



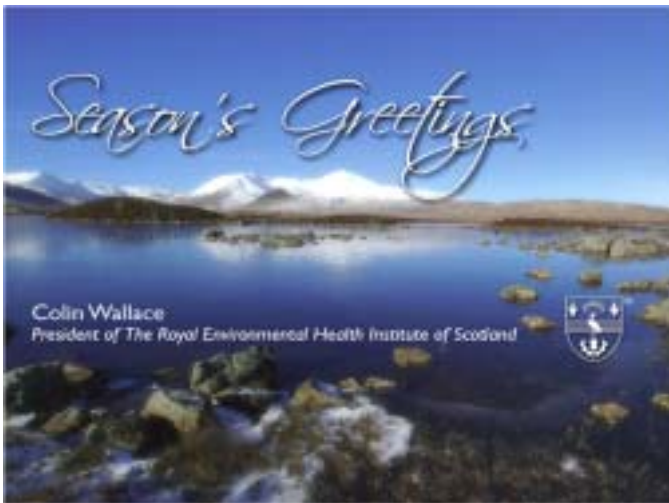
The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland NEWSLETTER

PROTECTING & IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH

December 2008

Season's Greetings

Colin Wallace, the President of The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland, offers season's greetings to all readers of the Newsletter.



Meritorious Endeavours in Environmental Health Award 2008

Dr Harry Burns was presented with a specially engraved quach and a certificate in recognition of his pioneering work linking the effects of the environment to human health in Scotland at the Institute's Annual Awards Ceremony in Edinburgh last month. Dr Burns was appointed as Scotland's Chief Medical Officer (CMO) in 2005 and is the Scottish Government's principal medical adviser. He has direct involvement in the development of health policy in all its dimensions including health protection and health improvement. In exploring and publicly considering the physiological mechanisms, and particularly the role of stress, underpinning arguably Scotland's greatest health challenge - the stark differences in health and wellbeing between the better off and the socio-economically disadvantaged, he has inspired many in the wider public health workforce to look

afresh at their priorities and approaches. For environmental health professionals this has meant careful reflection on how we might more effectively influence the quality of Scotland's urban and rural places. At the same event Ken Macintosh MSP was presented with the *REHIS Meritorious Endeavours in Environmental Health Award* for 2007. Ken has long been an advocate for the introduction of stricter controls on premises where sunbeds are operated for public use. In 2006 he introduced a Private Bill to the Scottish Parliament which aimed to introduce stricter controls. Although the Bill did not receive sufficient support or parliamentary time and was unsuccessful Ken has continued to work towards the introduction of stricter controls which will reduce the incidence of skin cancers in Scotland and the new Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008 which received Royal Assent in July, contains provisions for the regulation of such premises. The Institute recognises Ken Macintosh's contribution to the protection of public health in Scotland with the presentation of this award.



Dr Harry Burns receives his award from Robert Howe.

FSA reiterates advice on Irish pork

The FSA is currently advising consumers not to eat pork, or products where pork is the main ingredient, that are labelled as being from the Irish Republic or Northern Ireland. This includes food such as sausages, bacon, salami and ham. The FSA advises retailers and caterers to remove from sale pork products manufactured from 1 September 2008 in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and advises manufacturers not to use pork from products manufactured from 1 September 2008 in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Agency is continuing to monitor the situation and is working closely with the relevant authorities in the Republic of Ireland. Further information can be found on the FSA's website www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2008/dec/porkadvice

FSA Scotland and REHIS sign ground-breaking Statement of Intent

In recognising the importance of food safety and standards to achieve a safer and healthier Scotland a Statement of Intent was signed on the eve of the Institute's AGM by Dr George Paterson (Director of FSAS), Robert Howe (President of REHIS) and Tom Bell (Chief Executive of REHIS). The joint Statement of Intent sets out the high level commitment which both organisations believe is necessary to provide a framework for creating joint strategic objectives for food regulation and food related health matters.



From left to right: Jim Thomson (Assistant Director of FSA Scotland), Dr George Paterson, Robert Howe and Tom Bell.

Campaign to ban the sale of tobacco in vending machines

Figures suggest that one in ten young people illegally buy tobacco from vending machines in Scotland. (These figures were produced before the rise in the minimum legal age for tobacco sales from 16 to 18). A wide range of organisations including REHIS have, under the banner of the *SCOT Coalition*, signed a letter urging the Scottish Government to ensure that the forthcoming Health Bill will include a firm commitment to ban tobacco vending machines outright.

