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electrotechnical industry

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025 | £4.50

Hitting the air waves

SELECT Professionals' Day 2025 brings key
industry experts together by the River Tay
for debate and discussion on ventilation

→ Spreading some
positive energy
Member's mission to
share power advice
with rural communities

Royal welcome
at SELECT HQ
Remembering Princess
Anne's official opening
of The Walled Garden

Connecting with
tomorrow's tech
Exploring the new trends
that could transform
the future of cabling

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£200 OF
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TEST EQUIPMENT
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**ROYAL WELCOME AT
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OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY PARTNERS



From humble beginnings, endless opportunities await today's electrotechnical expert



AFTER a recent TV programme which included the history of the humble three-pin plug, I reflected once again on the history of the association as we fast approach the 125th anniversary of our founding in Glasgow in November 1900.

Widely recognised as the world's first trade body dedicated to the electrical industry, our founders' forward-looking pragmatism set the tone for 125 years of influence that continues to shape how Scotland powers homes, businesses and the low-carbon transition.

From the outset, the association's role has been more than providing support and services to Members. We have consistently argued for competence, codification and public safety – positions that can look obvious today but were far from clear when the trade was new.

Along the way, there have been many milestones, including the formation of the Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB) and Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT), the ongoing campaign for industry regulation and SELECT's role as a driving force behind the Construction Industry Collective Voice (CICV).

This adds up to a modern electrotechnical ecosystem that combines a respected apprenticeship and grading system with robust certification, social partnership and a confident voice in policy.

It's why the sector can credibly claim to be central to Scotland's net zero ambitions; when

government wants to talk electrification of heat, EV charging infrastructure, grid-responsive buildings or smarter retrofit, there's a mature interlocutor representing thousands of qualified professionals who can actually deliver.

The next 20 years will ask even more of those professionals, and SELECT's role will evolve accordingly. For me, five themes stand out:

- 1. Competence by design:** Expect our campaign for protection of title to culminate in statutory recognition of electricians as a regulated profession. As homes become small power stations – solar, storage, heat pumps, EVs – the risk of substandard work climbs. A protected title is the simplest way to ensure public safety.
- 2. The great reskill:** As well as more electricians, Scotland needs new competencies – controls, data networking, cyber-secure devices, power quality and low-temperature heating. SECTT's stewardship of the SVQ and Final Integrated Competence Assessment (FICA) gives Scotland a scalable engine for that reskilling.
- 3. Industrial scale retrofit:** The single most consequential market over the next two decades will be retrofit and upgrading millions of dwellings and public buildings for energy efficiency, heat decarbonisation and flexibility. Expect the association to push for procurement models that bundle measures (fabric + heat + controls + PV + storage), pay for outcomes and preference certified competence.
- 4. Digital first:** Site productivity in building services has lagged behind manufacturing,

"THE NEXT 20 YEARS WILL ASK EVEN MORE OF THOSE PROFESSIONALS, AND SELECT'S ROLE WILL EVOLVE ACCORDINGLY"

but that's changing. Model-based design, prefabricated electrical assemblies, digital testing and remote commissioning are moving mainstream. SELECT's task will be to democratise these tools for SMEs by advocating interoperable standards and practical training rather than shiny pilots.

5. Better commerce: Retentions reform, prompt payment, project bank accounts and fair-work commitments will remain live. Every insolvency that cascades through a supply chain wipes out training, investment and capability. With support from bodies such as the CICV, SELECT can keep commercial hygiene on the policy agenda — and back it with Member-level good-practice playbooks on risk, contracts and cashflow.

It all sounds ambitious, but ambition is in the association's DNA. In 1900, those Glasgow contractors didn't just club together to swap tips, they created an institution that could steward a new technology from novelty to necessity.

Across the decades, SELECT has been patient where patience was required and urgent where urgency was unavoidable. The test for the next 20 years is to keep that dual posture; institution-builder and agitator, technical custodian and market-maker.

Do that, and the Scottish electrotechnical sector will not only keep the lights on, it will wire the transition to a cleaner, smarter, safer energy system — and ensure the people who do the work are skilled, fairly treated and justly recognised.

That, more than anything, is the legacy of the last 125 years — and the opportunity of the next 20. ■



WORDS
ALAN WILSON
Managing Director, SELECT



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- ✓ Calibration & Training Days
- ✓ Leasing & Payback options
- ✓ Apprentice toolkit scheme
- ✓ Hot & Cold refreshments on the Trade Counter



KEY INDUSTRY NEWS AND THE LATEST
ON SELECT STRATEGY, CAMPAIGNS
AND COLLABORATIONS

News



↑ Michael, right, with guest of honour Henry McLeish at the SELECT Centenary Dinner in 2000.

TRIBUTES TO SELECT'S FIRST MD MICHAEL

SELECT was saddened to hear about the death of former Managing Director Michael Goodwin MBE, who passed away on 29 September.

Michael became the association's first Managing Director in 1991, joining the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland as it was then after 27 years in the Royal Navy and a spell at the International Stock Exchange.

Michael oversaw a number of significant milestones during his time at the helm, including the rebranding of the association as SELECT in 1998.

Two years later, he was among distinguished guests who gathered to toast our 100th birthday at a special centenary dinner at the Edinburgh Sheraton Grand Hotel.

In the same year, Michael received the association's first Investor in People Award as SELECT was recognised for its commitment to staff and Members.

In 2002, Michael was a key part of the delegation that welcomed HRH Princess Anne to The Walled Garden as The Princess Royal officially opened the new SELECT HQ. He retired in July 2004 after 13 years at the association.

Managing Director Alan Wilson said: "On behalf of everyone at SELECT, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to Michael's family.

"Michael brought much wisdom and experience to his role, helping to modernise the association and ensuring we can continue to help Member businesses flourish into the 21st century and beyond."



↑ It's important that training is a priority on the road to better homes

Apprentices key to home action plan

Association says moves to tackle Scotland's housing emergency are to be welcomed, but experienced and skilled professionals will be needed to turn proposal into reality

S **ELECT** has welcomed the Scottish Government's Housing Emergency Action Plan – but has warned that

it is "absolutely vital" for the country to have a pipeline of qualified and skilled professionals to deliver it.

The association has responded positively to the announcement of the new programme to tackle



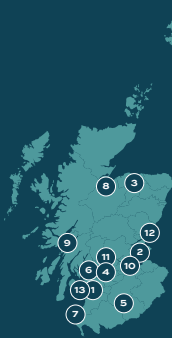
↑ Robert Campbell with Cameron Knox from Knox Power Electrical Services Ltd

+ PAGE 8 /

A career as an electrician is a good option for Scotland's talented school leavers

+ PAGE 10 /

Fake tradespeople can con customers out of thousands of pounds, so it pays to be careful



13 FIRMS HAVE BECOME SELECT MEMBERS SINCE 1 AUGUST 2025

1. A T S Electrics Ltd, Ayr
2. Christie Electrical Services, Kirkcaldy
3. North East Electrical, Aberlour
4. Angel Electrical Services (Scot) Ltd, Glasgow
5. Neilson Electrical Services Limited, Moffat
6. MJM Joinery and Construction Ltd, Clydebank

7. Gentex Europe, Stranraer
8. MKM Electrical Contractors Ltd, Muir of Ord
9. D Carmichael and Sons Ltd, Appin
10. Stockbridge Electrical, Edinburgh
11. Neat Heat (Scotland) Ltd, Kilsyth
12. McNally Electrical Limited, Dundee
13. Test My Electrics, Ayr

"WE MUST ADDRESS FUTURE NEEDS IF THE COUNTRY'S HOUSING AMBITIONS ARE TO BE FULLY REALISED"

homelessness and deliver additional housing, including a £4.9 billion investment over the next four years for social and affordable housing. But SELECT and its Members insist that a renewed commitment to training and apprenticeships is central to the long-term delivery of its aims.

Alan Wilson, Managing Director, said: "The Action Plan recognises the immediacy of the housing crisis in Scotland but in order for it to be successfully delivered, the construction sector will need a pool of trained and skilled professionals that includes electricians.

"I know many Members are concerned about skills shortages we may face as this ambitious programme develops, and it is absolutely vital that the Scottish Government continues to support the training of electrical installation apprentices.

"SELECT has been a consistent advocate for the development of talent across the electrotechnical industry and as our homes become increasingly electrified we must

address future needs if the country's housing ambitions are to be fully realised."

Central Board member Jim Cooper, who is Managing Director of Ayrshire-based Electro Installations, agreed that establishing and supporting a sustainable pipeline of electrical talent is of fundamental importance. The

Ayrshire Branch Vice Chair said: "I genuinely feel the industry will be in a critical period if it doesn't ensure that enough skilled labour is coming through. Intervention from government is needed, and needed soon.

"Employers must of course play their part by taking on and training young people, but the government needs to take the responsibility for ensuring that Scotland produces the skilled staff it needs for the industry to grow and successfully deliver ambitious plans such as this."

Unveiled on 2 September, the Action Plan is designed to address Scotland's need for an additional 100,000 homes. It also suggests measures to mitigate rent increases, the introduction of rent controls and the adoption by Scotland next year of Awaab's Law.



Jim Cooper

THREE NEW NAMES JOIN OUR TOP TEAM

SELECT has strengthened its team after welcoming three new members of staff to The Walled Garden.

Robert Campbell hit the ground running when he started as Membership Representative for the Dumfries & Galloway and Edinburgh & South East of

Scotland Branches on 1 September.

Robert has been busy meeting Members ever since, including Cameron Knox from Knox Power Electrical Services Ltd, Andrew Beattie from Idelta Electrical Ltd and Dumfries & Galloway Branch Chair Gordon Paterson.

Sara Mazzola has been equally busy settling in and learning the ropes since joining us as an Employment



Sara Mazzola

Affairs Administrator on 15 September.

And as cabletalk went to press, Carol Gray was preparing to start life at The Walled Garden on 1 October as SELECT'S new Finance Manager.

Managing Director Alan Wilson said: "I would like to welcome Robert, Sara and Carol to the association and I know our Members will soon make them feel at home."

ANSWERING MEMBERS' QUESTIONS WITH NEW MCS GUIDE

SELECT has produced a new guide to the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), answering some of Members' most common questions.

The downloadable PDF provides a clear overview of the scheme, which was created for installers of renewable energy technology such as solar PV, battery storage, heat pumps and small wind turbines.

Topics include:

- How to become an MCS Certified Installer
- What work requires MCS – and what doesn't
- Building warrants and completion certificates
- The role of SELECT renewables training
- Why SELECT doesn't provide its own MCS scheme.

Director of Technical Services Bob Cairney said: "We receive regular Member queries about MCS, so this guidance is designed to provide a clear understanding of the issue."

Download the guidance in the 'Shop > Free Downloads' section at www.select.org.uk

The guide is packed with information





↑ The guides are free to download

Resources tick all the right boxes

BEAMA has issued two handy technical resources on back boxes and consumer units, both of which are free to download.

The first aims to help contractors correctly select suitable back boxes for electrical accessories such as socket-outlets, switches and connection units.

It highlights compliance with relevant legislation and products standards such as BS 4662, BS 5733 and BS EN IEC 60670 and highlights a safety concern regarding the use of alternative boxes, such as those designed for European accessories which are available in the UK.

The second resource is a consumer unit safety checklist, which is designed to help contractors avoid the dangers of counterfeit or non-compliant equipment and second-hand goods.

The resource outlines the key checks that should be made before installation, including checks for product labelling and markings, legislative compliance, required technical documentation and compliance with BS 7671.

GET THE GUIDES NOW!

To download the free BEAMA resources, scan the QR code or go to the 'Resources' section at www.beama.org.uk



↓ The resources will keep you informed



↑ There are lots of exciting job options in our industry

Consider a career path with purpose

SELECT and SJIB say getting exam results is the perfect moment for young people to consider their options and look at a possible apprenticeship as an electrician

AS thousands of young people across Scotland received their exam results this summer, SELECT and the SJIB reminded students that there's no wrong path to a rewarding and successful career in the electrotechnical industry.

With many school leavers unsure of their next step, the bodies highlighted the valuable opportunities and potential high earnings offered through an apprenticeship.

SELECT Managing Director Alan Wilson said: "This year's results will have brought joy for some and disappointment for others, but our message is simple – there is no wrong path.

"We want young people and their parents to understand that an electrical apprenticeship is a highly respected and financially rewarding

career option that offers lifelong skills and exciting opportunities across the world.

"Members are always on the lookout for potential apprentice recruits, so whether you've achieved top grades or are still unsure about what comes next, this is a chance to

build a future that's hands-on, challenging and constantly evolving."

Catherine Gillon, Secretary of the SJIB, added: "Becoming an electrician means joining a modern, economically crucial

profession with increasing demand, especially in areas such as renewables, electric vehicles and smart technology.

"Apprentices are supported throughout their journey and they come away with respected industry qualifications that open doors around the world.

"We encourage anyone with an interest in how things work and a desire to learn to consider applying. It's never too late to start."



↑ Catherine Gillon

UPDATE No24: JULY-SEPT 2025

1,215 Full Members **18** Probationers **41** Associate Members

29,322 Viewers on YouTube **6,209** Followers on social media

49 courses delivered, plus a new module in risk assessments and method statements (RAMS), held in partnership with the BSG

389 Number of delegates trained **1,036** Course assessments marked

95 Technical inspections **1,215** BSG Health & Safety users **114** Technical Helpline calls

59% First-time pass rate for FICA **77%** Resit pass rate for FICA

985 ECS HSE assessments created **1,019** ECS HSE assessments marked **101** Employment enquiries received **1,436** ECS Cards issued

FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The third SELECT infographic of 2025 has been released, showing the activity carried out by the association between July and September. The quarterly update shows our achievements in technical, training, membership, communications, employment and skills.



↑ Stuart and Emma at the event

WE'RE ON HAND TO TALK CAREERS WITH PUPILS

SELECT was flying the flag for the electrotechnical industry at a recent event designed to encourage youngsters to consider a career in construction.

Training Development Adviser Stuart McKelvie and Membership Representative Emma McKelvie represented the association at the Talk to the Trades career information day in Kilmarnock on 2 September.

The duo met local school pupils and gave them an insight into how they could have a rewarding career as tradespeople in the electrotechnical sector.

Other organisations at the event included SNIPEF, Skills Development Scotland, Ashleigh Building, Amey, KRB Roofing & Building and Ayrshire College.

SIGN UP FOR FREE HEATING SEMINAR

SELECT and Flexel are co-hosting a free half-day online seminar on embedded electric heating, covering design, installation, initial verification and current products.

The session on Tuesday 18 November will see Training Development Adviser Stuart McKelvie discuss Section 753 of BS 7671 and outline its importance for indoor and outdoor systems for designers and installers. After a short break, Craig Herriott, Scotland Regional Manager with

Flexel, will discuss the link between its embedded heating systems and Section 753.

Discussion will include a presentation on all Flexel products including electric cables, far infrared patented ink-based solutions and far infrared heaters. Craig will discuss where best each solution should be used to maximise efficiency and how their various thermostat controls can help save energy.

The seminar will run from 8.45am to 1pm, with all delegates issued with a CPD certificate. To find out more and register, email training@select.org.uk or call the Training team on **0131 445 5577**.



↑ The course will focus on electric heating systems in the home

A POWERFUL NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Power cabling expert Amokabel Flexishield has become the latest big industry name to join the SELECT Associate Member scheme.

