

SoPHE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

VOLUME 04



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As we draw an end to 2023, and soon to welcome 2024, we wish you all the best seasonal best greetings. This issue will celebrate 21 years of SoPHE; we have grown from a few dedicated individuals around a table, to a strong and influential Society, hosting grand Annual dinners, to technical bulletins, including technical projects such as the LUNA Project.

We hope to see you soon at all the up-and-coming events we have planned for 2024. If you have any topics on your mind or wish to join us in the SoPHE Steering Committee or our various working groups, please contact sophe@cibse.org.

We need your input to progress our research and to assist in knowledge sharing.

In this end of year issue, the main topic is fire stopping and the trial of its installation. In this topic, communication between the whole design team is essential, to ensure that a well constructed wall is not laid waste with services running through.

Amanda Stanley,
SoPHE e-Newsletter Editor



Image from
The Regs: How to make buildings fire-safe with cavity barriers
(architectsjournal.co.uk)

AN UPDATE FROM THE SOPHE CHAIR

Peter White

Welcome to the Winter edition of our SoPHE Newsletter. We have now had our first snowfall, and our fabulous Annual Dinner is now firmly in the rear view mirror - so where has the year gone?

However quickly the months have passed us by, we have certainly packed a lot in, and it has been wonderful to see so many of you at all our different events.

As I said at the Annual Dinner, we have a lot to celebrate this year. In this edition you will find articles about how this is SoPHE's 21st year and how it all began, about the CIBSE medals given to some of our members at this year's President's Dinner and the awards given at our Annual Dinner, including our Young Engineer of the Year.

But we can't rest on our laurel's, and you will be pleased to know that planning has already started for next year's technical forum, PCE events and both our Northern and London dinners. After the success of this year's Summer Networking event and the YEN Social, we plan to run both of these again next year too. All made possible only with the generous help and sponsorship of our Industrial Associates.

Which brings me to my close and to thank everyone for all their time and support this year. I think what SoPHE manages to achieve is amazing and something we should all be very proud of.
Best wishes,

**Peter White,
PHDC Limited,
SoPHE Chair**



pam building
SAINT-GOBAIN

NEW
ENSIGN AGILIUM®
30% LIGHTER | 20% LESS CO₂e

The advertisement features a central graphic of a globe held by two hands, surrounded by icons for a leaf, a flame, a sand hourglass, and a pound sterling symbol. Below the globe are several red pipes of varying lengths. The background is a light blue gradient.



CELEBRATING SoPHE

SoPHE Annual London Dinner 2023

The annual Society of Public Health Engineers (SoPHE) annual dinner once again followed its tradition of celebrating the achievements of individuals alongside the society. The 300 attendees from across the public health engineering sector, alongside the Chairs guests created a jovial atmosphere perfect for championing the accomplishments announced throughout the evening.

Lucy Bennett from Atelier 10 was named the SoPHE Young Engineer of the Year in recognition of her work at the 2023 SoPHE Plumbing Centre of Excellence/YEN Plumbing competition. Leon Fazliu and Terry Keeley from Arup were awarded joint second prize. SoPHE would like to thank Aquilar for their generosity in sponsoring the prizes for the Young Engineers awards.

The Chris Sneath Bursary was presented to Emre Gunes for his achievement of winning the Plumbing Centre of Excellence Level 2 Competition. Phil Henry was made a SoPHE Honorary Fellow for his incredible contribution to the public health industry.

Following announcing the winner of the awards for the Young Engineers, Sanjay Modasia of JA Brooks also took time to highlight the achievements of SoPHE Chair Peter White, before he steps down at the SoPHE AGM in 2024. Peter himself acknowledged within his opening speech that he will be sad to not be speaking at the dinner next year, but he is proud of the progress that SoPHE has made over recent years. In keeping with last year a collection was undertaken for Village by Village and over £2500 was raised, a huge thank you to everyone for their generosity, this donation will make a huge difference.

CIBSE would like to thank all of those involved in the organisation of the event – the SoPHE Steering Committee and the Industry Working Group – and the SoPHE Industrial Associate members for their generous sponsorship of the dinner. The planning will soon start for the 2024 dinner and the organisers will look forward to sharing plans for the event next Autumn.

Kathryn King
Head of Networks and Engagement

Name of Region:

Society of Public Health
Engineers - Northern

Northern Secretary:

Malcolm Atherton

All technical sessions are held every other month on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at: The Rain Bar, Board Room (2nd Floor) 80 Great Bridgewater Street, Manchester. M1 5JG : 6pm (for 6.30pm start) to 8pm approximately – unless noted otherwise.