Healthy Start for kids at school

Pilot projects aimed at improving children's health by providing targeted health-related services at school were unveiled earlier this month as the first Equally Well implementation plan was published. The first children's health and wellbeing support pilot gets underway in South Ayrshire in January, followed by others in Moray, West Lothian and Clackmannanshire. Public Health Minister Shona Robison also announced the roll out of Keep Well checks - which aim to identify people at risk of heart disease, diabetes or strokes - to more parts of Scotland. The plan highlights progress made to date to implement the recommendations of Equally Well and outlines what further progress is expected over the next two years. Further information can be found on the Scottish Government's website www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/12/11100653

Fishing for litter

A project to clean up the seas around Scotland over the next three years was launched earlier this month. *Fishing for Litter* aims to clear the sea of litter. Rubbish that is trawled up as part of normal fishing activities is disposed of on land, and this is achieved by providing large hardwearing bags to the boats so the waste can be easily collected and deposited on the quayside. Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead highlighted the excellent work KIMO UK (Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation) and Scottish fishermen are undertaking to clean up seas by launching the

new Fishing For Litter 2008 Scotland project. Scotland's fishermen, who take part in the project voluntarily, are already reporting the benefits of fishing in cleaner seas having removed 117 tonnes of litter from the seabed. The successful project has been operating in a network of 15 harbours in different parts of Scotland allowing the 110 registered fishing vessels to land and collect new bags since 2005. The project benefits both the environment and the fishing industry. Litter causes problems to wildlife such as seabirds, through entanglement and swallowing and marine debris can damage fishing gear and catches. Further information can be found on the Scottish Government's website www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/12/10110723

REHIS Elementary Control of Infection Course to be launched in the New Year

The REHIS Elementary Control of Infection course will be launched at Dundee College in March 2009. The course is designed to provide candidates with the under-pinning knowledge that will enable them to understand: hazards, risks, risk assessment, breaking the chain of infection, local and national policies, accountability and responsibility within the scope of the role and compliance. Further information on the course from Graham Walker, Director of Training at training@rehis.com.

Climate Change Bill published

The Scottish Government recently published its Climate Change Bill which, if passed, will mean Scotland has the most ambitious climate change legislation anywhere in the world. The Bill will establish a legal framework for emissions reductions in the run up to 2050. The Scottish Government will now be developing a range of short, medium and long term policy options to drive the changes needed to meet our ambitious targets. These options will be published next year. Further information can be found on the Scottish Government's website www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/12/05094352

Dates for your diary

Caledonian Environment Centre - Promoting Waste Recycling in High Density Areas – 13 January 2009, Edinburgh. Lunchtime seminar. Further information from Mary Harley, Glasgow Caledonian University on 0141 273 1404 or m.harley@gcal.ac.uk.

Scottish Government, Environmental Protection UK (Scottish Division) and REHIS -Statutory Nuisance; New and Enhanced Provisions and Procedural Guidance Implementation Seminar – 27, 28 and 29 January 2009 (Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen). Further information from EPUK on 0141 287 6530.

Newzeve Ltd - Legislative and Regulatory Changes in the Brownfield and Contaminated Land Sector Conference – 28 January 2009, Glasgow. Further information from Newzeve Ltd on 020 8969 1008 or conference@newzeve.com.

Scottish Government, UWE Bristol and AQC – Local Air Quality Management Training Day – 13 February 2009, Edinburgh. Further information from andrew.taylor2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Keep Scotland Beautiful – Annual Conference – 25 and 26 February 2009, Dunblane. Further information from www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/conference2009.

The University of The West of Scotland - Certificate of Competence in Environmental Noise Measurement course - 30 March to 3 April 2009, Hamilton. Further information from Cameron Procter at belnoisecourses@sky.com.

The University of Strathclyde Centre for Lifelong Learning - Certificate of Competence in Environmental Noise Measurement Course – 20 to 24 April 2009, Glasgow. Further details from scosh@strath.ac.uk.

If you wish to feature any Environmental Health or Public Health initiative, event or activity in the REHIS Newsletter, please contact Tom Bell, Chief Executive, on 0131 225 6999 or tb@rehis.com