

Representing the Scottish
electrotechnical industry

cabl talk

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022 | £4.50

SELECT

→ **On the road
to victory**

Rally ace Member Craig
Wallace discusses life on
the track and on the tools

**Linda's peak
performance**

SELECT's adventurer
completes her gruelling
Peru charity challenge

**The real-life case
for regulation**

Putting right a
potentially deadly
domestic installation



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SELECT's first President's Lunch

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FEATURES:

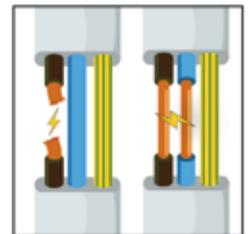
- 6-40A Rated
- Series and parallel arc fault detection
- 30mA earth leakage Type A
- B and C curve tripping characteristics
- Switched Live & Neutral
- Fits existing busbar system
- Self testing (AFDD function only)



B & C CURVE TRIPPING CHARACTERISTICS



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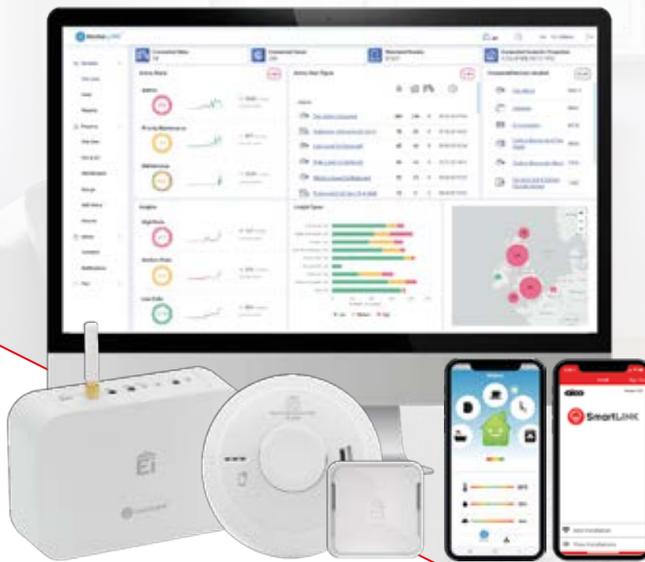


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The HomeLINK App

With the HomeLINK App, residents are provided with a healthy home rating, handy advice on how to improve the quality of their home, and Fire and CO alarm testing reminders.



“ We're all facing the certainty of uncertainty ”

At present, we find ourselves in a perpetual state of uncertainty, with one of the biggest unknowns being: Will inflation continue to rise? Some commentators are suggesting it could reach the heady heights of 18% towards the end of this year, but the announcement of some form of government support for reducing fuel bills will no doubt help.

Further uncertainty surrounds ongoing interest and mortgage rate rises, with more to possibly follow. A further rise on interest rates of 0.5% was announced by the Bank of England on 22 September, taking the overall rate up to 2.25%. So will there be further rises?

On top of this, we all face increases in the cost of our fuel. Despite the announcement by the UK Government of a series of measures to help consumers and businesses mitigate rises, the support does come at a cost. Not just financial, as they will have consequences on tax bills for years to come, but also a continued reliance on our existing fuels and its usage.

In Europe, most countries have been investing hugely in renewable technology as well as encouraging a reduction in the amount of fuel used for years. It should be pointed out that even with support, our bills will all rise. Gas and oil reserves are

finite and as the UK Government has signalled an about-turn on much of its investment in renewables, it will be moving the problem from one of today to tomorrow.

What can be done to help businesses in the current fluctuating landscape? Businesses need certainty, whether it be over labour or material costs and availability, pipeline of work and payment etc. Having certainty allows them to plan and act based on facts rather than subjective and indeed varying views on what may or may not happen in the economy. The material market does look as if it is becoming a bit steadier and, while not perfect, it's certainly better than a few months ago. In the labour market, it's great to see electrical employers investing in the future, with more than 900 apprentices and adult trainees recruited this year.

Workload is also a consistent challenge but looking at the proposed public sector spend for the next few years, there is work valued at around £8 billion in the pipeline. Specifically, for SELECT Members, there is an ever-increasing opportunity to install electric vehicle charging points, as well as solar photovoltaic and battery storage units as people

take the opportunity to head off future fuel bill increases.

Payment is a perennial sore. Whether in the domestic or commercial sector, it has become the default mechanism for many to delay or reduce payments. This will need a change of culture and, not too far in the future, bad payers might find themselves being excluded from contracts. If the perceived construction skills shortage continues, then businesses still trading will be able to use their judgement on whether to work for someone, not based on the need to keep their workforce busy with little profit margin, but rather on the basis they are paid on time and in full.

What remains certain is that we are all going to face a continued period of uncertainty. However, we have now reached the stage where we have an electrically-driven economy.

Whether it's our travel, heat, light or communications, it all needs electricity, so out of all this uncertainty, at least one thing is certain – electricity and electricians have become indispensable! We used to say: “The future is bright, the future is electric.” We can now say with certainty: “The now is electric!” ■



WORDS
ALAN WILSON
Managing Director, SELECT

News

We're moving in the right direction on a long journey

SELECT salutes 'extremely important step' as bill for regulation of the electrical industry is finally laid before Scottish Parliament

S ELECT is celebrating a major step forward in the fight

for regulation of the electrical industry after a bill was laid before the Scottish Parliament that could lead to protection of title finally becoming a reality.

The association has welcomed the Members' Bill lodged by Conservative MSP

Jamie Halcro Johnston, who has worked tirelessly in the campaign to protect Scotland from poor and potentially dangerous electrical work.



If passed, it could enshrine in law the professional status of electricians, making it a statutory offence for someone to call themselves an electrician when they have no, or inadequate, qualifications.

Alan Wilson, Managing Director of SELECT, said: "This has been a long journey which



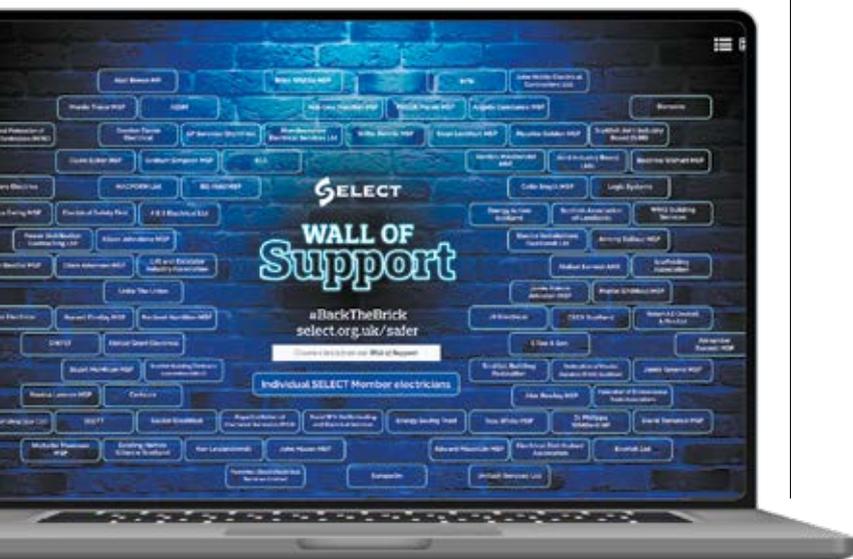
"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE CARRYING OUT ELECTRICAL WORK ARE QUALIFIED AND ABLE TO DO SO"

is not yet complete, but this is an extremely important step on the road towards protection of title.

"The bill will be scrutinised by legislators and other experts but, given the outstanding levels of cross-party and cross-discipline support that the campaign has already achieved, it is to be hoped that the logic of our argument will be accepted."

The Members' Bill, which was submitted on Friday 30 September, will now go to a committee stage for examination then, if it proceeds, to two further amendment stages. If it is passed, it will then be sent for Royal Assent, where it will be

↓ The Members' Bill has been proposed by Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP



+ PAGE 8 /
SELECT promotes the many benefits of membership to universities at conference

+ PAGE 10 /
Alan Wilson makes a rallying call for people in our industry to pull together for success

+ PAGE 11 /
We say hello to three new members of the team... as a familiar face takes new role

+ PAGE 12 /
The high number of new apprentices is great for the future of our industry

13 FIRMS HAVE BECOME SELECT MEMBERS SINCE 1 AUGUST 2022

1. C & I Houston, Lochgilphead
2. Coyne Electrical Services, Glasgow
3. Barassie Engineering Systems Ltd, Ayr
4. Lime Electrical Ltd, Loanhead
5. AGS Airport Holdings Ltd, Paisley
6. David Naden Electrical, Dunfermline
7. Robb Electrical, Lockerbie
8. IDelta Electrical, Aberlady
9. MMG Electrical Services, Ellon
10. M and M Electrical Services, Biggar
11. GG Electrical Solutions Ltd, Hamilton
12. FES Support Services Ltd, Stirling
13. M2 Electrical Services, Aberdeen

"MORE THAN 100 PROFESSIONS, INCLUDING GAS ENGINEERS, ARE PROTECTED IN LAW – BUT NOT ELECTRICIANS, WHO CARRY OUT EXTREMELY COMPLEX WORK WHICH IS VITAL TO THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF OUR SOCIETY"



smooth running of our society. It is an anomaly which is ripe for rectification."

Mr Halcro Johnston, who is MSP for the Highlands and Islands, said: "Electrical safety is vitally important. Every year, there are incidents of shocks and fires caused by electrical malfunctions.

"It is important that people carrying out electrical work are qualified and able to do so."

The bill follows a groundswell of backing for regulation, with a host of MPs, MSPs, industry and individual electricians rushing to sign SELECT's Wall of Support.

The latest signatory was former Scottish Government Minister Fergus Ewing, who added his name beside SNP MP Owen Thompson. The campaign has been spearheaded in partnership with the Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB), the



Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) and Unite the Union. It says that, as well as greater safety and improved consumer confidence, a cautious estimate of net financial benefits to Scotland from proper regulation of the electrical industry would be around £58million.

Fiona Harper, The Secretary of the SJIB, said: "There has been widespread and supportive backing from all across the construction industry and the wider public for SELECT's stated position that regulation of electricians is an issue of public safety and it's clear that the profession should be protected by the full weight of the law."

↑ The bill was laid before the Scottish Parliament

© Fotokon / Shutterstock

turned into a binding Act of the Scottish Parliament.

Alan added: "More than 100 professions, including gas engineers, are protected in law – but not electricians, who carry out extremely complex work which is vital to the

MSP BACKS OUR REGULATION CAMPAIGN

Former Scottish Government Minister Fergus Ewing has thrown his weight behind SELECT's ongoing campaign for the regulation of the electrical industry.

The prominent SNP politician, who was Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism between 2016 and 2021, has added his name to

our Wall of Support alongside fellow politicians and leading names from across the construction sector.

Mr Ewing, MSP for Inverness and Nairn, said: "Electricians carry out vital work for us all and this work must be done by properly qualified professionals.

"Cowboys could put lives at risk, given that there is a very clear danger that faulty electrical systems can cause house fires. Therefore, I am going to support moves in

the Scottish Parliament to regulate the profession of electrician to secure proper protection of the public.

"There is already protection for gas engineers through the well-known Gas Safe Register, formerly the Corgi scheme, so why not for electricians as well?"

"I am pleased that SELECT, the body representing electricians in Scotland, is pressing for this regulation and pledge my support to cross-party efforts to deliver it."



"I AM PLEASED THAT SELECT IS PRESSING FOR THIS REGULATION AND PLEDGE MY SUPPORT TO CROSS-PARTY EFFORTS TO DELIVER IT"

LOTS TO TALK ABOUT AT CONFERENCE

Regulation, compliance and electrical competence were all hot topics when SELECT met property agents and landlords at the recent Propertymark Scottish National Conference.

Technical Adviser Mark McLaughlin and Specifier & Client Relations Manager Yvonne Wilson represented the association at the event at the Glasgow Grosvenor Hotel on 15 September.

Along with the need for protection of title, the duo discussed the importance of safety and only using qualified professionals to carry out electrical inspection condition reports (EICRs).

Yvonne said: "The conference gave us an excellent platform from which to discuss essential electrical matters with a range of professionals at the heart of the Scottish property market."



↑ Property agents and landlords attended the event



↑ Mark McLaughlin represented SELECT

Many benefits of membership for Scots unis



↓ Bob Cairney spoke to delegates at the AUE conference

S **ELECT** promoted the benefits of membership to universities from across Scotland when it exhibited at the 50th annual conference of the Association of University Engineers.

Director of Technical Services Bob Cairney and Specifier & Client Relations Manager Yvonne Wilson represented the association at the event at the University of Stirling from 7-9 September.

Yvonne said: "It was an excellent

conference and we had some really encouraging conversations with a wide variety of universities, promoting membership of SELECT and outlining the many benefits that it's brought to the three universities we now have as Members."

The three-day event also included a gala dinner at Stirling Castle, with Yvonne adding: "The dinner took place just a few hours after the Queen's death had been announced so it was quite an emotional experience, with the flags lowered to half mast and a piper playing a lament."

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR HEAT PUMP TRAINING

There's still time to apply for the Scottish Government MCS Certification Fund, which provides heating engineers with a grant to become MCS certified on heat pumps.

The grant will pay 75%, up to a maximum of £1,000, of the certification

fees and will run until funds run out or until the end of March 2023, whatever comes first

Getting trained on heat pumps – either air, ground or water source – has never been more important as over a million homes in Scotland will need to convert to zero emissions

heating systems by 2030.

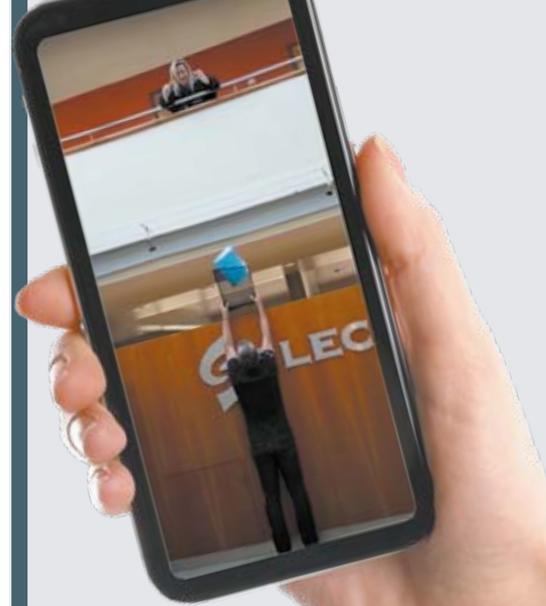
Any heat pump or renewable system being installed as part of most Scottish Government funded schemes can only be done by an installer that is MCS certified.

➔ Find out more and apply at bit.ly/mcs-fund



↓ The installation of heat pumps can only be done if you're MCS certified

UPDATE No3: JULY-SEPT 2022



VIDEO'S 'BIN' A LOT OF FUN FOR STAFF

With Amendment 2 now in full effect, SELECT staff took part in a fun promotional video, urging the industry to ensure they're using the latest edition of the IET Wiring Regulations.

Accompanied by the hashtag #BinTheBook, the film showed some familiar faces at The Walled Garden getting rid of their copies of BS 7671:2018 +A1:2020 – AKA the 'blue book'.

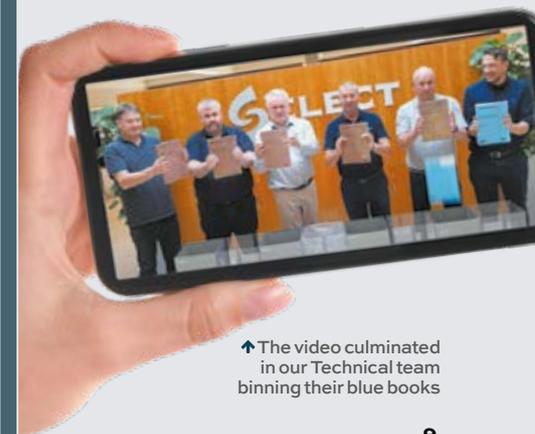
The video – which culminates in the Technical team conducting a mass 'binning' – was rolled out across social media on 27 September, when the regulation was withdrawn and replaced with BS 7671:2018 +A2:2022.

Iain Mason, Director of Membership & Communications, said: "The video was fun to do, but was also a reminder of the importance of ensuring that the updated regulations are used from now on."

➔ Watch the video at bit.ly/bin-book

➔ Relaunched SELECTcerts now compatible with Amendment 2: **Pages 20-21**

➔ SELECT Training courses updated in line with new regulations: **Pages 48-50**



↑ The video culminated in our Technical team binning their blue books

Our latest infographic is packed full of achievements

SELECT has released its third infographic of quarterly statistics for 2022, showing the latest activity carried out by the association.

Covering the period July to September, the third update of the year shows SELECT's many achievements in

technical, training, membership, communications, employment and skills.

Iain Mason, SELECT Director of Membership & Communications, said: "The graphic continues to be a handy signpost of activity, and helps us see how the association is performing at a glance."

WEBINAR LOOKS AT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

SELECT recently hosted a free webinar to help Members understand and introduce better workplace practices around mental health.

Held in partnership with Associate Member ECIS, the session on Tuesday 20 September discussed the importance of looking after your employees'

mental wellbeing and how you can support your staff.

➔ Watch the webinar again at bit.ly/ment-web

Call to unite and face challenges



THE construction industry must pull in the same direction if it is to address its many challenges and embrace new opportunities, Alan Wilson told an online webinar organised by the Fair Work Convention (FWC).

SELECT's Managing Director was among a panel of industry experts at the event on 11 August, which was entitled *Building Fair Work in the Construction Industry*.

The webinar saw guests offer their thoughts on a recent FWC report into the Scottish construction industry and what its recommendations mean in practice.

Giving the perspective of an employer organisation, Alan said it was vital that everyone in the sector came together to counter the cost of living crisis and embrace green technology.

He said: "To make change happen, cooperation, collaboration and commitment are crucial in all parts of the sector, from the supply chain and employers to trade unions.

"It is also vital that the Scottish Government, unions, employers and clients work closely together to embrace the net zero opportunities in technologies and upskilling of the workforce."

Alan also contributed to an open Q&A session on a wide range of issues including conflict avoidance, collective bargaining, workforce diversity, apprenticeships and retrofitting.

He told the audience: "Procurement and prompt payment for many employers, particularly those who work in the public sector, is an issue that continually frustrates and I would like to see improvements around the process, ensuring fair pay and fairer work for both employees and employers. It's vital that good employers are recognised and rewarded and that properly qualified trained operatives fulfil quality work and are paid fairly. And it is also very important to be seen to be offering good, well paid jobs that offer training and opportunities to attract more young people into construction."

The event was chaired by co-chair of the Fair Work Convention, Professor Patricia Findlay, and also featured Ivan McKee, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise. Other guests included Helen Martin, Head of the FWC's Secretariat, and Mary Alexander, Deputy Regional Secretary for Unite the Union, Scotland.

"IT'S VITAL THAT GOOD EMPLOYERS ARE RECOGNISED AND REWARDED"



↑ Alan Wilson

PODCAST ADVICE ON OFFER

Alan Wilson was the special guest on a recent episode of the popular *Time & Materials* podcast.

The session on 30 September saw Alan join host Ciaran Brennan

to discuss the state of the construction industry for electrical contractors.

Alan outlined the current status of our fight for regulation as well as discussing the

short to medium-term opportunities that can be grasped from the industry's push to net zero.

🔊 Listen again at bit.ly/alan-tm (Apple) or bit.ly/alan-spot (Spotify).

TALKING TAX RELIEF

Members who missed our in-depth webinar on research and development (R&D) tax relief now have the chance to watch the session again.

Held on 6 September with Associate Member ForrestBrown, the one-hour webinar gave advice on getting started with a claim and what to watch out for when choosing an R&D adviser.

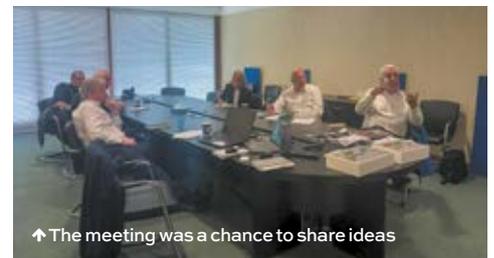
🔊 Watch it again at bit.ly/randd-web

A MEETING OF MINDS

The Local Authority and Client Forum (LACF) welcomed representatives from SELECT Associate Member Hager to its latest meeting at The Walled Garden.

Liz Hutchison and Danny Main from the leading electrical manufacturer were guests at the hybrid get-together in Penicuik on 27 September, where they gave a presentation on arc fault detection devices (AFDDs) and surge protection devices (SPDs). Also on the agenda was an update from Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) on neutral current detection and a general discussion on best practice.

Yvonne Wilson, Specifier & Client Relations Manager, said: "This was another good meeting and it was excellent to catch up with friends



↑ The meeting was a chance to share ideas

from across the industry. It was also good to welcome Hager and hear them share their knowledge around technical safety."

Expanded in July 2021 to include housing associations, universities and NHS estates, the LACF is a unique support network spearheaded by SELECT that meets to share electrical best practice and identify key areas of concern.

New staff welcomed as stalwart is on the move

SELECT has welcomed three new members of staff to The Walled Garden and also seen a popular Technical stalwart take up a new role.

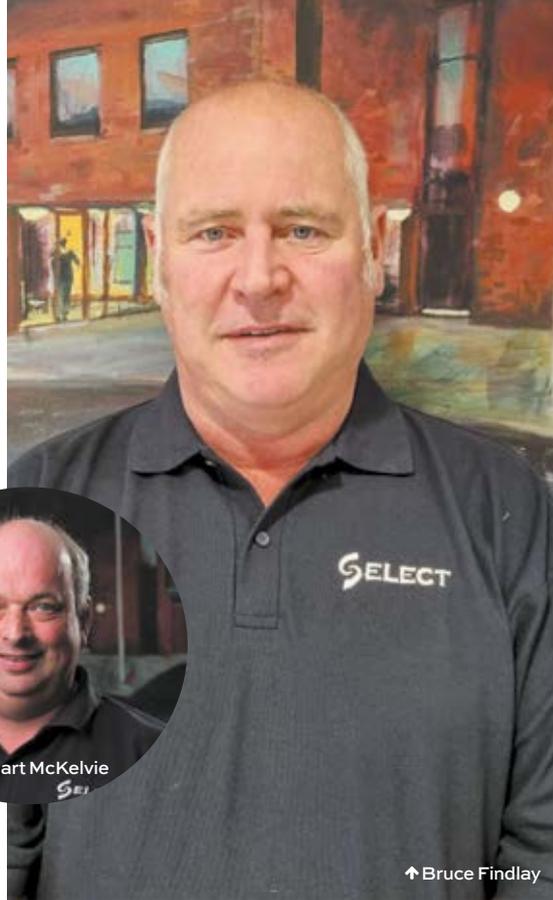
Bruce Findlay joined the Technical Services team on 19 September as our latest Technical Adviser, covering the Edinburgh and Lothians areas.

