

**Society of
Public Health
Engineers
(SoPHE)**



SoPHE Newsletter Issue No.3 October 2003

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The Society of Public Health Engineers is a part of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE):

Chairman: Martin Shouler

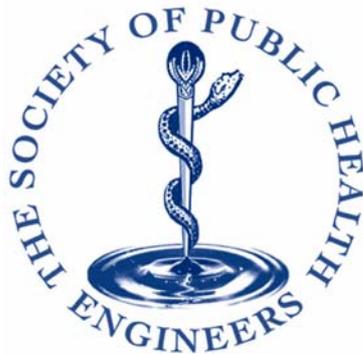
Email shoulerm@bre.co.uk

Honorary Secretary: Chris Northey

Email cnorthey@zbp.co.uk

The New Face of SoPHE

SoPHE rises from the water...



As some of you may have seen at the official launch of SoPHE on 19 June, the society now has an official crest.

The crest was developed from a number of ideas. The serpent and sceptre are recognised as representing human health and hygiene, while the rippled water represents the main element in the majority of work the Public Health Engineer undertakes.

The committee would like to thank Zai Khan who successfully turned doodles and ideas into a crest of which we can all hopefully be proud.

Message From the Chairman

This third edition of our newsletter marks a coming of age for the Society. You will have noticed that the newsletter's banner now includes the new SoPHE crest which beat a number of competing designs. The crest was unveiled at our official launch held in June on a riverboat on the River Thames. I would like to express my thanks to all the hard work that went into making the launch such a success, especially to the kind sponsorship provided by the founding members of the SoPHE Industrial Group - Reliance, Saint Gobain, Vernagene and Hydrotec as well as CIBSE HQ staff.

The launch provided the Society with an opportunity to recognise some of the stalwarts of our industry through the award of Honorary Fellowship of SoPHE (Hon FSoPHE) - awards were made to Arthur Churchyard, Ken Hatter, Colin Izzard, Stanley Jennings, Eric Mitchell and Andrew Ramsay; I was delighted that Ken and Stan could receive their awards in person.

I am pleased to announce another strong technical programme (details inside), which brings us up to summer 2004 and is designed to maintain and enhance our competency as public health engineers.

Again I would like to thank the Steering Group and CIBSE HQ for all their hard work and dedication in progressing the aims of the Society.

Martin Shouler
Chairman, SoPHE

Successful Launch for SoPHE

The Society of Public Health Engineers was officially launched on Tuesday 19 June during a cruise on the River Thames attended by around 120 members and guests. The Society has been formed from the flourishing Public Health Engineering Group.

During the event, the first six Honorary Fellows of the Society were announced. Honorary Fellowship is awarded to individuals who play central roles in the Public Health Engineering. Awards have been made to Arthur Churchyard, Ken Hatter, Colin Izzard, Stanley Jennings, Eric Mitchell and Andrew Ramsay.

The launch event was generously sponsored by the Society's first five Industrial Associates: Geberit Ltd, Hydrotech UK Ltd, Saint-Gobain Pipelines, Reliance Water Controls Ltd and Vernagene Ltd, to whom we are all very grateful.



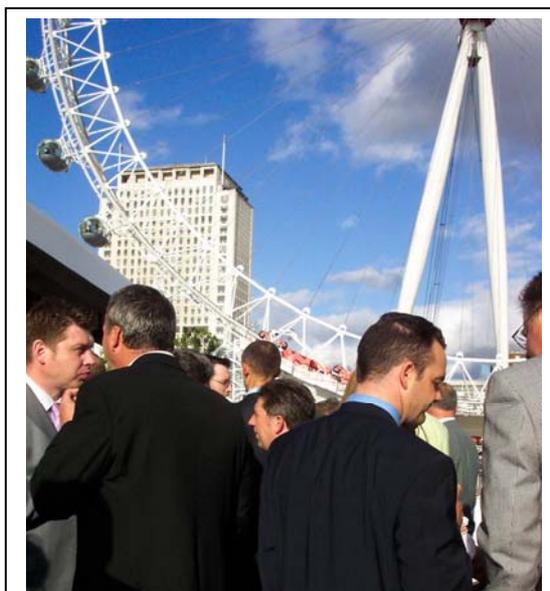
Chairman & Honorary Secretary enjoy a celebratory drink



The Honorary Fellowship Awards



Guests enjoy the magnificent views from the river



The sun shone for the SoPHE Launch

HOW TO JOIN

A reminder to all who are intending to join SoPHE but have not yet done so; the Early Bird membership joining discount is due to end soon, so send in your membership details as soon as possible to make the most of the generous discount

See page 5 of this newsletter for details on the grades of membership for the Society.

