

# Inside Devon

## WATER FOR KIDS RECEIVE BOOST FROM LOCAL EH FUNDRAISERS

Torbay EHOs tackle it all



A team of EHOs from Torbay Council have raised themselves and the profession to new heights by taking part in a charity three mountain challenge. The team pictured left, surmounted Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon over the weekend of 12th September. Helen Perkins, team leader and branch student officer said the idea came to them on a works evening out. None of them had walked together before and the event turned out to be an incredible team building experience with everyone supporting each other to the top. The best part, she says, was dipping their feet in a lake on the way down from Snowdon on the last day knowing they had succeeded. Walking in aid of Water for Kids Helen says they don't know how much they've raised yet but they are aiming for £1000.

If you would like to donate please visit [www.justgiving.com/helen-perkins0](http://www.justgiving.com/helen-perkins0)

Pictured Right—The Team, Helen Perkins, Chris Widdecombe, Martin Smith, Heather Smith, Karl Martin Photo by Steve Cox



# Branch to Host Members Forum January 2010

Devon Branch will be hosting a Members Forum on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at either Totnes or Sidmouth Council. This will replace the usual AGM.

The CIEH SW Regional management board will come to Devon and facilitate a forum where all members of the Devon Branch will

be able to raise issues, make suggestions and have a good look at how their committees and sub groups have been working on their behalf.

The day will also provide 3 hours of CPD for the low cost of £10 per person.

If you would like to book a place please contact the secretary on

[Claire.turbutt@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.turbutt@plymouth.gov.uk)

## Preliminary Programme

Funeral Homes Health and Safety

Morrisons HACCP presentation

Contaminated Land Support Group

Members Forum



## Branch support for Students pays Dividends

The Student Group was set up in 2008 to offer a support network for students in the Devon area and has been supported wholeheartedly by the branch. It was recognised that it was difficult to fulfil the requirements of the Experiential Learning Portfolio (the new version of the old log book system) by working in any one area of Devon, as the ELP calls for experience in a wide range of Environmental Health interventions. The Student Group was therefore set up to help facilitate students sharing visits in each others districts, and to provide a forum for students to discuss their ELP's and share experiences. The group were also given a budget by the Devon Branch which has been used to fund members attendance at specialist training events such as Port Health, housing, and Emergency Planning courses, and

to pay for several key texts which can be shared around the group when members sit their professional exams.

Over the last year we have organised trips to a fruit juice manufacturer, Exeter Crown Court, and Brixham Fish Market, with group meetings usually scheduled following the visits.



Members of the group have also been swapping visits which have helped members to complete sections of the ELP that they would have struggled complete in their own districts. We are

also planning future trips to a water treatment works, a rendering plant, and a cheese maker.

During 2008/ 2009 there remained around 15 students in the Devon area. Three of these students were on student placements, with the other student group members made up of technical officers and trainee officers at various stages in their studies. We are always happy to welcome new members to the group, so if you have any new student/ trainee officers in your district then they can get in touch with the group by emailing either me or Helen Perkins on the email addresses below.

[lee.staples@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:lee.staples@exeter.gov.uk)

[helen.perkins@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:helen.perkins@torbay.gov.uk)

# Final Words from this years Branch Chair

Well, it's time again for someone to fly the flag for Environmental Health abroad! In a few week's time I will be taking a 12 month sabbatical to work as an Environment Officer aboard cruise ships (providing that the boss here can find a suitable replacement for me, although that shouldn't be too difficult!) I'll be working in a pollution control / environmental protection role (effluent, hydrocarbon, chemical & waste management) - essentially preventing any pollution of the marine environment from the vessel. The ships can be as much as 150,000 tonnes with up to 5000 people on board who create a lot of waste materials, all of which have to be managed effectively. Starting in Australia in early November there'll be a great deal of liaison with foreign port health authorities, together with the odd Captain's cocktail party (I hope), and I even get to wear the white officer's suit! Expect a full report on my return

**Chris Hagan**

*"I'll be taking a 12 month sabbatical to work on board cruise ships"*



## Get to Know your Reps



*"My EH hero is Basil Fawlty his legacy lives on in Torbay"*

**Who are you?**  
**Sarah Lock**

**Where do you work?**  
Food & Safety Team at Torbay Council, dealing with Food Hygiene, Food Standards and Health and Safety.

**What is your normal day?**  
There's no such thing!

**Where did you study EH?**  
Obtained a BSc in Environmental Health from

Middlesex University.

**What made you join the profession?**

Whilst in my final year at college, an EHO from the local authority gave a talk on the role of an EHO. As they say the rest is history.

**Why become a Branch Rep?**

Being new to the profession I became a Rep to get to know people from other authorities.

**What do you do for the Branch?**

Have been the Rep for Torbay for nearly 4 years passing on information about the CIEH to members and organising training days.

**Who is your Environmental Health hero?**

Basil Fawlty as his legend lives on in Torbay in many ways!

**What would you take with you to a desert island?**

A man to wait on me hand and foot.

**How can people contact you?**[Sarah.lock@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.lock@torbay.gov.uk) or 01803 208003

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We're on the Web!

[WWW.cieh.org/members/SW\\_Devon.html](http://WWW.cieh.org/members/SW_Devon.html)



The Devon Branch of the CIEH is made up of one member representative from each of 10 Councils within Devon plus an independent EHO and a Student EHO. They meet quarterly at Crediton Town Hall to discuss issues relevant to the organisation, arrange for the provision of low cost CPD for CIEH members and participate in Regional matters. Devon Branch CIEH is a part of the CIEH South West Region. They send a representative to the regional board which also meets quarterly in Taunton.

Your 2009 Branch Reps are:

Torrige - Chris Hagan, EHO, Branch Chair

West Devon & South Hams - Dave Sexton, EHO, Vice Chair

Plymouth - Claire Turbutt, EHO Branch Secretary

Independent - Mike Fox, EHP Treasurer

Teignbridge - Nick Cowan, EHO, Website Co-ordinator

Torbay - Sarah Lock, EHO

Exeter - Lisa Cocks, EHO

Mid Devon - Dave Turner, Senior EHO

North Devon - Aaron Turton, EHO

Devon County - Dolores Riordan, EHO

Student Member - Lee Staples

## Training and Events Diary



Training Courses are run at minimal cost to the individual

### Upcoming Branch Training Days

19th January 2010

Members Forum, COST £10 Location TBC

12th October 2009

Joint Training Event sponsored by PTPHN

**Obesity and Food Issues**

Babbage Building,

Plymouth University

Cost Free (unless you don't turn up in which case there is a £10 admin fee)

11th December 2009

Joint Training Event sponsored by the PTPHN

**Climate Change**

Babbage Building,  
Plymouth University

Cost Free (unless you don't turn up in which case there is a £10 admin fee)

### Regional Events

Member Forums will be coming to a meeting near you

### National Events