

N*E*W*S N*E*W*S
CIEH HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
20 FEBRUARY 2007
BROMSGROVE
SPEAKERS: IAN GRAY, CIEH
AND PAUL HOOPER, SMOKE
FREE WORCESTERSHIRE
SEPARATE MAILING TO
FOLLOW

The Branch Needs You

We really do need new faces on the Branch Committee. If you don't want to be on the committee then please consider offering help organise events, contribute to newsletter etc, etc.

Future Programme

Under the new Regional structure the Branch will need to be partly self-funding. From 2007 we aim to offer a mix of free CPD events and courses open to a wider audience. Suggestions to date:

- Pollution: (free of charge)
- Food Safety Update (free of charge)
- Taking Prosecutions (1 day charged)
- Social Marketing (half-day charged)
- Project Management (1 day charged)
- FSA/HSE training offered locally
- Gas Safety (half day charged)
- Practical Saniman

There will be consultation with the membership after the AGM.

13 December Meeting

Copies of presentations on Health and Safety in Nail Bars (if you have them you really ought to read this) and Licensing are available from the Secretary.

Possible New Year Resolution: must improve handwriting after reading admin interpretation of inspection report

provide suitable arrangements to ensure that patients are not hung off electrical switches to laundry area ...

CPD: IT COULD BE YOU

Rob Key (retired member) recently attended meeting of national CPD panel and reports:

A random selection of members takes place annually in order to monitor CPD compliance. In the majority of cases submitted records were found to be acceptable. The CIEH are committed to assisting members with CPD (Wales seems to get particular help!).

The panel reviewed approx 100 cases where members had either not complied or were seeking exemption – ranging from a LA Chief Exec to a member currently in prison! The approx 40 members who had ignored three previous requests to submit records gave the panel no alternative but to issue a final warning as to potential disciplinary action. In other cases it was felt appropriate to reject applications for exemption or to allow an extension of time to make up CPD hours.

The difficulties faced by part-time staff and returnees from maternity leave were noted and managers are urged to ensure they are offered suitable access to training.

Members are urged not to ignore CPD. If you are facing difficulties in meeting the requirements, seek assistance.

Footnote: Thanks to Louise Gittins for providing a CPD record sheet which is easily updated via your PC. Unfortunately it doesn't add up the hours but if you would like a copy please contact Secretary.

Apology: Sorry for delay in providing CPD certificates for October and December meetings. They will be available at the AGM (Robin Goundry).

CIEH HQ NEWS

New corporate look – Secretary has been provided with information, logo, etc. 35% of membership is now in private sector.

Web site being revamped. We can now submit information for regional site direct to regions@cieh.org.

You could be in breach of professional code of conduct if you use unofficial sites for CIEH business

Low Cost Courses to be offered during year include Media Training, Communication Skills, Project Management. Being organised by David Newsum.

Expect wider engagement in public health issues (yes, back to where we started) issues especially healthy eating agenda 600 more students still needed to fill EHP shortfall. Placement problems on-going. More ELP assessors required (congratulations to Charlotte Landeg for completing assessor course). Looking to introduce EH at GCSE/AS level

Conference 2007

To encourage attendance proposed

- 1.5 day policy meeting (Nov/Dec)
- 2 day practitioner conference (with New Professionals).

AND FINALLY PERHAPS ITS NOT ALWAYS THE RESTAURANT FOOD THAT CAUSES STOMACH DISTRESS?

Have you ever noticed ladies who sit their handbags on public toilet floors? Then go directly to their dining tables and set it on the table?

Happens a lot! Sometimes "What you don't know 'will' hurt you"! It's something just about every woman carries with them. While we may know what's inside our handbags, do you have any idea what's on the **outside?**

Women carry handbags everywhere; from the office to public toilets to the floor of the car. Most women won't be caught

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without their handbags, but did you ever stop to think about where your handbag goes during the day?

"I drive a school bus, so my handbag has been on the floor of the bus a lot," said one woman. "on the floor of my car and in toilets".

In Salt Lake, USA, the average woman's handbag was tested for bacteria.

Most of the ladies said they wouldn't be surprised if their handbags were at least a little bit dirty. It turns out handbags are so dirty, even the microbiologist who tested them was shocked. Nearly all of the handbags tested were not only high in bacteria, but high in harmful kinds of bacteria including pseudomonas, s. aureus, salmonella and e-coli. In one sampling, four of five handbags tested positive for salmonella,

Leather or vinyl handbags tended to be cleaner than cloth bags, and lifestyle seemed to play a role. People with kids tended to have dirtier handbags than those without with one exception. The handbag of one single woman who frequented nightclubs had one of the worst contaminations of all -

some type of faeces, or possibly vomit"

Your handbag won't kill you, but it does have the potential to make you very sick if you keep it on places where you eat. Your handbag has gone where individuals before you have sneezed, coughed, spat, urinated, emptied bowels, etc!

You may now want to think twice about where you put your bag - and clean it occasionally. Think of it in the same way you would a pair of shoes.

HAPPY NEW YEAR