Full details of each event will be advised to members of the CIBSE North West Region and SoPHE members prior to each meeting.

2024

17 JANUARY

Wednesday

Reducing Legionella Risk with Steam to Water Heat Exchangers

Daniel Wells (Spirax Sarco)

20 MARCH

Wednesday

Macerators & Lifting Stations

Michael Hassan (Saniflo SFA)

10 MAY

Friday

12th SoPHE Northern Dinner

Venue: The Midland Hotel, Manchester

15 MAY

Wednesday

UK Water Regulations – Focusing on Backflow Prevention

Paul Phillips (Hurlstone Northern) on behalf of Arrow Valves

**Malcolm Atherton
Northern Secretary**

Water Consultants Ltd : c/o 26 Hatherlow Lane,
Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 4EP
Tel: +44 (0)161 511 8455
Email: m.atherton@water-c.co.uk

LONDON EVENTS 2024

14 FEBRUARY

Wednesday

“Solar Thermal Energy In The UK” Vince Ng of Adveco
https://adveco.co/training/?page_id=63

Venue TBC

5.30 to 6pm Start

20 MARCH

Wednesday

“Metering and development strategy” Strategic Development Manager of Thames Water John Hernon
john.hernon@thameswater.co.uk

Venue TBC

5.30 to 6pm Start

21 MARCH

Thursday

The SoPHE Technical Conference returns on 21st March 2024.

We look forward to welcoming you to an all day technical conference followed by networking drinks.

IMechE

The Conference will focus on ‘Rainwater; collection, reuse and disposal’
This year we will be looking at the challenges that public health engineers face when dealing with all the various aspects of rainwater design from the impact of climate change through to final disposal.

More information will be made available in the new year.

If you have any questions, please contact sophe@cibse.org.

24 APRIL

Wednesday

“Understanding the design requirements and system considerations for pre-Commissioning cleaning to achieve efficient hydronic operation”
Cole Greenwood - Peglar