EVENTS

Forthcoming Technical Presentation Evenings

Date: 23th November 2003
Venue: O'Neills Function Room
Conway Street, London
(subject to confirmation)
Start Time: 6.30pm (1 Hour)
Presenter: **Clay Pipe Development Association Ltd**
Les Richardson

An overview of Building Regulations 'H', Parts H1-H6 Drainage and Waste Disposal. Effective 1st April 2002.
Non CPD Event

Date: 24th February 2004
Venue: O'Neills Function Room
Conway Street, London
(subject to confirmation)
Presenter: **KSB Ltd.**
Mitch Dobman

Grey Water Re-cycling for various types of buildings. General overview on the design principles with advantages and disadvantages on the possible options of reusing water.
CPD (1 Hour) *Credit Certificated event*

Date: 27th April 2004
Venue: O'Neills Function Room
Conway Street, London
(subject to confirmation)
Presenter: **Spel Products**
Paul Polcox

Surface water/Foul water Puraceptors, Stormceptors, both full retention and by-pass types. Sizing, Alarms, Regulations and update on the latest Rivers Authority Requirement etc

Date: 18th May 2004.
Venue: O'Neills Function Room
Conway Street, London
(subject to confirmation)
Presenter: **Buckingham Pools**
Dennis Ledbrooke

Design principles for swimming pools. The presentation will include an overview, design considerations, chlorine, UV, monitoring etc.

Date: 22nd June 2004.
Venue: O'Neills Function Room
Conway Street, London
(subject to confirmation)
Presenter: **John Griggs**
Control of Legionella Bacteria in water systems.

OTHER OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED FOR FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

- A) Understanding and evaluating Health & Safety Risk Assessments relating to PHE work.
- B) Contract documents for PHE works with regard to responsibilities, duties and penalty clauses, etc.
- C) Asbestos and the risk associated (H & S).
- D) Sizing of small/medium sewage treatment package works, BOD, COD, etc.
- E) Sizing principles of syphonic rainwater systems.
- F) Roof drainage, assessing risk, intensity etc. under BS EN 12506-3

PREVIOUS TECHNICAL EVENTS THIS YEAR (2003)

- 1 **TYCO/WORMALD FIRE SYSTEMS.** Life and building fire protection
Contact: www.wormald.co.uk
- 2 **MARLEY PLUMBING.** Sanitation sizing to BS EN 12056, Part 2.
Contact: www.marleyplumbinganddrainage.com
- 3 **HYDROTEC UK LTD.** Technical overview of physical water conditioners and ultra violet disinfection.
Contact: www.hydrotec.co.uk
- 4 **A O SMITH (WATER PRODUCTS Co).** Assessing, sizing of direct and storage type hot water heaters for commercial/industrial applications, giving consideration to latest building regulations.
Contact: www.hotwater.com
- 5 **VERNAGENE.** Chlorine dioxide, Disinfection. Understanding the principles of dosing with consideration to health and safety aspects.
Contact: www.vernagene.com
- 6 **NEW HADEN PUMPS.** The design and sizing of both foul and surface water pump sump chambers and stations.
Contact: SouthEast@NHPumps.com
- 7 **ALLAN AQUA LTD.** design principles for boosted cold water and fire services relating specifically to high rise buildings.
Contact: www.allanaqua.co.uk
- 8 **THAMES WATER PLC.** Discussion on items within the regulations, which require clarification and risk assessing, relating to contamination, back siphonage etc.

PUBLICATIONS

At the end of the year, the current British Standard for concrete – BS5328 will be replaced by the new European Standard for concrete – BS EN 206 along with BS8500

The National Joint Utilities Group has issued 'Guidelines on positioning and colour coding of utilities apparatus'. The new guidelines supersede NJUG 4 'Identification of small buried mains and services' and NJUG 7 'Recommended positioning of utilities'.

Information and Guidance Note No. 9-04-03 from the Water Advisory Service is 'The selection of materials for water supply pipes to be laid in contaminated land'.

Due for publication by Thomas Telford on 1 September is 'Design of linear drainage systems'. This book guides the reader through the hydraulic design of drainage channels in which the volume of flow increases linearly from one end of the channel to the other.

The NHBC has published two new Good Craftsmanship Guides. 'Brickwork and blockwork' and 'Carpentry and joinery – carcassing'.

New from Spons is the seventh edition of David Chappell's 'Understanding building contracts'

A complete list of CIBSE Publications and price list is available from the CIBSE website www.cibse.org

MEMBERS' FORUM

This section will enable members to raise or ask questions relating to specific projects or design items for comments or guidance. This would enable other members to assist by explaining or giving design advice, considerations, or stating where/which BS Codes or authorities could be contacted in answering original questions.