Debra Gillan and **Jayne Christie** also started work with the Employment & Skills team on 3 October as Employment & Skills Administrators.

In addition to the new starters, **Stuart McKelvie** became SELECT's new Training Development Adviser on 29 August. Working closely with Training Manager Jenny Cryans and Consultant Technical Adviser Billy McRobert, he'll focus on developing our existing training programmes and delivering new courses.



↑ Stuart McKelvie



↑ Bruce Findlay

As revealed earlier this year, Stuart's replacement as Technical Adviser for Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway and Lanarkshire is **Robert McGoogan**, who joined SELECT in May.

HOME ENERGY CASH GUIDE

A new guide to funding for home energy improvements has been released by the Construction Industry Collective Voice (CICV), of which SELECT is a leading member.

The digital brochure offers easy-to-follow overviews and links to current schemes, including grants and loans for homeowners, landlords and businesses.

As with all CICV resources, it's open source and free to download at www.cicvforum.co.uk/downloads

➔ Green Home Festival round-up: **Pages 28-29**



ALISTAIR TALKS MUSIC AND HIS FOOTBALL GLORY DAYS

SELECT President Alistair Grant made a guest appearance in the September issue of *Electrical Times*, talking about his music and football career.

In an extended version of his *cabletalk* interview from June, Alistair revealed more about his glory days as a coach with Elgin City and Buckie Thistle and the time he shared the bill with chart-toppers Paper Lace.

➔ Read the article at bit.ly/ET-Alistair

CALL TO FOCUS ON DIVERSITY IN THE WORKPLACE

Members have been urged to get on board with a new National Equity and Inclusion Plan (NEIP) for the construction industry in Scotland, which encourages a more diverse workforce.

Launched by the Construction Leadership Forum (CLF) and funded by Scottish Government, the

initiative is part of a wider transformation plan to help give the sector access to a wider talent pool. In the construction industry in Scotland 15.4% are women, and there is a gender pay gap of 23%. Some 1.6% of workers in the sector are from a minority ethnic background compared with 4.3% of minority ethnic workers in Scotland as a whole.

Figures show 10.5% of the workforce are disabled, 33% of construction workforce are

aged 50+ with only 2.7% of starts in Modern Apprentices female. The NEIP seeks to address these imbalances by mainstreaming equity and inclusion and sets out "Six by 2026" strategic aims which the CLF commits to work with industry to achieve.

These include the sharing of best practice across industry, using data and industry feedback to benchmark progress, signposting to a range of resources for companies to access and

development of industry-wide E&I accreditation.

Fiona Harper, Director of Employment & Skills, said: "We welcome this new Plan and would encourage all our members to study its objectives and think how they can get involved to achieve 'Six by 2026'. It's essential for our industry to reflect today's wider society and we must embrace equity and inclusion in all parts of the construction sector."

➔ More details can be found at www.constructionforum.scot

NEW PM IS URGED TO FOCUS ON ELECTRICITY

SELECT is among leading industry bodies who have called on the new Prime Minister to tackle the cost of living crisis by changing the way electricity and gas are taxed.

The association joined ECA, BESA, BSRIA and FETA in sending an open letter to Liz Truss, urging her to shift the balance of levies from electricity to gas and encourage a switch to electricity.

The signatories want to establish fairness within the taxation system between electricity and gas to alleviate fuel poverty and give the UK greater energy security.

Their open letter said: "Electricity prices are currently four times higher than gas, meaning renewable energy is more heavily taxed than gas.

"According to the ONS, households using electricity as the main fuel for heating were the most likely to experience fuel poverty. By addressing this historic tax anomaly, the new leader will reach those who are hardest hit by rising fuel bills.

"Energy levies are complicated and play a critical role in driving energy independence in the UK. Simply scrapping them will have significant unintended consequences. In our view there are better alternatives, ideally achieving parity between electricity and gas, but if not, moving them immediately into general taxation.

"In 2020, 43% of UK electricity was produced by home grown renewable sources and the percentage is accelerating at pace. By further incentivizing the switch to clean electricity we are reducing our reliance on imported gas from Russia or elsewhere."



Another record year for training

THE Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB) and Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) have hailed another record year for electrical apprenticeships in Scotland as learners rush to take their place as the talent of tomorrow.

The number of new learners enrolling on the SJIB Electrical Apprentice and Adult Training Programmes for 2022 has risen from just over 800 last year to just under 1,000, with colleges and training centres reporting full classrooms.

Some 800 apprentices and 157 adult trainees are now taking their first steps on the electrical ladder, boosting the total number in training in Scotland to 3,000.

Fiona Harper, The Secretary of the SJIB, said: "This has been another exceptional year and it is encouraging to see a healthy pipeline of apprentices and adult trainees wanting to learn the skills required to power the electrical future that awaits us all.

"Employers should also be saluted for continuing to nurture and encourage young electrical talent and help them along the path to a highly-rewarding career.

"There remain many challenges for the construction industry, but it is heartening that the demand for electrical apprenticeships, and the willingness of employers to make them available, continues to grow."

Anne Galbraith, CEO at SECTT, which manages high-quality training on behalf of the SJIB, said: "This is another encouraging development which contributes to the determination of the industry here in Scotland to tackle the UK-wide skills shortage.

"Colleges and training centres are to be applauded for increasing capacity and offering staggered start dates to accommodate demand.

800

apprentices

157

adult trainees

They have been doing great work in helping students embrace all the modern technologies which will play such a huge part in a greener and more sustainable future.

"Equally, the quality and diversity of apprentices has been gratifyingly high, and it is particularly encouraging to see a growing cohort of female apprentices and an increase in those with a disability, making their distinct contribution to the growth of the sector."

The new 2022 intake is the highest figure for 13 years and comes after a total of 817 new entrants to the industry were recruited in 2021 – up 35% on the 2020 intake during the height of the pandemic.

Fiona, who is also Director of Employment & Skills at SELECT, added: "This improved intake illustrates yet again that people recognise the future is electric and also understand that their personal prospects will be brighter if they are part of a sector that is going to play a key part in all our lives. The industry has been concerned for some time about skills shortages as the demand for qualified electricians accelerates, and the enthusiasm and dedication of these new recruits goes a long way to easing these fears."

➔ SJIB Bulletin – Pages 62-63

➔ SECTT Update – Pages 64-65

↓ The number of new apprentices has risen





↑ Directors and Line Managers at Peebles Hydro

Away day focuses on what we're doing for Members

S **ELECT** directors and managers discussed the association's plans and priorities for 2023 in a recent 'away day' at Peebles Hydro.

Thirteen members of staff spent a day outlining the priorities for the remainder of 2022 and identifying action areas for next year to help improve our service to Members.

Managing Director Alan Wilson said: "The event was a worthwhile exercise that

produced lots of good ideas and plenty of proactive thinking to help us keep moving forward and maintain our position as the voice of the electrotechnical industry in Scotland."

The event on 16 September was attended by Directors of Function Bob Cairney, Fiona Harper, John McGhee and Iain Mason, Line Managers Jenny Cryans, Natalie Burke, Jenny Petrie, Michelle Courtney, Carolyn Shaw, Yvonne Wilson and Sandra Bennett, and Events, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Linda Rolfe.

FREE ADVICE ON AVOIDING CONFLICT

Members wanting to find out more about conflict avoidance can attend a free one-hour session being hosted by the Construction Leadership Council.

Held on 17 November at 2pm, the session will outline best practice in managing and avoiding conflicts and how to reduce the financial costs of disputes and deliver projects on time and on budget.

Speakers will be Janey Milligan, Managing Director of Construction Dispute Resolution, and Matthew Molloy, Adjudicator, Arbitrator and Mediator with MCMS Ltd.

➔ To reserve your place, e-mail marieclaudhemming@ceca.co.uk

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A good day for sharing great ideas

SELECT's first-ever Professionals' Day was a resounding success, with industry decision-makers coming together to share ideas and gain a deeper insight into everything from electrical installations to certification and building regulations

SELLECT welcomed a cross-section of experts from across the industry to Glasgow last month as we embarked on a new series of face-to-face networking events.

Senior figures from a range of organisations gathered at House for an Art Lover on 21 September to hear a discussion hosted by Director of Technical Services Bob Cairney.

Delivering the electrical viewpoint when it came to construction was top of the agenda, with areas covered including:

- A brief history of electrical installations and relevant legislation
- What to look for when carrying out a survey of a property
- The importance of maintenance and periodic inspection and testing
- Current certificates and reports
- Building regulations and certification of construction.

Guests included architects, surveyors, specifiers and construction project managers, with a delegation from Fife Council led by Housing Services Business Change Manager Andy Graham, who is also Chair of the SELECT-led Local Authority and Client Form.

Hosting duties for the day were provided by Gary Mees, Chartered Architectural Technologist and a leading member of the Construction Industry Collective Voice (CICV).

Information on innovation and products was also supplied courtesy of exhibitions by SELECT Associate Members Aico, Electrium, Hager and Scolmore.

After the success of this initial event, we're now looking forward to hosting further Professionals' Days, sharing our expertise and allowing senior industry decision makers to network and exchange ideas. ■

WORDS
YVONNE WILSON
Client and Specifier
Manager, SELECT



"AFTER THE SUCCESS OF THIS INITIAL EVENT, WE'RE NOW LOOKING FORWARD TO HOSTING FURTHER PROFESSIONALS' DAYS"

Images: © Scott Richmond



↑ Industry colleagues were given the opportunity to network



↑ Chatting with the exhibitors from Electrium



↑ Gary Mees was MC for the day



↓ The SELECT team, including Glasgow Branch Chair David Harris (second left)





↑ Delegates mingled with Associate Members during the morning session



↑ Delegates exchanged ideas during the event



↑ Bob Cairney delivered the day's talking points



↑ Guests catch up over coffee at the event



↑ Delegates show their appreciation for the presentations



↓ House for an Art Lover made a stunning backdrop

Craig is a man full of **DRIVING AMBITION**

Being an electrician and a rally co-driver keeps Craig Wallace on his toes as he goes in pursuit of racing success while providing a top quality service for his customers



↑ Craig and his work van

WORDS
TIM POWER

"NOW, that was a biggie" was how electrician and rally co-driver Craig Wallace described a 'parting from the road' in the 2019 Border Counties Rally in a Honda Civic Type-R R3. The incident occurred while taking a corner at more than 100 miles an hour in the snow-laden gravel forest roads near Jedburgh, which resulted in Craig and his driver rolling their car six times, taking down a tree and landing upside down in the forest... and out of the rally. Fortunately, they walked away without a scratch with only their pride in tatters.

Craig laughed when he recalled the crash: "I've been involved in some spectacular rolls and crashes over the years, but luckily I've never once been injured. It's all down to the safety gear we have when we rally, from fireproof overalls and roll cage built into the car to the helmets and frontal head restraints that we use, just like the ones Formula 1 drivers wear."

He added: "That's the excitement about rallying as a co-driver: guiding your driver around the course with your navigation instructions so he can find the edge to the limit of the car's abilities and hopefully stay on the right side of it."

Craig has been rallying longer than he's been an electrician, as he started navigating with his father in historic car rallies when he was 14. He enjoyed the hands-on experience of being around cars and this practical aspect stayed with him after school when he decided to leave university after six months of a civil engineering degree to take on an electrical apprenticeship with a local company in Forfar.

He said: "I really enjoyed physics at school but when I went to university to study civil engineering I decided that being in a classroom wasn't for me any more. When an opportunity came up to take on an electrical apprenticeship, I jumped at the chance."

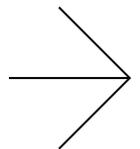


↓ Craig was lucky to walk away from the crash in 2019

"I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME SPECTACULAR ROLLS AND CRASHES OVER THE YEARS BUT LUCKILY I HAVE NEVER ONCE BEEN INJURED"

Craig stayed with the company for 17 years and just as his electrical career flourished, so did his reputation as a valued and trusted co-driver in the British rallying community.

As a co-driver, Craig's role is to relate 'pace notes' to the driver over the rally course, advising



CRAIG HELPS HIS CLIENTS TO STAY SAFE

Just like his preparations for rallying, assessing risk is second nature to Craig and that's why he will often spend a lot of time with his clients pointing out potential safety issues with their electrical installations and offer advice to mitigate any safety risks.

He said: "I believe it is important to clearly explain to customers why I need to update an item or to make things different and to point out the potential risks of not doing so, as they are a lot more willing to accept that they need to do it."

"I often say just because something works, it does not mean it is safe. I'm trying to get the word out there that electrical safety is a big issue because a lot of people don't appreciate the risks. They are naturally worried about a gas or water leak but people don't really think about electricity and what's happening behind the walls."

That's why Craig was happy to be involved in SELECT's Alarm Ambassadors campaign to help install new fire and heat alarm systems into people's homes who could not normally afford to. His first commission came with a nice surprise, as he explained: "When the address came through for first job for an elderly lady



↑ Craig carrying out an installation during our Alarm Ambassadors campaign earlier this year

who lives in sheltered accommodation in Dundee I was delighted to find out the flat was just a few doors along from the apartment that my granddad stayed in many years ago, so I knew the place quite well.

"We also got a nice piece about our involvement in the campaign in the *Daily Record* which was good as it helped to get our name out there, but I didn't do it for the publicity as I generally like to help folk and particularly as the campaign was helping to make sure they were safer."

"I LIKE BEING MY OWN BOSS AND TAKE PRIDE IN ALL MY JOBS"

of what lies ahead in the road, the severity of the turn and when to turn, as well as any hazards to look out for. Travelling at high speeds along narrow forest tracks or winding country roads takes great concentration and presence of mind to relay instructions that are changing almost every few seconds.

Although navigating can be a stressful role in a rally, Craig was finding more stress in his actual life, and felt he needed to get his work-life balance right in order. So when he was temporarily furloughed in 2020 it provided some time for him to think about his priorities. This led him to change up a gear and start his own business.

He said: "When I got furloughed, it gave me time to sit down and look at things and I realised that my work-life balance was not quite right. Seventeen years is a long time with one company so I decided I needed a fresh challenge and to start out on my own.

"I was fortunate that when I spoke to people about advice for starting my own company many of them said they had potential jobs for me or knew of others who would need electrical work. It sort of snowballed from there and, by word of mouth, my business grew; now I probably get 95% of my work from recommendations."

↑ The 'phenomenal' Beatsons Building Supplies-backed Fiesta Rally2 in action



↑ Working well as part of a team while rallying is important for Craig



Craig has been delighted by the way his company, Westmuir Electrical, has grown and the different projects he has been involved in around the Angus, Tayside and Perthshire region.

He said: "I like being my own boss and take pride in all my jobs, such as the recent redevelopment of an old restaurant in Perth, which is now part of the Giddy Goose chain.

"We had to strip out the old wire and install a three-phase fuse board for the kitchen and rewired all the lighting circuits and sockets in the main public area. We also advised on the lighting and one of the best things we did was illuminating a tree within the restaurant, using black flex along the branches and suspending LEDs from them to give the right ambience."

Craig sees that his approach to electrical contracting shares similarities with his preparation for rallying, as he explained: "You have to be well organised, pay attention to detail, be able to problem solve on the spot, as well as being confident about your decisions, and sometimes you even have to be a bit bossy as some drivers can be a bit difficult!"

While the rally driver is focused on the road, Craig admits he rarely sees much of the route as his head is buried in his navigation notes, bouncing up and down in his seat as he shouts instructions above the noise of the revving engine and screeching tyres.

He said: "You spend most of your time with your head down reading instructions off your notebook telling the driver about what's coming around the corner, how to take the corner and how fast he can go. Actually, a lot of it's done by feel rather than sight as you get to feel where the car is on the road and what the car is doing. You don't need to look up all the time, so you can concentrate on the next note and what's coming."

His navigating skills have been in demand with many drivers over the years – one driver said confidently that

QUICK FACTS

WESTMUIR ELECTRICAL

BRANCH:
Tayside

PHONE:
07833
252740

FACEBOOK:
Westmuir
Electrical



RALLIES ARE A HIT ON THE ROAD

In the UK there are two types of rallies: Special Stage and Road Rallies.

Special Stage rallying is probably the best-known branch of the sport, mainly taking place in forests and comprise loops of competitive sections, or stages, with the winner being the crew (driver and co-driver) that completes them all in the

lowest aggregate time. The co-drivers read route direction notes issued by the organisers on both the stages and the linking road sections to ensure the car is heading the right way.

Road Rallies take place on the public highway where the emphasis is as much on navigation as driving skill. The navigator, who uses Ordnance Survey maps to direct the driver around the route, must be very careful with timing – it's just as bad if you check in

too early as it is to check in too late at a time control.

Other forms of road-rallying include Touring Assemblies with no timing, Economy Runs, Historic Rallies for classic cars and more competitive night events, where the emphasis is on good navigation and time-keeping.

Lots of well-known rally drivers cut their teeth in Britain's road-rally scene and went on to stardom in the World Rally

Championship, such as Colin McRae winning the championship in 1995 and Richard Burns in 2001.

The '12 Car' event is ideal for starting out in any kind of rallying as just about any car can take part. You do not need special equipment to take part in road events, just the relevant map, a map magnifying glass and map light.

Source: www.motorsportuk.org/get-started/types-of-motor-sport/rallying

if Craig told him the road ahead went left, and he could see it went right, he would turn left.

Craig started rallying in his dad's old Saab 96 in historic road rallies where enthusiasts raced cars for fun. As his experience grew, he graduated to the British Historic Rally Championship with a Skoda where, in his first year, he and his driver only finished one out of the five events.

He added: "I didn't have a very successful year in the Skoda as we wrecked the car on a tree trunk but I believe you learn by your mistakes. Our second year was better where we finished third in the championship."

After a couple of years, Craig moved to the Scottish Rally Championship and the Peugeot 205 Championship, winning the Ecosse 205 Challenge as well as the Scottish Junior Championship in 2008. The next year he stepped up a class to a Vauxhall Corsa and won the John Easson Scholarship award, giving him a free entry to the Tunnock's Tour of Mull rally.

Craig said: "This was a fantastic experience and, since then, every year after we took a step up into different classes, which ended up with us driving a Subaru Impreza to victory in the Galloway Hills rally in 2011, which was one of the highlights of my career."

He then went on to compete in the British Rally Championship in an R1 Twingo, which won him the British Junior Championship and, as a reward, a trip to France to compete in Rally du Var. Since the heady days of championship titles, Craig has stepped back from the serious side of competitions and has been entering the Scottish Rally Championship for the enjoyment of the sport. However, he has found a new

love for the Scottish Tarmac Championship where cars can reach up to 140mph on minor roads that are closed off for the seven or eight events held around the UK.

This year he can't afford to take his foot off the pedal too much as he has a ride in a high-performance car: "This year has been pretty good as I'm sitting in the Beatsons Building Supplies-backed Fiesta Rally2, which is a phenomenal machine, as the technology, speed and grip on it is unreal. Obviously, being in the top-level car, you're actually fighting at the front for overall victories and top championship points."

Craig admits that he loves the adrenaline rush of the sport and it helps him let off steam, as he explained: "For me it's just good to get away from work, switch off and go into something that you enjoy. Although it's quite physically and mentally demanding, it helps me recharge the batteries. One thing I have found since going self-employed is that I'm nowhere near as stressed as I used to be, so I can enjoy things a lot more. Working for myself means I've got the flexibility to organise my work around my rallying weekends so I can plan work over four days and have the Friday morning to do some paperwork before I head off to an event. The only downside is not generating any income on the days I'm not working but I can be flexible and work a couple of evenings or another weekend to make up.

"I keep telling myself I'm going to take a year off from rallying but I've said that for the last four years and it hasn't happened yet!" ■

↓ Craig's first rally car

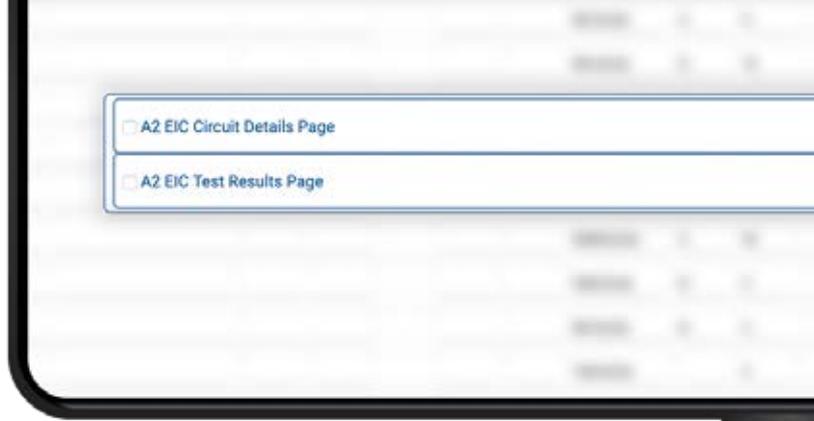


↓ Craig enjoys switching off from work during his rallying weekends



"I KEEP TELLING MYSELF I'M GOING TO TAKE A YEAR OFF FROM RALLYING BUT I'VE SAID THAT FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS AND IT HASN'T HAPPENED YET!"

SELECTcerts has been relaunched with a host of new features in line with Amendment 2 to BS 7671:2018 (IET Wiring Regulations 18th Edition) – with further comprehensive improvements to be rolled out later this year following feedback from users



We've made changes for the better

WORDS
BOB CAIRNEY
Director of Technical Services, SELECT



WITH Amendment 2 now in full effect, we've worked hard to ensure that our electronic certification service

offers a host of enhanced resources that are compatible with BS 7671:2018 + A2:2022.

Following the withdrawal of BS 7671:2018 + A1:2020 'the blue book' on Tuesday 27 September, we duly made the following Amendment 2 certification available in SELECTcerts:

- Electrical Installation Certificate (EIC)
- EIC Single Signature (SSC)
- Minor Works (MWC)
- Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR).

