

Buckinghamshire Branch Lines

Edition 2/09 October 2009

Forward by Chairman

I write as I fast approach the end of my tenure as your Chairman. I hope that I have served your interests well during this period and done you all justice. It has certainly been an interesting, busy and challenging year for me and hopefully you have found time to attend one or more of the numerous Branch activities this year and found them of use.

I cannot however claim credit for the successes of the Branch this year and must first and foremost thank all the members of the Committee and those who assist behind the scenes; organising events, handling the admin arrangements for these or giving much appreciated help during the events. I am indebted to every single one of you as without your personal efforts and hard work the Branch would not be as successful as it is. Thank you all again.

Despite the challenges that we have all faced this year, the Branch has continued to provide CPD training days that have been both relevant and low-cost. We have facilitated over 1000 hours of CPD training this year which contributed significantly to the South East Region total of over 7000 hours making it the most prolific region in the country for training. This will have a significant benefit to us next year as the income received from Headquarters is now largely based on the hours of CPD training provided.

A particular mention must be given to the seminar in October on the Pennington Inquiry into the outbreak of *E. coli* 0157 in South Wales. This event was the Crown Jewel in our training programme this year and attracted delegates from far and wide. It represented a coup for the Branch as we attracted not only Professor Pennington himself, but also Paul Mee of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council who gave a very moving and personal account of the outbreak.

If ever there was a reminder of the importance of the public protection work that we as Environmental Health Practitioners do, this was it. We should be very proud of the work that we do but which rarely receives the recognition that it deserves. We are often pilloried in the media but are very rarely praised for our actions in protecting the public. We should be very proud of the contribution we all make and should take every opportunity to remind the public and our political masters of the work we do especially in these times of fiscal challenge and budget cuts.

Mindful of these challenges I am proud to report that work is progressing on providing meaningful support to local students who are seeking to join our profession. We have all been there and now it is our opportunity to help others as we were.

I know I leave the Branch in safe hands and wish Gill and all the members of the Branch the very best for 2010 and the years to come.

Andrew Collinson

New Committee Members

Sean Dunne from Aylesbury has kindly agreed to step into the post formerly held for the last decade by David Bloomfield with Isobel Feber from Chiltern taking up the Branch representative role at Chiltern on Mark moving to Thurrock. Both seem very keen and have ideas that may benefit the membership in the future.

Student Training Initiatives

As part of the Chairman's intentions to as a Branch support students more in 2009 and into the future, some initiatives have been started that will hopefully benefit all students on their progression to full membership status. As within Buckinghamshire there is a large mix of LA's from district councils in predominately rural settings to unitary authorities, the opportunities and challenge to students for training opportunities varies widely. A list held by each local authority of the practical training that each local authority can offer to students has been produced and is available to all students within Buckinghamshire.

A second strand in improved communication with students was a meeting held in November with initially those students identified as working in Buckinghamshire Local authorities or local businesses. This meeting is to review student training needs and future support that the Branch may be able to offer these students. From this meeting it is hoped that an outline plan of possible assistance to students can be developed which may involve tutoring, practical training or potentially financial support. Whilst it is thought there are only 11 students at Local Authorities it has been determined that nearly 70 students live in Buckinghamshire with the majority at Universities outside Buckinghamshire. The first fact finding meeting is likely to focus on ELP students and their requirements. Interested students who are not aware of this initiative should contact their Branch rep for further information or email the secretary. The initial meeting covered:

- 1) Welcome & introductions
- 2) What stage are people currently at with training/qualification process
- 3) Areas within Bucks where students may be experiencing difficulties

- 4) How the Branch maybe able to help (funding, ELP training, scenario interview session, etc)
- 5) How do the students want to take this Branch initiative forward – (future meetings, branch rep, email group?)
- 6) AOB

An initial training day involving theory and a targeted practical visit to a factory is being developed for 2010 with the probable location being in Wycombe.

At the 2010 AGM it is hoped that a student will volunteer to join the Branch Executive Committee and be able to directly influence the Branch for continued support of students and there will be a vote on funding grant for student development.

The David Bloomfield Award of a free place at Best of the Best 2010 will be again be advertised with students in mind and it is hoped that a student may benefit from attendance. A framed photograph of David with inscription has been presented to the owner of the Bricklayers Arms where Branch Exec meetings are held as a lasting memory of all the effort David put in to Branch activities.

Training in 2010 – Have your say

The committee has endeavoured over the last five years to meet the requirements of the CIEH for 30 hours CPD for Chartered members by low cost training. Such training is predominately broken down to health/safety and food training with other training and visits to educational or interested premises arranged when possible. The Branch is indebted to the Buckinghamshire Food and Health and Safety groups who have also assisted in putting on targeted training for the benefit of Buckinghamshire and non Buckinghamshire members. For 2010 the committee for the first half of the year have put in train the following possible training:

- DSEAR Practical and theoretical training
- Fork Lift Training
- Vacuum Packing

- Legal training and Court Practice
- Health and Safety in the Beauty Industry
- Gas Safety

We now need to hear from members on what training they would like the Branch to consider for the second half of 2010 or for future years. (Inform your branch rep or email the secretary with suggestions and any details of possible speakers).