The Nottinghamshire-based manufacturer currently supplies to the electrical wholesale market and engages with every stage of the supply chain.

Its flagship product is Flexishield, a low voltage, multicore, screened BS 8436 fail-safe cable, designed for power and lighting circuits where cables are concealed within partitions and building voids at a depth of less than 50mm.

Other products include the 90°C rated BASEC-approved unscreened, flexible, fixed wiring Flexipower cable and a CPR fire performance Cca-rated version of Flexishield, Flexishield Enhanced-Cca®.

Director of Membership, Events & Communication Iain Mason said: "We are delighted to welcome Amokabel Flexishield as the 41st member of our successful scheme."



amokabel
FLEXISHIELD LTD

➔ Wiring changes and trends: **Pages 32 & 33**

SELECT warns public about fake sparks

Association issues alert after serial fraudster is jailed, reminding homeowners that asking for correct ID can stop criminals and allow real tradespeople to do a proper job

SELECT has urged the public to always check ID before letting tradespeople into their home following the jailing of a serial fraudster who posed as an electrician to target the elderly.

The reminder came after conman Robert Markward was sentenced to nine years in prison in August for a string of crimes across Ayrshire

between December 2022 and March 2023, including tricking vulnerable victims into letting him into their homes. Markward, 64, who has more than 100 offences on his record dating back to the 1980s, was found guilty of defrauding and stealing from nine victims, some in their 90s, by pretending to be a nurse, handyman and electrician.

Alan Wilson, Managing Director, said: "Sadly, there are criminals who will use any disguise to gain access to people's homes – including

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↑ Genuine professionals will do a good job for a fair price

pretending to be qualified electricians.

“We would remind householders to always check that visitors are who they say they are, particularly if they claim to be a tradesperson.

Ask to see their ECS Grade Card or similar official form of identification that proves they are a qualified electrician. A genuine

Alan Wilson



and fully qualified electrotechnical professional will never object to showing you their credentials – in fact, they’ll be proud to do so.”

Alan added: “Our message is simple – don’t be rushed, don’t be embarrassed to ask and don’t open your door unless you’re satisfied the person is legitimate.”

CELEBRATIONS FOR SEAMILL ELECTRICS

A SELECT Member firm has been crowned Scotland’s top electrical contractor at the Scottish Home Improvement Awards.

Seamill Electrics collected its honour at the grand final of the annual trade event at The Double Tree by Hilton Glasgow Central on 19 September. Based in West Kilbride, the company is a Member of the Ayrshire Branch.

Owner Gavin Sim: “This award is a huge honour and a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and high standards we bring to every project.

“We’d like to say a massive thank you to our amazing clients for trusting us, and to our team and family for all the support along the way.”



↑ Delighted Gavin with his award

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Clearing up after rogue renewables

Renewable installations carried out by unqualified tradespeople continue to be a problem across Scotland. Here, the team from Member firm i-Protech outline the most common issues they find when they're called out – and what they'd do to fix the situation

WORDS
IAIN MASON

Director of
Membership, Events
& Communications



WHAT SORT OF PROBLEMS ARE YOU SEEING?

MIKE CRUICKSHANK, ELECTRICAL MANAGER:

I deal with EV chargers and see a lot of issues with non-compliance, bad work practices and poor installation.

The main thing is installers putting in chargers when they shouldn't, for example, fitting a unit pulling 32A where there's a 60A main fuse. If you only have 60A to play with, you're sailing fairly close to the wind!

The rules state you should apply to get the fuse upgraded or the supply unlooped but we're losing out to people who don't do that and just throw in the unit, which is hard to swallow.

Some solar installs I've seen have also been really shoddy.

CHARLES ESSON, LEAD RENEWABLES CO-ORDINATOR:

With PV, we often see things like inverters mounted on plasterboard or plywood instead of a fireproofed surface.

"THE MAIN ISSUE IS LACK OF REGULATION WHEN BUYING MATERIALS, SO ANY JOE BLOGGS CAN GO TO A WHOLESALE, BUY FOUR INVERTERS AND FIT THEM"

Undersized cables is another common thing, with people not following manufacturer's instructions. We also find connection issues, with points inside isolators burning out because the cable's not been clamped down properly and there's arcing.

Lack of interlinked smoke detection is another thing, especially in lofts. The alarm could be going off in the roof because there's a fire and yet the customer is downstairs in the kitchen, none the wiser.

MIKE: I saw one EV charger installation where the inverter was fed from a socket circuit and just doubled up with the socket-outlets. When we opened up the board, alarm bells immediately started ringing.

STUART MUNRO, MANAGING DIRECTOR:

I've even seen forged insurance certificates for installations. When we contacted the insurance company, they had no record of it.

WHAT DO YOU THINK CAUSES THE ISSUE?

MIKE: A lot of people just see an EV charge point as a socket-outlet – they don't realise it's a specific thing with its own rules. Even qualified electricians might not be up to speed if they don't



MIKE CRUICKSHANK
Electrical
Manager

↑ The i-Protech team often encounters rogue installers who don't notify the DNO or get permission for large systems

install them regularly. And if the person doing the job doesn't know, they can't explain to the customer. I'll always say, "we can't install your charger until this is done", but some people don't want to wait and the bottom line is all that matters, even if it's not 100% compliant or to a decent standard.

I'd rather not do a job than do it wrong but some people just want to make a profit.

IS IT GETTING WORSE?

MIKE: I don't think so. There are more installs happening because the uptake of EVs is picking up. So quantity wise, there probably are more, but I don't think as a percentage it's increasing, although there are still too many.

CHARLES: We tend to find commercial installs are better quality, probably because they have their own guys checking the paperwork. There's less wiggle room for dodgers to do stuff they shouldn't.

MARK STUART

Solar Co-ordinator

STUART MUNRO

Managing Director

CHARLES ESSON

Lead Renewables
Co-ordinator

**"IF WE FIND SUBSTANDARD WORK,
WE'LL ALWAYS TELL THE CUSTOMER
WHAT'S WRONG AND THAT WE'LL
DO EVERYTHING TO REMEDY IT"**

STUART: Saying that, we have seen some commercial jobs where someone has come in, done a quick install and then disappeared, so it does happen.

WHAT OTHER PROBLEMS DO YOU SEE?

MIKE: The biggest thing is rogue installers not notifying the DNO or getting permission if it's a larger system. There are people out there who don't do either.

STUART: Absolutely. We've quoted people and the next week we drive past and the installation's already been done, but there's no way they've got a G99 in that time.

CHARLES: It's definitely an issue – PV and EV being thrown in and installers running away with the money. Then the DNO suddenly noticing issues with installs they know nothing about.

MIKE: The only thing keeping slight tabs on it is MCS certification for the feed-in tariff. But I wouldn't put it past some

people to falsify a certificate for that either.

CHARLES: We even get people coming to us saying: "The guy who did our solar install said you could issue the MCS certification for us." It's a joke.

HOW WOULD YOU SOLVE THINGS?

CHARLES: The main issue is lack of regulation when buying materials, so any Joe Bloggs can go to a wholesalers, buy four inverters and fit them. I'd make it compulsory to provide a valid electrical qualification when buying equipment.

STUART: It might even be that someone has to provide the DNO application when they order the relevant kit.

CHARLES: Wholesalers might also benefit from more education. Often I think they know the size and price of what they're selling but not necessarily the end depth – it might as well be sliced bread.

MIKE: Customers need to be better informed, as by and large the public has no idea. We've seen things like an EV charger plugged into an extension reel that hadn't been unwound, so basically they'd built themselves a giant induction coil. We try to inform people of the rules but they go on price.

ANY ADVICE FOR OTHER SELECT MEMBERS?

CHARLES: If you do find this kind of stuff, just tell the customer the truth: "This is terrible and needs to be fixed."

MIKE: Absolutely. If we find substandard work, we'll always tell the customer what's wrong and that we'll do everything to remedy it. But from their point of view it's already too late – they've paid the money and are stuck with what they've got.

CHARLES: If they aren't willing to listen, just walk away and make sure you've made a record of the warning in writing. ■

QUICK FACTS

i-PRÔTECH

I-PROTECH

BRANCH:
Aberdeen & North
East of Scotland

BASED:
Kintore

WEBSITE:
i-protech.co.uk





↑ The panel discussed several topics relating to ventilation in Scotland



↑ A wide range of professionals attended the event



↑ The V&A was an ideal venue for the event



↑ Yvonne Wilson welcomed delegates to the fourth SELECT Professionals' Day



↓ Audience members had the opportunity to voice their opinions



Shooting the breeze

The fourth SELECT Professionals' Day was the biggest yet, with more than 50 senior industry decision-makers braving high winds at the V&A Dundee to enjoy a lively debate about the latest developments in ventilation



125
PROFESSIONALS'
DAY 2025



↑ Craig Cudey gave an engaging talk on ventilation solutions



↑ Kelly Butler delivered a talk from the trade body viewpoint



↑ SELECT MD Alan Wilson chaired the panel discussion



↑ Mike Heffron makes a point during the morning session



↓ Studying the SELECT 125th anniversary timeline



↓ There were plenty of questions from the audience

WORDS
YVONNE WILSON
Skills & Client
Relations Manager



IT WAS quite fitting that the weather for this year's Professionals' Day was a blustery affair as the topic up for debate was air quality in Scottish buildings.

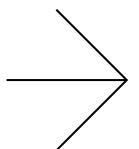
A breezy day awaited delegates at the V&A Dundee as they gathered to discuss which way the wind is blowing when it comes to ventilation in construction.

Once again, SELECT was proud to play host to some of Scotland's most senior professionals as they shared ideas and gained invaluable insights into the issue.

Hosted at the iconic landmark, the event brought together a wide variety of decision-makers from across the construction industry and other sectors.

Representatives from housing associations, local authorities and higher education facilities gathered at the V&A on Thursday 18 September, along with a number of architects, surveyors, specifiers and construction project managers.

The free event – which was supported by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and Royal Incorporation



of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) – featured three topical presentations.

First up was Gregor Morrison, Relationship Manager at Associate Member Aico, who delivered a discussion on mould and Awaab's Law, and what Scotland can expect when similar legislation is introduced north of the Border.

This was followed by a discussion on practical ventilation solutions presented by Ubbink's UK Ventilation Lead, Craig Cundey, who then fielded plenty of questions as his presentation really got the room talking.

TIME TO TALK

After a short break, it was time for our third presentation of the morning, with BEAMA's Director of External Affairs Kelly Butler heading north to provide an insight into ventilation from the trade body perspective.

Kelly then remained on stage as a panellist in our open panel discussion and Q&A, hosted by SELECT Managing Director Alan Wilson and featuring our

"SELECT WAS DELIGHTED TO FACILITATE THE CONVERSATION AND GET INDUSTRY EXPERTS TALKING ABOUT WHAT WILL NO DOUBT BE A HOT TOPIC FOR MANY YEARS TO COME"



↑ Around 50 senior professionals and decision-makers attended this year's event in Dundee



↓ The Electrium team



↓ There was time for some networking with other members of the audience



↑ SELECT Vice President Darren Crockett was among the audience



↑ Kelly chats with Colin Hepplewhite from National Ventilation



↑ There was time to relax during a day packed full of debate



↑ All roads led to Dundee for the event, which proved to be a big success



↑ Aico's Gregor Morrison delivers his presentation



↑ The Dimplex stand was popular with delegates



↑ There were plenty of talking points during the presentations



↓ Gloria Lo makes her point during the panel discussion



↓ The event was the ideal platform to share knowledge with other professionals



↓ Everyone's opinion was welcome on the day

Director of Technical Services Bob Cairney.

Also fielding questions was Mike Heffron, CEO of tenement charity Under One Roof, and Gloria Lo, who is a Chartered Architect with OiSA Designs and lecturer and tutor at the University of Edinburgh.

There was plenty of lively debate as the panellists fielded questions on the quality of ventilation in Scottish homes, the health risks linked to poor air quality in Scotland and the potential impact of stricter standards.

As well as engaging with presentations, delegates took the opportunity to chat with our exhibitors, who included Associate Members Aurora, Dimplex, Electrium, Flexel and National Ventilation.

Managing Director Alan Wilson said: "With the introduction of Awaab's Law south of the border in October, and plans for similar legislation in Scotland, ventilation has never been more topical in construction.

"As Scotland's largest construction trade association, SELECT was therefore delighted to facilitate the conversation and get industry experts talking about what will no doubt be a hot topic for many years to come." ■

Images: Mark Jackson Photography

EVENT PARTNERS



Simple test to

Following our focus on prostate cancer in the last issue, an office bearer and staff member reveal their direct experiences of the disease – and offer their own advice to help Members keep an eye on their health

"I'm living proof that if you catch it early, you can survive"

ALISTAIR GRANT, PAST PRESIDENT

I WAS on holiday in 2015 with my wife Pauline and a couple of friends and started feeling sore.

I thought nothing of it and put it down to lying the wrong way on the sunbed.

When I came home I was still aching a bit, so Pauline made an appointment with the local doctor – and thank goodness she did.

The doctor couldn't find anything and thought I might have a slight infection from the pool. As I was leaving, I said: 'Sorry about all this but my wife panicked because my older brother had prostate cancer.'

He replied: 'Shut the door and sit down.' I thought: 'Uh-oh.'

He then told me that because my brother had had the disease, I was 40% more likely to get it too. So he did a blood test and that's when it all started.

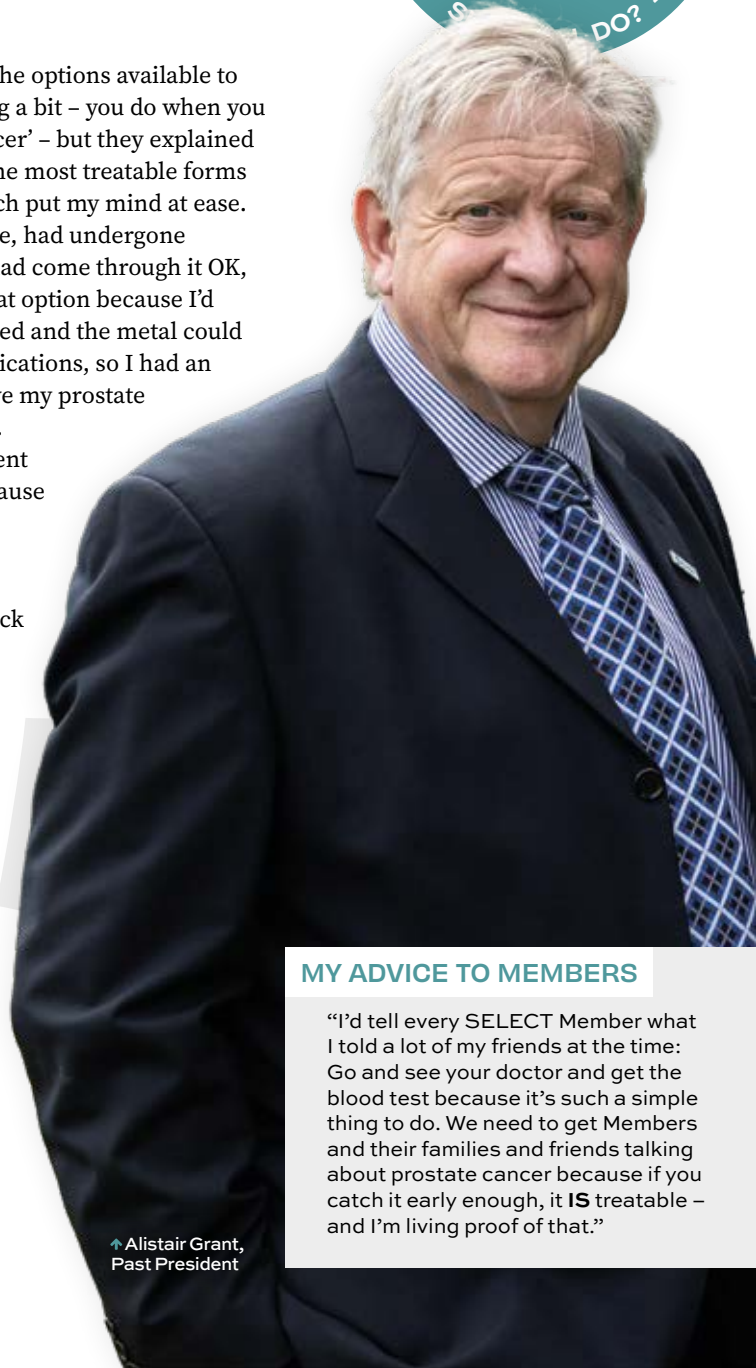
I had a few more tests over the next few months, which were inconclusive, but they finally confirmed that I had early stage prostate cancer.

