

# Commercial and Independent Special Interest Group

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## Signal Times – March 2011

Dear member

Yes – this is the March edition of the journal, even though you are receiving it on April 1<sup>st</sup> !

Unfortunately, for the first time in years of producing the monthly edition of Signal Times the technology has ganged up on me. I had already delayed production and circulation this month to include some notes from the CIEH SIGs meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March (see below). The edition was complete and ready to go out on 31<sup>st</sup> March until, partly due to the computer playing tricks and my own mistake (!) I managed to delete the copy – with no apparent means of recapturing it (and my expert IT Manager – son – was not there to help!)

So there has been no alternative but to reproduce it – I just hope that I can remember what I wrote the first time.....

This edition contains a number of items of interest, starting with some notes from the CIEH SIGs meeting (further details to follow in future editions), details of the Spring Seminar, other C&I events planned for 2011, H&S information, news of members and details of a very tasty job vacancy. In the appendix will be found a booking form for the Spring Seminar (The 2011 Business Plan is being sent under separate cover)

To business –

## **CIEH SIGs Meeting – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

This was hosted by Sharon Smith, Strategic Projects Director, and for the first time representatives of the four special interest groups –

Port Health  
Commercial & Independent  
International  
Education, Academic and Research

- came together to discuss a range of issues and items of interest

The agenda covered three key areas –

SIGs

- Function, roles & relationships
- Challenges & gaps

Governance and member engagement

Working smarter

- Central CIEH support
- Regions support
- SIG action

Recognising that the four groups differ in terms of geographical coverage, membership, aims and objectives, management structure (NB. C&I is the only SIG to have a paid Executive Officer) a useful and practical discussion was had, guided throughout by the CIEH programme of change that is being developed in 2011

A number of elements of this affecting the SIGs – representation/input to Committees, Expert Panels & Advisory Groups for example – have yet to be agreed but it was useful to have a round table discussion and expression of views

Further feedback from the meeting will be given in future editions of Signal Times. In summary, however, it is pleasing to note that the SIGs are greatly valued by the CIEH, increased input from our members is welcomed and that there is a positive move to integrate the special interest groups more fully into the organisation.

## **Spring Seminar – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011**

Penny Dawson-Malone, the MB member responsible for coordinating this event, has kindly provided me with the following summary of progress to date, together with details of cost etc (Note. A booking form will be found in the Appendix)

As follows –

Peter has kindly given me the 'floor' to publicise our 'CIEH' Special Interest Group Event which is planned for the Thursday 2nd June 2011 at the new and prestigious 'Chesterfield Football Club Conference' facilities located off junction 29 of the M1. This easy to get to venue within close proximity to major road networks and parking is free and plentiful. The day will include a buffet lunch and refreshments.

We have worked hard to find new and interesting topics, and since putting a call out for speakers a couple of weeks ago, have had some very interesting responses....

Here is a flavour of the day....

"David Kidney Head of Policy at CIEH (former MP and Climate Change Energy Minister) will be giving a short overview of the shaping of Public Health services and the EHP's stance.

In the light of the 'Big Society' and outsourcing of inspections which is all being 'mooted' at the moment....we have Rob Halford (RHEEnvironmental) talking about such 'outsourcing' of LA services.

David Edwards-Director NSF-CMI Ltd discussing the role of the private Consultant in Consultancy /auditing etc) with an interesting initiatives using behavioral psychologists to develop completely new audit , training interventions...and the role of new technology in auditing.

We have a taster on the 'Housing' front which is topical to climate change and energy conservation as EHP's Ian Robinson and Bruce Pittingale will be talking about the 'Eastern Carbon Reduction Initiative' where carbon saving products have been installed in existing homes using the Carbon Emission Reduction Target based grants.

Peter Minhinnett Chartered EHP will be discussing his role in the International SiG and his work with 'Water for Kids' and the Uganda Project and he is seeking to recruit EHO's in his new and fascinating projects. Your chance to volunteer!!!

Maurice Brennan Head of Teaching in Environmental Health at University of Birmingham will speak on 'Nano Technology'; a science we all seem to accept particularly in the world of food science; and maybe we should be questioning future safety of this technology...

We are also planning a speaker from the Military Core to give their own unique perspective of 'Environmental Health behind the 'Front Line'.

Stuart Wiggins Trading Law Manager – Asda role in primary Authority and associated earned Earned Autonomy,

Students from the Trent University coordinated by Sian Buckley Senior Lecturer will be showcasing their Health Promotion Campaigns and Associated Materials. This will be of particular interest to me as I was interviewed by a student on my understanding of 'well being' and the potential place for this in Environmental Health.