Possible subjects that the Branch will consider are:

- Exhaust tyre premises
- Swimming pools

EVENTS REPORTS

Branch Badminton Social September 2009



The annual Badminton social where members who have never played badminton to regulars can stretch their limbs then meet up in the lounge bar for refreshments took place in September with 20 plus members attending. Some sore shoulders and arms were commented on the next day! A raffle of mainly donated gifts from members raised £27 for the Branch charity. Those attending all enjoyed themselves and look forward to 2011 with increased participation on the courts.

Pennington Inquiry Seminar 2 October Report



The Pennington Inquiry Seminar on 2 October snowballed as E coli 0157 became more common in the press due to outbreaks at petting farms. To say that this was the most popular event the Branch has ever put on is a massive understatement with the 140 places very quickly booked and over 100 non Bucks members turned away due to lack of space. A big debt of gratitude to all the speakers who gave up their time so willingly and also Natasha Bentley who had the unenviable task of dealing with all the bookings and bills for the event. Without Nat's considerable contribution behind the scenes it is almost certain that our small branch could not mount so large events. A DVD was made of the event and is available for loan from the secretary with also a transcript of notes taken from the Seminar at the end of Branch Lines. Full copies of all the presentations have been uploaded on the CIEH South East website for review by members.

Post Conference Report – CIEH Best of the Best 2009

Des Hillier – Milton Keynes Council

Firstly could I thank Buckinghamshire Branch of CIEH for providing me with a place at this event, I enjoyed attending it immensely and met up with many old faces.

Monday afternoon provided a choice of 4 sessions (the one on Emotional Intelligence seemed an oxymoron to me AND I skipped that) and went to the session headed '*Leadership*'. Essentially CIEH has been told by LBRO that (in their opinion) the profession lacks good Leadership and if we are to contribute to 'World Class regulation', the profession will have to move on from being excellent 'problem solvers' to generating flexible high visibility outcomes with outstanding 'leaders'

from within the profession. We group shared the different academic approaches to leadership we had experienced and pulled together a very rough framework of topic areas that such a framework would contain, CIEH will use this to work up a framework discussion document. I would commend all colleagues to read the 'Arculus Regulatory Reform' review prepared for the Conservative Party. The link to the document is

<http://www.epfltd.org/images/Arculus%20Report.pdf> .

The 'conference' proper kicked off on Tuesday morning with Professor Hugh Pennington who gave a 30 minute session on the similarities between the John Barr and Tudor Incidents of VTEC E coli 0157. He summarised that Barr's were best summarised as being well intentioned but ill informed while Tudors were ill intentioned and ill informed, and criminally intended.

Sarah Anderson from FSA gave the FSA response about how they were reviewing many areas, but with particular focus on further training EHP's to verify and ratify HACCP systems so Pennington 3 does not eventually occur!

The other sessions all seemed to blur into one after that, but the ones I attended had a theme of how environmental health will change over the next decade, with themes such as:

- *'Specialist V Generalist'* which is always good for a debate amongst colleagues.
- *Primary Authority: supporting local businesses* (with LBRO);
- *APD – meet the successes* (there was only one!);
- *It's not the fittest professions that survive, but the ones most adaptable to change* (lead by CIEH Education) which considered our future as a profession.

Plus the usual gems on rodents, infections and housing.

A couple of the sessions I attended were not up to the usual high standard for Congress, or did not seem to fully address the topic title, but these were in the minority and they still gave food for thought, or provoked stimulating discussions.

Future Events in 2009/2010

2 December – South East Open Forum to be held at Wycombe with an HSE theme. This will be a free event with almost a full days training which will soon be advertised by South East Region and your Branch

8 December – Noise Seminar at Milton Keynes with speakers on many aspects of noise including licensing and noise.

9 December – Effective Evaluation of food management Systems – Chiltern

22 January 2010 – AGM at Aylesbury with speakers on DSEAR, the SE Region and CIEH update.

1 Minute Focus on South Buckinghamshire District Council -



Environmental Health Service

The service is managed by Mr David Gilmour and it is part of the Environment Group that includes Contract and Property Services and Facilities Management. The head of the group is Mr Chris Marchant.

Environmental Health as one of the Regulatory Services report to Mr Bob Smith, Director of Services.

The Environmental Health Service is provided by the following five officers:

1. Mr Malcolm Scobie (environmental health officer) - commercial premises, IDs and related service requests.
2. Mr Puran Sanichara (environmental health officer) - commercial premises, IDs and related service requests.
3. Dr Stuart Maxwell (senior scientific officer)– air quality, green travel, EMS, contaminated land, E P processes, nuisances and related service requests

4. Mr Olu Sokoya (environmental control officer) – general nuisances, noise, contaminated land, air quality and related service requests.
5. Ms Sara Cobain (environmental health officer) - general nuisances, noise, contaminated land, air quality and related service requests.

Number of Food premises: 474

Number of H & S related premises: 544

Other Work Areas: Heathrow expansion, M25 widening, Emergency Planning.

Prosecutions taken in 2008/09: 0

Service Aims and Priorities:

1. To improve health, safety and well-being for residents and visitors to, South Bucks.
2. To improve standards in commercial premises; to provide a safer environment for customers & employees.
3. To monitor threats and identify improvements to the local and global environment and working towards a sustainable quality of life.
4. To provide a customer focussed environmental health service that is able to react to customer needs.
5. Maintain the Emergency Plan and response capability for South Bucks.
6. Manage and maintain liaison between organisers of public events and the enforcement agencies via South Bucks Safety Advisory Group.
7. Work with partners to improve the effectiveness of enforcement interventions in respect of health, safety and environmental performance of local business.