As well these updated resources, the following new features have also been added:

- New test sheet (schedule of test results) page type that shows every row on a page in a table.
- New categories to organise certificate types, e.g. fire alarm, emergency lighting, electrical etc.
- New ability to copy previous version circuit chart and test results information for use in Amendment 2 certificates.
- Automatic population of maximum permitted Zs value in the schedule of circuit details and any measured value above 80% or

0.8 of the maximum permitted value highlighted in the maximum measured Zs column in the schedule of test results.. This will require confirmation that the maximum measured Zs value is satisfactory for compliance with BS 7671 and a tick box in the column adjacent to it now requires that the inserted value is confirmed as satisfactory. This will change the highlighted red text used to indicate a potential problem back to black coloured text after confirmation.

In addition, old 17th Edition certificates and templates and any 18th Edition certificates mentioned above have been removed.

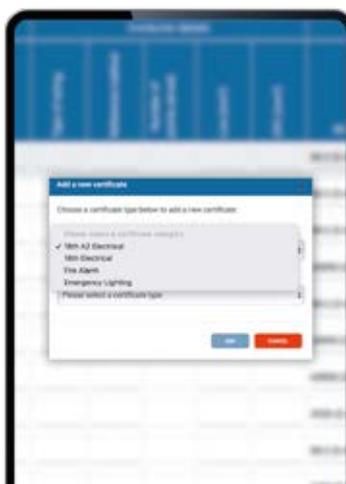
We are delighted to offer this updated and enhanced version of SELECTcerts that will enable users to continue carrying out and recording electrical installation work in line with BS 7671:2018 + A2:2022.

The update, however, means that SELECTcerts users won't be able to create new certificates or

templates for anything older than Amendment 2 certificates, although they will still be able to continue working on existing older certificates still in progress.

As part of the ongoing updates and improvements, we are now planning further additions over the next few months. These will include:

← The new service will be easier to use





← Additional features have been added

CONVERTER TO AMENDMENT 2 CERTIFICATE TYPE AND EXCEL EXPORT

- 18th Edition certificates will be converted into Amendment 2 versions, bringing across all relevant data.

• Circuit chart and test result pages from certificate will be exported to Excel table to allow manual copy/paste of individual values as required (web only).

Note: This has now been included as part of the update on 27 September.

UPDATES TO CERTIFICATE OF CONSTRUCTION

- Ability to choose underlying certificates to be attached – BS 7671 for electrical work, BS 5266 for emergency lighting, BS 5839-1 and BS 5839-6 for fire detection and fire alarm systems – adding relevant page to certificate at time of creation.
- Ability to add additional supplementary certificates as additional pages once certificate is created.
- Apply amendments provided to Certificate of Construction including tick list as part of “description of installation” for work, i.e. fire alarm/emergency lighting.
- Additional drop-down field for local authority (LA) code certificate is being issued to.
- Available on both web and app versions around mid-October.

CERTIFICATE CREATION WITHOUT CLIENT AND LOCATION

- Time-saving enhancement requested by many users.
- Instead of creating client/location first, details can be filled in as certificate is created.
- New option to select existing client/location from drop-down.
- Any new client/location automatically saved when filling in certificate.
- Certificate automatically filed under client/location.
- Available on web and app versions around start of November.

ADD DISTRIBUTION BOARD NAME AND LOCATION TO CERTIFICATE PAGES

- Will show distribution board and location as filled in on circuit chart and test results pages.
- Will show when viewing all certificates pages, making it easier to identify and go into required page.
- Available on both web and app versions around middle of November.

BS 7671 AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHECKLISTS

- Ability to create BS 7671 example checklist of items requiring inspection during initial verification and also electric vehicle inspection check lists including: domestic, commercial and street.
- Checklists will be available to fill in and print/email via website and app versions.
- Available around end of November.

ISITEE CERTIFICATES (FORMERLY KNOWN AS PAT CERTIFICATES)

- Three new certificates for use during in-service inspection and testing of electrical equipment (formerly known as PAT testing) are to be provided by popular demand.
- Generate a pass and fail from appliance register and completion from pass and fail.
- PAT Single Appliance standalone certificate type.
- Available on web and app versions around end of November. ■

SIGN UP FOR A FREE TRIAL

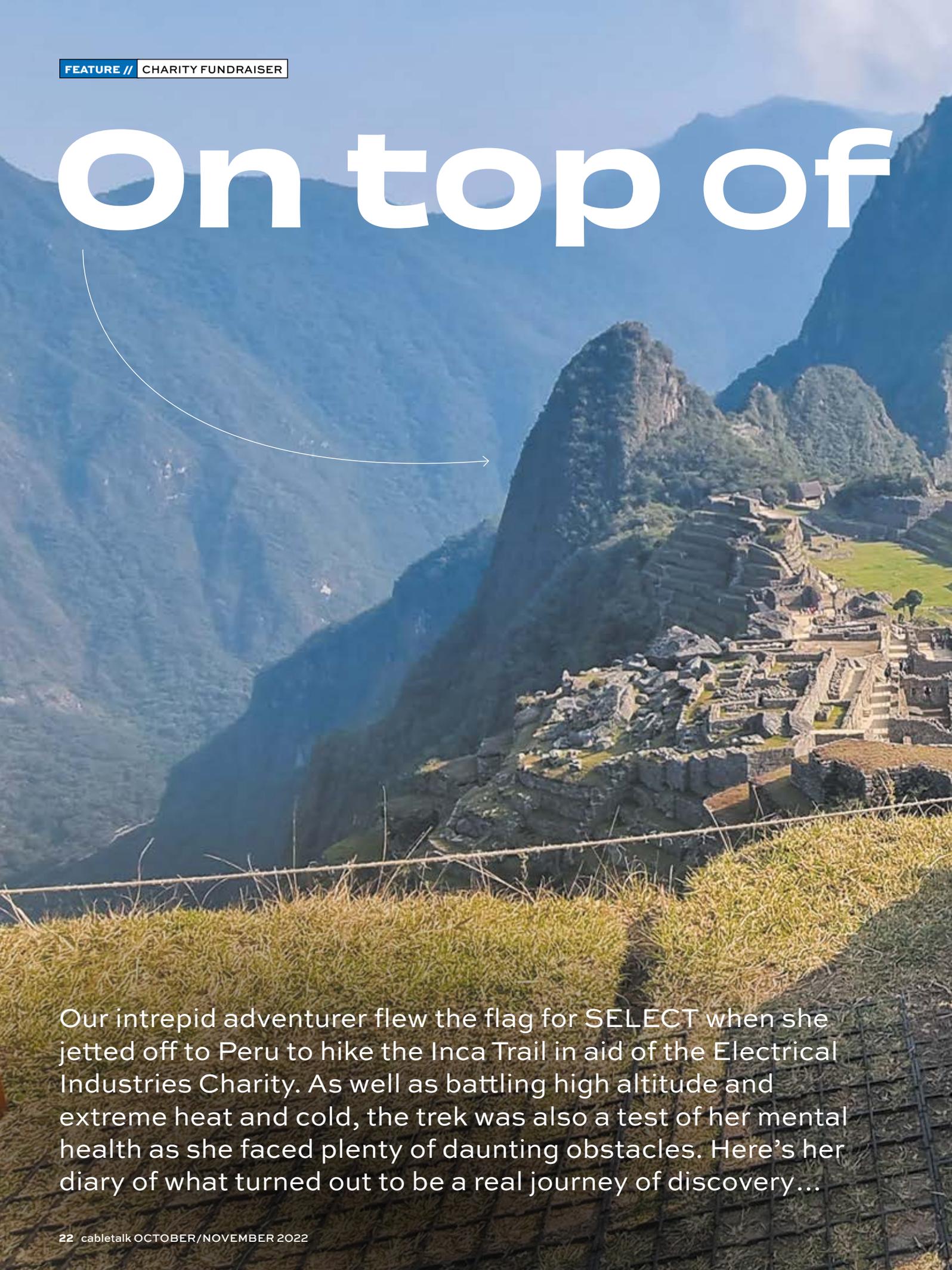
SELECTcerts is designed to be accessed by all internet-enabled devices and is available from Google Play, Windows App Store and the Apple App Store for an annual fee of £240 + VAT, or a monthly payment of just £20 + VAT. If you've not already signed up, register for your FREE trial at selectcerts.co.uk/login

↓ We have listened to your feedback and made improvements

Circuit number	Circuit Description	Conductor details					Overcurrent protective device				
		Type of wiring	Reference method	Number of points served	Live (mm ²)	CPC (mm ²)	BS (EN)	Type	Rating (A)	Breaking capacity (kA)	Maximum permitted Z _s (Ω per phase)
							BS-2 (0.4s)	C	10		4.65
							BS-2 (0.4s)	A	5		
							BS-2 (0.4s)	B	10		4.65
							60098 (0.4s)	C	32		0.68
							BS-2 (0.4s)	B	10		4.65
							60098 (0.4s)	B	10		4.37
							60098 (0.4s)	C	32		0.68
							30036 (0.4s)	B	5		9.10
							BS-2 (0.4s)	B	2		33.1
							1362 (0.4s)	B	3		15.6

Circuit number	Continuity		Insulation resistance		Z _s (Ω)	RCD	AFDB	Priority	Maximum measured	Min. measured	Discontinuity (mA)	New fault generation	Maximum time taken to operate	Remarks
	Ring final circuit	(R ₁ + R ₂) or R ₃	Phase to phase	Phase to earth										

On top of



Our intrepid adventurer flew the flag for SELECT when she jetted off to Peru to hike the Inca Trail in aid of the Electrical Industries Charity. As well as battling high altitude and extreme heat and cold, the trek was also a test of her mental health as she faced plenty of daunting obstacles. Here's her diary of what turned out to be a real journey of discovery...

the world

WORDS
LINDA ROLFE

Events, Marketing
& Communications
Coordinator

BEFORE we embarked on our epic adventure, the EIC said the trip would raise money to help people with mental health issues – but I didn't realise it would help **ME** with **MINE**.

The 10 days I spent travelling to South America and tackling the Inca Trail had a massive impact on my life and undoubtedly changed me for the better.

Like a lot of people, since the pandemic I haven't felt 100% myself and have suffered with insecurity and anxiety behind closed doors.

This trip was more than a hiking holiday – it was like therapy, pushing me out of my comfort zone and challenging not just my fitness, but my confidence and wellbeing.

At the time I was scared and felt like I didn't want to go, but I conquered plenty of hurdles along the way and came out the other side a different, more positive person.

GETTING THERE: EDINBURGH – LONDON – PERU

The first obstacle might not seem like a big one, but travelling to London on the train alone and finding my hotel for the night in the big smoke was a huge worry.

Once in London I met up with my fellow hiker, former SELECT Member Gordon McArthur, and shared my feelings of anxiety. Looking back, I

"THE 10 DAYS I SPENT TRAVELLING TO SOUTH AMERICA AND TACKLING THE INCA TRAIL HAD A MASSIVE IMPACT ON MY LIFE AND UNDOUBTEDLY CHANGED ME FOR THE BETTER"

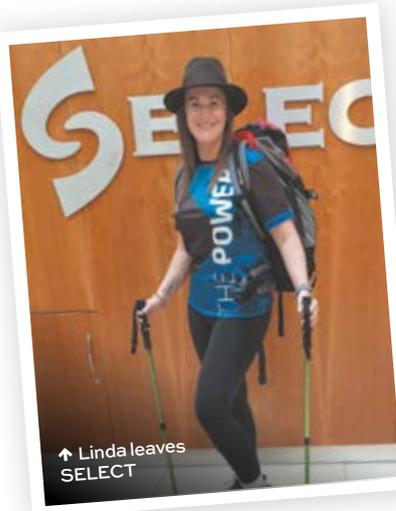


26

miles walked along Inca Trail



↑ Setting off on the trail



↑ Linda leaves SELECT



↑ Linda was supported by her fellow adventurers



↑ Exploring Cuzco

quietly while waiting to board the flight.

After landing in Peru and 18 hours of travelling, we arrived at our hotel

in Cuzco and all tried to stay awake the whole day to acclimatise and fight the six-hour time difference.

The altitude was already making me feel lightheaded and drunk, even though no alcohol had passed my lips, and I still felt nervous and shy.

"THE ALTITUDE WAS ALREADY MAKING ME FEEL LIGHTHEADED AND DRUNK"

DAY 1: CUZCO – TAMBOMACHAY – SACSAYHUAMAN

After driving to high altitude, we walked for around six hours back down to the hotel with a historic tour from our Peruvian guide. This helped boost my confidence as I wasn't holding people up and my boots felt good, with no pain or blisters.

In the evening we had a briefing about the trip, during which I became seriously overwhelmed as they seemed

↓ The steeper sections took a long time to climb at altitude



↓ Meeting local alpacas



↑ Colourful street life in Cuzco



14,180

miles travelled in total

to talk for ages. I really didn't think I was going to cope.

Two guys from Edmunson noticed my discomfort and quietly calmed me down, saying: "We'll be fine, one day at a time, we won't leave you, we'll do this together." It was just what I needed.

After the meeting we had to re-pack two 6kg bags to take on the trek; one day pack for me and one with our overnight kit for the porter or *waiki* to carry. I re-packed these at least another 12 times with nerves, worried that I'd forgotten something essential.

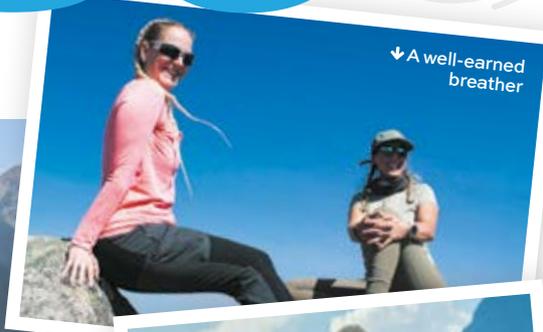
DAY 2: SACRED VALLEY – URUBAMBA RIVER – WAYLLABAMBA

Armed with my trusty SELECT bear, Henry the Hiker, we left the hotel at 6am and travelled two hours to the start of the Inca Trail proper, with my Edmunson protectors keeping me calm and taking my mind off being anxious.

Once we arrived, I repacked my day bag one last time and we set off nice and slowly, taking regular breaks along the way as everyone started getting to know each other. The landscape was amazing and, even though it was hot, it wasn't too uncomfortable.



↓ Staying positive as the trek takes the travellers higher and higher



↓ A well-earned breather



↓ Henry the Hiker was with Linda every step of the way

"TWO GUYS FROM EDMUNSON NOTICED MY DISCOMFORT AND QUIETLY CALMED ME DOWN"

After seven hours we arrived at camp, where we found our tents and a wee house with an honesty bar. I had one small beer to settle my nerves for the next challenge – camping!

Luckily my room-mate Lauren Daniels was a mountaineering guide back in Wales, so she helped me out, setting up my sleeping bag etc. The temperature dropped big time overnight and I was

adding layers every time I woke up.

DAY 3: DEAD WOMAN'S PASS – PACAMAYO

The third day was another six-hour hike, so as usual I fuffed around packing until we set off at 7am. I ended up hiking in the middle of the group as we ascended Dead Woman's Pass, the trail getting steeper and the altitude making us breathless as we climbed to 4,200m above sea level.

Along the way we all chatted and by this point everyone knew about my home life with my partner, Simon, and dog, Diego. Once we reached the summit of Dead Woman's Pass, the guide pulled out a Haribo ring sweet and jokingly asked me to marry him; I took it but graciously declined.

Going downhill to camp was very tiring – almost worse than climbing up.



↓ Snow-capped peaks along the trail



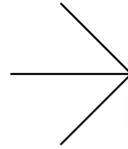
↓ The stunning hills and valleys of the Inca Trail



↓ A well-earned meal in camp



↑ Another steep section of the trail at altitude



My calves felt unsteady and were like jelly with each step. We reached camp just before dark and settled in but it was freezing again and I didn't get much sleep, which affected me the next day.

DAY 4: SAYACMARCA – PUYUPATAMARCA – WINAY WAYNA

This was by far the hardest day and I ended up at the back of the group, struggling to climb on the 10-hour hike. The guide noticed I was lagging and stayed with me until the last 50 steps. He said he had a surprise for me, but I wasn't allowed to stop until I got to the top. I agreed and he started to play *Eye of the Tiger* on his phone.

With tears of determination in my eyes, I sprinted up those 50 steps then cried like a baby at the top. The views of the snow-capped mountain were also breathtaking!

Once we got to camp for the evening, we did our usual



↑ Linda bonded with her fellow adventurers during the trek

Wet Wipe wash and got into our camp clothes. It was then Tessa Ogle, CEO of the EIC, got an internet connection and found out that the Queen had sadly passed away. Her Majesty was the patron of the EIC, so we did a toast to her and chatted about the Royal Family for a while.

On this night, we also got letters from home which the EIC had organised in advance. I got messages from Simon and my mam and again I was in tears; I really needed to hear their words of encouragement after the emotional day I'd had.

DAY 5: INTI PUNKU – URUBAMBA RIVER – MACHU PICCHU

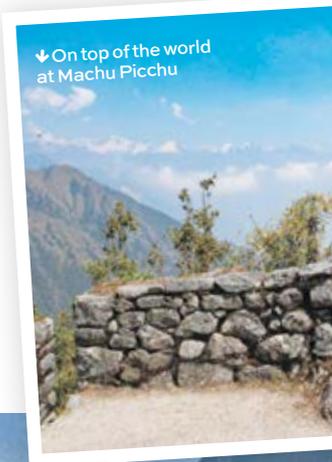
The final day saw us wake at 3am to hike to Inti Punku, AKA 'the Sun Gate'. After walking for two hours, the guides stopped us and said they would walk ahead and leave us to do the last part alone, to think about how far we'd come and why we'd set out to make the trip.

Yet again I started crying before I even got to the Sun Gate as I was so overwhelmed at the

4,215m
Highest point of the trek

journey I'd been on since leaving Waverley. A couple of the other hikers told me that they could see a change in my confidence since we'd been walking and were proud of me. It was on this day that I didn't repack my bag once and just went with the flow; my panic had disappeared!

Walking around Machu Picchu was amazing with the



↓ On top of the world at Machu Picchu



↓ The group celebrate reaching Macchu Pichu



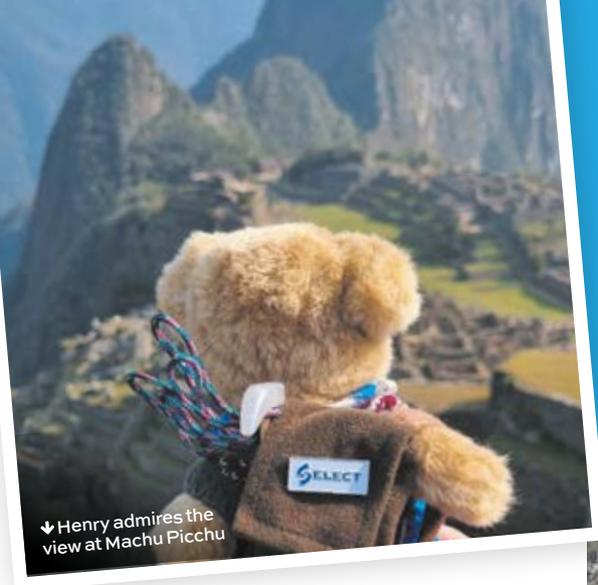
↓ Linda staying positive during her arduous climb

£5,459!!



THERE'S STILL TIME TO DONATE!

Linda has now broken her £5,000 fundraising target, but would still welcome more donations. To add to the pot and help electricians via the Electrical Industries Charity, please go to bit.ly/Linda-Inca



Henry admires the view at Machu Picchu

HELP IS AT HAND WHEN YOU NEED IT

The Electrical Industries Charity (EIC) looks after people from the electrical, electronics and energy industries when they or their families need a hand up – big or small.

With services available to anyone that works, or has worked, in the

sector, it offers a wide variety of key services and support to help with:

- Family and relationship problems
- Financial and legal worries
- Emotional and mental health problems
- Ill health and disability.



To find out more, call EIC on 0800 652 1618, email support@electricalcharity.org or go to electricalcharity.org



Exploring the stunning ruins of Machu Picchu



Going down was tougher than climbing up

epic views, friendships made and reminiscing about the journey getting there.

It made me realise that even though the view from the Sun Gate was epic, and the historical site of Machu Picchu was magical, it's not about

the destination, its about how you get there, embracing **ALL** the emotions and memories made and living in the moment.

COMING HOME: PERU – LONDON – EDINBURGH

The final leg of my journey saw me set off at 8am on Sunday and get into Waverley at 11.30pm on Monday.

En route, I had to

wait in London Kings Cross for two hours on my own before getting the train. The 'old' Linda would have been panicking but I was chilled and even spoke to several strangers to help pass the time.

Since I've got back, I've been walking around with a smile on my face and not sweating the small stuff as I think trip has proved that I can do anything I set my mind and body to. I can't wait to see how else it's changed me, especially with my confidence and stress levels.

The good news is that we raised over £56,000 on the trip and the money is still coming in. I want to thank the whole

of SELECT for supporting me. As you might be able to tell, it's changed me for the better and long may it continue.

One last thing. Before I left, and after I'd packed and repacked everything for the 17th time, I'd told Simon to ask me one question when I returned: "Was the stress, anxiety and nerves worth it?" And I can honestly say yes, it was **TOTALLY** worth it! ■

"AS YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO TELL, IT'S CHANGED ME FOR THE BETTER AND LONG MAY IT CONTINUE"

£56k
raised by group in total

A SITE FULL OF WONDER

Perched among the Peruvian mountains 2,430m above sea level, Machu Picchu is a 600-year-old Inca citadel that has fascinated archeologists and historians for decades.

Built in the 15th century, the site was abandoned when

the Inca empire was conquered by the Spaniards in the 1700s, and no European visited the site until the 19th century.

Made up of around 200 structures, Machu Picchu is built on a steep ridge, crisscrossed by stone terraces, with separate

areas for farming and day-to-day living.

Machu Picchu's famous buildings include the Acropolis, the Temple of the Three Windows, the Military Tower and the Temple of the Sun, with many reconstructed to give visitors a better idea of how they originally looked.