1. **Q** – I am currently working on a job where we have been asked to look at implementing Sustainable Urban Drainage Design rather than discharging all surface water to sewer. We are looking at excavating some trial pits and running permeability tests so that we can design soak-aways for the site. Does anybody know of or has anybody used any specific companies that specialise in trial pit and permeability desktop surveys that they might be able to recommend.

Please forward any questions, comments or answers you may have to the above points to:

awatson@cibse.org
jonathan.gaunt@arup.com

NEWS AND INFORMATION

(Old and New)

- 1 A new European Standard on Sprinkler Systems, BS EN 12845, is very near to being released in the UK – more news to follow
- 2 The HSE have issued 'Height safe action pack for safe work at height', produced by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, which is available free by calling 08457 181819. This has been prompted due to inspectors identifying it as an area where there is poor compliance with the CDM Regs. (July 2003)
- 3 From 21 May 2004, property owners and tenants will be legally obliged to manage the risk arising from asbestos under the 'Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002'. This includes finding out whether materials containing asbestos are present in their buildings, where it is located and its condition.
- 4 The HSE document 'Asbestos essentials task manual (HSG 213)' contains advice on how to remove asbestos-cement products such as heater flues and water tanks as well as other asbestos installations in a safe manner.
- 5 The HSE has drafted a document entitled 'Legionnaires Disease – Essential information for providers of residential accommodation'. This document can be downloaded from the HSE web site: www.hse.gov.uk or contact them on Tel: 08701 545500
- 6 The HSE has produced a booklet entitled 'Legionnaires disease – A guide for employers' available from HSE books Tel: 01787 881165
- 7 Support is required from members to set up a Domestic Building Services Group. The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) wishes to form a Domestic Building Services Group which will focus on aspects regarding residential building services. For the Group to be formally recognised, CIBSE need to raise support from a number of CIBSE members. If you believe you can help support the cause, please contact Samantha Caplan on; Tel: 020 8772 3643 or e-mail her on scaplan@cibse.org
8. New Video on Legionella. The HSE has recently issued: 'An introduction to the control of legionella bacteria in water systems' HSE Books, 2003. (Video NOT a publication) ISBN 071762580X;
9. Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government launched a consultation paper on reviewing private sewers and drains in England and Wales. Views were sought by 26 September 2003 contact: www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/sewers/index.htm
10. It is proposed that all companies presenting technical events for the society will issue a hard copy or a web page summarising presentation. This will enable members who were unable to attend presentations to see a summary of the event.
11. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Inland Revenue have launched their Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme for Water Technologies. www.eca-water.gov.uk

The Scandal of Private Sewers

Mr S F Mitchell CEng MCIBSE MIP has recently drafted a paper entitled 'The Scandal of Private Sewers'. He has over 40 years experience within the building services business and was the Managing Partner of his own Consultancy practice before retiring. As well as designing, supervising, commissioning and installing, he has also acted as an Expert Witness for several law practices in the past.

Mr Mitchell holds a number of views regarding the role authorities play in dealing with private sewers and the rights that the private home owner has which they should be made aware of. He has outlined many of these views in 'The Scandal of Private Sewers'.

The extract below is a summary and conclusion of his recent paper:

1. It is untenable and unreasonable for a sewer of any length, not laid within the confines of a defined private boundary, to become the property of those residents and their responsibility for the maintenance of such a sewer. Too long have private residents been exploited in this manner where the local authorities/sewage undertakers have failed in their legislative duty and deprived householders of a fundamental right to have public sewers to their properties. They have allowed those residents to subsidise their sewer repair costs and must be made accountable.
2. The local authority always had the powers to insist on the installation of public sewers by private developers at no capital cost to themselves. Some apparently ignored their duty and chose not to and in many instances approved extensive private sewer systems. Was this to save future repair bills at the expense of private residents? Surely no scrupulous and conscientious local authority should have contemplated such an action.
3. Local authorities should be challenged to explain why sewers have not been adopted and why they failed in their duty to make such a provision when approving drainage submittals.
4. Any length of private sewer that exceeds 30 meters (100 feet) from a residence boundary should, by legislation, have a contribution to the cost of its upkeep made by the responsible authority.
5. Why were the owners of private sewers not advised that, under the *Water Industry Act 1991* at the time of issue, they were entitled to have their sewer considered for conversion to a public sewer and so save on these maintenance charges? Obviously, there was no incentive to do so as the authority would now become responsible for all repair charges.