I couldn't believe it as I still had absolutely no symptoms at all. They sat me down and

talked through all the options available to me. I was panicking a bit – you do when you hear the word 'cancer' – but they explained that it was one of the most treatable forms of the disease, which put my mind at ease.

My brother, Eddie, had undergone radiotherapy and had come through it OK, but I didn't have that option because I'd had my hips replaced and the metal could have caused complications, so I had an operation to remove my prostate completely in 2016.

The operation went really well and because they'd caught the cancer early I was able to make a full recovery. I went back for regular check-ups for a couple of years and, touch wood, I've been fine ever since, with no ill effects. I consider myself very lucky. ■



MY ADVICE TO MEMBERS

"I'd tell every SELECT Member what I told a lot of my friends at the time: Go and see your doctor and get the blood test because it's such a simple thing to do. We need to get Members and their families and friends talking about prostate cancer because if you catch it early enough, it **IS** treatable – and I'm living proof of that."

▲ Alistair Grant,
Past President

4,200+

men in Scotland are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year – more than any other cancer

save your life



80%

of men live well for years when prostate cancer is found early

"A lot of Members will have prostate cancer and **won't even know it**"

DIANE HALES, MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE

LOST an uncle to prostate cancer earlier this year, so after the funeral I asked my husband, Keith, to get a PSA test.

Like a lot of men, he replied: 'I'm fine, I've got no symptoms.' But I insisted.

Three days later he got a call to say he needed to see the doctor ASAP and, after undergoing a number of tests, he was diagnosed with stage 2 prostate cancer.

As you can imagine, we were both absolutely shocked, but luckily this meant that the disease was at an early stage, so a plan was drawn up and Keith is currently undergoing treatment. I know we were extremely lucky – and I also know there will be plenty of men out there, including

SELECT Members, who feel 100% fit and healthy but have prostate cancer and won't even know.

In my opinion, the PSA (prostate specific antigen) test should be offered automatically to all men 50 and over, just like breast screening for women.

Everyone knows a man who qualifies, whether it's a relative, friend or colleague, so we should all be urging them to make time for it – it could literally be the difference between life and death. ■

MY ADVICE TO MEMBERS

"It's quite simple – don't be complacent, get the PSA test **NOW**. Caught early, prostate cancer is treatable. And if nothing else, you'll have peace of mind."

HELP AND SUPPORT FROM PROSTATE SCOTLAND

Prostate cancer affects more men in Scotland than any other cancer, with more than 4,200 diagnoses each year. However, when it's found early, over 80% of men live well for years – so early detection really matters.

Prostate Scotland is the go-to resource for prostate disease and cancer. The charity raises awareness of symptoms, encourages men to visit their GP sooner and provides families with trusted information. It also offers services, courses and exercise videos to support men diagnosed with prostate cancer when they need it most.

To find out more, scan the QR code or go to www.prostatescotland.org.uk



**prostate
scotland**

Keeping rural communities switched on

Enterprising Member Nicky McKissock has started hosting talks for farmers and rural villagers to educate the public about electrical issues such as power outages, surges and renewables. Here, he outlines why it's been beneficial to the local community – and good for business too

WORDS
EMMA MCKELVIE
Membership
Representative



HI NICKY. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO HOST THESE TALKS?

I wanted to do something for rural villages who suffer regular power outages. There's places near me that didn't have power for a week during the storms in January, which got me thinking about the upheaval it causes. So I thought I'd try to educate people about back-up systems, the dangers of power surges and the ways to still have electricity when the area is offline.

Rural areas also tend to get left behind with things such as smart technology and renewables, so I thought it would also be good to offer a basic electrical education, covering things like EICRs, energy-saving tips, rewires and things like that. Technology is expanding and we all rely on electricity more, so it makes sense to keep people in the loop.

HOW MANY HAVE YOU DONE SO FAR?

I started off with an online talk with a local Young Farmers group in Ayrshire, outlining electrical safety and back-up systems for farms. Obviously, a lot of farms already have generators, so it was taking that as a starting point and talking about other options, such as solar PV and battery storage. I then started thinking, 'well, if farms can have back-up systems, why can't consumers and villages?'. So I attended an agricultural show in Ayr, handing out fact sheets and answering questions about solar PV, battery storage, payback times and fire hazards – it was good to have so much interest.

WHAT'S THE RESPONSE BEEN LIKE?

It's been good so far. The farmers in particular were really keen to know more. I think they liked going

into more detail because their previous interactions with electricians have probably just been someone who's in and out, doing a quick job. They liked that I outlined some of the challenges of agricultural installations, such as animals having lower electrical resistance in muddy conditions.

I also explained the danger of trying to do electrical work themselves and the potential impact on livestock and property, which they appreciated.

They were also interested in how to integrate smart tech on farms, even something as basic as an automated shutter so they don't have to get out of the tractor to open a barn door. Farming is a hard job and anything that makes it easier is welcome. Plus, I think because the audience was between the ages of 25 and 35, they were more receptive.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO COVER NEXT?

I'm aiming to do 10 presentations in various rural

↓ Nicky's upcoming talks will cover preparing for power cuts, overcoming any outages and surge protection



"I REALLY WANT TO FOCUS ON BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEMS AND SOLAR PV AND HOW THEY CAN PROVIDE BACK-UP IN BAD WEATHER, AS WELL ENERGY SAVINGS"

villages around Ayrshire before next February. The talks will be in three stages – how to prepare for a power cut, how to overcome outages and surge protection for when the power comes back on. We'll do them in places such as village halls and also include lots of other useful tips about electricity and electricians, handing out help sheets so the public can go away with all the information they need.

I really want to focus on battery storage systems and solar PV and how they can provide back-up in bad weather, as well energy savings.

I'll also cover a wee bit about EV charging because there's still plenty of misconceptions about that too.



WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE BENEFITS?

I like to think I'm giving back to the community and that hopefully they'll understand a bit more about electricity, the rules and regulations around it and the hard work that today's electricians have to undertake do be qualified.

They'll also know a wee bit about SELECT and what it does. As well as educating people, I see it as a good way to promote my business for relatively little outlay. A lot of the farmers I've spoken to were existing customers anyway, but there's no doubt that there's been more interest from them since the first talk.

WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE OTHER MEMBERS TO DO THE SAME?

If they have the work ethic, absolutely. Think about it, the type of wee villages I'll be going to have up to 200

↑ Nicky is visiting a number of villages to offer his advice

homes in them, so if you only get 5% of that, it's still a fair amount of business. Plus there's word of mouth afterwards, which is always invaluable.

IS THE PUBLIC ILL-INFORMED ABOUT ELECTRICAL WORK?

Big time. I'm always asked about battery storage, PV, smart homes and EVs. The problem is, a lot of consumers just think about the cost, not the quality. A customer will think, 'oh, he's £4,000 cheaper, we'll go with him'. But are they qualified? Are they MCS accredited? What if something goes wrong? Where's the comeback? I drove by a house the other week and someone was using ladders to do a PV installation – that's what we're up against.

When I go to a job, I'll hand over advice on how to spot a good and bad installer. It's all about educating the public but, as electricians, we need to be learning

all the time too and thinking how we can play our part. Take EICRs – landlords get a test certificate, see C2, F1, or whatever, and just say, 'give me a price to get it passed'. They don't know the work behind it or the reason why something needs attention, so it's about educating them too.

FINALLY, WHAT ARE THE OTHER THINGS YOU GET ASKED ABOUT?

I get a lot of feedback on reliability and trustworthy electricians, as a lot of people don't know that our industry isn't regulated. I'm like my dad, John, who was a big supporter of the campaign for protection of title when he was SELECT President and Ayrshire Branch Chair. If I ever got to his position, that would be my number one priority too – I'd be banging on the door at Parliament every day! ■

QUICK FACTS



NHM ELECTRICAL SERVICES LTD

BRANCH:
Ayrshire

BASED:
Maybole

WEBSITE:
nhmelectrical.scot





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3000 SERIES

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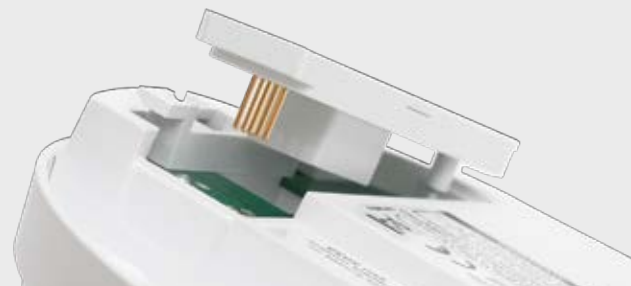


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SELECT
125
GRAND
BALL
SPONSORED BY **Scolmore**
GROUP

The hottest ticket in town!

With only a month to go, there's still time to book your seat at the SELECT 125th Anniversary Grand Ball, sponsored by Scolmore Group, and celebrate being a member of the world's first electrical trade association

WORDS
LINDA ROLFE
Events Manager



THE kilts are being pressed and ball gowns dry cleaned as SELECT

prepares for its 125th Anniversary Grand Ball, sponsored by Scolmore Group – and there's still time to book!

This glittering event will be the highlight of our anniversary year as Members gather at Glasgow's Marriott Hotel on Friday 14 November to toast Scotland's largest construction trade association.

Due to be hosted by comedian Fred MacAulay, the event will see a night of laughter, celebration and some special surprises as we look back on more than a century of service to the electrotechnical industry.

As well as Member businesses, our guests will include industry leaders, politicians, manufacturers and other senior decision-makers from across the construction sector.

Managing Director Alan Wilson said: "Tables are filling fast for the Grand Ball but we still have a few places left, so I would encourage

Members to book now to avoid missing out.

"I look forward to welcoming friends old and new as we celebrate the founding of the world's first electrical trade association and look forward to a future of opportunity."

Tickets are priced at £125 each or £1,250 for a table of 10, so book **NOW** to save your space. See you there! ■

BOOK YOUR TICKET

To secure your place, please call our Member Services team on 0131 445 5577 or email memberservices@select.org.uk

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Your guide to sick pay laws and eligibility

WORDS
ERIKA FERGUSON
Employment
& HR Manager



Statutory Sick Pay is a legal entitlement for those who are entitled to receive it – but what does it mean and how can an employer keep on the right side of the law? Our FAQs are here to help...

WHAT IS STATUTORY SICK PAY (SSP)?

SSP is the minimum amount that an employer must pay to an employee who is eligible and who has been off work due to illness for four or more consecutive days, including non-working days. A non-working day is a day that an employee is not scheduled to work, e.g. weekends or holidays.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

An employee must:

- Be off sick for more than three days in a row
- Earn at least the Lower Earnings Limit, i.e. £125 per week, as of April 2025
- Be classed an employee
- Have not already used up their

SSP entitlement of 28 weeks per period of sickness.

HOW MUCH IS SSP?

The SSP rate is currently £118.75 per week. This is paid pro-rata for part-time and partial-week employees. SSP is paid as a normal wage to the same bank account, on the same payday, and is subject to tax and National Insurance.

WHEN DOES SSP START AND HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?

SSP is payable from the fourth day of sickness, AKA the 'qualifying day'. The first three days are called 'waiting days'. SSP can be paid for up to 28 weeks in any one period of sickness.

WHAT ARE 'LINKED ABSENCES'?

If there is a second occasion of absence within eight weeks, this is treated as part of the same sickness episode, so the 28 weeks of SSP will continue cumulatively. This is called linked absence. On the occasion of a linked absence, the first three waiting days of the second absence must be paid, along with any subsequent linked absences within the 28-week period of absence.

SHOULD I BE PROVIDED WITH A FIT NOTE?

An employee can self-certify for the first seven days of their absence. After this, a sick note should be provided to confirm their absence and a requirement to provide this should be documented in a company's sickness absence policy. It's advised that you don't withhold SSP if a fit note is late.

DO I HAVE TO PAY SSP IF THE EMPLOYEE IS ON PROBATION OR PART-TIME?

So long as an employee meets the eligibility criteria, they are entitled to SSP regardless of their employment status.

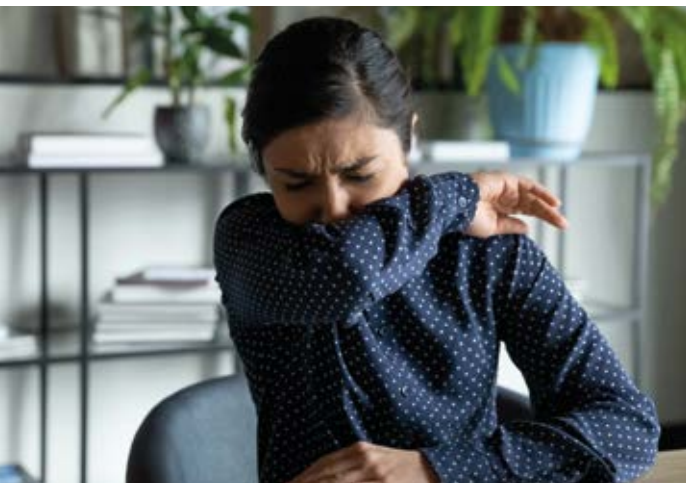
WHAT IF THE EMPLOYEE HAS MULTIPLE JOBS?

An employee can claim SSP from more than one employer at one time, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

WHAT IF AN EMPLOYEE BECOMES ILL DURING ANNUAL LEAVE?

If an employee is sick during a booked holiday, they can ask for this time to be treated as sickness absence instead. Provided they report the illness properly and follow your

↓ Employees are entitled to SSP from the fourth day of sickness





↑ Seek legal advice before dismissing someone who is off long term on health grounds

company absence procedures, you should allow holidays to revert to sick days.

CAN I OFFER EMPLOYEES MORE THAN SSP?

Yes. Many firms will offer company sick pay. Any such pay should adhere to SSP requirements as a **MINIMUM** and should be detailed in a company policy or handbook accessible to all employees.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SSP ENTITLEMENT RUNS OUT?

If the employee is still absent after 28 weeks, their eligibility for SSP ends. Inform them before this occurs and provide them with an SSP1 form so they can apply for Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit. Also direct them to the Electrical Industries Charity (EIC), which can offer financial guidance and support.