A festival that's fit for the future

SELECT played a key role in the success of the inaugural Green Home Festival – and organisers are already planning to make next year's event bigger to cater for the growing interest in sustainable living

ELECTRICAL innovation and the sustainable technology of tomorrow were both at the forefront of the first-ever Green Home Festival, thanks to the efforts of SELECT staff.

More than 350 delegates signed up for August's five-day renewables jamboree organised by the Construction Industry Collective Voice (CICV), of which the association is a key member.

Held as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the festival hosted 12 in-person and online events to help

12

in-person and online events



Patrick Harvie

Scotland become a net zero nation, with discussions on a range of topics including switching to sustainable materials and living safely in the home of the future.

SELECT Managing Director Alan Wilson, Director of Technical Services Bob Cairney, Director of Membership & Communications Iain Mason and Specifier & Client Relations Manager Yvonne Wilson were all part of the team who helped organise the event.

As well as assisting with planning, promotion and logistics, SELECT also co-hosted two webinars. The first, *Taking the*

Swedish View, featured a presentation by award-winning Swedish housing company Botkyrkabyggen, who explained how they use solar panels, wind turbines, artificial intelligence and district heating to improve energy efficiency.

Later in the week a second webinar, *Hitting the Road with EVs*, saw SELECT Technical Adviser Robert McGoogan join our fleet partners Pike + Bambridge to share tips on choosing an electric vehicle and how to go about installing a domestic charge point.

Bob, Iain and Yvonne were also among delegates who attended the opening ceremony on Monday 8 August at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) in central Edinburgh, which saw a speech by Scottish Government Minister Patrick



↑ Iain Mason, Yvonne Wilson and Bob Cairney at the launch of the festival on 8 August



GREEN HOME FESTIVAL

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE 

Greener living for Scotland

greenhomefestival.co.uk
cicvforum.co.uk



350

delegates in attendance

Harvie, the Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights.

Mr Harvie told the assembled audience: "This festival very positively and professionally highlights many of the actions and new ideas needed to support a transformation of our homes and buildings and to make properties warmer, greener and more energy efficient."



↑ The building green neighbourhoods session was popular

"The climate emergency is already here. But if we adopt many of the actions and ideas being discussed here they will stand us in good stead to mitigate its worst consequences."

As well as the SELECT events, another well-received show saw festivalgoers enjoy a guided tour of a site in Murrayburn, where they saw sustainable practices first-hand and learned how the project used a fabric-first approach to help reduce heating costs.

A mix of professionals and the public also flocked to a discussion on demystifying heat pumps hosted by the Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation (SNIPeF).

GOOD ADVICE AND VALUABLE RESOURCES ARE ON OFFER

The Green Home Festival was the latest in a string of practical initiatives rolled out by the CICV since its creation at the start of the pandemic in March 2020. Made up of 28 industry organisations, including SELECT, it has maintained a steady supply of information and practical advice as well as carrying out surveys, producing resources, hosting webinars and maintaining close dialogue with Scottish Government ministers. Find out more at www.cicvforum.co.uk



↑ A guided tour showed sustainable practices in action

Other sessions included a webinar on the transformation of the Burrell Collection and an in-person session on building green neighbourhoods, using the Granton D1 project in Edinburgh as a real-life example.

As well as CICV members including SELECT, other guest speakers included representatives from the likes of SEPA, Atelier Ten, Reiach & Hall, Home Energy Scotland, Electrical Safety First and Woolgar Hunter.

Organisers are now gathering feedback as they plan for the 2023 event and have also made the festival presentations available to download online, with all six webinars free to watch again at www.greenhomefestival.co.uk

➔ Sweden's greener power Page 30



WATCH OUR WEBINAR AGAIN

Our one-hour introduction to electric vehicles, including what to consider when choosing one, current models and how to go about installing an EV charge point at your home, can be watched again at bit.ly/ghf_hitting

Greener power for the people

Scotland's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies aim to help local authorities improve the energy efficiency of buildings and decarbonise heat. But how do we make it work? Here, an award-winning Swedish housing company reveals how it has successfully put a wide range of cost-effective fossil-free solutions into practice – including an impressive line-up of electrical innovations



DURING the past 100 years, Sweden has built one of the most energy efficient systems in the world, with 98% carbon-free electricity generation and district heating covering 50% of all heating, according to statistics from the organisation Swedenergy.

This well developed district heating network enables us to utilise energy resources that would otherwise be wasted, such as waste heat from industry and energy from the recycling of waste.

In Sweden, heating is included in the rent for the majority of tenants, meaning that Swedish housing companies have strong incentives to invest in energy efficient measures. It also means that ‘heat or eat’ isn’t a big issue for tenants in Sweden, and instead the focus is more on bills for devices and lighting.

When it comes to heating Botkyrkabyggen’s properties, 80.7% of heating comes from district heating networks. The rest is electric heating and for that we have agreements that only allow electricity

“HEATING IS INCLUDED IN THE RENT FOR THE MAJORITY OF TENANTS, MEANING THAT SWEDISH HOUSING COMPANIES HAVE STRONG INCENTIVES TO INVEST IN ENERGY EFFICIENT MEASURES”

from renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and hydropower.

The district heating that Botkyrkabyggen buys still has about 1% fossil share, which comes from fossil fuel and fossil material in the waste burned in the district heating plant. However, we’re currently having a dialogue with the local district heating company that they must reduce the proportion of fossil fuels in their plant.

WE’RE PLAYING OUR PART

Botkyrkabyggen has its own wind turbine that produced 6.1GWh in 2021. This is located in a separate area, which means we can contribute clean energy to a part of Sweden that doesn’t

WORDS
**CHARLOTTA
LUNDSTRÖM**
Press Officer,
Botkyrkabyggen



BOTKYRKABYGGEN



Botkyrkabyggen is based on the outskirts of the Swedish city of Stockholm

have the same opportunities to buy and use fossil-free energy as we

have. It's also a good source of income, bringing in around £333,300 in 2021.

In addition to the wind turbine, we also have solar panels, with 130 panels located on the roofs of four of our buildings. Their electricity production was 32MWh in 2021.

At present, 72 of our 126 charging stations for electrical vehicles (EVs) are in operation for tenants and guest parking. Our company fleet will soon be fully replaced with EVs and we are demanding our contractors to do the same through our procurement processes. The larger their proportion of fossil-free fleet vehicles, the more points they receive in the procurement process. It is a way for us to use our position as a big public body to make a change on a wider scale.

MANY YEARS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Energy efficiency is urgent in many countries right now, partly due to the consequences of the war in Ukraine, but it is something we have worked with for many years and will continue

"AT PRESENT, 72 OF OUR 126 CHARGING STATIONS FOR ELECTRICAL VEHICLES ARE IN OPERATION FOR TENANTS AND GUEST PARKING"



↑ Green energy is generated to heat homes efficiently

to do so. In the last 15 years, Botkyrkabyggen has lowered its total energy consumption by 27%, from 163 kWh/m² to 126. We measure this in kilowatt hours to reflect the change in behaviour and smarter energy consumption, rather than the change in carbon emissions.

We act on the following three principles:

- The energy delivered to us must be clean
- The system/network has to support energy efficiency
- We need to raise awareness and understanding among individuals to support behavioural change.

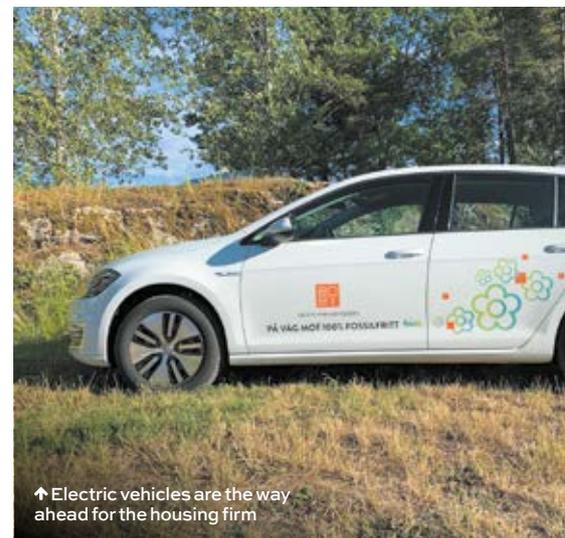
Some examples of measures that we have taken are the installation of heat pumps and active choices of energy-saving products such as LED light sources, energy-rated appliances and water-saving mixers. We've also made adjustments to our central systems for ventilation, heating and replacements

27%

In the last ten years, Botkyrkabyggen has lowered its total energy consumption by 27%

of windows and renovation of facades for a fabric-first approach.

At present we are running a project with artificial



↑ Electric vehicles are the way ahead for the housing firm



intelligence (AI) to optimise four properties' need for district heating. This is done through advanced forecast control with AI that measures temperature and humidity in each apartment.

Through data from the sensors in the flat, we precede weather and can parry outgoing heat in the buildings before the need arises and thus optimise heat consumption. This is reducing the purchased energy for heating. For example, one of our properties used 26.5% less district heating during winter, which reduced costs by approximately £12,436.

We also have a project with hybrid panels for solar power that generate both



electricity and heat. And we are continuing evaluation and testing of battery storage to ensure that the electricity and heating needs are connected to these panels.

WE'RE PART OF A BIGGER PICTURE

Botkyrkabyggen is already doing a lot. But we are not satisfied and one way to do better is to be part of something bigger.

For example, we have joined a national climate initiative for affordable housing companies with two overall goals:

- A fossil-free public utility by 2030
- A 30% lower energy use by 2030, calculated from the year 2007.

Many housing companies

"IT IS CLEAR THAT WORKING FOR GREEN HOMES IS TIGHTLY CONNECTED TO STRONG FINANCES. ONE HAS TO BE AWARE OF WHAT IS A GOOD MOVE AND WHAT IS NOT"

↓ The housing company's power bills have been cut thanks to new technology



BOTKYRKABYGGEN

LOCATION:

Botkyrka, Sweden

Website:

www.botkyrkabyggen.se

QUICK FACTS

A Botkyrkabyggen property used 26.5% less district heating during winter, which reduced costs by approximately

£12,436

are a part of this, which has a positive impact.

For example, electricians in Sweden get a bigger market of customers who not only demand solutions for energy efficiency but also make it possible to upscale such businesses.

For us, it is clear that working for green homes is tightly connected to strong finances. One has to be aware of what is a good move and what is not.

In Botkyrkabyggen's case, we have doubled our property values since 2017 by making sustainable choices. The sustainable business is the only business in the future. And the future is here. ■

WATCH OUR WEBINAR

Botkyrkabyggen hosted a webinar at the Green Home Festival in August, outlining exactly how it uses renewable technology to improve energy efficiency and deliver fossil-free environmental sustainability. Watch it now at bit.ly/ghf_sweden





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PRESIDENT'S LUNCH



8-PAGE SPECIAL

Stepping up to the plate

Government Minister Ivan McKee was the guest of honour at our first-ever President's Lunch, which saw a 'human tornado' collect the SELECT Lifetime Achievement Award in front of 100 industry colleagues



WORDS
IAIN MASON
Director of
Membership &
Communications

TRIBUTES, tears and magic tricks were just some of the many

highlights of the inaugural SELECT President's Lunch, sponsored by Electrium.

Hosted in the spectacular surroundings of the voco® Grand Central Glasgow hotel, the event saw around 100 special guests gather for a high-profile networking celebration.

Guests included senior government figures, along with representatives from leading UK electrical and construction organisations.

Government minister Ivan McKee was the headline speaker at the bash on Friday 30 September, which also saw SELECT honour a very special recipient with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

As well as industry guests and SELECT Central Board members, also in attendance were Ian Hunter, John Richmond and Gary Shirkey from Associate Member Electrium, the event's official headline sponsor.

Fellow Associate Member MacRoberts LLP kept guests refreshed as the official drinks sponsor and were represented at the event by David Wilson and Lindsay Stark.

And David Lyons, Steve Conn and Ke flew the flag for Luceco, who helped cast a spell over the audience by sponsoring the table entertainment, which saw two magicians baffle diners with amazing sleight of hand. The lunch began with



↑ Luceco's Kenneth Wilson with Sandy Thompson and Peter Wade from Megger



↓ Lindsay Stark was among guests dazzled by the entertainment



↑ Bob Cairney and Paul Erasmuson share a joke with Gary Parker



↑ David MacDonald and John McKinney mingled with industry friends



↓ Managing Director Alan Wilson catches up with Ken Daly (left) and Peter Reekie (right)



↑ Graeme Anderson with Immediate Past President Donald W Orr



↑ Fiona Harper and S.JIB Chairman Jock Simpson



↑ President Alistair Grant mingling beforehand



↑ Robert Fletcher of Fife Council and SNIPEF's Stephanie Lowe



↑ The event magicians impressed guests including David Smith (left)



↑ Lesley Rudd from ESF and Certsure's Richard Orton

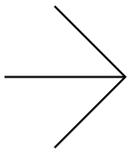


↑ Depute Vice-President Darren Crockett with MacRoberts' David Wilson



↑ (L-r) Craig McGowan, Chris Liddell and Paul Smith share a joke with Barrie McKay





a welcome speech from SELECT Managing Director Alan

Wilson, who paid tribute to the “amazing” work carried out by Central Board throughout the pandemic and beyond. He also praised the ongoing efforts of the Construction Leadership Forum and Construction Industry Collective Voice (CICV), of which SELECT is a leading member.

He then turned his attention to skills and training, adding: “To meet the next challenges, especially around net zero, we need support to allow the workforce to be upskilled.

“What none of us need is six-week wonders who turn up and claim they can build a new extension, fit an air source heat pump, re-wire your home – and maybe even paint your lounge.

“The Scottish Government quite rightly champions apprenticeships but the industry needs the financial support to meet these aspirations. We know funding is under threat from all sides, but it’s vital we support the workforce of tomorrow now, because without them we face a future of skills shortages.”

SHARING A VISION OF SUSTAINABILITY

Our second speaker was Ivan McKee, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism



↑ Anne Galbraith of SECTT, Elaine Ellis from SDS and the EIC’s Marcella MacArthur



↑ Helen Maguire, Douglas Morrison and Tim Benstead



↑ Sharon Miller chats to fellow guests

“THE SUCCESSES SO FAR DEMONSTRATE THE POWER OF US WORKING TOGETHER. WHEN WE GET IT RIGHT, EVERYONE WINS”

and Enterprise, who highlighted the shared vision between Holyrood and the industry of a sustainable, profitable and diverse sector. He said: “Transformational change is needed across the industry to prepare for the new decarbonisation workload, constructing and refurbishing assets to meet net zero targets in a resource-efficient way.

“I know I share this vision with many SELECT Members in this room, and I hope you will continue to collaborate, both with us in the Scottish Government and with other

members of the industry, in order to meet the challenges of the coming decade.”

Warming to his theme, he added: “Our shared ambition is to transform into the sustainable, profitable, diverse and innovative sector that

Scotland needs. We need

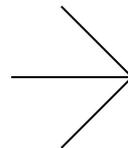
to work together at pace to deliver on our ambitions.

Collaboration can help to reduce both risk and costs for businesses on their

net zero journey, and there will also be significant opportunities for growth.

“The successes delivered so far demonstrate the power of us working together.

And when we get it right, everyone wins – businesses, people and the planet.”



FRIENDS



↑ Guests included Jocelyne Fleming from CIOB



↑ Ian Hunter from Electrium (centre) chats to Michael Crawford and Tim Power



↑ Vice-President Mike Stark and Barrie McKay from SECTT



↑ Professor Patricia Findlay with Fiona Harper



↑ SELECT staff Jenny Petrie and Sandra Bennett with the President



↑ Ivan McKee MSP was the main speaker



↑ MD Alan gave the first speech of the day



↑ Training Manager Jenny Cryans looks spellbound by the sleight of hand



↓ Guests enjoyed catching up in person again and meeting old and new friends

"I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE WITH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE COMING DECADE"



↑ The Minister addresses guests at the voco Grand Central

REUNITED

In his address, SELECT President Alistair Grant

thanked members of fellow trade organisations for attending, including David Frise, Iain McCaskey and Robert Fletcher from BESA and SNIPEF's Stephanie Lowe.

He also welcomed Marcella McArthur from the Electrical Industries Charity, adding: "It's always a great pleasure to represent SELECT at events hosted by other organisations.

"It is important to SELECT – and to me – to be able to repay the hospitality we receive, which is why I was so delighted to be able to welcome friends from so many partner organisations here today."

The President also announced news of the Members' Bill for protection of title that had been recently

lodged, telling guests: "We are grateful to Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP and his team for their efforts on this important matter, which is a great boost for our campaign."

TRIBUTES TO AN INDUSTRY LEGEND

It was then on to the finale, as Alan Wilson and Alistair Grant returned to the podium to announce the recipient of this year's SELECT Lifetime Achievement Award.

Announcing the honour, Alan said: "I was only eight years old when this person qualified and took their first steps on what has been the most extraordinary career path.

"Their list of achievements is so long and varied that it is tiring just reading them out. They really are a human tornado, with a never-ending supply of energy and ideas aimed at improving the

industry and the conditions of those who work within it.

"They were also instrumental in the establishment of the CICV, which has been so important in facilitating the sector's safe return to work after the pandemic."

To cheers and a standing ovation, Alan revealed



↑ The magician impressed guests including Jock Simpson, Patricia Findlay, Scott Foley and Vaughan Hart



↑ John Richmond from Electrium (centre) chats with Central Board members Chris Liddell and Stewart Anderson



↑ Euan Robson chats with the SELECT MD



↑ Alistair thanks guests for attending

Half a century of industry experience and expertise

Lifetime Achievement Award winner Len Bunton has enjoyed a long career as a chartered quantity surveyor, arbitrator, adjudicator, expert witness and mediator.

As a Past Chairman of both the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and Scottish Building Contracts Committee, he has played a significant role in customer care, best practice, business development and dispute avoidance, most recently with the Conflict Avoidance Process and Conflict Avoidance Pledge.

Len started his own firm seven years after qualifying in 1972, and within a few years, built it into a 50-strong practice focusing on project management, cost management, building surveying and dispute resolution.

It was acquired in the 1990s by a leading UK company, of which Len became a main board director, and in 1996 he joined the board of the Bucknall Group and further developed his experience on major building and civil engineering projects.

In recent years he has been involved in many dispute resolution issues and is currently Chair of the Conflict Avoidance Working Group in Scotland and Vice Chair of the UK Conflict Avoidance Coalition. He has also developed specific experience in construction insolvency and corporate recovery.

🕒 Len's column: [Page 59](#)



↑ Alistair Grant with the Lifetime Achievement Award winner Len Bunton



↓ Len is presented with his award by President Alistair and SELECT MD Alan



↑ Emotional Len thanks guests after receiving the honour

the recipient of this year's award was Len Bunton, the arbitrator and mediator who has spent years working tirelessly for better conditions across the sector.

After accepting his award from Alistair, an emotional Len thanked guests, saying: "We have seen some great advances in recent years and we must continue to work together to ensure we improve

conditions for everyone."

After the lunch, guests stayed on to continue networking and make up for the face-to-face time lost during the pandemic. They also dug deep and contributed to a collection that raised £530 for the EIC.

Alan said: "The event was tremendous and we would like to thank everyone who attended." ■

"WE HAVE SEEN SOME GREAT ADVANCES IN RECENT YEARS AND WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE WE IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR EVERYONE"

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A horror story that could have been deadly

Despite the ongoing campaign for regulation, electrical work is still being carried out by unqualified tradespeople, with SELECT Members often being called out to rectify the consequences. Here, a Member tells us of the 'horrific shambles' he found after being alerted to one such installation – and the immediate measures he had to take to avert disaster

WORDS
CRAIG ROWE
Owner, Rowe Electrical



A

PLUMBER I work with rang me to say that he was trying to replace a back boiler at a semi-detached ex-council house but was getting shocks off the pipework.

I couldn't attend straight away, so told him to isolate all the power, disconnect the old heating supply from the fused spur and physically remove

all connecting pipework and the fire itself to ensure there was no hidden wiring that was damaged.

He duly turned off and unplugged everything and said that when he tested the remaining heating pipes he didn't get a shock so thought it was sorted.

However, the following morning when working on the gas main he got a proper electric shock which arced – although thankfully the gas was turned off at the time.