We will be finalising our programme shortly which will represent **5 hours CPD** and hope that you will join us for this event which will have a good mix of colleagues from both the Local Authority Sector and the Commercial Side of Environmental Health. It will be an excellent opportunity to network and get a good overview of where the profession is heading....

On behalf of the Management Board of the Special Interests Group CIEH I really look forward to catching up with fellow colleagues.

Penny Dawson Malone Chartered EHP OSHCR  
Email: penny@bluecloudtraining.com

And now for the good news!

Penny was too modest to mention that due to her negotiation skills an excellent package and cost per head has been obtained from the football club. Combined with the generous sponsorship being provided by Digitron (NB. Please support the companies that support us) the delegate rate for the seminar, fully inclusive of lunch and refreshments is only –

**£35 per head**

Students are welcome so a reduced rate is available for them of **£25 per head**

Early booking is advised to avoid disappointment

### **Other Planned C&I SIG Events 2011**

*Annual Members Meeting* – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September (Not June as advised)  
- Venue tba

*Joint Event with IFST* - Wednesday evening 20<sup>th</sup> October  
- Venue tba

*Autumn Seminar* - Joint event with CIEH WM Region  
- Date and venue to be advised

*Xmas Seminar & Lunch* - Date and venue to be advised

## **Health & Safety News**

Kathryn Gilbertson from Greenwoods Solicitors has sent me the following two items of interest –

Peter

I am attaching a controversial article\* on the disparity in safety auditing now that the HSE is to cut their proactive inspections by a third as part of their cost cutting.

Just conscious that you may be organising a conference or seminar into this issue the near future and I'd be happy to speak/ help at this if I can.

[I was an EHO for 10 years prior to re-qualifying as a solicitor some 16 years ago. I've spent all my professional career in food and H+S matters and regularly instruct C+I EHPs as expert witnesses in my cases. So my clients and I will experience this disparity in all its guises.

A leaked letter from the HSE has confirmed what many safety professionals have long thought - there isn't a level playing field when it comes to the unannounced safety inspection.

Budget cuts now mean that the HSE will cut its proactive inspections by a third.

Further details as to the disparity between HSE and EHP inspections are available on the attached document\*

Kindest regards

Kathryn

(\*Please contact Kathryn direct if you would like further information)

**Kathryn Gilbertson**

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## **News of Members**

1) Dan Fone (NSF-CMi) writes with the following news of a job change -

I have accepted a new role within NSF International (our parent company) as Business Development Director – Global Food and will be re-locating for at least two years to Ann Arbor in Michigan. My remit will include all of our food offers across the world including GFSI benchmarked auditing, QAI our organic certification business, NSF Surefish our seafood certification business, retail food safety audits, consulting and training...I imagine this will keep me busy! I'm intending to move over early in May.

Perhaps you could put a short note in to say farewell (temporarily) to any colleagues I have not seen or spoken to directly? I fully intend to maintain my membership and any involvement in the C&I SIG that I can.

Regards to all

**Dan Fone**

Director - Consulting & Advisory Services

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2) And our two stalwart (ex-army) members are still preparing for their Hike –

***Not long to go now!!***

*Mike Simpson & Graham Sheppard are still hard at it – training to do it all again on 28-31<sup>st</sup> May, fifty years almost to the day since their original Duke of Edinburgh Gold trek as Army Medical Apprentices*

*Just to recap, the task is 80 miles over steep and isolated Exmoor terrain in 72 hours, with packs, taking the route described in Mike's original log (which he still has). A recent trial of days 1 & 2, straight off, went pretty well but certain quads were heard screaming! All the old problems of muscle cramp, back ache etc are now well behind the intrepid twosome*

*This unique mission will start from Minehead Station at 11.00 AM on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Mike & Graham will arrive there by steam train just as they did on May 26<sup>th</sup> 1961, courtesy of complimentary tickets provided by the West Somerset Steam Railway.*

*Main purpose, apart from the personal challenge, is to fund raise for Help4Heroes and the Princes Trust. It is Mike and Graham's way of saying "Thank you" for the gateway the army provided for them to progress to good careers in an era when the military threat was low.*

*This is the particular theme in their choice of charities and the target is to raise a five figure sum*