Venue TBC

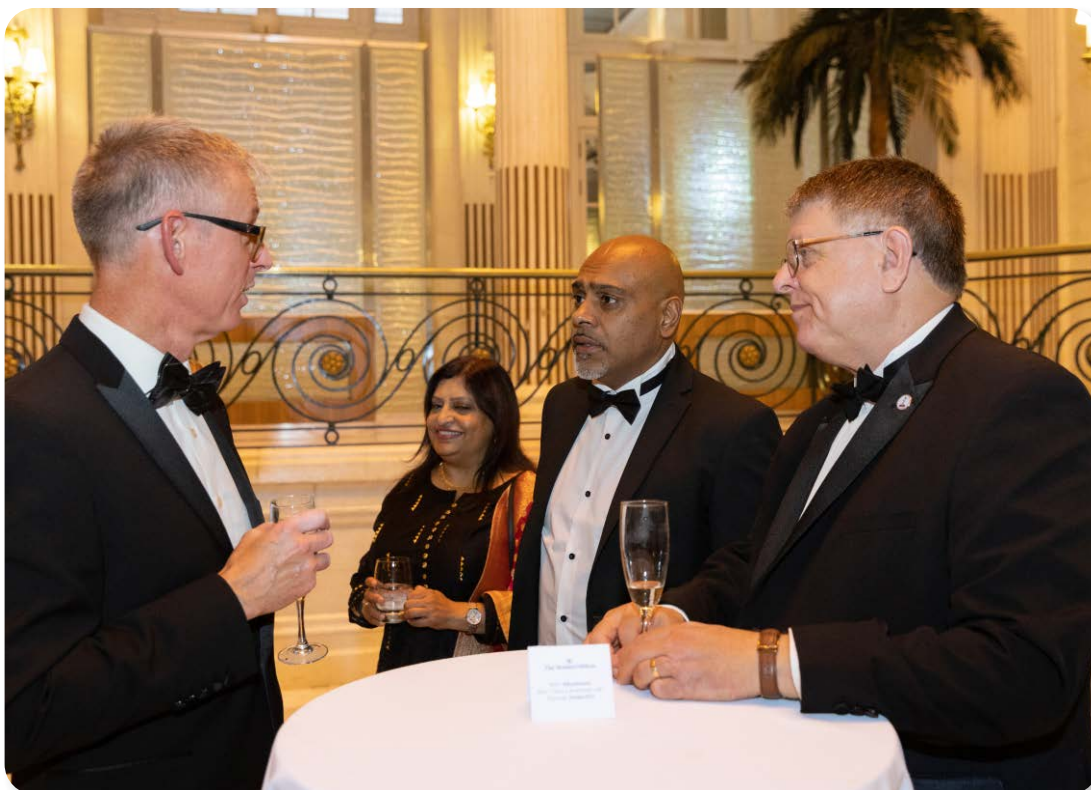
5.30 to 6pm Start

INDUSTRY WIDE RECOGNITION – SOPHE MEMBERS RECEIVE MEDALS FROM CIBSE PRESIDENT

At the 2023 President's Awards Dinner, held at the Waldorf Hilton hotel, London, long standing SoPHE members Steve Vaughan and Malcolm Atherton were awarded CIBSE Medals by CIBSE President, Adrian Catchpole. CIBSE's gold, silver, and bronze medals recognise exceptional, outstanding, and distinguished service to CIBSE and the wider industry.



Steve Vaughan, AECOM, was awarded a CIBSE Silver Medal. Steve has been an active member within SoPHE for over 25 years. In 2000 Steve became a member of the Technical Steering Group, and between 2012-2016 coordinated the London SoPHE region. In 2015 Steve was elected SoPHE Chair. During his three-year term, Steve oversaw a growth in membership, relaunched the SoPHE Journal and established further connections with institutions including the Water Management Society. Steve assisted with the establishment of a Contractors Working Group, alongside the Industry Working Group and together with Sanjay Modasia, developed and launched the Plumbing Centre of Excellence (PCE) which is currently still going from strength to strength.



After handing over his role of Chair, between 2017-2018 Steve became a group member of the CIBSE LUNA project (Loading Unit Normalisation Assessment). Steve continues his activity with SoPHE, presenting at the IHEEM Healthcare Estates Conference and Exhibition in 2021 and 2022 as well as at CIBSE Build 2 Perform, discussing hot water temperature. He remains actively involved in the SoPHE Education and Technical committees and

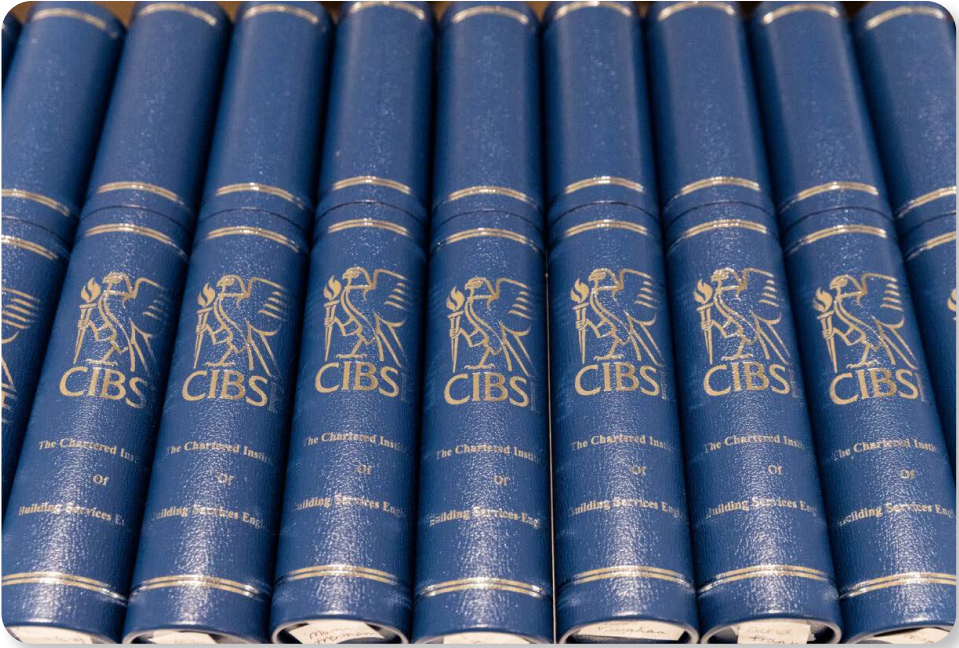
continues his involvement in CIBSE Guide G.

At the dinner, Malcolm Atherton, Water Consultants Ltd, was awarded a CIBSE Bronze medal. Malcolm has over 38 years' experience in the public health industry. Malcolm has been the SoPHE Northern Secretary since March 2011. Malcom has championed collaboration with other industry bodies including the CIBSE North West Region, IHEEM, CIPHE and the North West Councils Legionella Focus Group.