He called me again and I left another job to go over because it sounded serious. When I arrived I couldn't believe what I saw – the whole installation was an absolutely horrific shambles. Without exaggeration, it's the worst I've seen in the

"THE WHOLE INSTALLATION WAS AN ABSOLUTELY HORRIFIC SHAMBLES. WITHOUT EXAGGERATION, IT'S THE WORST I'VE SEEN IN 20 YEARS"



Watch Craig's video of what he found at bit.ly/select-db

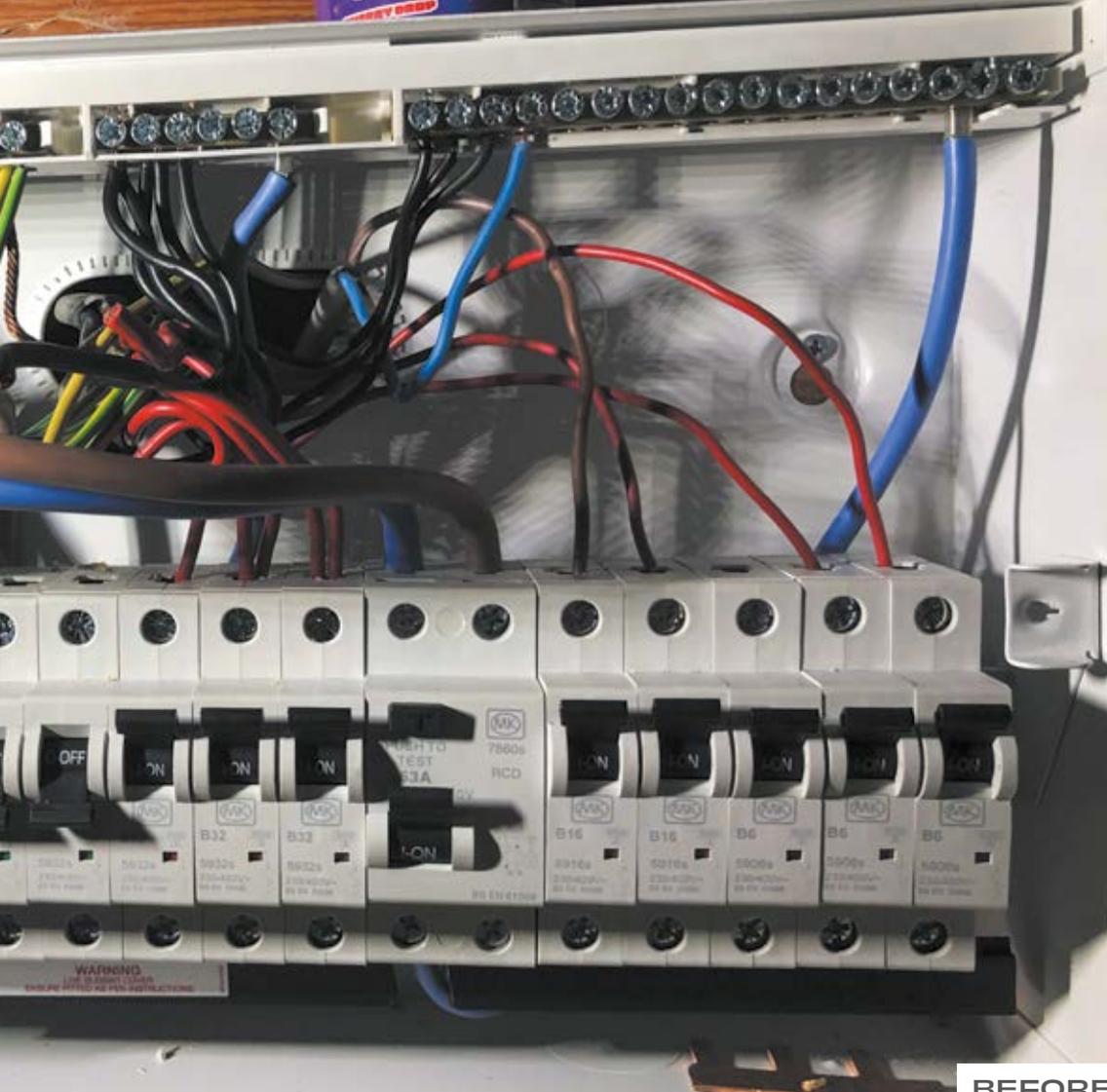


↑ No SWA gland at either end of run



↓ Inadequate bonding for water

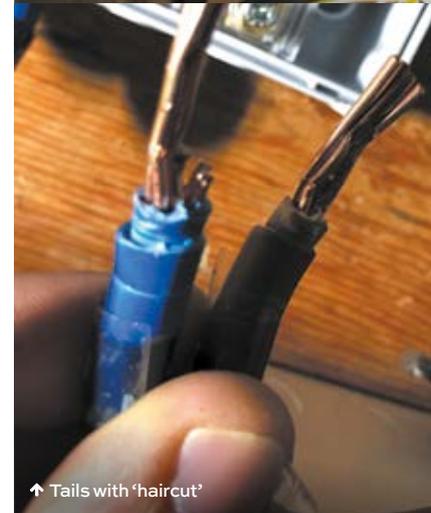
BEFORE



BEFORE



↑ Insulation damaged on SWA for garage



↑ Tails with 'haircut'

↑ No main earth or bonding. Earths connected to RCD bar. Neutrals for second RCD into earth bar connected to chassis of metal DB. Exposed copper on tails. Tails doubled up with 6mm SWA for shed. No gland for tails for support, leaving a large hole on top of DB

20 years since I started my apprenticeship.

After removing the cover on the distribution board (DB) I found:

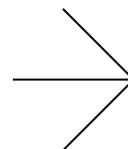
- No main earth or bonding, with the old main earth left out and no new earth put in
- Earths connected to the residual current device (RCD) bar
- Neutrals for the second RCD into the earth bar connected to the metal DB chassis
- No gland for tails for support, leaving a large hole on top of the DB
- No steel wire armoured (SWA) gland at either end of the run
- Insulation damage on the SWA leading into the garage
- Badly cut tails with

"IT'S A MIRACLE THAT SOMEONE IN THE HOUSE WASN'T KILLED BECAUSE IT WAS SO CLOSE TO BEING A DISASTER"

exposed copper

- Tails doubled up with 6mm SWA for the shed
- 'Haircut' on supply tails, with more than half the strands cut
- Low voltage readings.

I set to work straight away



AFTER



↑ Water pipe cleaned, clamp fitted with crimped 10mm

AFTER



↑ SWA remade and fitted on MCB as shed has RCD split board at other end



↓ Test between main switch and earth bar proved there was no earth



↓ No earth for gas

BEFORE



AFTER

to try and put it right but kept finding more and more issues.

On closer inspection of the property, a range of other dangers were identified, including:

- Low voltage and extra low voltage running together with uninsulated heating pipes
- No earth for gas
- Inadequate bonding for water and gas
- Thermoplastic and insulated sheath cables (AKA twin and earth) on plug tops.

With a normal DB job, I'd take my time and ensure it's as neat as possible, fitting residual current breakers with integral overcurrent protection (RCBOs) and surge protection devices (SPDs) where required.

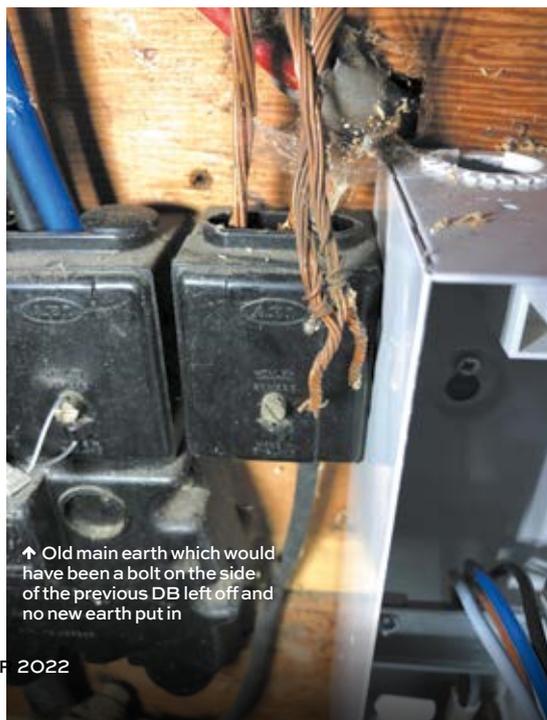
However, after speaking to the client, it was decided the best course of action was to just fix the most pressing issues immediately and worry about upgrading the installation later.

I knew I couldn't afford to spend hours straightening each cable to make it a work of art – I

"NO QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN INSTALLED THAT BOARD. IF THEY HAD, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FITTED TO STANDARD AND SOME TESTING DONE TO ENSURE THE PROPERTY WAS SAFE"

just needed to make it safe as quickly as possible, so I just fixed each issue as it was found.

It took a full day to make it safe before we did anything else, including waiting for the energy suppliers to check the supply and reseal the meter. And these were just my initial findings while I was carrying out insulation resistance testing – I knew more issues



↑ Old main earth which would have been a bolt on the side of the previous DB left off and no new earth put in



↑ Seal left cut

would be found when carrying out the full inspection and test, and sure enough I subsequently uncovered a host of other things, including Class 1 fittings throughout with no earth and a 3A appliance's connector blocked into the ring main.

Even more horrifically, after everything had been made safe and the plumber carried out more tests, it was found, that even with the main shut-off valve in the 'closed' position, gas was **STILL** passing through the pipe and Transco had to be called.

I told the plumber that he'd had an extremely lucky escape and, indeed, it's a miracle that someone in the house wasn't killed because

QUICK FACTS

ROWE ELECTRICAL

BRANCH:
Tayside

PHONE:
01383 720010

WEBSITE:
www.rowe-electrical.co.uk



↑ PVC twin and earth used on plug tops

it was so close to being a disaster – there could have been a gas explosion or someone could easily have been electrocuted.

No qualified electrician installed that board. If they had, it would have been fitted to standard and at least some testing done to ensure the property was safe. Instead, it looks like it was carried out by someone who thought they had some electrical 'knowledge'.

We're seeing more and more of this kind of thing from non-qualified people who believe know what they're doing when it comes

"THE NEXT TIME THEIR 'HANDIWORK' GOES WRONG, IT'S GOING BE TOO LATE FOR SOME POOR SOUL"

to electrical installations and just wing it. But the next time their 'handiwork' goes wrong, it's going to be too late for some poor soul.

I just feel sorry for the householder, who had only been in the property for three weeks. The whole thing was like driving off in an expensive new car – only to suddenly find out that the brakes don't work. ■



↓ Low voltage and extra low voltage ran together with uninsulated heating pipes

THE SELECT VERDICT

WORDS
STUART MCKELVIE
Training
Development
Adviser, SELECT



I took the original call from Craig about this issue when I was manning the SELECT Technical Helpline and it was immediately clear that he was furious and extremely concerned.

When I saw his photos, I shared his dismay and am only glad he was there to put things right.

We are all used to seeing bad and shoddy workmanship, but this is downright dangerous and the consequences don't bear thinking about.

You might recall that in the last issue of *cabletalk* we outlined the measures that should be taken to ensure the safe installation of a consumer unit. Well, safe

to say that whoever did this 'install' has deviated from every single recommended procedure.

More than ever, this episode shows the vital need for regulation and for electrical work to only ever be carried out by qualified professionals.

In this case, like so many others our Members come across, the unwitting householder will have had no idea that something was wrong and unfortunately that's usually the issue with so much faulty electrical work – it stays hidden until it's too late.

If this isn't a wake-up for protection of title then I don't know what is. I'm just glad Craig brought it to our attention and made things safe before someone was injured – or even worse.



THE LATEST IN-PERSON AND E-LEARNING COURSES TO BOOST YOUR SKILLS AND KEEP YOUR KNOWLEDGE UP TO DATE

Training

MORE INFORMATION

To enquire about SELECT's range of training courses, please call 0131 445 5577 or email training@select.org.uk

The latest training for you and your teams

We've spent months revising our popular BS 7671 training courses to ensure they're consistent with the updated IET Wiring Regulations. Here's what's new – and how you can book to ensure you and your operatives are up to date too

WORDS
JENNY CRYANS
Training Manager



THE Training team has been extremely busy over the summer, going through our courses and bringing them up to date with the amended standard BS 7671:2018 +A2:2022.

With the 'blue book' now withdrawn, it's vital that Member firms and their

operatives are kept abreast of the changes introduced in Amendment 2, so we've updated our training courses accordingly.

All our BS 7671 programmes now incorporate the main changes to the IET Wiring Regulations, including the new Part 8 – Functional Requirements – and the accompanying Chapter 82 on prosumer's low voltage electrical installations (PEIs).

Other changes introduced with Amendment 2 that are now included in our courses include:

- **Part 1: Scope, Object and Fundamental Principles** – the introduction of Chapter 82 and PEIs.
- **Part 2: Definitions** – the introduction of a number of new terms and definitions, including prosumer, PEIs, arc fault detection device (AFDD) and consumer unit.

INSPECTION AND TESTING, INCLUDING PERIODIC INSPECTION (214)

In-person
SCQF Level 7
£340 + VAT

This SQA-approved programme is recommended for all electricians who want to ensure their skills and knowledge are up to date in relation to inspection, testing and certification of both new and existing electrical installations.

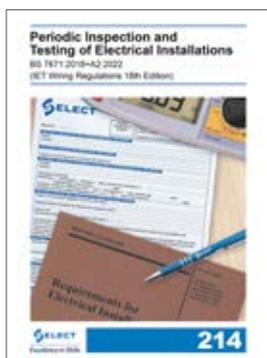
The course will help delegates build their knowledge and practical

skills in initial verification and periodic inspection, including knowledge of certification and reporting, and includes practical hands-on use of test instruments.

It will also help delegates gain an understanding of the requirements contained in the latest version of BS 7671:2018 +A2:2022 in relation to this type of work.

The course is made up of two training days:

- **Part one: Initial Verification** – this one-day course includes



instruction on inspection and testing of new installations, interpretation of results and completing a schedule of inspections and schedule of test results.

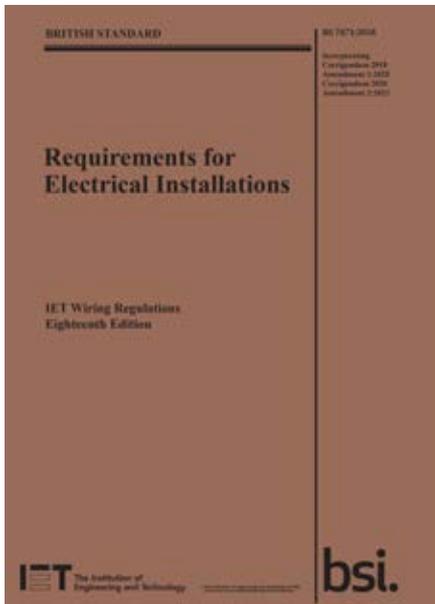
- **Part two: Periodic Inspection and Testing** – this

includes the requirements for carrying out periodic inspection and testing, including completion of the Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR), plus completion of a case study and use of test board simulators to measure transient readings

and interpret results.

The course costs £340 + VAT per SELECT Member, which includes assessments and an SQA certificate.

NOTE: Delegates MUST spend at least four hours studying the two sets of course notes provided beforehand. A hard copy of these notes will also be provided on the morning of the course. There are assessments throughout both days, consisting of a mix of practical exercises and multiple-choice questions. Part one must be completed before delegates can attend part two. Candidates must successfully complete BOTH parts of the course before we can apply for an SQA certificate.



- **Part 4: Protection for Safety** – updates on protective equipotential bonding, additional requirements for socket-outlets and the supply of mobile equipment for use outdoors, TN system, protection against fire caused by electrical equipment and precautions where particular risks of fire exist.
- **Part 5: Selection and Erection of Equipment** – changes to identification and notices and protective bonding conductors.
- **Part 6: Inspection and**

REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS (218)

**Virtual or in-person
SCQF Level 7
From £190 + VAT**

This SQA-approved training programme has been designed for qualified electricians looking to update their BS 7671 training and can be done virtually or in-person.

The course is suitable for electricians who are responsible for ensuring that electrical installations are installed and commissioned in accordance with current requirements and is also suitable for those applying for their ECS gold card. It does not cover the detailed requirements for inspection and testing of new or existing installations.

The programme is made



up of two parts:

- **Short online introduction** – this aims to ensure that delegates can successfully navigate and find key information from BS 7671. It takes around five hours to complete and can be done in stages.
- **One-day course** – this covers a range of topics, including fundamental principles, selection and erection of equipment, and

inspection and testing. There are assessments at various points, comprising workbook exercises and multiple-choice questions.

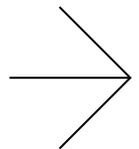
This course is delivered as either a virtual classroom course, which costs £190 + VAT per SELECT Member, or a classroom course which is £210 + VAT per SELECT Member. Both prices include assessments and an SQA certificate.

NOTE: To complete this course, candidates will need access to BS 7671:2018 +A2:2022, AKA 'the brown book'. We recommend completing the online introduction first. Candidates must successfully complete BOTH parts of the course before we can apply for an SQA certificate.

"ALL OUR BS 7671 PROGRAMMES NOW INCORPORATE THE MAIN CHANGES TO THE IET WIRING REGULATIONS, INCLUDING THE NEW PART 8 – FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS"

Testing – new information on initial verification, insulation resistance, protection by automatic disconnection of supply and additional protection – requirements for testing residual current devices (RCDs).

- **Part 7: Special**



↑ Training team (l-r) Billy McRobert, Keith Hagan, Stuart McKelvie, Neil Sim, Robert McGoogan, Mark McLaughlin, Jenny Cryans and Bob Cairney



COMING SOON: REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS (E-LEARNING)

Virtual
SCQF Level 7
£150 + VAT

After positive feedback about our online training, we will be launching this convenient e-learning option.

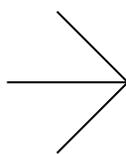
This module will cover the same content as the 218 course (page 49), but can be completed at the

delegate's leisure, i.e. at evenings or weekends.

The programme will cost £150 + VAT per SELECT Member, which includes assessments and an SQA certificate.

NOTE: This course must be completed within a month of booking.

"IT'S VITAL THAT MEMBER FIRMS AND THEIR OPERATIVES ARE KEPT ABREAST OF THE CHANGES INTRODUCED IN AMENDMENT 2"



Installations or Locations

– updates on locations containing

a bath or shower, solar photovoltaic (PV) power supply systems and electric vehicle (EV) charging installations.

INITIAL VERIFICATION (209)

Virtual and in-person
SCQF Level 7
£210 + VAT

This SQA-approved training programme has been designed for qualified electricians who want to ensure their skills and knowledge are up to date in relation to inspection, testing and certification of new electrical installations, including additions and alterations.

It is suitable for those who require knowledge of the initial verification process and requirements for certification, with participants gaining practical hands-on experience in the use of test instruments.

This course is made up of two separate parts:

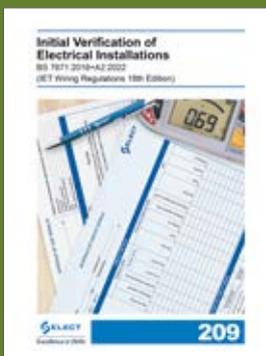
- **Short online**

introduction – this aims to ensure that delegates can successfully navigate and find key information from BS 7671. It takes around five hours to complete and can be done on a PC, laptop or iPad.

- **One-day course** – this is split into morning and afternoon sessions, which cover issues such as inspection and testing of new installations,

interpretation of results, completing a schedule of inspections and a review of the updated certification requirements in Amendment 2. There are assessments throughout the day, consisting of practical exercises and multiple-choice questions.

The course costs £210 + VAT per SELECT Member, which includes assessments and an SQA certificate.



NOTE: To complete this course, candidates will need access to BS 7671:2018 +A2:2022, AKA 'the brown book'. Candidates must successfully complete BOTH parts of the course before we can apply for an SQA certificate. We recommend completing the online introduction first. Delegates MUST spend at least four hours studying the course notes

beforehand. A hard copy of these notes will also be provided on the morning of the course. This course focuses only on the requirements for new installations, alterations and additions. If you're interested in periodic inspection, SELECT course 214 is more suitable.

- **Appendix 6: Model Forms for Certification and Reporting**

– noticeable changes including the removal of the model 'Schedule of inspections for domestic and similar premises with up to 100A supply'.

- **Appendix 11: Warning and User Instruction Labels**

– overview of the new appendix that provides guidance for the types of safety signs, warning signs and instructions required to be applied to electrical installations.

- **Appendix 13: Escape Routes and Fire Protection**

– overview of previous content now replaced by guidance on escape routes and fire protection.

- **Appendix 17: Energy Efficiency**

– changes to the scope of the information to cover dwellings and reference to the Building Regulations, plus changes to user decisions and new design recommendations.

All our updated BS 7671 courses are credit rated and have been placed on the Scottish Credit Qualifications Framework (SCQF). This allows us to compare them to similar qualifications throughout the UK. For further information about the SCQF, go to www.scqf.org.uk/about-the-framework ■

➔ For further information and available dates of any courses listed on these pages, please visit www.select.org.uk and search for 'BS 7671 training'. Alternatively, e-mail training@select.org.uk or call the Training team on 0131 445 5577.



UPDATED **BS 7671** COURSES AVAILABLE



All training modules now revised in line with Amendment 2 of the IET Wiring Regulations

- REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS (218)
- INSPECTION AND TESTING, INCLUDING PERIODIC INSPECTION (214)
- INITIAL VERIFICATION (209)

TO BOOK, CALL 0131 445 5577
WWW.SELECT.ORG.UK/TRAINING

SELECT
Excellence in Skills

Industry insight

Continuing protection from COVID

It's no longer a legal requirement to implement COVID-19 measures in the workplace, but businesses are still required to follow official guidance. Here, we outline some of the measures employers can continue to put in place to protect electrical operatives and other staff

WHILE it may seem that things

have returned to normal – or at least the ‘new normal’ – COVID-19 is still with us.

Indeed, the seven-day period of statistics for Scotland covering the week ending 23 August 2022 showed that one per 55 people in Scotland had the virus.

With COVID-19 still capable of affecting people in the workplace, it's important to remain vigilant and aware of the responsibilities we need to take to protect ourselves, our colleagues, our families and the wider public on an ongoing basis.

Firstly, it's important to highlight the changes in legislation that have taken place in a couple of areas:

WORDS
ERIKA FERGUSON
Employment and Skills
Adviser, SELECT



• COVID-19 legislation

The legal requirement to implement COVID-19 measures has now ended. This means that the requirement to action measures in the workplace, such as masks and distancing, is no longer required, rather businesses are expected to act on government guidance.

• High-risk employees

These employees are no longer required to shield. It has been determined that compliance with the current Scottish Government regulations on safe practices, and keeping up to date with vaccination and booster programmes, is enough to prevent people of poor health becoming very ill with COVID-19.

Those employees who are immunosuppressed or have

“THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE IMMUNOSUPPRESSED OR HAVE A WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEM SHOULD FOLLOW THE ADVICE SET OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ADVICE OF THEIR GP”



a weakened immune system should follow the advice set out by the government and the advice of their GP.

Employers are advised to hold regular catch-up meetings with these employees to discuss their concerns and to implement any requested measures that can reasonably be done without impacting their duties or effective business management.

During 2020 and 2021, the requirements for Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) were amended. To encourage isolation when ill with COVID-19, the delay before SSP applies were removed, meaning that employees were paid SSP from day one of illness. This has now been revoked.

Employees are required to be incapable of work to claim SSP, as opposed to diagnosed

"IT REMAINS THE BEST POSSIBLE ADVICE TO CONSIDER VENTILATION, SOCIAL DISTANCING, ENHANCED HYGIENE PRACTICES AND WEARING OF MASKS WHERE POSSIBLE IN THE WORKPLACE"

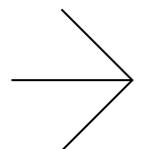
CURRENT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS ON COVID-19

- Get vaccinated when vaccinations and boosters are offered.
- Stay at home if you're feeling unwell.
- If you're feeling unwell but can't access a test, stay at home until your temperature goes or you feel better.
- If you've tested positive, you're advised to stay at home for five days, longer if you still have a temperature or are poorly.
- People under 18 who test positive should stay at home for three days, longer if they still have a temperature or are poorly.
- Avoid people who have underlying health conditions.
- Keep areas ventilated and open windows when socialising indoors.
- Wear a mask when indoors or on public transport. Respect the decisions of others.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often – this protects against more than COVID-19!

WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES?

It is the responsibility of the employer to prevent people catching COVID-19 in the workplace. This was previously done through following COVID-19 legislation, i.e. the measures businesses had to take to ensure ventilation, distance, hygiene and wearing of masks was acknowledged and implemented. These are now guidance.

The preventative measures are guidance rather than law, but the onus is on the employer to protect employees from catching COVID-19, therefore it remains the best possible advice to consider ventilation, social distancing, enhanced hygiene practices and wearing of masks where possible in the workplace.



with COVID-19 and mildly ill and/or asymptomatic. Waiting days have been reinstated, meaning that entitlement for SSP will start from day four of absence from work.

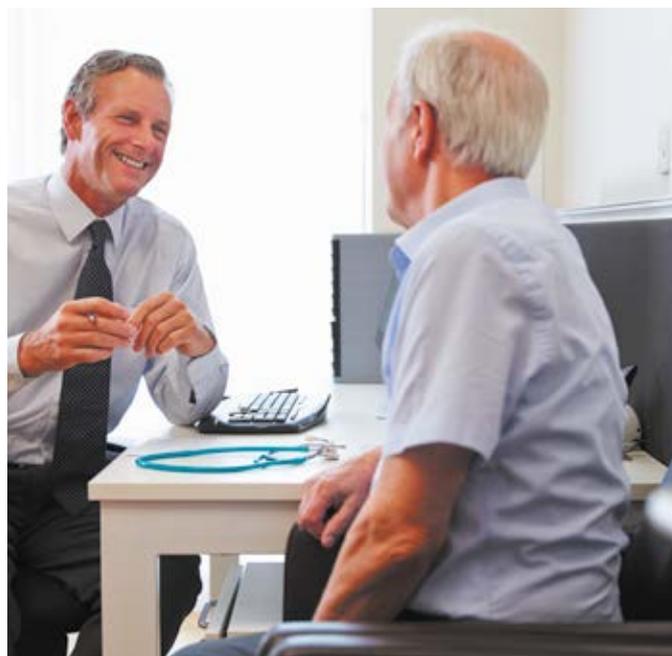
The Scottish Government continues to ask businesses to consider flexible and hybrid working patterns when possible. This can be implemented as a reasonable adjustment for an employee who is of a protected characteristic, who has a weakened immune system or is immunosuppressed.

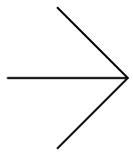
At present, an employee can request flexible working after 26 weeks of employment and can do this twice a year. Such requests could include working from home or amended working patterns.

Each request should be assessed to determine if the duties and undertakings of

the business can continue to function with this flexible working measure in place. An employer is not required to accept the suggested changes if they will detrimentally impact the business, but each request should be considered.

↓ Employees should follow the advice of their GP





In line with the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations

1992, you are required to provide welfare facilities and a workplace environment that is healthy and safe for all – this includes keeping people safe from infection. These measures not only prevent against COVID-19 spread but also against the spread of other infectious diseases.

HOW DO YOU DO THIS?

This is done effectively through risk assessment. You must take steps to identify the risks present, establish if it is high risk or low risk, then take measures to reduce these risks.

The following examples show how good practice can be adapted to prevent the spread of COVID-19, or any other infectious disease, while in the workplace:

- **Example 1** – The desks in

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?

- Continuous cough
- High temperature, fever or chills
- Loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath
- Unexplained tiredness and/or lack of energy
- Not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- Muscle aches or pains not due to exercise
- Headache that’s unusual or lasts longer than normal
- Sore throat and/or stuffy or runny nose
- Diarrhoea
- Feeling sick or being sick.

an office are set one metre apart and the windows are kept open while staff are in. Masks are available to staff and hand sanitiser is provided. There is low risk of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. No action to address the risk is required.

- **Example 2** – The administrative team in the office uses hot desks and will work at different workstations every day. The risk of passing COVID-19 or an infectious disease to a colleague is high.

“COMMUNICATE WITH CLIENTS BY CALLING EN ROUTE. CONFIRM THAT THEY HAVE NO SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 AND THAT THE OPERATIVES ARE WELL”

↓ Masks can still be made available to staff as part of good practice



As a measure to reduce risk, the hot desks are put on a staggered timetable, with a cleaning schedule in place.

PUTTING MEASURES INTO PRACTICE

When considering close working environments and contact with the public, the following measures could be taken:

- Schedule operatives into static teams, meaning infection may not spread or result in an entire workforce falling ill at once.
- Where vans are provided, assign vehicles and implement an end-of-shift cleaning regime.
- Advise your staff to have windows open while travelling.
- Provide staff with hand sanitiser, masks and antibacterial wipes.
- Recommend operatives use masks when in the van.
- Discourage tool sharing.
- Hold regular catch-





teams should confirm current COVID-19 measures are in place and follow them while on-site.

WORKPLACE POLICIES

These should be developed to cover absence of people with COVID-19, and how your company intends to deal with potential cases. It is advised that you create a workplace illness policy which would include company information on:

- Absence reporting
- What an operative should do if they believe they have contracted COVID-19 or another infectious disease
- What the employee should expect in reference to time off, paid leave and SSP.
- Hygiene, and responsibilities towards employees, such as wearing of masks, opening windows, physical distancing and respect to others and their practices.

You could also include additional information on the Electrical Industries Charity (EIC) and the support that is available for all operatives when they need it. ■

➔ The current Scottish Government regulations for COVID-19 can be found at gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19, along with other advice and guidance on working practices.

"WHERE VANS ARE PROVIDED, ASSIGN VEHICLES AND IMPLEMENT AN END-OF-SHIFT CLEANING RECORD"

up meetings with your operatives and individual sessions with those who are concerned about their health.

- Encourage staff to stay at home if they have symptoms of COVID-19.

BEST PRACTICE WHEN DEALING WITH CLIENTS

The following measures should be undertaken before and during any work:

- Communicate with clients by calling en route. Confirm that they have no symptoms of COVID-19 and that the operatives are well.
- Operatives should wear masks when asked by clients, especially in domestic situations.
- When visiting businesses,

SAFETY DURING DOMESTIC WORK

Revised guidance on staying safe during domestic work has been produced by the Construction Industry Collective Voice (CICV), of which SELECT is a leading member.

The updated recommended operating procedures include key considerations, practical steps when working in the field, types of work considered essential and what to do

before carrying out work.

Also included is a downloadable fact sheet to be given to householders before domestic work starts, outlining health and safety measures to be taken by both operatives and the public.

The guidance is open source and can be downloaded for free at www.cicvforum.co.uk/downloads



Keeping all the balls in the air

With costs rocketing across the board, how can today's businesses juggle the pressures of inflation? Our expert is here with some timely advice to ensure you don't drop a clanger

THE UK now has the unenviable record of being the worst country for inflation in Western Europe, with the figure predicted to reach 18% by January – the highest for 40 years and the worst in the G7.

The Bank of England says that inflation should fall back to its normal level of 2% over the next two years, but I won't be holding my breath.

In the last 18 months the wholesale gas price – which also dictates electricity prices – has risen by over 250% and this alone is likely to keep inflation high for some time.

So where does this leave businesses? Well, the most obvious and immediate impact is overheads, with everything from milk to rent and fuel succumbing to inflationary pressures.

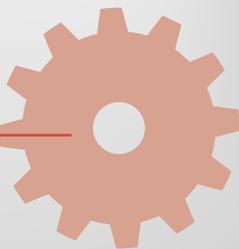
The overriding issue now is whether you're regularly reviewing your pricing structures in order to maximise recovery for the increase in overhead costs.

Beyond that you need to be focused on ensuring that your contracts don't leave you

"MY ADVICE IS TO KEEP A CONSTANT CHECK ON THE PRICE OF MATERIALS"



LABOUR COSTS



WORDS
PROFESSOR
RUDI KLEIN
Barrister &
SELECT Consultant



FUEL COSTS

out of pocket, given the hikes in the cost of fuel, materials and labour.

Even assuming that the rate of inflation will fall, this doesn't necessarily mean that prices will too. So while there's likely to be a drop in fuel costs, the significant rise in material prices will remain, although the new PM's plan to freeze energy bills will provide some relief.

SO HOW CAN YOU ADDRESS INFLATION?

The obvious answer is to ensure that your bids, estimates and quotes are only valid for the shortest possible period.

If the duration of your jobs or contracts tends to be fairly short you might not have too much to worry about.

The real risk of being caught out by inflation increases the longer your contract lasts or the longer the gap is between award of contract and starting work.

For example, even if your contract period is four weeks, it may actually end up being 12 because of delays elsewhere.

Where you're experiencing significant increases in costs, it's always wise to have a dialogue with the other party about options to ameliorate the problem, e.g. supplying a cheaper component that does the same job as the one specified.



ENERGY COSTS

CHECK YOUR CONTRACTS

Always scrutinise your contracts to check whether they permit adjustments to the prices. In most cases, especially with bespoke contracts, there isn't scope for changing this to take account of inflation.

This immediately creates a risk that you'll have to absorb **ALL** cost increases unless you persuade the other side to accept price changes to reflect inflation.

One option is to agree on a provisional sum for a certain component or item and then adjust it to reflect the actual price at the date of delivery (although the other side is likely to insist that you place the supply order as early as possible). I also say "date of delivery" because your contract is likely to allow the supplier/distributor the right to increase the price up to this date.

While I have been discussing material price hikes, you'll also have to factor fuel cost increases and wage inflation into your contract pricing.



"YOU NEED TO BE FOCUSED ON ENSURING THAT YOUR CONTRACTS DON'T LEAVE YOU OUT OF POCKET"



MATERIALS COSTS

PRICE ADJUSTMENT IN YOUR CONTRACTS

The CEO of the world's largest building materials company recently told the *Financial Times* that we're facing a "second wave of cost increases", fuelled (excuse the pun) by the hike in energy prices.

According to the administrators of one Scottish firm, they went into recent insolvency partly as a result of material price inflation driven by energy costs.

Therefore, my advice is to keep a **CONSTANT** check on the price of materials and strive to incorporate fluctuation clauses in your contracts to enable adjustment to the contract price during their duration.

The standard contracts published by the Scottish Building Contracts Committee (SBCC) and the NEC have such fluctuation provisions.

Options B and C in SBCC contracts allow for fluctuations to cover labour, material costs and tax changes. Option C adopts a formula approach which adjusts prices according to cost indices published by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

These options are published on the SBCC website at www.scottishbuildingcontracts.com and NEC contracts include secondary option XI for making adjustments to the contract price due to inflation.

Both contracts have a **BASE DATE** from which any price adjustment is to be measured. This should be set at the date on which your bid, quote or tender is accepted. If there is likely to be a lengthy period between submission and acceptance this date could be submission of your bid.

You can also take account of increases in inflation when you are claiming or quoting for variations and loss and/or expense in relation to delays – look up 'Compensation Events' in NEC contracts at www.neccontracts.com

So remember – if you're issued with non-standard contract documents or even purchase orders, seek to include a price adjustment clause, which should be very simple.

And when purchasing materials for the job, any increase in price over that allowed for in your bid/quote should be compensated from that point onwards. The risk of inflation should properly lie with the purchaser or client. ■

WATCH ONLINE

Watch Rudi's exclusive SELECT TV video on price adjustment clauses and other contract advice at bit.ly/STV-TCS



Answering queries on adjudication

We're here to make your life easier by examining some of the complex issues surrounding construction law

In the UK, construction law is made up of several bodies of law, making it a complex area of practice. This is the fourth in a series of articles which seek to provide an overview of some frequently asked questions in the construction industry and in relation to the laws which govern it. Specifically, we take a look at queries related to the adjudication process.

DO CONTRACTORS HAVE A RIGHT TO ADJUDICATION?

In terms of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 ("the Act"), all parties to a construction contract (as defined in the Act and discussed in an earlier article in this series) have a statutory right to refer a dispute arising under the contract to adjudication.

A 'dispute' includes 'any difference' between parties. There is extensive case law on what can, and what cannot, be considered a 'dispute', and any queries in relation to which should be directed to a solicitor.

"IF PARTIES ARE NOT CONTENT WITH THE DECISION, AND WISH TO CHALLENGE IT, THEY MUST SEEK FINAL DETERMINATION VIA THE COURTS OR ARBITRATION"

The Act sets out a number of standard provisions relating to adjudication. A construction contract must include all of those standard provisions. Where a construction contract fails to adequately stipulate adjudication procedure in line with those provisions of the Act, all of the standard provisions set out in the legislation will be implied into the contract instead.

WHAT IS THE TIMESCALE FOR ADJUDICATION?

When the Act was brought in, it was intended to provide an expeditious route for determining a dispute, and critically, ensuring the continuance of cashflow across the industry. As a consequence, the Act sets a tight timetable for running an adjudication and reaching a decision.

Under the Act's standard provisions, the aim is for a decision to be reached with 28 days of service of the referral notice (the notice from the referring party setting out detail their claim

against the responding party). While the 28-day timetable can be extended, this is not the norm nor is it generally preferred.

WHAT IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF AN ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION?

Once the process of adjudication has taken place, an adjudicator will issue their decision. An adjudicator's decision is interim binding, or put another way, binding on parties until the dispute is 'finally determined'.

In practice this means, parties must comply with an adjudicator's decision. If parties are not content with the decision, and wish to challenge it, they must seek final determination via the courts or arbitration, depending on what the terms of the contract dictate.

As with any construction project, the precise facts and circumstances are important when considering many of the foregoing issues, so it is always important to involve your solicitor early in the process. For any advice on your contractual rights/obligations, or alternatively for any advice in relation to dispute resolution, please feel free to get in touch with a member of our Construction department. ■

WORDS
DAVID WILSON
Partner



MACROBERTS
LLP

**LEGAL
HELPLINE**
0141 303 1111

As a Member of SELECT, you have access to the Legal Helpline operated by MacRoberts LLP. This helpline covers advice and assistance on commercial, contractual and employment matters under Scots law which concern your business.

MAKE SURE THERE'S NO CLAUSE FOR CONCERN

I came across an interesting clause in a sub-contract last week which stated: "Contract variations are to be quoted for in advance of any works commencing on site. Variations are only to be progressed upon agreement of said costs and the issue of any formal instructions by XXX. This should be strictly adhered to. Any applied for variations which do not comply with protocol will be disregarded."

I actually support this type of clause because it avoids the issues I wrote about recently concerning site instructions and no variations being issued in writing.

Also, there is cost certainty and you don't run into the normal practice of the costs not being agreed between contractor and sub-contractor. So, this type of provision works for me, and I would like to see it being incorporated into sub-contracts.



A positive platform for everyone

WORDS
LEN BUNTON
FRICS FCIArb,
HON FRIAS
Contract Expert



ALONG with other members of the Construction Industry Collective Voice (CICV), I've been closely involved with the progress of the new Construction Accord, which is due for release soon. Developed by the Construction Leadership Forum and Scottish Government, it aims to create a platform for industry and government to work together to achieve the shared goals of a fairer, more inclusive and more diverse sector.

It is good to see the many issues being tackled and proactive steps being taken. However, if the Accord is to work then there must be buy-in from **EVERYONE** in the industry.

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it's that we **MUST** work together; collaboration and cooperation is the **ONLY** way to tackle the ongoing issues of issues like late and withheld payments that continue to blight the sector.

So where do I want to see changes made? Well, getting rid of onerous amendments to building contracts is one thing, as is cutting out the 'dumping' risk on contractors and increasing professional fees so that designers can fully design buildings at tender stage.

I'd also like to see prompter payments, an improvement in cashflow and quality, the threshold on project bank accounts cut to £500,000 and universal adoption of the Conflict Avoidance Process.

It remains to be seen if all this will happen, but let's hope that the upcoming Accord acts as a signpost for change.

There is no doubt it is going to be a long haul and won't be easy but hopefully this is a major step forward for our industry in Scotland. ■

SIGN THE PLEDGE AND MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

I'm pleased to see another rise in signatories for the RICS Conflict Avoidance Pledge, with 312 organisations now

backing the initiative.

It's also pleasing to see that 575 organisations have also joined the Conflict Avoidance

Community on LinkedIn.

If you haven't already done so, go to bit.ly/CAC-LI to join the community and sign the Pledge.

Lengthening NHS waiting times are forcing some desperate patients to pay thousands of pounds for private treatment so they can return to work. But as our Associate Member explains, a private medical insurance scheme means your workers can receive most types of treatment without paying a big ticket

A healthier alternative

WORDS
VICKI LESLIE
Client Relationship
Manager, EC
Insurance Services



WITH increasing waiting times for medical treatment, the long-term implications of an ailing

workforce can be costly for modern businesses.

A few sick days here and there might not seem like too much of an issue for a single employee, but combined they can make a significant impact on the bottom line.

In the current climate, no one wants essential staff signed off for lengthy periods – and what if the sickness absence of a key employee is extended because their treatment is not readily available on the NHS?

A recent BBC news article highlighted that long NHS waiting times appear to be pushing people into paying thousands of pounds for private treatment.

The article described case studies where patients suffering through long NHS waiting times had even opted to take out loans to get treatment done privately. Indeed, in Scotland, there was an 84% increase in self-funded treatment during the last three months of 2021 compared with the same period the previous year.

WORKERS TAKING OUT LOANS FOR PRIVATE TREATMENT

The BBC article followed research released by the Private Healthcare

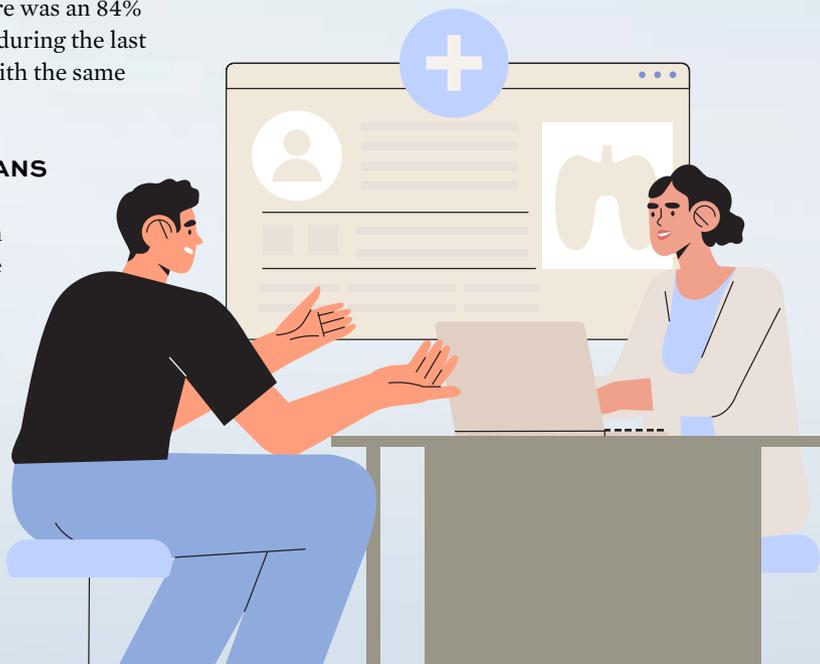
Information Network (PHIN) which suggested that, since the pandemic, there has been a significant rise in patients paying out of their own pockets for hip and knee operations.

Self-funded hip replacements increased 165% when comparing July to September 2019 figures against the same period in 2021, while self-funded knee replacements saw a 122% rise.

Of relevance to SELECT Members is the example of an apprentice engineer whose knee problems meant they had become bed-ridden and unable to work.



"WHEN FACED WITH A LOSS OF EARNINGS FOR UP TO TWO YEARS, IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY SO MANY OPT TO PAY FOR EXPENSIVE ONE-OFF TREATMENT"





Self-funded hip
replacements increased

165%

"BAD BACKS, STIFF JOINTS AND ACHING MUSCLES ARE ALL TOO COMMON AMONGST ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, AND THEY CAN SOON IMPACT YOUR EMPLOYEES' PERFORMANCE"

MUSCULOSKELETAL ISSUES BECOMING A FREQUENT PROBLEM

Bad backs, stiff joints and aching muscles are all too common amongst electrical contractors, and they can soon impact your employees' performance.

Many SELECT Members whose employers have signed up to the ECIS private medical insurance (PMI) scheme are already using it to quickly resolve musculoskeletal issues impacting their ability to work. Indeed, musculoskeletal issues account for a higher proportion of claims spend than any other issue on the ECIS large corporate policy, which covers nearly 15,000 individuals.

Costs for common musculoskeletal operations like hip and knee replacements can top £15,000 in the private sector if the patient pays for one-off treatment. But with PMI, you can rely on early intervention and private treatments to get your staff back to work quickly.

SELECT SCHEME MEMBERS COVERED FOR EXPENSIVE TREATMENT

With the ECIS PMI scheme for SELECT Members, these often expensive treatment costs would be covered through the monthly premium, as in-patient and day-patient treatment is covered in full.

As well as reduced waiting times, the SELECT PMI scheme will typically provide increased medical resources such as the Direct Access Service, which enables Members to be triaged directly through Bupa with only a simple phone call.

The scheme also provides a comprehensive range of specialist treatments, helping your staff get back on their feet and back to work quicker – potentially saving you money further down the line. ■

Self-funded knee
replacements rose

122%

Rather than facing a wait of up to two years on the NHS, and worried they would lose their job, they took out a loan to cover the £7,000 cost of a private operation and follow-up physiotherapy.

When faced with a loss of earnings for up to two years, it is easy to understand why so many opt to pay for expensive one-off treatment.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

ECIS has been helping people get the best healthcare cover for their needs since 1980 and is committed to helping SELECT Members and their business.

If you are thinking of a PMI policy for your employees or would like ECIS to review your current arrangement, speak to the team on 0330 221 0241, email ecis@ecins.co.uk or visit www.ecins.co.uk

SJIB Bulletin

NEW VIDEO WILL MAKE THINGS CLEAR

We're delighted to announce that we've launched our new guidance video on how to apply for, or renew, an ECS Card using the dedicated SJIB ECS Card Portal.

Developed with the SELECT Membership & Communications team, the tutorial offers a step-by-step demonstration of how to apply for a card.

Fiona Harper, the Secretary of The SJIB, said: "We are extremely pleased with the new video, which has been developed in response to Member feedback.

"The video is clear and concise and should help those who are in the process of applying for a new card via the portal."