*Though both are EHO's in virtual retirement Mike & Graham still have significant connections as consultant advisors to key organisations on health matters, and this is now being applied to their own task. Mike lives in Kingston-on-Thames and Graham in Colchester. Both are bird watchers and keep a keen eye open when trekking. (One topless seen so far.....)*

*They have now had 8 training trips over Exmoor and have retraced their whole route in various packages. The last trip on 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March was a dress rehearsal of the original days one and two. Day 1 was particularly arduous, climbing from sea level to around 1200 feet in two places, the second of which is extremely steep. Legs and lungs were severely tested but gave cause for optimism when the real challenge is undertaken.*

*Daily training comprises 8-10 miles and goes on in home territory*

*A second "Dress Rehearsal" trip is scheduled for early May and this will be a good tune-up for the real thing starting on the 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*Many thanks to the C&I SIG and all those members who have sponsored us already – more benefactors are needed!*

*Please support this unique venture by visiting - [ukvirginmoneygiving.com/team/GoldenOldies](http://ukvirginmoneygiving.com/team/GoldenOldies)*

*Read our blog on <http://goldenoldies.blog.co.uk>*

*Contact Graham on [jengra@ntlworld.com](mailto:jengra@ntlworld.com) and Mike on [simpsonsplace@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:simpsonsplace@blueyonder.co.uk)*

## **Job Vacancies/Work Opportunity**

Member: Philip Best has sent me details of the following maritime job –

### **ASSISTANT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SANITATION SUPERINTENDENT**

We are looking for a person to assist our Environmental & Sanitation Superintendent (ESS) as the Company further develops and strengthens its in-house systems for marine environmental management and public health. This role requires an exceptionally flexible and tactful person who can work with people from a wide range of backgrounds and a variety of skill levels. At the same time the individual must be persuasive and sufficiently forceful to ensure that new Company policies and procedures are followed and adopted.

Considerable travel on our ships is envisaged. Whilst on board the duties would include the following:

- Auditing our environmental and public health management systems and reporting on vessel compliance status.
- Inspecting and monitoring of vessel environmental and public health performance. Advising ship's personnel on compliance with company environmental and sanitation policies. Working closely with the ESS and our team of Environmental & Sanitation Officers (ESO) to improve performance.
- Trouble shooting environmental and public health problems, including assistance and investigations of outbreaks of GI and ILI, suggesting improvements to systems and operations and supervising implementation of new procedures, methods, equipment, chemicals, etc.

- Providing training and advice to ESOs on board and conducting training courses for crew in various topics such as food safety, cleaning, sanitation, hygiene, pest management, waste management, etc.
- Working with the ESS to develop and implement training programmes for marine environmental management, sanitation, hygiene and chemical management.

The successful candidate will have a broad scientific knowledge encompassing marine environmental management and public health. This would include knowledge of water and waste water treatment, air pollution control, liquid and solid waste management, chemical technology and management, food safety and hygiene, integrated pest management, microbiology and food technology, etc. A knowledge of management systems such as ISO 9000, ISO 14000 and ISO 22000 would be an advantage.

The person envisaged will have a degree (or equivalent) in a relevant science or technology discipline and considerable experience in a management role related to public health and/or environmental management. Maritime experience would be a considerable advantage.

A competitive salary will be offered commensurate with this important and challenging role and excellent prospects for advancement are assured for the right candidate.

Interested candidates should in the first instance send a copy of their CV by email to:

Mike Hagger, BSc, C.Eng.,C.Env.,MIChemE, MCIWEM

Email: [mike@mjhagger.com](mailto:mike@mjhagger.com)

### **And Finally**

Don't forget to send me the seminar booking form with cheque if you are wish to attend

### **That's It!**

Regards  
Peter

# **CIEH Commercial and Independent Special Interest Group**

## **Spring Seminar 2011**

**Date:**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011**

**Venue:**

**B2 Net Stadium  
Chesterfield Football Club  
1866 Sheffield Road  
Chesterfield  
S41 8NZ**

**Cost:**

**£35 per head  
(Students - £25 per head)  
5 hours CPD**

(Detailed programme for this one day event to follow)

**Booking Details**

**Name:**

**Employer:**

**Student : Yes/No?**

I wish to book a place at this event. My cheque for £35 (£25 Student) is enclosed

Note. Payment with booking is the preferred method. Whilst it is possible for an invoice to be raised this been found to be slow and laborious method that frequently leaves the C&I SIG awaiting payment for weeks or even months (depending upon the organisation)

Please make cheques payable to **CIEH Commercial & Independent S.I.G.**

Send to:-

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