CAN I RECLAIM SSP FROM THE GOVERNMENT?

No. The SSP Rebate Scheme

introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic has ended, meaning employers are required to pay SSP themselves.

CAN I DISMISS SOMEONE WHO IS OFF LONG-TERM?

Yes, provided that a fair capability procedure is followed. Remember to consider every alternative first, including:

- Medical advice, fit notes and occupational health
- Reasonable adjustments
- Alternative roles, duties or working hours.

Always seek legal advice before dismissing on health grounds to avoid unfair dismissal or discrimination claims.

HOW SHOULD I KEEP RECORDS OF SSP?

You're not required to keep separate records of SSP payments but you are required to record sickness absence as part of the employee's record of attendance at work. Keep any related correspondence and fit notes.

"AN EMPLOYEE CAN SELF-CERTIFY FOR THE FIRST SEVEN DAYS OF THEIR ABSENCE"

WHAT IS SJIB ADDITIONAL SICK PAY (ASP)?

This is a provision of the SJIB under its terms and conditions of contract and offers sick pay to operatives absent from work in **ADDITION** to SSP, to be paid by the employer to the employee.

WHEN AM I REQUIRED TO PAY THIS?

You're required to pay this if your company is part of SELECT and Unite the Union's Collective Agreement, AKA the SJIB Collective Agreement or National Working Rules (NWRs). Providing ASP is not mandatory for SELECT Members but SELECT does endorse the SJIB NWRs as best practice in the electrotechnical industry.

WHAT ARE THE SJIB ASP RATES?

Rates vary depending on the grade of the operative. Current ASP rates can be found by scanning the QR code on this page.

WHEN DO I PAY ASP?

ASP doesn't apply until week three of absence, i.e. the 11th day. ASP is provided for up to 52 weeks of continuous sickness absence. After eight weeks, payment of waiting days eight to 14, i.e. the second week of the claim, will be made retrospectively. There is no payment for days one to seven, i.e. the first week.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE HELP?

To discuss a specific case, please email us at generalenquiries@select.org.uk ■

USEFUL LINKS

📄 UK Government guidance



📄 SJIB Additional Sick Pay rates



📄 SJIB Handbook Appendix B1



📄 The Electrical Industries Charity

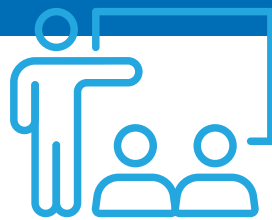


Facts and figures that really matter

The recent Summer Survey gave Members a chance to have their say on SELECT and its many services. Here's what you told us – and who won our prizes

96%

of respondents said they would recommend us to another electrical contractor (94% in 2021)



95%

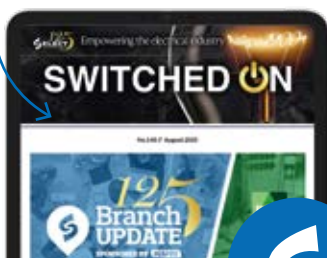
of those who replied had completed a SELECT training course

HOW MUCH INFORMATION DO YOU RECEIVE FROM SELECT?



77%

said it was important to receive our e-newsletter, SwitchedOn



WHY DO YOU ATTEND BRANCH UPDATES?



- 40% To keep up with industry news
- 40% To network with other Members
- 11% To watch a technical presentation
- 9% Other

95%

OF THOSE SAID THE COURSE HAD MET THEIR NEEDS



71%

of respondents said it was important to receive cabletalk

96%

of Members said the SELECT website was useful

94% OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED A SELECT WEBINAR SAID THEY FOUND IT USEFUL



94%

of Members said they attended Toolbox Talks
(87% in 2021)

87% OF THOSE WHO TOOK PART SAID THAT OUR EMPLOYMENT ADVICE WAS USEFUL
(84% in 2021)



42% OF MEMBERS SAID THEY PREFERRED TO CONTACT US BY PHONE

58% SAID THAT THEY PREFERRED US TO CONTACT THEM BY EMAIL

96%



of respondents said they found the SELECT Technical Helpline useful

80% OF THOSE WHO TOOK PART SAID SELECT'S PROFILE WAS QUITE OR VERY VISIBLE
(75% in 2021)

96%

of Members said they were satisfied, very satisfied or extremely satisfied with SELECT
(93% in 2021)



OUR PRIZE DRAW WINNERS

- Megger MPCC230-UK Pro circuit checker – **Steven Mitchell, Mitchell Electrical, Ayrshire Branch**
- Megger AVO215 CAT III TRMS multi meter – **Stevie Campbell, Thomas Johnstone Ltd, Glasgow & West of Scotland Branch**
- Megger DCM305E Earth leakage clamp meter – **Arnold Guild, A C Guild Electrical Contractor, Tayside Branch**

Prizes donated by Associate Member Instrument Repairs and Calibration.



75%

of respondents said the SELECT welfare credit scheme was useful





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Scan for details

WORDS
IAIN MASON

Director of Membership,
Events & Communications

As part of our 125th celebrations, we travel back in time nearly a quarter of a century to the day when SELECT welcomed a royal visitor to open its new HQ – and include the memories of Members and staff who were there

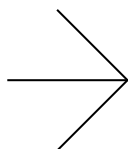
S **ELECT** rolled out the red carpet for HRH Princess

Anne, The Princess Royal, as she officially opened The Walled Garden on Thursday 3 October 2002.

Welcomed to SELECT HQ by Lord Lieutenant Captain George Burnett, Provost Sam Campbell and Rhona Brankin MSP, the Princess chatted with President Archie Jay and Managing Director Michael Goodwin before entering the association's new offices.

After Michael outlined the history of the organisation from its founding in 1900, Branch Chairs were introduced to the Princess in the board room before she autographed a large portrait of herself, commenting wryly: "Well, now you're stuck with it."

The royal party then moved on to the purpose-built Training Centre, where the Princess spent considerable time quizzing Technical Advisers Malcolm Duncan and



Royal seal of approval



↑ President Archie Jay chats with the Princess at the opening



"The Princess spoke to every Central Board member in line and I was at the end. I told her that they'd saved the best till last, which made her laugh. She then asked about the Lanarkshire area and I replied it was a younger Branch – with a younger Chair!"

KEVIN GRIFFIN, PAST PRESIDENT



↑ HRH chats with Kevin Griffin, Gavin Taylor and Ken Mackenzie

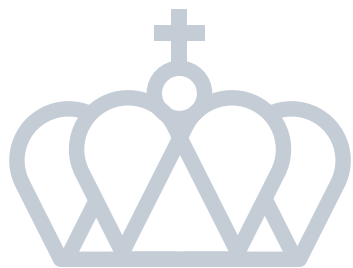


↑ Alick Smith awaits his turn in the line-up



"We were ushered upstairs beforehand and told exactly what to do and say. I remember thinking that the Princess was having a busy day – she'd just come from an engagement in Dundee, had the event with SELECT and was then away to another one down south."

ALICK SMITH, PAST PRESIDENT



"My main memory is what a wonderful occasion it was for both the staff and association – it was a great accolade for the only Scottish trade body to be able to build its own HQ and have it opened by royalty."

**NEWELL McGUINESS,
FORMER MANAGING
DIRECTOR**

Bob Cairney. A tour of the new open-plan offices followed, with the Princess talking to various members of staff before Archie escorted her to the reception area, where she unveiled a commemorative bronze plaque.

The good weather meant that the rest of the visit was spent outside, where the project team, sponsors, Past Presidents and other attendees chatted with their special guest.

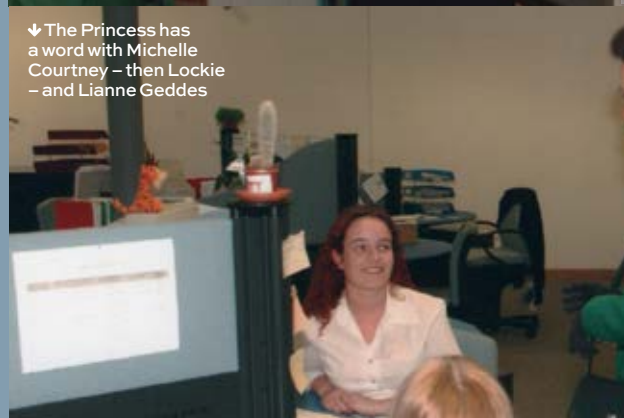
The party included many Members and staff still involved with the association, who have fond memories of what was described by *cabletalk* at the time as "a splendid event". ■



↑ All smiles with Tom Mitchell



↑ Bob discusses cabling with our visitor



↓ The Princess has a word with Michelle Courtney – then Lockie – and Lianne Geddes

"We discussed structured and fibre optic cabling, as we were doing training for Members at the time. She knew a lot about fibre optics and how they were laid under the ocean. We even talked about American standard code. I was quite surprised by how much she knew!"

**BOB CAIRNEY, DIRECTOR
OF TECHNICAL SERVICES**

"I just remember all the sniffer dogs coming round beforehand – they checked absolutely everywhere, even our handbags. The Princess also asked us all what we did and how long we'd been at the association."

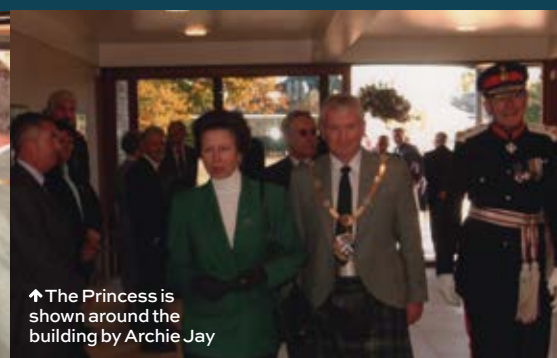
**MICHELLE COURTNEY,
BENEFITS MANAGER**

"I had a very lively Springer Spaniel under, around and on my desk. I thought the handler was having a laugh when he told me its name was Sparky!"

**NEWELL McGUINESS,
FORMER MANAGING
DIRECTOR**



↑ Chatting with Past President Jim McArthur



↑ The Princess is shown around the building by Archie Jay

Branch chairs in attendance

- Alick Smith (Aberdeen & North East Scotland)
- Hamish Girvan (Ayrshire)
- Elliot Graham (Dumfries & Galloway)
- Derek O'Connor (Edinburgh & South East Scotland)
- Ken Mackenzie (Glasgow & West of Scotland)
- Gavin Taylor (Inverness & North of Scotland)
- Kevin Griffin (Lanarkshire)

HISTORY OF THE WALLED GARDEN

1989

The association moves from Heriot Row in Edinburgh to Bush House, Midlothian, in July.

1989

Bush House is officially opened in September by Sir John Clerk, HM Lord Lieutenant for Midlothian District.



Past Presidents in attendance

- Harry Mackerron (1963-35)
- Dick Allan (1980-82)
- Sir James Morrison-Low Bt (1982-84)
- Bob Taylor (1984-86)
- Douglas Kelly (1986-88)
- Ricky Wilson (1995-97)
- Jim McArthur (1997-99)

↑ Stopping to chat with SELECT's Jim Cornwall

"I tried to keep out of the way as much as possible, but I do remember someone bringing in a linen towel for the upstairs ladies' toilet, just on the off-chance she needed it."

CAROLYNN SHAW,
ICT PROJECT MANAGER

"There was a bit of a panic beforehand as we couldn't get the smart lights to come on in the board room, but we got there in the end."

SCOTT WHITE,
RESOURCES ASSISTANT

"My duty was to be in the Hub with a friendly wee man who sat behind the reception desk. If instructed, I was to lead him and Anne out by the nearest exit pronto. He had a large bulge under his jacket and the darkest, coldest eyes I ever saw. Turned out he was Jim Beaton, the bodyguard who took three bullets during the kidnap attempt on Anne in 1974."

NEWELL MCGUINNESS,
FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR



↑ Malcolm Duncan and Michael Goodwin make a point



↑ Sharing a joke with Past President Bob Taylor and wife Margaret



↑ Unveiling the commemorative plaque



↑ The royal party strolls through reception at the new HQ

1998

The Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland is rebranded as SELECT to reflect its Members' changing work.

2000

SELECT instructs architects to develop a former garden area behind Bush House for a new HQ.

2001

First steel is erected on the new 20,000 sq ft development in March.

2001

Local schools are given a tour of the site in October as part of European Health and Safety Week.

2002

SELECT holds its first AGM in the association's new HQ in June, including a Members' lunch in the new dining room.

2002

The Walled Garden is officially opened by HRH Princess Anne, The Princess Royal, on Thursday 3 October.

Technical

MORE INFORMATION
For further information on our
technical support and advice,
please call 0131 445 9218 or email
technicalhelp@select.org.uk

WITH ever-growing pressure on timelines and

deadlines, the constant use of steel wired armoured (SWA) for any form of mechanical protection can be seen to add to labour time, which in turn adds to labour costs.

Yes, there will always be a need for SWA – especially when underground installations are required – but is it an overused product? And is it still being used so much because “it’s how it’s always been done”?

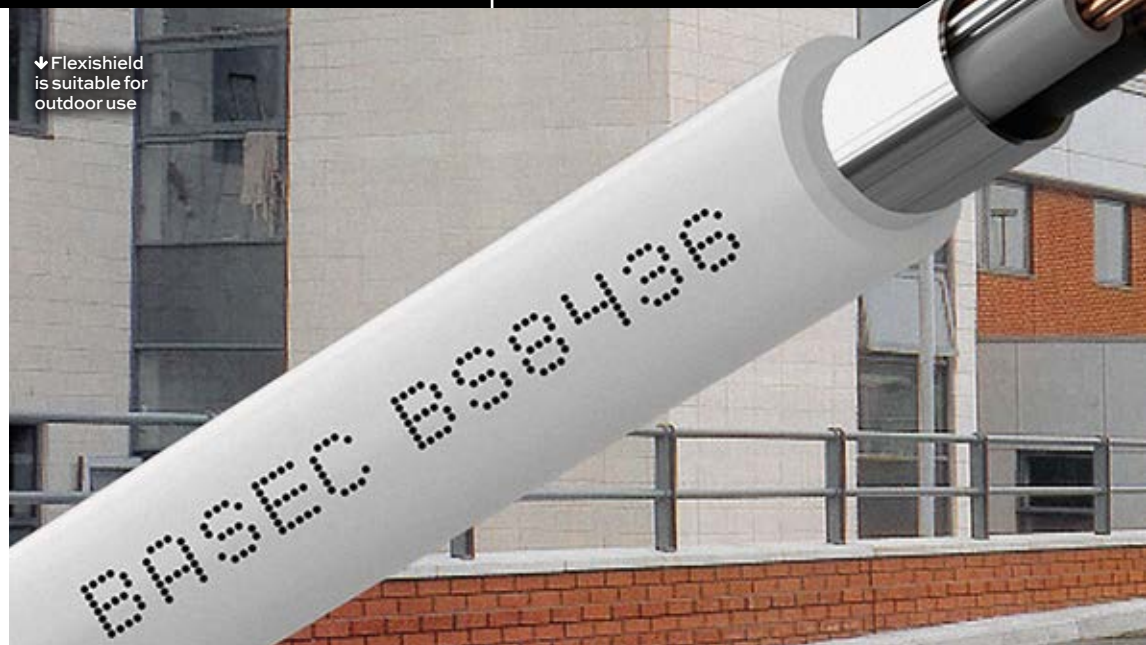
No one likes change, but everyone likes saving time, and surely in this day and age we all need to start looking at different ways of doing things to improve workflow and streamline operations?