You can view the video at www.sjib.org.uk/applying-for-your-ecs-grade-card

**"WE ARE
EXTREMELY
PLEASED
WITH THE
NEW VIDEO"**

↓ The video makes the card process clear and simple



↑ Fiona Harper



↑ The certificate is a record of achievement for electricians

Certificate is a source of pride

THE SJIB has recently developed a new Craft Certificate, which has been approved by the SJIB National Board.

The new document replaces the previous certificate and is now being issued to newly-qualified electricians upon receipt and processing of an Initial Electrician's Grading Application Form.

Fiona Harper, the Secretary of The SJIB, said: "We want our electricians to be proud of what they have achieved and have a

document that they are proud to display.

"This new certificate has been redesigned to be more modern and contain more concise information which is prudent to the qualifying electrician."

**"THIS NEW
CERTIFICATE
HAS BEEN
REDESIGNED TO
BE MORE MODERN
AND CONTAIN
MORE CONCISE
INFORMATION"**

Online card renewals are quick and easy

IT is encouraging to see that online card renewals continue to grow in popularity, with almost 50% of renewal applications made via our ECS Portal since 1 January 2022.

Going digital is the quickest and easiest way to apply, with details automatically entered into our system. You can also upload a photo and training certificates

instantly instead of posting them.

Applications for an initial electrician's card upon completion of the apprenticeship are still currently accepted via paper only, but we're looking to update this in 2023.

In the meantime, if you're looking for a new ECS Card, please visit the portal at www.select.org.uk/SJIB



↑ Courses are proving popular and are filling up fast

APPRENTICES SIGN UP FOR A BRIGHT CAREER

The SJIB is pleased to announce that registration of this year's apprentices and adult trainees is now in full swing.

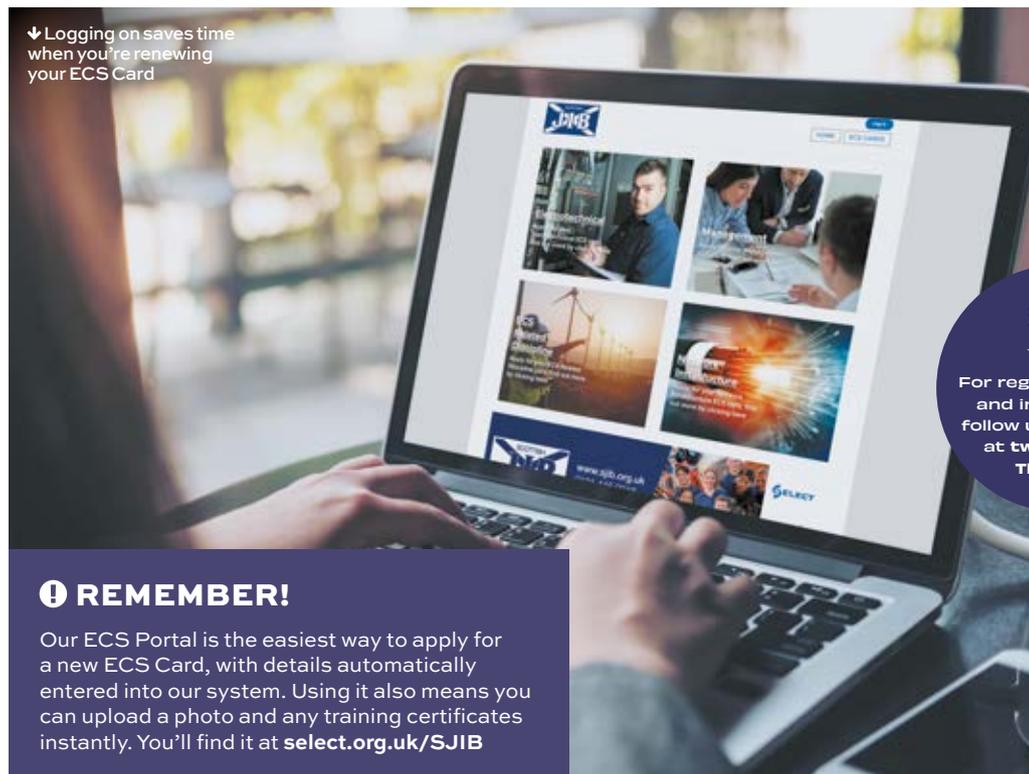
Our team is currently in the process of registering 77 college classes on to our system, with just under 1,000 learners being processed.

Fiona Harper, The Secretary of The SJIB, said: "This has been an exceptional year, with some colleges increasing capacity and others now offering a waiting list as they are completely full. "It is encouraging to see a healthy pipeline of apprentices and adult trainees wanting to learn the skills required to power the electrical future that awaits us all."

The new intake comes after a total of 738 new entrants to the industry were recruited in 2021 – up nearly 50% up on 2020 and the highest figure for 12 years.

Fiona added: "Employers should be saluted for continuing to nurture and encourage young electrical talent and help them along the path to a highly-rewarding career."

For regular updates and information, follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/The_SJIB



↓ Logging on saves time when you're renewing your ECS Card

REMEMBER!

Our ECS Portal is the easiest way to apply for a new ECS Card, with details automatically entered into our system. Using it also means you can upload a photo and any training certificates instantly. You'll find it at select.org.uk/SJIB

FESTIVE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

A reminder that the three days of public holiday for Christmas and New Year agreed by the SJIB National Board are Monday 26

December, Tuesday 27 December and Monday 2 January.

Employees required to work during this period are to be paid as follows:

- **26 December** – Double time plus an alternative day of holiday to be mutually agreed.
- **27 December** –

Time plus one half of the appropriate hourly rate plus an alternative day of holiday to be mutually agreed.

- **2 January** – Time plus one half of the appropriate hourly rate plus an alternative day of holiday to be mutually agreed.
- All other days

of holiday during this period which are worked are to be paid at the appropriate hourly rate.

Further information about this and other SJIB circulars can be found at www.sjib.org.uk/category/circulars

REMEMBER!

Our small team is still extremely busy and receiving a high volume of calls. The best way to get in touch is the 'Contact Us' form at sjib.org.uk which ensures your query goes directly to the team member responsible.

ABOUT SJIB

SJIB regulates relations between employers and employees engaged in the Scottish electrotechnical industry. To find out more about SJIB and its work, call **0131 445 9216**, or visit www.sjib.org.uk



SECTT Update

A celebration of hard work

REPRESENTATIVES from SECTT were delighted to take part in a recent celebration event for the Get Into Electrical Installation course.

Staff joined youngsters to mark the culmination of their six-week programme in the ICE Teaching Block at West College Scotland – Paisley Campus on 4 August.

Now in its seventh year, the intense taster course is run in partnership with the Prince’s Trust thanks to funding support from the Electrical Engineering Training Foundation (EETF), operated by SELECT.

The initiative allows candidates to make an informed choice about becoming an electrician and has proved to be a successful route into the Modern Apprenticeship programme for many youngsters.

Anne Galbraith, CEO of SECTT, said: “As always,

I was greatly inspired by the enthusiasm and determination shown by this year’s Prince’s Trust candidates.

“The celebration event was extremely uplifting and emotional and was a fitting way to mark all the hard work that each of them has put into the programme.”

The course sees the Prince’s Trust pre-select applicants and invite them to a taster day of practical skills and team building, with candidates then chosen to join the programme itself.

In this case, all 13 candidates who attended the



↑ Jamie Osborne was one of the proud youngsters who took part in the course



↑ The candidates enjoyed their day of skills and team building

CABEC EVENT WILL LET YOUNGSTERS SHOW OFF THEIR SKILLS

As *cabletalk* went to press, SECTT was preparing to host the heats of the ever-popular Construction and Built Environment Challenge (CABEC). Running between

October and December, the event will see teams of schools pupils aged 13 and 14 tackle a series of construction, engineering and building services

challenges. Schools across Edinburgh and the Lothians will put forward teams of 10 pupils, with the final to be held at the Edinburgh Corn Exchange in January.

SECTT CEO Anne Galbraith said: “It is great to see CABEC return and we look forward to seeing how this year’s teenagers rise to the challenge.”



↑ Anne Galbraith and Hemant Parmar

taster day were offered a place on the programme, with two dropping out through illness and one taking up full-time employment.

The remaining ten youngsters spent their first four weeks in the college workshop, with some additional maths tuition before the pre-employment assessment, which they passed first time.

The fifth week was spent on placement and the final few days spent writing CVs, culminating in the event attended by employers, friends and family, the Prince's Trust, college staff and SECTT.

Anne said: "From day one, I stress to all candidates that employers are looking for those who turn up on time, don't take time off and show the right attitude – the rest we can teach. For some, this is the first time that they've been able to commit to a course and turning up every day is an achievement in itself. The college lecturers were excellent and gave the candidates tremendous support."

This year's intake saw three candidates offered apprenticeships, four people taking up pre-apprenticeship places and the other three candidates going on to further education.

POSITIVE BACKING FOR BOOTHS

Work has been completed on new booths at Cambuslang Assessment Centre, which will be ready for candidates at the end of October.

The additional resource means that the number of candidates attending the centre can be increased, and SECTT is currently interviewing for an additional assessor.

The new booths also

received plenty of positive feedback from trustees after SECTT held its recent board meeting at Cambuslang.

Discussions are also under way for the refurbishment of the SECTT Assessment Centre at Edinburgh College, Sighthill Campus, with work due to start shortly afterwards in the Edinburgh FICA Centre.



↑ The new booths mean that we can welcome more candidates to Cambuslang

ABOUT SECTT

SECTT manages high-quality training on behalf of the SJIB. To find out more about SECTT and its work, call 0131 445 5659, email admin@sectt.org.uk or visit www.sectt.org.uk

THE TALENT OF TOMORROW



Lauryn Blackwood

NAME: Lauryn Blackwood

AGE: 23

POSITION: Second year apprentice

WORKS: Ross-Shire Engineering

STUDIES AT: UHI Inverness

HOBBIES: Horse riding and playing with my dogs

WHAT MADE YOU THINK OF BECOMING AN ELECTRICIAN?

I'm not sure! I was looking into my career options and it really interested me, so I thought I'd go for it. I had been working as an administrative assistant for one of Ross-Shire's sister companies for a good few years so I knew the industry and what they do, and even before that I had actually applied for a few apprenticeships but I hadn't got them. So when I decided that I wanted to change jobs last year, I came back to the idea of an electrical apprenticeship and it just so happened that Ross-Shire Engineering was hiring, so I applied for it and I got it.

WAS IT DIFFICULT TO GET AN APPRENTICESHIP?

No, I didn't find it too difficult the second time round. However, I had applied before, a year or two before I got this one, and I didn't get anywhere. But then I applied for Ross-Shire, got the interview, the second interview and then the job!

HOW HAVE YOU FOUND IT?

Really good. An apprenticeship offers a great balance between work and college, and it splits it up

really well so that it's not just solid learning in a classroom.

WAS THE COLLEGE TRAINING WHAT YOU EXPECTED? WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST AND WHAT'S THE MOST CHALLENGING?

I enjoyed the practical side of it. I struggled a bit more with the science and maths stuff, because it's been a good few years now since I left school, whereas the boys I'm with are fresh out of school and are much more on the ball than I am in those areas!

HOW ABOUT WORKING ON SITE?

It's fun being able to go to different sites. Obviously there are some challenges and a lot of sites I go to I'm the only girl, but it's really good.

HAS THERE BEEN ANYTHING ABOUT THE JOB THAT'S SURPRISED YOU?

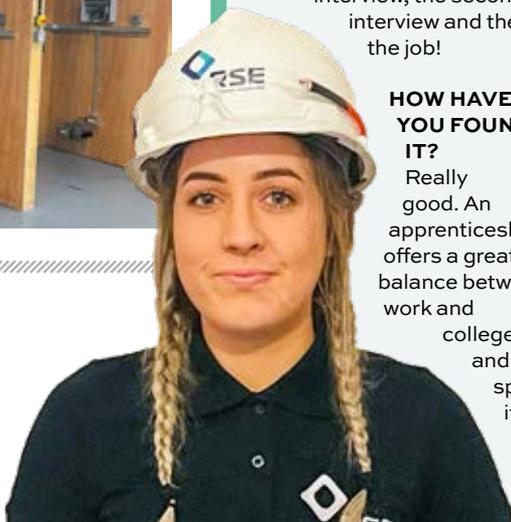
I think the fact that it actually is fun. It's not just the same, boring thing every day. I had thought it might get boring but no two days are the same.

HOW HELPFUL HAVE SECTT AND YOUR TRAINING OFFICERS BEEN DURING YOUR JOURNEY?

My training officer is Michael Campbell and you can always text or phone him with any questions you may have. When we're in college he's always there, and especially at the start, he was really helpful in giving you all the information you needed.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Hopefully out of my time and not resitting anything! I'd also like to still be at Ross-Shire because they're a great company to work for.



NEW

IN-STORE RANGE

AVAILABLE IN ALL 390 CEF STORES



Nothing but **HEAVY DUTY.**

Shop the range



YOUR
ELECTRICAL
EXPERTS

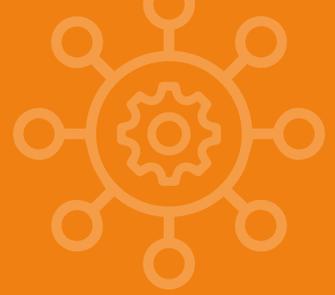


ge in the **NEW CEF Catalogue**

Choose from over 100 Milwaukee products – cef.co.uk/powertools



ProZone



THE SNICKERS WORKWEAR 'HEAD TO TOE' LAYERING SYSTEM

'Suit up' in layers for consistent comfort and protection in cold and wet weather.

You'll get 'head to toe' functionality and protection with Snickers Workwear's ergonomic base layers, insulating mid layers and weather-protective outer layer clothing.

They not only allow craftsmen and craftswomen to quickly adjust to changing weather conditions, but also give them the opportunity to make sustainable choices about the clothes they wear on site.

This winter's new jackets, trousers and topwear feature high-tech, breathable fabrics that not only deliver dryness and warmth but also advanced ventilation for controlling body heat – so you can always work effectively, whatever the weather.

Advanced fabrics like these are integral to every part of Snickers Workwear's 'head to toe' layering system. They combine perfectly with the brand's hallmarks of best-in-class durability, comfort, ergonomics and sustainability.

➔ For more information you can call the helpline on **01484 854788**, check out www.snickersworkwear.co.uk or email sales@hultaforsgroup.co.uk



Heating panel is a popular choice



FLEXEL'S bestselling EcoSun UB panel is a universal infrared heating panel suitable for both wall and ceiling mounting.

The EcoSun UB panel combines high energy efficiency with an improved heating comfort when compared to other traditional heating systems. Slimline and energy efficient, the heaters can be used as a complete heating system or as spot heaters for individual areas.

The UB range of slimline white panels are designed to complement any environment and are equally appropriate in domestic, commercial and industrial applications.

Typically two 600w panels, ceiling or wall mounted, can sufficiently heat a room as a primary heat source with a floor area of 13m², based on a standard 2.3m high ceiling and 40w per m³.

With instant heat, zero emissions and zero maintenance it's not surprising these units are Flexel's best-selling Far Infrared product.

EcoSun UB features include:

- The panel is manufactured from galvanised steel with a white polyester powder finish which provides a durable semi-smooth surface which is easy to clean.
- The rear of the panel is fully insulated to maximise infrared emissions from the front panel surface.
- Suitable for wall or ceiling mounting
- Ceiling mounting frame comes with the panel as standard.

As well as mains supply, all products also work with PV solar and battery storage giving free stored energy to heat your premises. Flexel also supply a variety of thermostat controls.

➔ For further details or a free quotation for your clients please email ch@flexel.co.uk

UNICRIMP ADDS METAL CABLE CLEATS TO Q-FIRE RANGE

Unicrimp has added Metal Cable Cleats to its growing Q-Fire portfolio of fire-rated cable accessory products.

The Metal Cable Cleats meet BS 7671 (18th Edition) requirements and are

designed to prevent cables from premature collapse during a fire and in doing so, to keep emergency services and the public safe.

Unicrimp's fire-rated black Metal Cable Cleats are

available in 14 different size options.

➔ For further information, contact Unicrimp on **01827 300600**; email sales@unicrimp.com or visit www.unicrimp.com



**CONTACT OUR TEAM TO
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David Hughes: 07767 407 402
davidh@connectcommunications.co.uk

**BECOME AN
ASSOCIATE MEMBER**

To inquire about becoming an
Associate Member, email
memberservices@select.org.uk

**OUR
ASSOCIATE
MEMBERS**



Unwanted trips are quickly identified

Hager changes game with launch of new AFDD

HAGER have confirmed that their eagerly awaited arc fault detection device (AFDD) range is set to transform the future of installations.

In addition to MCB and RCBO format, every Hager AFDD comes with advanced ProTools, the pioneering diagnostic software that ensures perfect performance in all scenarios.

Equipped with built-in advanced diagnostics software, every Hager AFDD device ensures that unwanted or operational trips are quickly detected and easily identified. Once the Hager RCBO/AFDD or MCB/AFDD device has tripped, installers can quickly identify the cause for the disconnected circuit at the push of a button on the front of the device.

The multicoloured LED display will flash in a different sequence of colours to identify the fault. With the ability to identify eight statuses, the device will instantly detect if a series arc, parallel arc,

overvoltage, residual current fault, overload, short circuit, AFDD failure or manual trip has occurred, saving time and improving diagnostic ability.

The device's microprocessor runs a sophisticated algorithm, continuously checking the circuits for any indication of an arc fault. However, the waveform signature of a new electrical product in the future may not be known today, so Hager is able to modify this algorithm to accommodate new product signatures. These updates can be sent directly to installers' mobile devices via the Hager Pilot app, allowing them to connect to the AFDD through Bluetooth technology and perform a software upgrade.

Benefitting from extensive field trials to guarantee best in class performance, Hager's single module AFDD will provide installers with the 'fit and forget' reassurance they expect from Hager products.

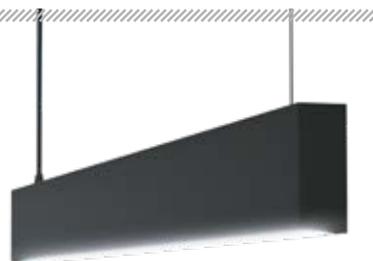
For more information, go to bit.ly/hager_AFDD

OVIA INTRODUCES INCEPTOR DUO

Among the latest additions to Ovia's growing premium lighting portfolio is Inceptor Duo – a sleek up and down dimmable linear luminaire.

Inceptor Duo offers installers and their clients a complete custom dual lighting solution and is perfect for accentuating design features both high and low. It is available in two lengths –

1200mm and 1500mm – and two wattages – 42W and 56W. There are three colour options to cover all décor requirements – black, grey and white. The luminaire features a dual CTA switch – OFF, cool white, warm white and day light and the up and down lights can be controlled separately. Inceptor Duo is dimmable and emergency versions are available.



Watch the Inceptor Duo video here – youtu.be/iRUgDhDOMo The full range can be seen in the new Ovia Issue 4 catalogue which can be downloaded from the Ovia website – www.oviauk.com

Recurring revenue is the way to grow

WE'VE all heard the saying, "Money doesn't grow on trees." Sadly, there's no way to plant pound notes for your electrical business that will grow into hundreds overnight (wouldn't that be nice?).

While simPRO can't gift you a money tree, after talking to dozens of its electrical customers, it can tell you that one of the best ways to grow your business is through recurring revenue.

WHAT IS RECURRING REVENUE AND WHY SHOULD YOUR ELECTRICAL BUSINESS HAVE IT?

Recurring revenue is predictable, stable revenue that comes into your business at regular intervals. It helps you better maintain cashflow, reduce reliance on one-time sales and most importantly, allows you to forecast revenue so that you can make better decisions for the future of your business.

Even though recurring revenue is valuable for electricians, many of them, especially in the residential space, often don't think about building recurring revenue into their business model. Homeowners assume they have a static electrical system that doesn't need any kind of regular maintenance.

As a result, some residential electricians don't see enough demand for recurring services to justify building them into their business model. But imagine if you checked in on your residential customers every year or so. There's definitely an opportunity there to create recurring revenue.

For electrical businesses in the commercial space, recurring service work is more common. However, there's often steep competition for these contracts, so it takes more time and resources to make yourself stand out.



BUILD A LOYAL CUSTOMER BASE

It's cheaper to retain customers than to convert new ones. So, any time you work with a perfectly-suited customer for your business, it's worth going the extra mile to increase the chances that they'll want to hire you again.

Go beyond simply completing their initial job and instead find ways to build genuine relationships with existing customers who might need, or have, recurring work. You can also look for repeat customers already in your contacts and segment them into a list. Then offer those specific customers certain discounts when they purchase recurring services, such as a monthly, quarterly or yearly inspection package. Incentivise new customers to become repeat customers by offering special discounts or referral bonuses on top of any bundled services.

TEACH ENGINEERS HOW TO SELL MONTHLY RECURRING SERVICES

Make sure your engineers fully understand how to sell recurring maintenance or service packages. Train them on the packages you offer, make sure they know every detail of how the contract works and which services it covers. This makes it easy for them to answer questions on the

spot and connect the dots for customers on how the package helps solve their unique challenges.

For example, teach them to lead with cost savings as the main benefit and encourage them to use the customer's real numbers as an example. Even if a customer isn't ready to buy a recurring package at first, make sure engineers note that they might be ready later, or even that they might be able to upsell them later.

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Send someone out to look for apartment buildings, retail spaces or facility maintenance companies that might contract out electrical installation and service, i.e. shopping centres. Then, ask for the building manager and offer them a list of the repairs and maintenance services you provide.

Often the building manager has the authority to hire, or they may work with a facility maintenance company that contracts out electrical work. If that's the case, they can often put you in contact with the facility maintenance company instead. You can also look for non-electrical installation businesses that need electrical pre-work, essentially anywhere there's a need for power, and there is none.

While they're not super-profitable, these are easy jobs to complete and can fill in slow days, help you network and build relationships with other businesses in the trades that might want to work with you on projects down the line. ■



➔ simPRO is a leading field service management software solution for service, project and maintenance contractors. simPRO helps your business connect the office to the field, deliver exceptional customer service and gain invaluable insights with automated processes, streamlined workflows and in-depth business reporting. Achieve full business visibility with this comprehensive end-to-end solution. Visit the simPRO website to learn more: www.simprogroupp.com/uk



Aico launches City & Guilds assured qualification

AICO, the European market leader in home life safety, has launched its City & Guilds Assured qualification on Domestic Fire & Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Systems – a continuation of its award-winning FIA CPD accredited Expert Installer training.