Malcolm organises CPD for members in the North West and currently the West Midlands. Ensuring that SoPHE members still had access to high quality CPD during the Covid-19 pandemic, Malcolm stepped up and established global, online CPD throughout the various lockdowns. These hour-long sessions, provided by SoPHE Industrial Associates have amounted thousands of registrations and have continued into 2023. In 2011 Malcolm initiated the first SoPHE Northern dinner and continues to manage the annual event which is attended by hundreds of public health engineers in Manchester each year. Malcolm also ensures that SoPHE has a presence at the IHEEM Healthcare and Estates conference each year, coordinating the SoPHE stand and SoPHE speakers.

Speaking to the CIBSE Journal, Adrian Catchpole, CIBSE President, said: 'The awards showcase the remarkable talent, innovation, and dedication that is embodied within the CIBSE community'. CIBSE and SoPHE would like to extend their huge congratulations to both Steve and Malcolm and thank them for their tireless commitment and passion towards the public health industry.

**Jack Batley,
Membership Networks and Engagement Coordinator,
CIBSE**



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

SoPHE YEN Update



Since our last update, the Young Engineers network hosted a successful networking event, sponsored by SoPHE Industrial Associates at Swingers Crazy Golf. We had around thirty young engineers present from a variety of different companies and many new faces. The evening saw the group split into groups of three or four YEN and an IWG or Committee representative take part in nine holes of mini golf before returning to our reserved area for food and refreshments. We would like to thank the Industrial Associate members who sponsored and attended the event and hope to repeat the format in early 2024.

We are in the process of planning our technical evening on fire suppression and this will be happening in Q1 2024 which will be circulated to members in the new year.



Our next event will be two visits to the Thames tideway at the end of November, which will see two groups of YEN visit the Abbey Mills Pumping Station and have a talk about the impact of the project on the London sewer network. We will also have a few of our members attending the CIBSE London YEN Christmas event at the end of November, further solidifying links with wider CIBSE young Engineers.

Volunteering for SoPHE YEN offers young engineers great networking opportunities as well as contributing to your CPD. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact sophe@cibse.org.

**Joe Russell,
WSP,
SoPHE YEN Chair**

THE VOICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SoPHE Celebrates 21st Birthday

On 8 July 2003, Building Magazine announced, 'New public health society'... 'The Society of Public Health Engineers (SoPHE) was launched at the end of June', therefore meaning that SoPHE are in their 21st year, and celebrating our 21st birthday in June 2024.

SoPHE's routes can be traced back to the 'CIBSE Public Health Engineering Group' which was founded in 1991. The original Committee consisted of Chair Ken Hatter, Secretary Jim Buckmaster, Vice Chair Arthur Churchyard and Committee members Don Barron and Bill Bumstead. In a 2009 article titled 'looking back', Ken Hatter recalled that there was a 'growing concern about the future of our profession' so at a meeting of around 50 public health professionals it was agreed to set up a group which was 'aimed at improving the professional recognition of PH engineering and also helping to encourage future recruitment' and to attract trainees and graduates into the profession.

From its origins as a Steering Committee, Martin Shouler took over as the first Chair of SoPHE when it established itself as a CIBSE Society, aiming to provide a higher profile and focus for public health engineers within CIBSE. Under his leadership, SoPHE had a huge increase in membership including members in Australia, Hong Kong and New Zealand, provided CPD regionally, and produced a quarterly newsletter. The Society also developed a public health degree at Greenwich University. SoPHE were also involved in technical output including the Mayor of London Water Strategy, as well as the House of Lords Enquiry on Water Management. This time also saw the growth of the SoPHE Industry Associates, made up of supporting manufacturers and contractors which reached 11 members in 2005, a number which has now grown to over 65 in 2023.

Taking over from Martin, co-founder Chris Northey FSoPHE was SoPHE Chair between 2010 to 2015. Reflecting on his time, Chris recalls becoming, 'the 2nd Chair of SoPHE back in June 2010 where I served for 5 years in this incredibly important and privileged role within the Society. I participated in many great initiatives and activities during my time as Chair', which include:



GROUP NEWS - SUMMER 1993

This news sheet is produced by the Public Health Engineering Group steering committee to inform members and potential members of the work being undertaken by the Group to benefit the discipline of Public Health Engineering within CIBSE. It also introduces the various members of the committee and so hopefully communication will be easier when we meet at various functions throughout the year.

