being organised by Holyrood Conferences, aims to provide good practice in reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as how as a nation we can improve provision of support to effect real and lasting change.

To receive the discount, quote the code **EPS25** when booking. For further details and how to book visit

[www.holyrood.com/event/climate-change-scotland-meeting-emissions-reduction-targets](http://www.holyrood.com/event/climate-change-scotland-meeting-emissions-reduction-targets)

## CLEANER AIR FOR SCOTLAND REVIEW WORKSHOP

THE Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Roseanna Cunningham, was the keynote speaker at the Cleaner Air For Scotland Review workshop event in Edinburgh on January 10.

The Review Chair, Professor Campbell Gemmill, also set out what the process hoped to achieve. The morning session , in addition, saw presentations by Dr Colin Ramsay of Health Protection Scotland; Graham Applegate of SEPA. Dr Annalisa Savaresi of the University of Stirling and Don McGillivray of the Scottish Government also spoke to the group which afterwards took part in a series of workshop and discussions on health and environment, placemaking, agriculture, industrial and domestic emissions and transport issues.

Meanwhile, the UK Government has launched its Clean Air Strategy on January 14.

It includes new proposals to tackle emissions from domestic burning, biomass, ammonia levels. It can be read here

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019)

## EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS

### LAND QUALITY (LQ) GROUP

The LQ group held a successful meeting at EPS's offices on December 13, which saw introductions and welcomes to several new members. The group is chaired by Roslyn McIntosh, a land contamination officer based at Inverclyde Council. Sarah Hamill, who holds a similar role at West Dunbartonshire Council was elected as the vice-chair. The group held an excellent discussion as it looked ahead to some of the land issues Scotland is likely to face in 2019 and is planning to run some excellent events this year.

### SCOTTISH NOISE ADVISORY GROUP

The next meeting of the SNAG is due to take place in Edinburgh on February 7. An agenda will be sent out to members in due course.

## CONSULTATIONS

The Scottish Government is currently consulting on a review of good practice principles in relation to renewable energy document. It is due to end on January 31, with details to be found here <https://consult.gov.scot/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/onshore-renewable-energy-developments/>

## IN THE PRESS –

### GLASGOW'S LOW EMISSION ZONE

Glasgow's Low Emission Zone – the first in Scotland – made headlines last month after Cabinet Secretary for Transport Michael Matheson joined Councillor Anna Richardson, Convenor of the City Council's Carbon Reduction Committee, at the official launch at Buchanan Bus Station. Against a backdrop of three buses represented by city's main providers (Stagecoach, McGill's and First Glasgow), Mr Matheson told the media that a fundamental redesign of Scotland's town centres would be required to give greater prioritisation to buses. News and media articles also focussed on the impact of the LEZ over the festive period, with both the Evening Times and The Herald – which approached EPS for a comment on the zone – providing a platform for a range of views from some of Glasgow's residents as it swung into action on December 31.



Some of the coverage can be read here <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17312746.michael-matheson-fundamental-re-think-of-scots-town-centres-vital-to-pollution-battle/>

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17326630.low-emission-or-no-ambition-the-debate-continues-on-new-anti-pollution-scheme/>

## BOOK COMPETITION WINNER

We are delighted to announce that Barry Cumming of The Highland Council has won a copy Dr Gary Fuller's air pollution book 'The Invisible Killer' Barry was among several people to answer correctly that 'smog' was the term used to describe the smoke and fog that covered Glasgow in 1909 by the medical expert Dr Harold des Voeux and has received his prize.

## NEXT MONTH – INTERVIEW WITH DR MARK MILLER

We interview Dr Mark Miller, a senior research fellow at the British Heart Foundation's centre for excellence in cardiovascular science at Edinburgh University. Dr Miller will be discussing the latest research into the impacts of air pollution on the cardiovascular system and lungs, work which goes to the top of the inequalities debate about the effects of air pollution.

We also have a full report from the Brownfield Scotland land event, and a round-up of the latest events and consultations. We also have a further report from the EPUK/Wellcome Library archives, this time about a severe air pollution episode suffered by Glasgow in 1959.

It will be published at the end of February.

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.

## DO YOU HAVE THE CORRECT CONTACT DETAILS FOR EPS?

Room 3, Caledonian Suit, 70 West Regent Street, Glasgow, G2 2QZ

[admin@ep-scotland.org.uk](mailto:admin@ep-scotland.org.uk) | 0141 333 6655 | [www.ep-scotland.org.uk](http://www.ep-scotland.org.uk)



Environmental Protection Scotland is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Scottish Charity No. SC043410. This transmission contains information which may be confidential and which may also be privileged. It is intended for the named addressee only. Unless you are the named addressee, or authorised to receive it on behalf of the addressee you may not copy or use it, or disclose it to anyone else. If you have received this transmission in error please contact the sender. Thank you for your cooperation.

**You have been sent this email as you, or your organisation, are members of EPS. If you do not wish to receive details of our forthcoming events or future copies of this newsletter, please reply to this email with the word STOP in the subject title.**