The one-day AA2426-01 course focuses on the design, installation, maintenance, interconnection, siting, and electrical connection of Aico domestic

alarm systems, with a mix of theory-based and practical sessions and a multiple-choice assessment.

Duncan Orr, Regional Specification Manager for NI & IOM and Supply Chain Education Lead said: “In an ever-changing and fast-moving landscape, the City & Guilds assured AA2426-01 course takes our educational offering to the next level.

“It is our privilege to bring this qualification to the market and continue to promote the raising of standards, knowledge, and competence in the life safety industry.”

To be eligible for the qualification, participants must have completed Aico’s Expert Installer training and be a member of the Aico Installer Community – a connected online platform built to support Expert Installers.

➔ Find out more at bit.ly/AICO_systems

OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



GLORIOUS TECHNICOLOUR WITH ESP'S NEW CCTV RANGE

ESP has invested significantly in its growing CCTV and has just announced the launch of a brand new 24/7 Colour IP CCTV range, which will take its CCTV offer to another level.

When it comes to CCTV security, colour-related information can play a vital role in identifying the detail of activities particularly in the hours of darkness. Conventional cameras with infrared lighting will only provide black and white images for night-time monitoring. ESP's new 24/7 colour CCTV range will provide sharp detail, in colour, day or night.

The range is designed to offer superior, reliable and straightforward installation solutions for a range of applications from domestic

through to larger and more complex commercial projects. The range will sit alongside ESP's established CCTV offer.

There are 18 individual products that make up the new 24/7 Colour CCTV range. This includes 12 cameras offering 2MP, 5MP and 8MP resolutions and each one is available in a choice of dome or bullet camera designs and in a white or grey finish. There are six different NVRs available including a four-channel NVR in the Rekor IP collection. The HDView IP PoE range consists of 8MP NVRs with a broad range of channel



options available – four, eight, 12, 16, 32 and 64-channels. There are also a number of two and four camera kits available in the Rekor IP 24/7 range, with a choice of dome or bullet camera design options

and a white or grey finish. All cameras and NVRs in ESP's extensive 24/7 CCTV range are 100% NDAA Compliant.

Watch the video here – youtu.be/1c6YmfT6kRY

➔ ESP has produced a new brochure showcasing the new 24/7 Colour CCTV range and this can be downloaded from the ESP website - www.espu.com

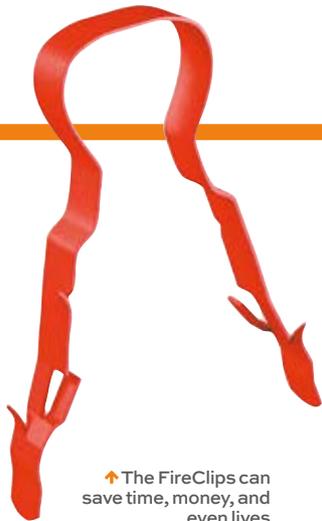
Here's a quick and tidy cable solution

The LINIAN FireClip™ is a single-component fire-rated cable fixing, offering a quick and tidy solution to suit any round cables and PVC trunking from 4mm to 14mm.

To install, simply drill a hole, slide the clip over the cable/conduit, and insert it into the hole. No plugs, screws or washers needed!

FireClips can save the installer time and money and can even save lives. With LINIAN FireClips, you are guaranteed a quick, easy and compliant installation with an incredibly neat, discreet finish.

➔ The LINIAN FireClip is available online and in wholesalers across the UK and Ireland. To find a stockist in your area, check the online map, at bit.ly/Linian_Stockists



↑ The FireClips can save time, money, and even lives

Available in an extensive range of sizes and colours, the FireClip is 18th Edition compliant and tested to the highest standards including 90 and 120-minute fire resistance, meeting BSi and DIN classifications.

It has also been tested to London Underground Standards for smoke emissions and can support a tensile load of over 24kg.



↑ A wide range of material is available

New health and safety content

FOLLOWING a recent review, a wealth of new health and safety content has been added to the Building Safety Group (BSG) Hub, which is **FREE** for all SELECT Members.

The updates include additional functionality within the COSHH assessment software, expanding the number of pre-configured substance types to cater for some of the most common materials and further increase the ease of creating COSHH assessments.

A wide selection of site management material has also been added to the Health and Safety Documentation section, including around 70 forms and resources.

Content ranges from a site administration checklist to a fire safety poster, with the wealth of information including access to the forms and documentation required to manage a construction site.

In addition, the master health and safety policy has been amended to reflect the requirement to issue PPE to all people that fall under the definition of a worker. A new mental health policy is also included in the Management of Stress section.

➔ All content is accessible via the app, which is easy to use, functional and intuitive. To find out more and sign up, go to www.bsgltd.co.uk

NEW SMART SOCKET KITS ADDED TO CLICKSMART+ RANGE

Scolmore continues to develop its ClickSmart+ home automation range and its latest additions will bring even more accessible smart technology solutions to market. A range of new ClickSmart+ Smart Socket Kits have been launched, bringing together essential components in one handy box allowing users to maximise and

simplify connected products in all areas of their homes.

One of the most popular uses for a smart plug is to control lighting as a visual deterrent for intruders. The scheduling feature available on the new Click Smart+ Smart Sockets, allows devices to be turned on or off at certain times to suit, for example while the house is empty.

CPNI CUDIS

Meet the latest wiring regulations with Cudis

We offer a wide range of products to support compliance to Amendment 2 of the 18th Edition regulations

Single Module
2 Pole Type 2 SPD

Single Module
AFDD-RCBO

Type A
RCDs & RCBOs

sales@cudis.co.uk 0161 989 5636 www.cudis.co.uk

Lighting solutions for medical beds

FOR use above medical beds in hospitals, care homes, and hospices, Cavell is Thorn's easy-to-install, custom-designed bedhead luminaire.

Designed with the installer in mind, Cavell has a five-pin plug-and-play terminal for easy wiring of the downlight and uplight, enabling quick connection of the in-built twin drivers.

A lightweight backplate secures the fitting to the wall first, and the main body safely attaches to the backplate using dog-clips, so it doesn't drop during assembly or removal for maintenance.

The downlight function provides comfortable lighting for patients and makes examination and observational checks by healthcare professionals easier. Its optical design ensures minimal direct glare to the patient and its tailored beam angle ensures it does not disturb patients directly opposite. The angled uplight throws light into the room, using reflection from the ceiling to enhance the lit effect, guiding patients, doctors, nurses, and



other care staff safely around the ward or bedroom.

However, its stand-out feature is its twin drivers to control the up and downlight separately. The dual control can be operated from a nursing station or the patient's bedside switch.

Cavell promotes the highest cleaning procedures required in healthcare settings.

➔ Find out more at bit.ly/Thorn_Cavell

SIGNIFY ANNOUNCES FIRST EVER ON-DEMAND CIBSE ACCREDITED CPDS

Signify has announced five new CIBSE accredited Continuous Professional Development (CPD) courses to arm specifiers, lighting designers, facilities managers and installers with essential business knowledge.

Ranging from topics like the correct use of UV-C technology as an added layer for disinfection to driving better connectivity through

lighting, the new courses are the first ever on-demand CIBSE accredited CPDs. The one-hour courses are an addition to an existing portfolio of 700 sessions on the Signify Lighting Academy. Available on demand and at the end of the training, a certificate is generated confirming the CPD hours.

➔ For further information, go to signify.com/global/lighting-academy



Other uses can include operating devices such as electric heaters, fans and radios to name just a few.

Available in Scolmore's popular Mode white finish, the range comprises a 13A 2 Gang Smart Socket Kit, a 13A Plug-in Wi-Fi Smart Socket Kit, and the Aquip66 13A 2 Gang



Outdoor Smart Socket Kit – this includes a ClickSmart+ Hub and four 2 Gang Smart Sockets. The Click Smart+ Hub utilises Zigbee technology, one of the most widely adopted smart home technologies. The Hub communicates with the individual

sockets through a mesh network which creates multiple pathways for the connection of multiple smart home devices without compromising signal and communication range.

➔ These latest additions are featured in the updated ClickSmart+ brochure, which showcases the entire ClickSmart+ Home Automation range which includes smart sockets, smart security, sensors and receivers. The 31-page brochure can be downloaded from the Scolmore website – www.scolmore.com and from the Scolmore Group app.

OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



FIVE MINUTES WITH...

ALICE McCASKEY

EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS ADMINISTRATOR

HELLO ALICE. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT SELECT?

I joined SELECT at the end of July this year so am still very new to the team but because everyone has been so welcoming, I feel like I have been here longer.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR WORK LIFE SO FAR AND HOW YOU ENDED UP AT THE WALLED GARDEN.

I completed my university degree in the summer of 2021 and when I left university, we were still very much dealing with a global pandemic, so life had not returned to normal yet. When I graduated, I started working as a receptionist for a beauty salon and then became the marketing and client relationships manager for a year. Before that, I used to work in luxury fashion shops around Edinburgh. I was drawn to SELECT because it is an organisation renowned for supporting the electrical industry and I wanted to be part of a team who continuously work hard to support their members.

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ENTAIL? TELL US MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO.

My role is definitely varied within the Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB). My main job is processing the applications for grade cards, specifically for the Electrotechnical and Network Infrastructure disciplines. With that, I also help to answer general inquiries about grade cards, ECS health and safety assessments and the application process.

WHAT'S A TYPICAL DAY BEEN LIKE FOR YOU SO FAR?

Every day is so different, which is what I love about my job. I definitely learn something new every day!

But it does always start with a coffee because that is a necessity to get through our busy days.



HAVE YOU HAD THE CHANCE TO MEET SELECT MEMBERS?

I've not yet had chance to meet Members in person but I speak with them frequently on the phone. I'm looking forward to the famous Toolbox Talks next year which I've heard are a great opportunity to meet Members.

WHAT HAVE YOU MOST ENJOYED ABOUT YOUR JOB SO FAR?

I love when I get an inquiry and am able to help answer any questions or queries. Our Members are so grateful and it's always lovely. I enjoy speaking with people and answering different inquiries because it's always good to learn something new; it keeps you on your toes!

Quickfire questions:

Cheese or chocolate?

Chocolate 100%

Dog or cat person?

Definitely dog

First car owned? A Tiffany

Blue Renault Twingo

Favourite film? The

Christmas film *Elf*

Favourite TV show?

Any of the *Real*

Housewives series

Favourite holiday spot?

Lake Garda, Italy

Dream date? A trip to the

cinema with lots of snacks

One thing people might not know about you?

I have a Master of Arts

degree in psychology so

can definitely read minds

Your Branch Officers:

ABERDEEN & NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND

STEWART ANDERSON, Chair
ERIC RAE, Vice-Chair
ALICK J SMITH,
3rd Representative

AYRSHIRE

JAMES COOPER, Chair
CHARLES DOBBIE,
Vice-Chair

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

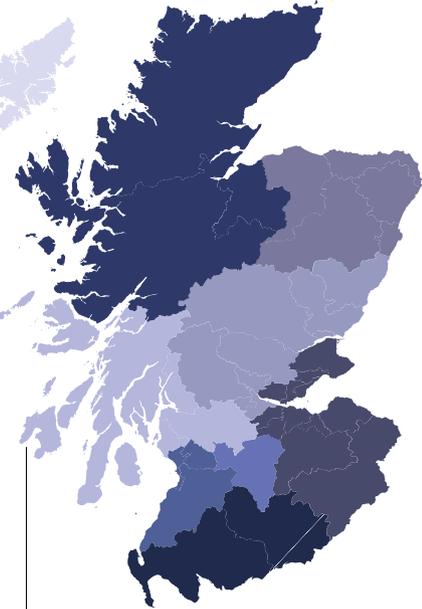
GORDON PATERSON, Chair
JOHN WILSON,
Vice-Chair

EDINBURGH & SOUTH EAST OF SCOTLAND

GRAEME ANDERSON, Chair
PAUL ERASMUSON,
Vice-Chair
ALASDAIR NOBLE,
3rd Representative
CRAIG NEISH,
4th Representative

GLASGOW & WEST OF SCOTLAND

DAVID HARRIS, Chair
KENNY BERRIE,
Vice-Chair
DAVID W H SMITH,
3rd Representative
IAN YOUNG,
4th Representative



INVERNESS & NORTH OF SCOTLAND

DONNIE CALDER, Chair
ALISTAIR GRANT,
Vice-Chair

LANARKSHIRE

CRAIG MCGOWAN, Chair
PAUL SMITH, Vice-Chair
CHRISTOPHER LIDDELL,
3rd Representative

TAYSIDE

TONY HARVEY, Chair
KEITH SMITH, Vice-Chair
GRAHAM LYALL,
3rd Representative



Upcoming
SELECT
events:

BRANCH UPDATE

25 October – Lanarkshire
Branch Update,
DoubleTree by Hilton
Strathclyde, Bellshill

BRANCH UPDATE

27 October – Tayside
Branch Update, Dundee
and Angus College

MEETING

7 December - SELECT
Central Board, venue TBC

DINNER EVENT

7 December - SELECT
Past President's
Lunch, venue TBC

For information about
these and any other
events, please email
memberservices@select.org.uk

Competition

Stephen King novels wordsearch



A	B	C	D	R	E	T	H	E	M	I	S	T	F	G	H	I	J
L	T	F	M	A	B	T	H	O	P	M	R	P	L	O	R	P	K
M	H	M	P	G	A	Q	R	E	T	U	M	F	A	S	D	E	L
D	E	S	P	E	R	A	T	I	O	N	T	I	T	N	I	T	M
K	L	L	M	A	E	R	W	K	W	U	B	R	I	M	N	S	N
J	O	Y	L	A	N	D	E	Y	R	T	T	E	Q	X	M	E	O
N	N	I	G	E	R	G	T	C	B	U	I	S	I	O	M	M	P
I	G	E	D	I	U	H	H	K	H	T	R	T	I	W	N	A	B
J	W	I	S	C	L	P	E	M	E	L	P	A	L	D	Q	T	A
C	A	R	R	I	E	O	T	G	W	H	O	R	G	L	E	A	G
O	L	T	A	I	Q	L	A	Y	I	P	I	T	F	J	K	R	O
H	K	M	B	Y	O	L	L	E	M	I	S	E	R	Y	N	Y	F
C	S	R	L	A	B	C	I	S	E	D	G	R	L	D	M	I	B
U	T	S	A	L	E	M	S	L	O	T	L	U	T	O	L	H	O
J	U	X	Z	X	T	I	M	L	H	L	Y	E	H	B	K	G	N
O	V	W	E	U	V	W	A	T	S	R	Q	P	O	E	J	F	E
H	P	Q	R	T	H	I	N	N	E	R	A	B	C	H	D	E	S
T	H	E	S	H	I	N	I	N	G	G	F	E	D	T	C	B	A

Bag Of Bones

Blaze

Carrie

Cell

Cujo

Desperation

Firestarter

It

Joyland

Misery

Pet Sematary

Rage

Salems Lot

The Body

The Long Walk

The Mist

The Outsider

The Shining

The Talisman

Thinner

Keep up to date with SELECT

Follow SELECT online at:

Twitter

@Updates_SELECT

@Training_SELECT

@Regulate_SELECT

Facebook

SELECT.TheECAofS

Instagram

@SELECT_Trade_Association

Visit our websites at:

select.org.uk

cabletalkmagazine.com

selectawards.co.uk

Here's your chance to win £50 of Amazon vouchers with our prize wordsearch about Stephen King Novels compiled by SELECT Training Administrator Laurie Burns.

Find the words, take a pic of your finished grid and email it to memberservices@select.org.uk by **18 November**. The winner will be drawn at random. T&Cs are online.

Due to a production error there was no winner drawn from the August/September 2022 issue. The *cabletalk* production team apologises for any disappointment.

Membership Enquiries:

Please phone our membership team on **0131 445 5577** to apply to become a Member of SELECT or if you would like more information about joining. Alternatively you can email us on memberservices@select.org.uk or submit an online enquiry.

Showing now on SELECT TV:

EICR CODING

Three-part tutorial on Electrical Inspection Condition Reports (EICRs), and use of classification codes in accordance with BS 7671:2018. Watch Part 1 at bit.ly/STV-EICR1 Watch Part 2 at bit.ly/STV-EICR2 Watch Part 3 at bit.ly/STV-EICR3

CABLE SIZING

This easy-to-follow session demonstrates a method of

calculation in line with the requirements of BS 7671. Watch at bit.ly/STV-cable

HOME OFFICES AND HOT TUBS

This special online Toolbox Talk was held on 7 July 2021, and saw Bob Cairney discuss the rise of hot tubs and home offices during lockdown. Watch now at bit.ly/TTalk-3

READING THE SMALL PRINT

Professor Rudi Klein explains why it's vital to

check supplier T&Cs, Watch now at bit.ly/STV-TCs

BIDDING STRATEGIES

In this useful film, we offer exclusive guidance on bidding strategies. Watch now at bit.ly/STV-matbid

CONFLICT AVOIDANCE PLEDGE

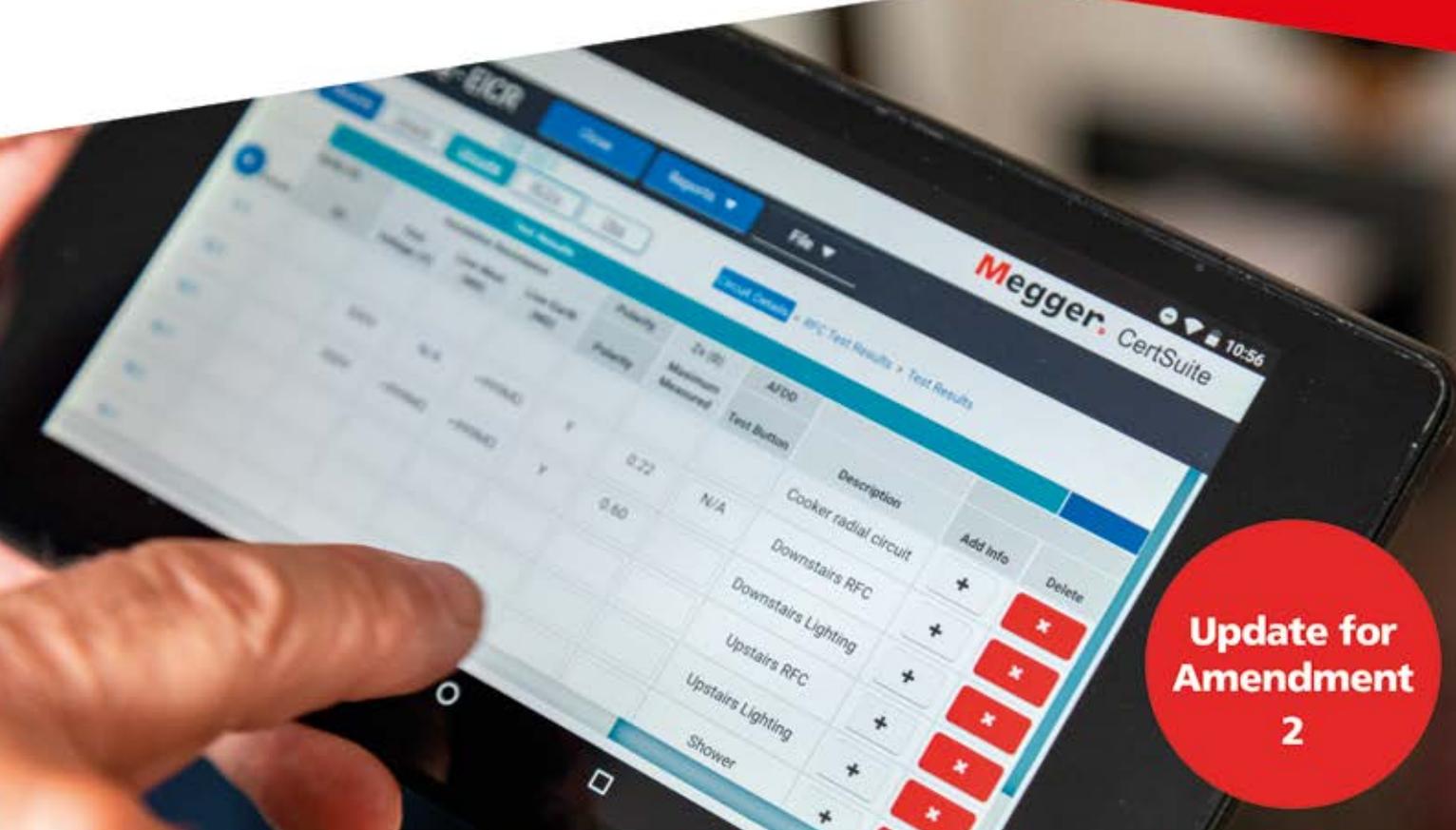
Len Bunton on the benefits of signing the Pledge as part of the Conflict Avoidance Process (CAP), and how it saves money. Watch now at bit.ly/STV-CAP

TOP TIPS FOR GETTING PAID

Len has some invaluable advice for Members, offering practical pointers including payment schedules, detailed applications and agreeing matters beforehand. Watch now at bit.ly/STV-paid

PROBLEM CLAUSES

Len discusses the pitfalls of hidden clauses, including contract amends, retention issues and payment provisions. He also explains extensions of time. Watch now at bit.ly/STV-clauses



**Update for
Amendment
2**



Visit **Certsuite.app** for more information and to register for your **FREE 30 day trial**

← Or use the QR code

About Megger CertSuite™

- Fully supports Amendments 1 and 2
- Use on as many devices as you want
PC, Mac, Android, iOS
- Cloud-based
syncs across your devices and between users
- Works really well offline (no Internet connection)
then automatically syncs up when you come back online
- Wide range of certificates
including MEW, EIC, EICR, EV, Fire alarm, Emergency lighting,
PV, etc.

Cloud based certification for PC, Mac, Android, iOS, smartphones and tablets.

- Dedicated EV certificates
or you can include an EV Charging Point in an EIC or EICR.
- Add photos to illustrate your observations
whether they're problems, limitations or something done really well
- Quick and easy if you're working single-handed
- Great features for larger companies
Multi-user, work flow, groups, imports