PHE Steering Committee

Chairman: Ken Hatter
Associate Director
Ove Arup & Partners

Deputy Chairman: Arthur Churchyard
Latterly Chief Engineer
Plumbing Services
Matthew Hall Ltd

Secretary: Jim Buckmaster
Public Health
Engineering Manager
J S Bonnington Partnership

Committee: Don Barron
Associate Director
Ove Arup & Partners
Ray Brooks - Director
J A Brooks & Co Ltd
Ian Fellingham - Associate
Ove Arup & Partners
Kim Hunt
P H Design Engineer
Building Design Partnership
Colin Izzard
Past President CIBSE
Alan Watson - Partner
Building Design Partnership

Sub-Committees:

Education:
Chairman: Ian Fellingham
V Arnold
W Bumstead
T Edmonds
N Essan
H Garrity
N Howard

Europe:
Chairman: C Izzard
N Skelly
D Watkins
M Winkler

From the Group Chairman



Two years have elapsed since the decision was made to form a Public Health Engineering Group within CIBSE. It happened as a result of consultation with a wide cross section of senior representatives of Public Health Engineers who agreed that this action should be undertaken.

The Group has completed the compliment of building services within CIBSE and provides the opportunity for the close cooperation necessary for the future development of all building services.

It is intended this group should become the professional focus of Public Health Engineering to cater for the technical requirements of Engineers and Technicians, who in recent years have not been properly represented. It is not intended this should detract from the efforts of IOP or IWEM who were advised and consulted before this group was formed.

We have made a good start and have been welcomed into CIBSE. Our achievements to date have been well received and I believe have enhanced the recognition and status of Public Health Engineering. A steering committee with members representing consultants, contractors and the educational establishment meet regularly once a month to determine and pursue various actions aimed at catering for both the short and long term requirement of the group and the profession. We have set up specialist sub committees who are covering the following subjects:

- Recruitment, Education and Training of Public Health personnel.
- Public Health Engineering related to the EEC.
- The Production of Public Health Engineering sections in the new CIBSE design guide.
- The production of the Fire Engineering section of the new CIBSE design guide.

As well as these activities we organise seminars on various aspects of our work and have commenced CED courses on Public Health Engineering within CIBSE.

We are also endeavouring to ensure that technical matters relating to Public Health Engineering are included in the monthly CIBSE Journal. There is still a long way to go in order to consolidate and further enhance our professional status. Whilst we have received an encouraging number of applications to join the group, this remains small in relation to the number of practising Public Health Engineers.

The greater the interest in the group the more strongly our voice will be heard within CIBSE. We need all the help that we can get. If therefore you have not already done so, please now complete the enclosed application form and return it to CIBSE. It is your future we are trying to cater for.

Ken Hatter

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. The Steering Committee of the Public Health Engineering Group are indebted to Messrs. Pipex of Caterham who has so generously financed the cost of printing this News Sheet.



SoPHE's History

Increasing the SoPHE Membership base, the launch of the new SoPHE quarterly newsletter, and celebrating the inaugural SoPHE Northern Dinner back in 2011. Chris oversaw collaboration with other organisations that shared some of the areas of interest that SoPHE represented. These included such organisations as the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, City & Guilds, CIPHE, BSRIA, RIBA, Summit Skills, Engineering Council, Construction Industry Council, CIWEM and others. During these years SoPHE also continued growth of the SoPHE Young Engineers Award and celebrated the 10th SoPHE Annual Dinner event held back in 2013.

Between 2015 to 2018, Steve Vaughn served as SoPHE Chair. Looking back to 2015, at his first annual dinner as newly appointed SoPHE chair, Steve comments how he 'highlighted the UN's 17 Sustainable Goals and how many of these relate so closely to Public Health Engineering. As we continue to be impacted by the climate emergency, the challenges we face as engineers is forever increasing. However, we have many opportunities to make a difference, designing and constructing in more sustainable ways and it is these challenges that inspire me and the society so much. I have also always strived to support the new generation of PH engineers and I am very proud to be part of a society that has the same values at it's core'.

In 2018, Jonathan Gaunt was elected SoPHE Chair. One of Jonathan's aims was to grow the status of public health engineering. Speaking to the CIBSE Journal, he stated, 'We want to rekindle the art of public health engineering,' 'PHE has been a poor cousin in building services, and I want to raise its profile'. As well as continuing the work of SoPHE including the Plumbing Centre of Excellence, Jonathan also guided SoPHE during the global lockdown caused by Covid-19. In order to ensure that SoPHE members were still able to access high quality CPD, provided by Industrial Associates, SoPHE begun a monthly global CPD programme which was attended by over a thousand engineers. This initiative still runs in 2023 with the last presentation selling out, showing the lasting effect of the programme.