From its heavy weight being lugged around site to the time-consuming task of glanding and termination, we still hear horror stories about how many hours SWA adds to commercial and industrial projects across the UK.

Such issues seem particularly counter-productive when perfectly good alternatives can be used instead and are already coming to market. So why don’t we start thinking outside the box a bit more? And why don’t we start trying new innovative ways to meet the deadlines set?

For its own part, Amokabel has developed Flexishield, a cost-effective cable with UV stability that means

↓ Flexishield
is suitable for
outdoor use



New choices for the future of cabling

Like all areas of the electrotechnical landscape, the world of cabling is evolving and ever-changing. Here, our newest Associate Member asks if the industry still has an overdependence on steel wired armoured cable and twin and earth – and discusses some of the alternatives and industry trends starting to emerge

WORDS
RHYS BAILEY
Business
Development
Manager, Amokabel
Flexishield



amokabel
FLEXISHIELD LTD

it’s suitable for indoor and outdoor use without the need for a residual current device (RCD). Designed and manufactured with the user and installer in mind, Flexishield is definitely worth considering the next time you reach for that well-thumbed SWA catalogue...

THE TWIN AND EARTH CONUNDRUM

So what about our old friend

twin and earth (T&E)? Is that still the go-to for commercial and industrial projects? Well, as SELECT Members will know all too well, the simple answer is yes – although as before, here at Amokabel Flexishield we do scratch our heads and wonder why.

Over the last few years we have seen a decline in T&E usage, with attitudes slowly starting to change, but it’s still being used on a vast



amount of commercial and industrial projects.

We mainly see T&E being rolled out as standard in light commercial spaces such as offices and shops, but to us, it's increasingly questionable as to why this is still the case.

As contractors will be aware, the limitations to using T&E on any level of commercial and industrial project drastically outweigh the main positive – commonly known in the market as price per metre.

Durability is also a significant concern when T&E is used in heavy-duty settings. To combat this, conduit can obviously be used against the risk of mechanical damage, but

"HIGHER SAFETY STANDARDS, GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY AND FUTURE-PROOFED INFRASTRUCTURE WILL ALL BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER"



↑ The Amokabel team has developed new options in cabling

once again this adds to the cost of the job as well as the time needed to complete the task at hand.

Another concern with T&E for this level of project is the future risk of regulatory changes, especially in the coming years. As a result, many specifiers are now suggesting alternatives with a higher level of mechanical or RCD protection to both future-proof projects and increase the safety element of their design.

All of this means that we're seeing a dwindling number of T&E specifications on the commercial and industrial level – and have responded accordingly.



Alternatives are now commonly being used and specified in order to comply with more stringent regulations, and, once again, these alternatives include our own Flexishield product.

WHAT NEXT FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL?

As the UK continues to implement the lessons from the Grenfell Tower disaster in 2017, advancements in cabling will be essential in rebuilding public trust and ensuring that safety is never compromised.

Here at Amokabel Flexishield we have identified this, and see the Cca Construction Products Regulation (CPR) rating – a regular in the European market – to be an option that will be specified and used more frequently in the months and years to come.

Having developed our own version of Flexishield Enhanced-Cca, we've seen first-hand through development and testing the impact this level of CPR could have on the safety

of future commercial and industrial projects.

Higher safety standards, greater accountability and future-proofed infrastructure will all be more important than ever as the industry faces greater scrutiny and shifts towards different ways of doing things.

We think it's safe to say that the use of T&E should continue to decline on the current scale, with specifiers preferring to push safer and more reliable alternatives for their designs.

Hopefully through innovation, we can continue to see deadlines being met and high value projects signed off ready for their intended use. ■

Amokabel is a UK-based cable manufacturer specialising in fixed wiring cables for commercial and industrial buildings. Its main product range is Flexishield, a low voltage, multicore, screened BS 8436 failsafe cable, designed for power and lighting circuits where cables are concealed within partitions and building voids at a depth of less than 50mm. Amokabel Flexishield currently supplies to the electrical wholesale market and engages with every stage of the supply chain. Find out more at www.amokabel.com/en

The future's bright, the future's 3D

Environmental degradation and resource depletion have led to a growing need to minimise the environmental impacts of the products we all produce and consume – and the lighting industry is no different. Here, we shine a light on how 3D printing is helping to create a brighter future

WORDS
BART MAEYENS
Leader, 3D Printing,
Signify



Signify

↓ This Jewels Water Blue pendant design is made from large water cooler bottles

3D printing is a form of additive manufacturing that creates objects from a digital file, laying down successive layers of material until the desired article is fully formed.

By using it to print lighting products, manufacturers can produce complex shapes using less material than traditional methods, meaning the end results are more sustainable.

Just like LED, 3D printing is now set to revolutionise the lighting market, so let's dive in and explore why it's such a bright idea...

PART OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

3D printing is a highly flexible

and more sustainable form of manufacturing in which a luminaire can be made with raw material that's already been recycled, tailored to the customer's exact needs and recycled at the end of its life.

Thanks to a consistent disassembly concept, nearly every component may be reused or recycled, supporting the concept of a circular economy and moving away from linear production and consumption models, when things are used for a short time and thrown away.

GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Whether it's constructing a house or producing lighting, 3D printing moves away from virgin materials and uses more recycled and bio-circular sources instead.

At Signify, for example, we produce all printed parts with at least 65% recycled or mass-balanced bio-circular plastics. This includes the use of recycled and bio-circular materials.

For bio-circular materials, the entire supply chain is ISCC Plus certified, with at least 55% renewable or recycled content in the 3D-printing process.

Examples from the post-industrial material (PIR) waste

stream include sheets for car ports, swimming pools or illuminated advertising, and plastic bottles, aluminium cans, packaging material, CDs and nylon from fishing nets from the post-consumer recycled (PCR) stream.

All printed parts are reusable and recyclable, with no potting or glue and fewer screws for easy disassembly and simpler recyclability. We also cooperate with collection and recycling operations (CRO) for end-of-life management, so materials can be easily broken down, shredded and recycled.

As well as fewer parts, when compared with traditional luminaires, these innovative circular designs also use no paint as the lamps are already pigmented.

ON DEMAND, NOT ON STOCK

Make-to-stock (MTS) is a manufacturing method based on forecasted product demand when, once manufactured, products are kept in stock until they are sold. The alternative is make-to-order (MTO), which allows consumers to purchase products customised to their specifications.

No inventory of finished goods is required, as only non-3D-printed parts such as drivers or LEDs need to be stored and used for different products. This plays a huge role in lowering CO₂ emission rates and designing a sustainable supply chain.

BENEFITING THE INDUSTRY

As well as sustainability, 3D-printed luminaires can be tailored to any project, shape, colour or texture, allowing complete customisation and design freedom.

This flexibility allows for an almost unlimited number of different luminaire shapes – an impossibility with traditional





↑ The technology allows for complete customisation and design freedom

"THANKS TO A CONSISTENT DISASSEMBLY CONCEPT, NEARLY EVERY COMPONENT MAY BE REUSED OR RECYCLED"

production methods, which are always restricted by the mould release.

Other advantages of 3D-printed lighting for contractors include:

- **Business case** – today's customers increasingly want to work with contractors who work with sustainability in mind, so choosing 3D-printed luminaires shows you're switched on to the green agenda.
- **Drive brand identity** – lighting can play a crucial role in commercial surroundings, be it a shop, gym, showroom,

hotel or airport, bringing alive what a brand stands for, from luxury to mass appeal use.

- **Scalable solution** – you can install products at a minimum quantity of just one luminaire or scale up into the thousands for deployment across various locations.
- **Winning by practicality** – 3D printing offers a functional use too. For example, when switching from conventional lighting to LED, additional fixtures and adaptors are often required. Using 3D printing solves this problem, with the size

↓ Signify's Puzzle light design is printed with 75% recycled PET material



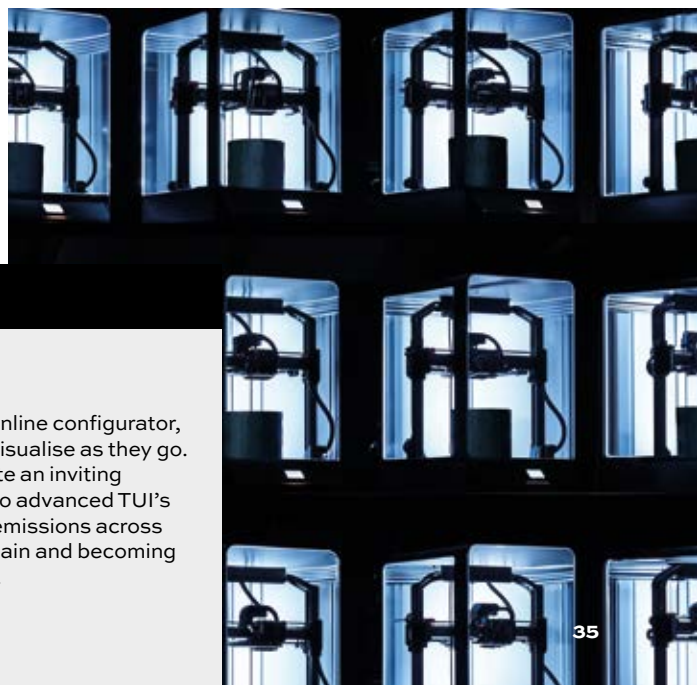
Signify is a world leader in lighting for professionals and consumers, with around 29,000 employees and a presence in more than 70 countries. Signify global brands include Philips, Philips Hue, WiZ, Interact, Color Kinetics, Dynalite, Telensa, Signify myCreation, Signify BrightSites, NatureConnect and Trulifi. Find out more by scanning the QR code or going to signify.com/global



of housing changed at the point of order, meaning you can be sure of an exact fit and reduced installation times.

Sustainability is one of the most important issues of our time and it's clear that any future economic success must go hand in hand with sustainable thinking and action.

3D printing technology opens up unprecedented possibilities that are simple, sustainable and fast. This enables every company in every industry to illuminate their spaces as sustainably as possible – and for switched-on electrical contractors to play their part too. ■



CASE STUDY: TUI

When leading travel company TUI wanted to upgrade its in-store lighting, environmental impact was top of its wish list.

Made from recycled and bio-circular materials, with few components to minimise waste, Signify's 3D-printed lighting was designed to TUI's exact specifications

thorough the MyCreations online configurator, which allows customers to visualise as they go.

As well as helping to create an inviting atmosphere, the lighting also advanced TUI's goals of achieving net zero emissions across its operations and supply chain and becoming a circular business by 2050.

Training

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



Gain essential expertise in renewables

Following continued demand from Members, SELECT has partnered with the Energy Training Academy to deliver solar PV and battery storage installation training at its state-of-the-art centre near Edinburgh

WORDS
JENNY CRYANS
Training Manager



DELIVERED over five days in Dalkeith, this new course is tailored to provide you with the necessary expertise to install, commission, troubleshoot and upkeep photovoltaic (PV) systems up to industry standards, adhering to regulations and best practices.

You'll embark on a journey through a comprehensive range of topics, offering hands-on experiences and theoretical learning, including:

- **Understanding solar energy** – delve into the fundamentals of solar power generation, uncovering the science behind PV cells and their ability to convert sunlight into usable electricity. Learn how to install and maintain solar panels, optimising their efficiency for maximum output.
- **Embracing battery technology** – discover the diverse landscape of batteries used in solar set-ups. Gain insights into their functionalities and how they store surplus solar energy, learn the art of seamless integration with solar PV systems and delve into maintenance practices to ensure optimal performance and longevity.
- **Bridging theory and practice** – engage in hands-on simulations and site visits, applying your new-found knowledge in practical, real-world scenarios.

Dive into case studies, dissecting successful solar PV and battery set-ups to understand their practical applications.

- **Prioritising safety and compliance** – understand the importance of adhering to local regulations, codes and safety standards governing battery usage and solar PV installations. Embrace safety protocols and best practices, ensuring a secure environment when handling solar equipment and batteries.
- **Keeping up with innovation** – stay ahead of the curve by exploring the latest advancements and emerging trends in solar PV and battery technology, ensuring you're equipped with insights into the industry's evolving landscape.

At the end of the course, you'll emerge with a deep understanding of solar PV systems, a mastery of battery storage solutions and have the confidence to apply this knowledge practically.

Following continued demand for this training, we are delighted to have partnered with the Energy Training Academy to deliver solar PV and battery storage training courses to our Members.

↑ Learn the fundamentals of solar power generation and the science of PV cells



Why choose the Energy Training Academy?

- **State-of-the-art facility:** Located just 30 minutes from Edinburgh, the new training centre is equipped with modern facilities, equipment and tools.
- **Expert guidance:** Benefit from the wisdom and guidance of industry

veterans and seasoned professionals who bring real-world insights into the classroom.

- **Practical experience:** Engage in hands-on training sessions and practical workshops, applying theoretical knowledge

to installation simulations and actual set-ups.

- **Certification programmes:** Earn certifications recognised by industry authorities, empowering you with credibility and enhancing employability prospects.



Why train as a solar PV and battery installer?

- **Shape a greener tomorrow:** Installing solar panels and batteries means being part of positive change for the environment and reducing Scotland's carbon footprint.
- **Enjoy greater job security:** The renewables energy industry is booming and your expertise in solar PV and batteries puts you right at the centre of this demand.
- **Protect the planet:** Each installation is a step towards a more sustainable planet, so you're not only working, you're making a positive impact.
- **Growth opportunities:** The renewables sector is full of opportunities, so whether joining a company or starting your own business, there's plenty of room to shine.

Carolynn Edgeworth, Centre Manager at the Energy Training Academy, said: "Our mission is to empower electricians with the skills and confidence to thrive in the fast-growing renewables sector."

"Our partnership with SELECT will extend these opportunities further, ensuring that learners benefit from both expert guidance and industry recognition."

"We're proud to provide hands-on, industry-led courses that set learners up for long-term success."

WHAT DO I NEED TO TAKE THE COURSE?

This course is intended for qualified and practicing electricians. Prior to registering, you must provide evidence that you hold the following:

- Level 3 Award in the Requirements for Electrical Installation BS 7671 – as amended (18th Edition) Qualification (Equivalent SELECT Course Requirements for EI – course 218).

You must also have **ONE** of the following:

- Current ECS Gold Card issued by the SJIB or JIB – Installation Electrician, Approved Electrician, Maintenance Electrician or Domestic Electrician
- SVQ in Electrical Installation at SCQF Level 7
- Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Installing Electrotechnical Systems and Equipment (Buildings, Structures and the Environment)
- Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Electrotechnical Services (Electrical Maintenance)

COST AND HOW TO BOOK

The five-day course costs £925 + VAT. If you want to attend only the solar PV or battery storage session, please make contact directly to discuss costs and available dates. All bookings should be made directly with the Energy Training Academy by scanning the QR code below or by logging on to theenergytrainingacademy.com. If you have any questions, please email info@theenergytrainingacademy.com or call 0131 510 9012.



- Level 3 Electrotechnical Qualification
- Level 3 NVQ in Electrotechnical Services Experienced Worker
- Level 3 Electrotechnical Experienced Worker Qualification
- Level 3 Electrotechnical in Dwellings Experienced Worker Qualification
- Building Services Engineering (Level 3) Electrotechnical Installation Qualification.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

By classroom and practical training, finishing with a practical and theoretical assessment. The courses are certified by LCL Awards. On successful completion, you'll receive a LCL Level 3 certificate.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

A form of identification, e.g. driving licence or passport, along with a small passport photograph and any relevant copies of education certificates.