6. OFWAT poses the question "*Who pays*". With regard to having existing sewers to be requisitioned for adoption under *Section 102 of the Act*, this still requires the private owners to pay for any associated costs. This is reprehensible. Those authorities responsible for this state of affairs, by neglect of their statutory duty to have provided a public sewer, should be made to pay for the upgrade of the existing private sewers or to install a new public sewer system at their expense.
7. Private citizens, to whom this applies, should lobby their MPs to have this situation rectified. Relevant professional bodies such as the Society of Public Health Engineers, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institute of Plumbing and the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineering should add their weight to this and approach Parliament to have the *Act* amended appropriately.
8. It is now almost certain that developments after the institution of the *Water Industry Act 1991*, and certainly following *Protocol of 2002*, will now have sewer systems of an adoptable standard and a minimal construction of private sewers.

If you wish to obtain a full copy of 'The Scandal of Private Sewers' or have any comments regarding the paper, Mr Mitchell would be more than happy to speak with you. Please contact him at:

86 Alicia Avenue,
Wickford,
Essex,
SS11 8PJ

THE INDUSTRY GROUP

The Industry Group is aimed at manufacturers and associated specialists who work within the Public Health Engineering sector. The Group is in its embryonic stages and already helping to support the efforts of the Society.

The Industry Group Steering Committee currently comprises representatives from Allan Aqua, Geberit, Vernagene, New Haden Pumps, Saint Gobain Pipelines, Reliance, A O Smith, Hydrotec and Multipipe. We are currently setting up the infrastructure of the group and establishing membership requirements, fees and a code of conduct for member companies.

In order to provide the highest level of support it is important the Industry Group represent a large and broad spectrum of members. If you are interested in joining, have any comments or require further information email mike.jones@multipipe.com

USEFUL WEBSITES and e-mails.

www.cibse.org

Society of Public Health Engineers

www.cibse.org/sophe

Membership Group:

Martin Shouler - shoulerm@bre.oc.uk

Technical Group:

Alan Neall – aneall@foremans.com

Communication Group:

Alan Watson - awatson@cibse.org

The Health and Safety Executive

www.hse.gov.uk

ODPM Building Regulations:

www.safety.odpm.gov.uk/bregs/brads.htm

Water & Nature Initiative Website:

www.waterandnature.org

Supplementary guidance by individual water companies on Sewers for Adoption 5th Edition:

www.wrcplc.co.uk/sfa

THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Martin Shouler
shouler@bre.co.uk

Honorary Secretary: Chris Northey
cnorthey@zdp.co.uk

Communications Group: Alan Watson
Jim Buckmaster

Technical Group: Alan Neall
Alison Franklin
Roger Baker
David Shaw
Jonathan Gaunt (newsletter editor)

Membership Group: Martin Shouler
Chris Northey
Bill Bumstead

Industrial Sponsors Group: Mike Jones
mikejonesmyersgroup@yahoo.co.uk

FEEDBACK

We would welcome any comments on this newsletter or contributions to future editions, in particular with regards to:

- Future events for consideration
- What should SoPHE be providing to our members
- Items or comments you think may be worth raising or informing your fellow members
- Technical articles from members, giving situations encountered and how they were overcome.

Please email comments to Alan Watson awatson@cibse.org or write to Alan at 222 Balham High Road. London SW12 9BS.

Regional Committee Contacts

Manchester:

Kate Longley
kate.Longley@arup.com

New SoPHE Members

Student

G G Taylor
N Telemachou

Associate

J D Gaunt
P A Marsden

Member

N W Adamson
A D Moore
A J Cooper
P Jefferson
M Lusher
R C Mountney
A R Neall
A B Robertson
G Stevens

Fellow

I P Johnstone
D E Watkins

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 Oct Guide B4 – Half Day Launch
Venue – Building Services Engineering Centre, Balham

23 Oct Guide F – Energy Efficiency in Buildings
Venue – Building Services Engineering Centre, Balham

For technical evening dates, refer to 'Forthcoming Technical Presentation Evenings'.

Vacancies

- The Society of Public Health Engineers Steering Committee still requires a member to take on the role of Honorary Treasurer for the society. If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact Martin Shouler (shouler@bre.co.uk) directly for further information.

To find out more about CIBSE and the Society of Public Health Engineers go to the CIBSE website www.cibse.org/sophe or write to:

CIBSE
Society of Public Health Engineers
222 Balham High Road
London
SW12 9BS, UK

Tel 020 8772 3622
Fax 020 8673 3302
E-mail j david@cibse.org

Application forms can be downloaded from the SoPHE Web site (www.cibse.org/sophe), along with all subscription rate details.

Those wishing to join SoPHE who are already members of CIBSE should complete the Membership Form M2 while those wishing to join SoPHE who are not members of CIBSE should complete the non-CIBSE member form M1.