Reflecting on his time as current SoPHE Chair, Peter White commented, 'Like every chair before me, I think that we have all tried to make SoPHE a little bit better. I have concentrated on ensuring that we issue a regular newsletter and that things such as the technical forum become established annual events. As I said at the London dinner, just look at what we have achieved in the last 21 years, let's make sure we carry on the same trajectory for the next twenty-one'.

Looking to the future, Joe Russell, SoPHE Young Engineers Network Chair stated, 'SoPHE is such a welcoming community of peers. For those of us in the YEN we are supported and encourage by senior members, allowing us to ask questions and investigate solutions within an open environment. This support has allowed the YEN committee to build our networks with the wider CIBSE YEN networks and bringing Public Health Engineering knowledge to a wider audience. I look forward to seeing the YEN grow from strength to strength and one day being able to offer the support I have receive myself to the next generation of engineers.

On the anniversary of its 21st year, The Society hosted regular regional and global CPD's, and continues to celebrate the industry at the London and Northern Annual Dinners, sponsored by Industrial Associates and attended by over 500 people in total. They have offered

young engineers and students valuable experience in the form of technical presentations, site visits and the plumbing centre of excellence, as well as the annual PCE/YEN Plumbing competition. 2023 has also seen the continuation of the Annual Technical Conference, which this year focused on fire suppression, as well as the introduction of new initiatives such as the e-newsletter, summer networking event and young engineers graduate networking event.

In, 'Looking Back', Ken Hatter's concluding remarks stated, 'I firmly believe that PH engineering has an exciting future in helping to deal with the considerable challenges that lie ahead. Your specialist skills will be essential and in great demand'. It is clear that SoPHE is an exemplification of the bright future of public health engineering and has established itself as a positive voice of the industry. CIBSE would like to thank all those who contributed to making SoPHE what it is today, and we look forward to the next 21 years.

**Jack Batley,
Membership Networks and
Engagement Coordinator,
CIBSE.**



SoPHE Now

The SoPHE Industrial Associates scheme exists to develop closer links and working between the Society and a broad range of organisations involved in the public health engineering industry.

The Industrial group resources are used to support initiatives and innovations that have direct relationship to the betterment of the public health engineering industry Encouraging



As an Industrial Associate you benefit as follows:

- Entitlement to use the SoPHE Industrial Associate logo
- Access to a calendar of SoPHE Industrial group events including CPDs, Technical Seminars and Annual conferences/dinners
 - Copy of the monthly CIBSE Journal
 - Copy of the SoPHE newsletter
- Entitlement to purchase CIBSE publications at a discounted members' rate
- Opportunities to network with other Industrial group members of the Society and other CIBSE bodies
- Logo and link on the SoPHE Industrial Associates webpage



sustainability, health and safety, environmental quality, recruitment, education and efficient working practices.

We have over sixty [Industrial Associate Members](#) and that we would like to welcome The Belvedere Group and Danfoss Ltd as recent new members.

If you would like to find out more about SoPHE Industrial Associate membership, please contact sophe@cibse.org.

Matthew Watson,
SoPHE Industry Working Group
Communications Representative

I must say, that my thanks to Nigel Green and the rest of the SoPHE team for helping this year's technical conference be a great as it was. Nigel and I delivered a piece on passive fire seals for pipework which we think was well received, as we attempted to take some of the complexity out of the current difficulties with selection. So for those that missed out on our dulcet tones on the day, we have done a small piece on what the outputs were...

Passive fire protection and the routes to demonstrate reasonable levels of safety and health have come to the forefront in planning engineering projects in recent years. For this reason and due to the level of complication surrounding what achieves a reasonable level of safety and health, we believe that some guidance around the subject would be of use for our members and readers.

Pipe work passive fire protection falls under the classification of BS EN 13501-2:2023 and the testing standard which is BS EN 1366-3:2021. There is the test standard BS476-20 :1987 that also provides a method for the determination of the fire resistance, though this standard has no direct field of application, is not specific to pipework and is less onerous test procedure and is ad hoc. The advice is to use the BS EN 1366-3 tested solutions over BS 476-20, where practicable.

Paul McSoley,
Mace

[Click here for link to full article](#)