HOW LONG IS THE COURSE AND WHAT'S INCLUDED?

The full course is five days in total but can be split into two, i.e. solar PV (three days) or battery storage (two days). The cost includes training, assessment, the certification fee and all required course material.

WHAT DATES ARE AVAILABLE?

Available dates for the remainder of 2025 are 3-7 November and 8-12 December.

DOES IT QUALIFY ME FOR MCS?

This course does not provide you with accreditation for the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). However, it will enable you to meet the training entry requirements for MCS. ■

Health & Safety



↑ It's important to take care
in confined work areas

How to stay safe in a small space

Confined spaces can hold a number of potential dangers for electrical contractors, so here's some practical advice to help you work safely when your work area is tight

WORDS
ANDY HARPER
Head of Technical and
CDM Support, BSG



BSG The Building
Safety Group

ACCORDING to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), a 'confined space' is any place that is substantially enclosed where serious injury can occur from hazardous substances or conditions.

SELECT Members frequently encounter these environments while maintaining electrical systems, installing cables

or performing repairs. Understanding the associated risks is crucial for compliance with the Confined Spaces Regulations 1997 and, more importantly, for ensuring worker safety.

COMMON CONFINED SPACES

Electricians regularly work in restricted access areas which can also be classed as 'confined spaces', including cable tunnels,

electrical service ducts, ceiling voids, basements and plant rooms. These areas present unique challenges due to their limited entry and exit points, restricted movement capabilities and often poor ventilation.

The combination of these characteristics with electrical work creates particularly hazardous working conditions that require specific safety protocols.

PRIMARY PHYSICAL HAZARDS

Electrical hazards in confined spaces are amplified by the

environment. Live conductors pose increased risks due to limited working space, while damaged insulation can be harder to identify in poor lighting conditions. The presence of water, common in underground spaces, significantly increases electrocution risks. Static electricity can also pose ignition risks in potentially explosive atmospheres.

Environmental hazards include elevated temperatures from electrical equipment and limited ventilation, which can lead to heat stress. Poor lighting conditions can obscure hazards, while restricted spaces may force awkward working positions, increasing the risk of musculoskeletal injuries. Structural instability must also be considered.

ATMOSPHERIC HAZARDS

Oxygen deficiency is a primary concern in confined spaces, particularly in deeper installations or poorly ventilated areas. Toxic gases such as carbon monoxide and hydrogen sulfide can accumulate quickly, while flammable atmospheres may develop from various sources.

Dust and particulates can also create respiratory hazards and potentially explosive conditions.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Legal compliance requires comprehensive risk assessments before any confined space work begins. A permit-to-work system must be implemented and workers must hold appropriate confined space training certifications. Essential safety measures include continuous gas monitoring, adequate ventilation systems

"COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS SHOULD BE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED, WITH REGULAR CHECK-INS BETWEEN WORKERS"

Online training course gives you the right tools for RAMS

An online BSG training course is now available to help with the completion of risk assessments and method statements (RAMS).

The half-day session has been specifically developed to help companies create tailor-made RAMS documents, improving efficiency without compromising health and safety.

Delegates will be shown how to:

- Create a single task/job-based risk assessment template for any job or project
- Ensure that templates meet all legal requirements
- Categorise risk using BSG's automated scoring matrix
- Identify and select potential hazards
- Monitor and review RAMS
- Recognise the need to prepare method

statements to satisfy the requirement for a safe system of work and appreciate when that requirement becomes essential.

Candidates will also gain an understanding of the practical implications of risk assessment techniques as well as a thorough understanding of the need for risk assessments.

Delegates will finish the course equipped with their own custom-built RAMS templates prepared as PDFs, as well as in Microsoft Word for future editing and distribution.

This half-day online course runs from 8am to 12pm and costs £85 plus VAT for SELECT Members. The next session is available on Thursday 20 November. To book, email the SELECT Training Administrators on training@select.org.uk

and established emergency evacuation procedures. Reliable communication systems between workers inside and outside the space are mandatory.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Appropriate PPE is crucial for confined space work. This includes respiratory protection suitable for the specific hazards present, safety harnesses for emergency extraction, appropriate electrical safety footwear and head protection.

Electrical safety gloves rated for the voltage levels present must be worn and regularly inspected for damage.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND BEST PRACTICES

Emergency response planning must be in place before work begins, including detailed rescue procedures and first aid provisions. Communication protocols should be clearly established, with regular check-

ins between workers. Rescue equipment must be immediately available, and workers should be trained in its use. A qualified rescue team should be on standby for high-risk operations.

CONCLUSION

Working in confined spaces presents significant risks to electricians, requiring strict adherence to safety protocols and regulations. Personal responsibility in following safety procedures is paramount.

Electricians should regularly update their confined space training and maintain familiarity with emergency procedures. For additional guidance, consult hse.gov.uk and industry-specific training providers.

Remember, no electrical work in a confined space is routine – each task requires careful planning. This comprehensive approach to confined space safety helps ensure SELECT Members can perform their essential work while minimising risks.

Maintaining awareness of these dangers and strictly following safety protocols is crucial for preventing serious incidents and fatalities in confined space operations. ■

**SIGN UP FOR
FREE HEALTH AND
SAFETY ADVICE**

SELECT Members automatically qualify for **FREE** advice and practical resources from the BSG worth £750.

Signing up is quick and easy – all you need is your membership number. To find out more and get started, scan the QR code below.



Industry insight

Fit for work from day one

New recruits to the electrotechnical industry are keen and hardworking, but can also be unsure where they fit in. So how do you help young starters thrive from the get-go?

WORDS

ROB LOW

Business Development
Executive, EC Insurance
Services Limited



↓ The right support for school leavers and apprentices helps turn new recruits into long-term team members

EVERY year at this time, a new wave of young workers steps into the electrotechnical workforce, including school leavers and apprentices. The early weeks matter.

If a new team member gets hurt, stressed or overwhelmed and doesn't speak up, it can quickly lead to absence, burnout or a missed opportunity. That's a setback for them – and for your business.

The exclusive ECIS private medical insurance (PMI) scheme for SELECT, which includes the employee assistance programme (EAP), gives firms a practical way to support people as they start their careers. It's more than a benefit. It's a tool for building a healthier, more stable workforce.

WHY EARLY SUPPORT MATTERS

Construction isn't an easy environment to enter. New starters are more likely to pick up strains as they adjust to physical work, or struggle with

mental wellbeing as they find their feet. And because most site teams are male dominated, many won't want to 'make a fuss'. A small injury or quiet worry left unspoken can quickly snowball into something bigger – missed shifts, long-term absence or even a decision to leave the industry altogether.

That's where timely access to support makes a real difference.

The construction sector has long faced a shortfall in new entrants, which makes every apprentice and school leaver more valuable than ever – and supporting them early on helps turn new recruits into long-term team members.

WHAT THE ECIS SCHEME OFFERS YOUNG WORKERS

The ECIS PMI and EAP scheme helps take the pressure off by giving younger team members fast, confidential access to care when it's needed. Support includes:

- **Fast-track physiotherapy and musculoskeletal support** – new starters are likely to pick up strains or minor injuries as they build strength and adjust to the demands of physical work.
- **24/7 mental health support via the EAP** – without the need for GP referrals or managerial involvement.
- **Confidential counselling** – to help with anxiety, stress or homesickness, especially for those living away from home for the first time.
- **App-based access** – makes it easier for workers to get support on their terms, with no need to navigate complex systems or time-consuming admin.





This kind of early intervention helps new workers stay on site, avoid worsening problems and build confidence that they're not on their own.

ADJUSTING TO SITE LIFE

The transition from education to the working world can be a shock. Early starts, long shifts, physically demanding roles and fast-paced environments all take a toll – especially when combined with new routines, unfamiliar expectations and pressure to prove yourself.

Younger workers might ignore warning signs, hide injuries or push through stress to avoid looking weak. But that puts them at higher risk of burnout or injury. With the ECIS scheme, early support is easy to access and doesn't require navigating the NHS or waiting months for appointments.

Having help on hand shows new starters that it's not just about getting the job done – it's also about staying well while doing it.

BUILDING LIFE SKILLS, NOT JUST WORK SKILLS

Many apprentices are learning to manage adult life for the first time – including budgeting, living away from home and juggling work with training. That can be overwhelming.

The EAP doesn't just deal with workplace stress. It also offers practical advice and support on personal topics, such as money worries, sleep problems or relationship pressures.

All conversations are confidential and available 24/7, helping young workers build personal resilience alongside their site skills.

↑ Helping your young workers to thrive and succeed is good for them and beneficial to your business

HOW ECIS CAN HELP

As a leading chartered insurance broker, ECIS has been organising and managing SELECT's exclusive PMI scheme through Bupa for decades. Find out how ECIS can help you support the next generation at www.ecins.co.uk or email ecis@ecins.co.uk

"HAVING HELP ON HAND SHOWS NEW STARTERS THAT IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT GETTING THE JOB DONE – IT'S ALSO ABOUT STAYING WELL WHILE DOING IT"

CONFIDENCE TO SPEAK UP

Confidence comes with experience. For a young worker just starting out, it's hard to know what's normal – or when to ask for help.

The ECIS scheme gives them a safe and direct route to support, without needing to go through a manager.

Sometimes, one quiet call to a counsellor or one early physio session can be the difference between sticking with the job or walking away.

REDUCING DROPOUTS AND BUILDING LOYALTY

Retaining good people is one of the sector's biggest challenges. Apprenticeships take time and money to deliver – and losing a new starter in the first six months is a cost most businesses can't afford.

The ECIS scheme helps firms protect their investment by offering:

- Early, easy access to support
- Tools to reduce absence and presenteeism
- Fast routes to recovery for minor injuries and mental health challenges.

For firms already on the scheme, promoting it from day one makes a big difference. Mention it during inductions. Include it in toolbox talks. Share simple guides on what's covered and use anonymised examples to show it works in real life.

You don't need to train young workers to ask for help – just make it easy when they're ready.

STRONGER TEAMS FROM THE START

Young workers who feel supported are more likely to stay, grow into skilled team members and strengthen your business over time. That's especially true for those involved in physical activities outside work, from grassroots to top-level sport.

When sporting injuries overlap with early career strains, quick access to treatment can be the difference between long absence and staying in the game – and on the job.

FIT FOR WORK, FIT FOR LIFE

Helping young starters thrive isn't just good for them – it's smart business. The ECIS PMI scheme, including the EAP, gives you a simple, effective way to support new workers, reduce early absences and build a reputation as a firm where people want to stay. ■



PLAY YOUR WAY TO ALLY PALLY 100'S OF PRIZES TO BE WON

How to Play:

- Scan the QR code
- Join our mailing list
- Throw your digital dart & hit the bullseye for a win!

Plus: Every player is automatically entered into our grand prize draw for a chance to win **hospitality tickets to watch the darts LIVE at Alexandra Palace!**



Terms & Conditions

Valid in UK and NI, residency required. 18+. Validity dates: 00:01 GMT 08.09.25 – 23:59 GMT 30.11.25. No purchase necessary. Participation and registration required at <https://lucecodarts.co.uk>. Internet access required. There are 217 prizes available during the promotional period, the main prize being World Darts Championships hospitality. Maximum one entry per person per email address. Max one prize per person. Exclusions apply. Full terms and prize list available at <https://lucecodarts.co.uk/t&cs>

Unplugged: The Repairing Standard

Guideline is a vital part of what private landlords must do to meet safety standards and it's important the electricians they use have the correct accreditation

WORDS
DAVID WILSON
Consultant



MFM
MORTON
FRASER
MACROBERTS
LLP

David Wilson regularly advises on arbitration and adjudication matters, often providing legal advice to adjudicators. As a litigator, he has extensive experience of acting for pursuers and defenders in commercial disputes in the Court of Session

THE Repairing Standard is a statutory guideline which outlines the legal and contractual obligations that private landlords are required to meet before leasing

a property. It underscores the importance of an electrician's expertise in ensuring safe and compliant electrical systems within private rented properties, with responsibilities including performing inspections and providing legally recognised certification to landlords in the form of an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) and an in-service inspection and testing of electrical equipment or PAT test.

The Repairing Standard guideline applies from 1 March 2024, contextualises Chapter 4 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006, and is applicable to "any tenancy of a house let for human habitation", with three specified exemptions.

The EICR assesses the installation against BS 7671 and must be completed every five years, a copy of which must be kept for six years. It must be given to any person who is to become a tenant, either prior to that tenancy starting or during the tenancy

if re-certified. The ECIR must be completed by a suitably skilled person. This means that, prior to issuing an EICR, electricians must ensure that they are:

- employed by a company that is a member of an accredited registration scheme operated by a recognised body
- a sole trader or self-employed individual who is a member of an accredited registration scheme operated by a recognised body
- or an individual who satisfies the necessary criteria contained in the Repairing Standard guidelines.

A PAT test must be completed before the property is let for the first time, and then at intervals of no more than five years. Again, it is crucial that the PAT test is completed by a skilled person or a person who has completed the relevant PAT test training. The duty to carry out

electrical safety inspections does not apply to appliances that belong to tenants, only to appliances provided by the landlord. Following inspection, any electrical

equipment which fails to pass a PAT test must be replaced or repaired immediately to comply with the Repairing Standard and avoid legal liability.

Adhering to these electrical safety requirements helps private landlords and electricians maintain the condition and safety of properties, reduce the risk of accidents and foster good tenant relationships through responsible management. ■

**"THE ECIR MUST
BE COMPLETED
BY A SUITABLY
SKILLED PERSON"**



**LEGAL
HELPLINE
0141 303 1111**



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

Ten top tips to foster growth

Today's contractors operate in a rapidly evolving market shaped by technology, sustainability demands, labour challenges and shifting customer expectations. Success requires you to move beyond technical expertise and embrace strategic business management, robust planning and ongoing relationship building – so here are 10 tips to help foster growth

WORDS
PAUL McDEVITT
Managing Director,
McDevitt & Co



McDevitt & Co

Paul McDevitt is Managing Director of McDevitt & Co, an experienced business consultancy that helps to inspire people, improve productivity and increase profits in the construction industry. Find out more and contact him at www.mcdevitt.co

01 BUILD A TEAM AROUND COMPANY VALUES

Recruiting and retaining skilled electricians is a key challenge for SMEs. Companies must develop a clear set of business values that employees can identify with, such as transparency, quality, safety and sustainability. Promoting these values can create a sense of purpose and loyalty. Investing in training, apprenticeships and team development increases technical competence and boosts employee satisfaction, retention and trust. Accredited staff lend credibility and can differentiate your firm in a crowded market.

02 MODERNISE OPERATIONS WITH DIGITAL TOOLS

Digital platforms for workforce scheduling, project management, cost estimation and invoicing reduce manual errors, save time and increase your capacity to take on more work. Automation of routine tasks through cloud-based solutions ensures transparent operations and improved customer communication, freeing up leadership to focus on growth opportunities.

03 UPDATE YOUR BUSINESS PLAN REGULARLY

A dynamic business plan enables

you to adapt to market changes. Monthly analyses on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) can reveal new competition, emerging technologies and changes in customer needs. Reviewing your plan regularly helps you set clear goals, monitor progress and correct course, whether it's scaling services, targeting a new market or adapting service models.

04 FOCUS ON CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIPS

Customer satisfaction is the bedrock of repeat business and referrals. Delivering on promises, exceeding expectations and quickly addressing issues foster loyalty – a sentiment echoed by the adage, “it's 10 times easier to keep a customer than to create a new one”. An active aftercare strategy – regular follow-ups, guarantees and rapid issue resolution – leads to word-of-mouth recommendations, positive reviews and lasting relationships.

05 SCALE GRADUALLY AND STRATEGICALLY

Adopting the Goldilocks principle – i.e. growing not too fast or slow – can help you match operational capacity with demand. Rapid expansion risks overstretching resources and incurring costly

overheads, while moving too slowly can mean missing out on new contracts or innovative niches. Strategic scaling focuses on adding services or staff in a controlled, well-planned way, supported by careful financial forecasting and market research.

06 DIVERSIFY SERVICE OFFERINGS

With smart technologies and green energy surging in demand, contractors who diversify into areas such as EV chargers or solar PV stand out. Upskilling the team to handle renewables, automation or building management systems opens new revenue streams and attracts high-value, niche customers seeking specialised help. Constantly scanning for emerging trends and responding proactively establishes SMEs as forward-thinking leaders.

07 INVEST IN SMART MARKETING

A visible and memorable brand is crucial for attracting clients. SMEs should leverage local SEO, content marketing, Google Ads and social media platforms to strengthen their reputation and reach regional contract opportunities. Professional image, optimised websites and participation in community events all develop trust and keep your business front-of-mind during client decision-making processes. Targeted campaigns should showcase unique offerings and customer testimonials for credibility.



"A VISIBLE AND MEMORABLE BRAND IS CRUCIAL FOR ATTRACTING CLIENTS"

08 OPTIMISE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Healthy finances underpin business longevity and allow flexibility in uncertain economic conditions. Negotiate favourable terms with suppliers and keep a watchful eye on market prices for essential materials. Diversifying suppliers minimises the risks associated with shortages and price fluctuations. Leveraging real-time cost analysis software assists management in prompt adjustments to pricing, overheads and resource allocation.

09 LEVERAGE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY SUPPORT

Numerous government schemes and industry incentives exist. The SME Loan Scheme offers interest-free loans up to £100,000 for energy efficiency and renewable upgrades, with cashback grants available for qualifying projects. Application support speeds access, while compliance ensures eligibility for future government contracts. Engaging with trade bodies also offers valuable networking,

knowledge-sharing and guidance for regulatory compliance.

10 ADDRESS INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

Labour shortages, retention problems and payment issues remain hurdles for contractors. Joining industry organisations, attending trade events and lobbying for fairer contract terms promote resilience and expose growth opportunities. Staying informed about sector trends such as net zero targets enables firms to reposition themselves quickly, guarding against sudden market shifts.

CONCLUSION

By investing in team development, embracing digital transformation, refining business plans, nurturing lasting customer relationships and leveraging available support frameworks, you can overcome challenges and thrive.

A willingness to innovate and commitment to core values prepare contractors to meet – and shape – the future of the electrical sector.

In an industry where technology, regulations and customer expectations are constantly changing, those who focus on continuous improvement, strategic marketing, operational efficiency and workforce wellbeing will be best positioned for lasting success. ■



↑ A number of government schemes and industry incentives exist to support SMEs

SECTT Update

SECTT once again was honoured to support The King's Trust Get Into Electrical Installation

Programme, which ran over the summer in the west of Scotland.

SECTT Chief Executive Fiona Harper and Training Officer Frankie Greig joined the young people to mark the culmination of their six-week programme at West College Scotland (WCS) Paisley Campus on 1 August.

Now in its 13th year, this initiative enables young people who come from disadvantaged backgrounds 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.

Fiona said: "I was greatly impressed by the enthusiasm, resilience and determination shown by this year's King's Trust learners. Frankie and I found the celebration event extremely uplifting and emotional, and we both felt it was a fitting way to mark all the hard work that each of the learners had put into the programme."

The door opens on a bright future

Annual training project was the perfect opportunity for young people to get a taste of what's required to become an electrician – and the learners' enthusiasm and talent really shone through

LEARNING THE BASICS

The course sees the King's Trust pre-select applicants and invite 20 young people to a taster day of practical skills and team building, with 16 candidates subsequently offered a place on the programme.

The young people spent their first four weeks in the college workshop,

learning the fundamentals of electrical installation from manual handling to safe isolation to understanding the Electricity at Work Regulations with some additional maths tuition before the SECTT pre-employment assessment.

The fifth and sixth weeks were spent on site and the final few days spent writing CVs, culminating in the event

↓ Youngsters spent the summer learning new skills



attended by employers, friends and family, the King's Trust, college staff and SECTT.

Fiona said: "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 learners tremendous support."

All of this year's intake were offered a pre-apprenticeship in Electrical Installation with the college, to date seven have taken up places. It is likely that the skills gained through the college work and work experience mean that these will be prime candidates to share with electrical contracting employers next academic year for consideration of taking on an apprentice.

A SOURCE OF PRIDE

William Burgoyne Jnr, Curriculum Quality Leader at WCS, said: "We're incredibly proud to have partnered with SECTT and The King's Trust to deliver a programme that opened doors for young people in our local community.

"This initiative gave participants a real introduction to the electrical installation trade – building practical hand skills, inspiring confidence and providing invaluable work experience with local employers." William added:



↑ Fiona at the celebration event

"I WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY THE ENTHUSIASM, RESILIENCE AND DETERMINATION SHOWN BY THIS YEAR'S KING'S TRUST LEARNERS"

"It's been fantastic to see the impact this economic development programme has had, both for the young people involved and the wider community.

"I'd like to thank SECTT and The King's Trust for trusting us as a partner, and my lecturing staff for generously

giving up their summer to deliver such a worthwhile course.

"Most importantly, I wish every participant every success in their future careers, whether with us at West College Scotland or beyond."

Louise Goodlad, Director for Scotland at The King's Trust, said: "The King's Trust is delighted to be able to continue our partnership with SECTT and West College Scotland, which has now provided skills development opportunities for young people in the region for 13 years.

"We are proud of what our partnership has already achieved and are excited to be able to support young people gain sought-after skills, hands-on experience and access to job opportunities and qualifications."

Fiona added: "I'd like to thank all the employers who offered a work placement, as without their commitment the programme wouldn't be possible.

"This initiative only works with the commitment of the college team, the encouragement and support of The King's Trust and the dedication of the SECTT staff who bring it all together." ■

↑ 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

Students on course for success

A new group of pre-apprentices have begun their electrical training at West College Scotland (WCS) Clydebank Campus, taking their first steps into a career in the industry.

The pre-apprenticeship programme is designed to provide students with the technical skills, practical experience and confidence needed to progress into a full apprenticeship.

As part of their induction, students have been issued with personal protective equipment (PPE) supplied

by SECTT, ensuring that they are fully prepared to train safely and professionally from day one.

Barrie McKay, SECTT Training & Development Manager, said: "This course provides learners with the opportunity to experience real-world electrical tasks in a controlled environment, developing skills that employers highly value.

"Many employers actively support the pre-apprenticeship route, recognising it as a reliable way of identifying motivated young people ready to join the workforce.

"With their PPE on, tools at the ready and the support of both the college and SECTT, this new intake is well placed to begin their journey towards becoming fully qualified electricians."



↓ The pre-apprentices at Clydebank



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SJIB Bulletin



WATCH OUR VIDEO

Need more help? Watch our special step-by-step video, which will help you get started

you're asked to provide a username and password without registering, then you already have an account.

FORGOTTEN YOUR USERNAME OR PASSWORD?

Don't worry! Click on 'Forgot Username' or 'Forgot Password' on the 'Log in' page. Prompts will be sent to the email address the SJIB has on file for you.

If you're unsure which email address is linked to your SJIB account, please check them all, including your junk or spam folder.

Still having no luck? Head to the 'Contact us' page on the SJIB website and we'll help you reset your password.

CHECK THE CARD CRITERIA

It's important to remember that each ECS card has separate and specific requirements, so please check these before you apply.

HOW LONG WILL MY CARD TAKE?

The maximum turnaround time for ECS Card applications is 21 working days upon receipt of application and payment, but your card will usually be with you much sooner.

Once your application is processed, you'll be able to view a digital version of your new card from your ECS Portal, under 'ECS Card' then 'My Cards'. ■

Applying for your ECS Card

Applications for ECS Cards are now submitted through the SJIB ECS Card Portal, so here's some helpful advice to guide you when applying for a new card

FIRST things first: the SJIB ECS Card Portal is accessed via the SJIB website – you can't apply for an SJIB ECS Grade Card from the Electrotechnical Certification Scheme (ECS) website.

To log in, select 'ECS Cards' from the page menu on the home page at www.sjib.org.uk, or from the primary menu if you're on a phone or tablet. Then select 'Access the ECS Card Portal'. Please select 'Log in' in the

top-right corner of the web page. You'll then be asked to enter your username and password.

Your username is your email address and your password will have been created by you, as your ECS Portal is your own personal account and isn't accessed by your employer.

CREATING A NEW ACCOUNT

Once you've selected 'Access the ECS Card Portal', click 'Create Account' in the top right corner, or click the head and shoulders silhouette if you're on your phone.

You'll be asked to provide your National Insurance number and surname, so please do this then follow the steps to 'Register for an ECS Card Portal account'.

If after adding your National Insurance number and surname

REMEMBER!

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

ABOUT THE SJIB

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

ProZone

BECOME AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER

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



↑ The EcoFlex PFP cable protects
hot and cold water pipework

PREVENT PIPES FROM FREEZING

Protect hot and cold water
pipes from freezing this winter
with Flexel's low-cost, easy-to-
install EcoFlex PFP cable.

An integrated thermostat
monitors pipe temperature.
When this drops to 3°C, the
heating cable activates to
prevent freezing. Once the
pipe is safe, the system
de-energises, to save power.

The ready-made unit comes
in lengths of 1m to 50m and
has a 1.5-metre cold lead and
three-pin plug. It is suitable for
metal and plastic pipes up to
50mm in diameter.

The cable is ideal for modular
building and temporary site
accommodation and for boiler
condensate pipes, external
water pipes and waste pipes
in unheated areas such as lofts.
The cable is also backed by
a 10-year warranty.

→ Find out more by emailing
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NJS offers automated, installer-friendly emergency lighting that's built to last

SERVICING the installer
with innovation that
reduces installation time
on-site is paramount
to unifying the
engineer's trust in specifying products
from the NJS Lighting Solutions portfolio.

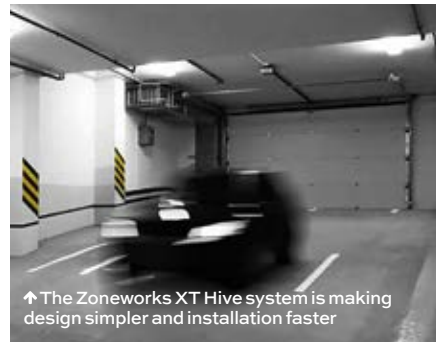
For example, Clevertronics' Zoneworks
XT HIVE system is redefining emergency
lighting with a wireless, self-healing mesh
network that removes the need for extra
cabling or backbone wiring.

Once powered, fittings automatically
create a Dynamic Self-Managed (DSM)
mesh, making design simpler, installation
faster and commissioning more efficient.

A single RF controller manages up
to 1,000 fittings and multiple controllers
can link for unlimited system size.

The system is also compatible with
Clevertronics' L10 emergency luminaires,
which use lithium Nanophosphate
batteries. The 12-year life expectancy
is triple that of standard batteries,
reducing maintenance and waste.

Automated testing and electronic
reporting replace manual walkarounds,



↑ The Zoneworks XT HIVE system is making
design simpler and installation faster

saving time and cost for building owners,
facilities teams and contractors.

The flexibility to test fittings
individually, in groups, or across an
entire site helps ensure compliance
without disruption. Clients specify this
technology in student accommodation,
schools, colleges, offices and public
building projects across Scotland.

→ For more about automated
emergency lighting and NJS's
full support offering, visit www.njslightingsolutions.co.uk.
See the product in action by
scanning the QR code or going
to vimeo.com/1027140175



CLICK SCOLMORE ADDS MATT BRONZE FINISH TO ITS DECO PLUS AND DECO RANGES

Following the success of
the Matt Bronze finish in
the Definity range, Click
Scolmore has added this
sophisticated option to its
Deco Plus and Deco ranges.

The new Matt Bronze
finish, available with black
inserts, is ideal for residential

and commercial settings.
All switch plates are modular
as standard, while the Click
MiniGrid modules are all
easily and quickly exchanged
or mounted onto unfurnished
plates by means of a simple
single screw fixing. This
allows endless combinations

to suit multiple installations.

The Deco Plus and Deco
collections now offer nine
finishes, including Matt
Black and Satin Chrome.

→ Explore the full range at
www.scolmore.com or on the
Scolmore Group's app.



↑ The sleek Matt Bronze finish adds
timeless elegance to any interior

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RELIABLE WEATHERPROOF SOLUTIONS WITH UNICRIMP'S NEW Q-NECT IP68 INLINE CONNECTOR

Unicrimp, part of the Scolmore Group, has expanded its range of robust cable accessories with the launch of the Q-Nect IP68 Inline Connector.

Offering protection against water, dust and environmental ingress, the Q-Nect IP68 is ideal for both commercial and industrial applications where safety and durability are vital.

Key features include:

- IP68 rated for maximum protection against water, dust and dirt
- 2 x 3-port lever connectors for fast, secure terminations
- 2 x PG16 cable glands for enhanced sealing and cable retention
- Adjustable cable entry size for varying installation needs
- Terminal wire capacity – hard cable: 0.08mm² – 4mm² and soft cable: 0.08mm² – 2.5mm².

Whether powering outdoor lighting or running outdoor pump systems, the Q-Nect connector gives peace of mind.

➔ Learn more at www.unicrimp.com or via the Scolmore Group app.

➔ The Q-Nect IP68 Inline Connector protects against water, dust and dirt



↑ The Sonel EVSE-100 is a comprehensive charging station diagnostic tool in a single instrument

Easier and more efficient EV testing

WITH the growth in electromobility, modern diagnostic tools are needed to ensure the safety and reliability of electric vehicle charging stations.

One such solution is the Sonel EVSE-100, a multifunction analyser designed to comprehensively test electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.

The Sonel EVSE-100 enables the verification of an EV charging system's functionality and protective measures, as well as being able to detect possible faults in charging circuits.

Thanks to its broad range of CP and PP circuit simulation, advanced diagnostic functions and portable design, the Sonel EVSE-100 helps to make the everyday work of EV testing by electrical contractors easier and more efficient. Instead of operating

several meters, users are equipped with one versatile instrument capable of performing a full range of tests and generating professional measurement reports from the results.

The Sonel EVSE-100 offers extensive testing capabilities in the field of electromobility, which support the comprehensive diagnostics and testing of stationary EV charging stations.

The EVSE-100 allows for the full testing of Mode 3 EV charging stations equipped with either a socket or a permanently connected charging cable, in accordance with IEC 61851-1 and IEC 60364-6 standards.

These may include single-phase or three-phase wall or pole-mounted chargers installed outdoors.

➔ Find out more at bit.ly/sonel-evse-100

CLICK SCOLMORE LAUNCHES ELUCIAN SINGLE WIDTH, SINGLE PHASE ENERGY METER

Click Scolmore has added a new single width, single phase energy meter to its growing range of Elucian consumer units and protective devices, designed to deliver precise energy measurement in a compact, user-friendly format.

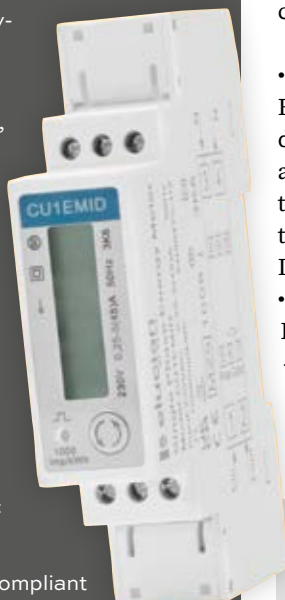
Suitable for residential properties, small commercial premises, or energy-conscious retrofits, the new meter combines high accuracy, reliability, full compliance and space-saving design.

MID certified, the 45A rated single phase energy meter is a smart choice for installations requiring a straightforward yet dependable energy measurement solution.

Features include:

- Compact, single width design
- MID approval – compliant with EU regulations.
- Accurate measurement helps users track and manage electricity usage
- Easy installation and maintenance
- Comprehensive display with nine measurement parameters
- Three-year warranty for assured quality and peace of mind.

➔ To view the full range of single phase energy meters visit elucianuk.com or download the Scolmore Group app.



↑ The compact meter has nine measurement parameters

Boost your skill set with Aico training courses

AICO, the European market leader in home life safety, is offering training resources to help contractors successfully use its products.

The courses on offer include:

- The Expert Installer scheme – a free, FIA CPD-accredited programme that delivers vital training in domestic fire and CO alarm installation. Combining theory with hands-on training, it offers two hours of CPD plus access to Aico's Installer Community.
- Aico's City & Guilds-assured course, Domestic Fire & CO Alarm Systems – a full-day theory-and-practical programme, delivered by Aico's technical team. Installers who complete this training are added

to Aico's website installer search, with SELECT Members prioritised as a Gold Standard Installer.

- The Expert Apprentice module – designed for electrical apprentices, giving them foundational knowledge of domestic fire detection, plus 30 minutes' CPD time.
- The Expert Carbon Monoxide course – covers everything you need to know about CO detection, including standards and legislation, building regulations, alarm siting, alarm interconnection, CO detection and alarm maintenance.

Other Aico courses include Managing Damp & Mould, Healthy Homes, Smart Homes and Expert Distributor.

➔ To register for any Aico training course, contact your local Relationship Manager at www.aico.co.uk/contact

↓ Aico's training courses help installers boost their knowledge of the firm's products and their uses



MVHR designed for comfort and performance

An experienced design team considers every critical factor to deliver solutions tailored to each home and lifestyle.

A key element is selecting the appropriate unit size, as undersized MVHR units often become overworked, which results in excess noise and reduced efficiency.

Ubbink carefully matches the unit to the property, to ensure optimal performance and provide a complete ventilation solution.

A well-designed MVHR system also depends on an efficient ductwork layout.

Ubbink's specialists design precise ductwork runs using materials suited to each

location within the property.

The high-quality ductwork is engineered to minimise air resistance and achieve superior airtightness, enabling the system to operate both efficiently and effectively.

For an MVHR system to perform correctly, it must be balanced, meaning the volume of extracted air

equals the volume of supplied air. Ubbink calculates and establishes the required airflow rates for each property, ensuring a finely tuned system that delivers maximum comfort and performance.

➔ For more information, visit bit.ly/mvhr-total-solutions



↑ Timeguard's range features factory-fitted Type 2 SPDs to protect against over-voltages

Circuit protection you can trust

AFTER more than 25 years delivering trusted electrical solutions, Timeguard is expanding into circuit protection, with a comprehensive consumer unit range engineered for today's installations and 18th Edition compliance.

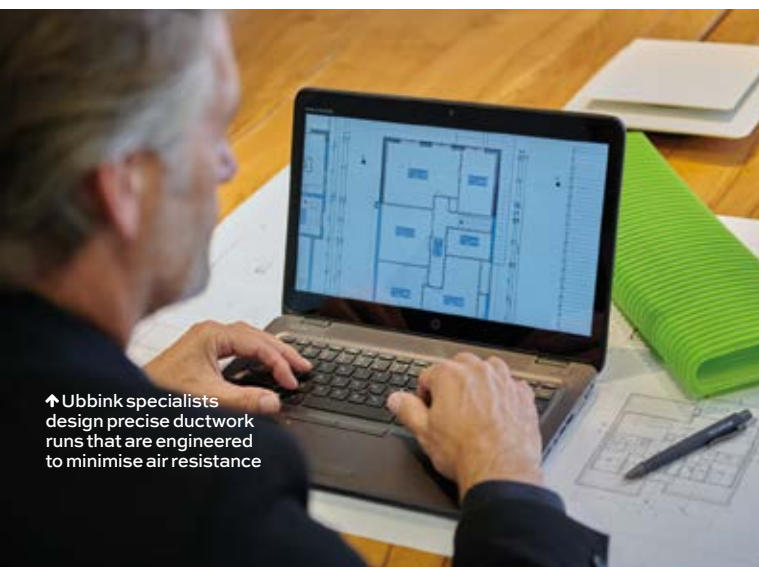
Every feature delivers the safety standards that customers expect from this trusted British electrical brand. These include:

- Factory-fitted Type 2 SPDs on units to protect against transient over-voltages
- Main switch enclosures supporting up to 27 independent circuits of RCBOs and/or AFDDs

- Bidirectional switched neutral RCBOs for solar PV installations
- Generous wiring space with raised, removable DIN rails
- Twin-screw main switch terminals
- Torque settings conveniently marked on the front/side of devices.

Timeguard's circuit protection range – aimed at the repair, maintain and improvement market – positions contractors to meet regulations and future challenges while maintaining efficiency.

→ Find out more by visiting www.timeguard.com



↑ Ubbink specialists design precise ductwork runs that are engineered to minimise air resistance



↓ Power Quality Clinic provides you with essential tools and information

EXPERT POWER QUALITY ANALYSIS MADE EASY

Power Quality Clinic is a revolutionary online consultation service designed to empower electrical contractors and businesses with accessible, expert power quality analysis.

Power Quality Clinic – from Power Quality Expert – offers three subscription tiers to meet the diverse needs of electrical contractors. Each tier provides a monthly allowance of Power Quality Clinic reports, accompanied by valuable pre- and post-survey consultations. A free tier allows you to explore the service.

The 'Power Quality as a Service' model allows you to scale services without the costs of hiring dedicated experts or investing in equipment.

→ Find out more at www.powerqualityclinic.com

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Main Switch



Maximum
Torque Settings



Knockouts



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Scan Me

C8 helps find hidden faults



↓ The FLIR C8 Compact Pocket Thermal Camera is portable yet powerful

THE new FLIR C8 Compact Pocket Thermal Camera, available from Acutest, brings high-resolution thermography to electricians, engineers and inspectors in a portable, rugged form.

With 320 x 240 thermal resolution and FLIR's MSX® image enhancement, the C8 helps users to find hidden faults quickly and confidently across electrical, HVAC and building applications.

Compact yet powerful, it features a 3.5-inch touchscreen, built-in visual camera, LED worklight and seamless Wi-Fi connectivity. The C8 also supports automatic

uploading to FLIR Ignite™, where images can be stored, accessed and reported using built-in templates.

A specialist in test equipment, Acutest offers expert advice, competitive quotes and hands-on support to ensure professionals choose the right tool for the job.

In addition to online demonstrations, Acutest can provide on-site demonstrations of more comprehensive thermal imaging systems, bringing expertise directly to your facility.

The FLIR C8 is drop-tested to 2m and IP54 rated, making it tough enough for real-world use without compromising precision.

➔ Find out more or request a demo at bit.ly/flir-c8-camera



↑ Optical and heat detection is combined in one compact unit

ESPIRE DUAL-SENSOR SMOKE AND HEAT ALARMS FROM ESP

Advanced fire safety is guaranteed with Espire's innovative dual smoke and heat alarm from ESP – combining the benefits of both optical and heat detection in one compact unit for maximum safety coverage.

Designed to respond to a wide range of fire types – from fast flaming to slow smouldering – the Espire smoke and heat alarm uses intelligent monitoring software to analyse input from both sensors and trigger alerts, reducing false alarms.

The addition of ESP-exclusive innovations, such as auto-dimming LED indicators, dust compensation and RF-Link capability, further elevates performance.

There are two power options:

- By mains, with a sealed, tamper-proof, 10-year lithium battery
- By a sealed, tamper-proof, 10-year lithium battery.

The Espire dual smoke and heat alarm is to be installed in accordance with BS 5839-6.

The alarm is certified to BS EN 14604 and BS 5446-2, combining the full compliance of separate detectors in one dual-sensor product.

As with all Espire alarms, this model has a lock-in base, hush button and eco-friendly packaging, aligning with ESP's mission to provide reliable and sustainable safety solutions.

➔ Learn more at www.espireuk.com and the Scolmore Group app.



ELECTRIFYING SCOTLAND'S FUTURE WITH DIMPLEX

As Scotland accelerates towards net zero, Dimplex is proud to support the transition with innovative electric heating, commercial network systems and ventilation solutions.

Now, to support the electrical industry, Dimplex

is offering SELECT-accredited CPD at The Walled Garden near Edinburgh.

Sessions will cover the latest technologies, installation best practice and policy updates. The opening presentation, *The*

Electrification of Heat in Buildings, will set the stage for future SELECT Member forums and category-specific solution topics.

➔ The first session is on Tuesday 25 November. Reserve your place at training@select.org.uk

WIN ALLY PALLY HOSPITALITY TICKETS

Luceco is running an exciting competition this autumn, offering contractors the chance to win hundreds of prizes, including hospitality tickets to watch the darts live at Alexandra Palace.

Playing couldn't be simpler:

- Visit www.lucecodarts.co.uk
- Join the Luceco mailing list
- Throw your digital dart and hit the bullseye for an instant win!

Every player is also entered into a grand prize draw for hospitality tickets at the Ally Pally on 19 December.

➔ Enter at www.lucecodarts.co.uk



↑ Throw a digital dart and hit the bullseye for an instant win

↑ LINIAN's cable tray clip enables fast and secure installations

10 years of innovative solutions

CELEBRATING a decade of innovation, LINIAN continues to lead the way in cable management solutions with its cable tray clip – a robust, time-saving product designed to secure cables to steel cable trays without the need for tools or fixings.

The one-piece clip enables fast and secure installations while maintaining exceptional durability. Its innovative design delivers a strong, reliable grip that

holds firm even in high-vibration environments.

Compatible with a variety of cable types and tray sizes, the clip also supports compliance with fire safety standards.

By removing the need for additional components or tools, it significantly reduces installation time and labour costs.

As LINIAN marks its 10-year anniversary, the cable tray clip stands as a testament to the company's commitment to efficiency, safety and forward-thinking design.

➔ Find out more at www.linianclip.co.uk



CO alarms

Your safety, our priority.

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- Carbon Monoxide & Heat • Smoke & Heat



Auto-Dimming Power LED (Walls Only)



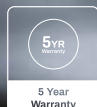
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→ The College 2 luminaire is designed to deliver visual comfort and high performance

Bright sparks elevate classrooms



THORN Lighting has unveiled College 2, a next-generation luminaire designed to elevate modern learning environments.

Building on the success of Thorn's best-selling College range, the new model combines high performance and visual comfort with installer-focused engineering. It's ideal for classrooms, lecture theatres and libraries but also suitable for offices and healthcare areas.

College 2 delivers low-glare (UGR < 19), evenly diffused illumination for comfortable teaching environments. Selected variants are IP44-rated, making them appropriate for science

labs and workshops.

Comprehensive controls offer DALI-2 or Bluetooth wireless, with presence and daylight sensing, and emergency options helping ensure light is provided only when and where it's needed.

For installers, College 2 introduces a patent-pending hinged gear tray that enables safe, eye-level wiring and swift servicing, reducing time spent working at height.

It supports seven mounting options, including surface, suspension and continuous run, and is engineered for direct one-for-one replacement of legacy College luminaires,

simplifying refurbishments and minimising disruption.

Designed and manufactured at Thorn's Spennymoor facility in north-east England, College 2 reflects Thorn's focus on quality and sustainability.

With efficacy up to 145 lm/W and a long 100,000-hour (L80) service life, the luminaire helps lower operating costs over time.

→ Find out more at www.thornlighting.co.uk

OVIA'S NEW AND IMPROVED EVO ORB LAUNCHES

Ovia's expanding Utility range of luminaires now includes the new and improved Evo Orb LED bulkhead.

Designed to adapt to any environment, it delivers flexibility, longevity and energy efficiency in one compact unit.

Distinguished by its sleek 78mm depth, the Evo Orb offers both contemporary design and robust engineering. With an IK08 impact rating and IP65 ingress protection, it offers exceptional resistance

to dust, water and mechanical impact, making it ideal for demanding environments.

Providing an efficacy of 120lm/W, the Evo Orb features power-selectable outputs of 10W, 13W, or 15W, with CCT selectable options of 3000K, 4000K, or 6000K. There are four versions – Standard, Microwave, Emergency and Microwave & Emergency – full compliance with the BS 5266-1 emergency lighting standards and a five-year warranty.

Evo Orb has clever features to ensure a smooth install every time, including:

- Quick connections – the fast-fit terminal block allows tool-free wiring, while the

integrated Molex style connector ensures a secure plug-and-play connection, saving time on every job.

- Quick-release clip – the gear tray is pre-attached to the diffuser, streamlining installation. It can be easily disconnected from the base using the quick release clip.
- Secure and quick entry – the diffuser easily twists off the base for quick access.
- BESA mountable base.
- Four M20 gland entry points for flexible wiring options.

There's optional self-testing with the emergency versions, enabling the Evo Orb to be retrofit into systems without compromising test schedules.



→ Ovia's Evo Orb LED bulkhead boasts clever features to ensure a smooth install

→ Watch a video at bit.ly/oviaevo and learn more at oviauk.com or via the Scolmore Group app.



SHOWING NOW ON SELECT TV

Get expert advice and technical tips with the huge range of videos available for Members 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 now at bit.ly/STV-cable

DESIGN LIABILITY

What exactly is 'design'? When do I take on responsibility for it? And what should I look out for and avoid? Our answers will help guide you through the maze when it comes to the world of design.

- ➔ Watch now at bit.ly/STV-design

TOP TIPS FOR GETTING PAID

The problem of late and withheld payments is all-too-common, so here's some invaluable practical advice on payment schedules, detailed applications and agreeing matters beforehand.

- ➔ Watch now at bit.ly/STV-paid

READING THE SMALL PRINT

Expert Professor Rudi Klein explains why it's vital to always check a supplier's terms and conditions.

- ➔ Watch now at bit.ly/STV-TCs

HOME OFFICES & 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

PROBLEM CLAUSES

The pitfalls of hidden clauses, including contract amends, retention issues and payment provisions and schedules, plus extensions of time, 'termination for convenience' and omission of work.

- ➔ Watch now at bit.ly/STV-clauses

BIDDING STRATEGIES

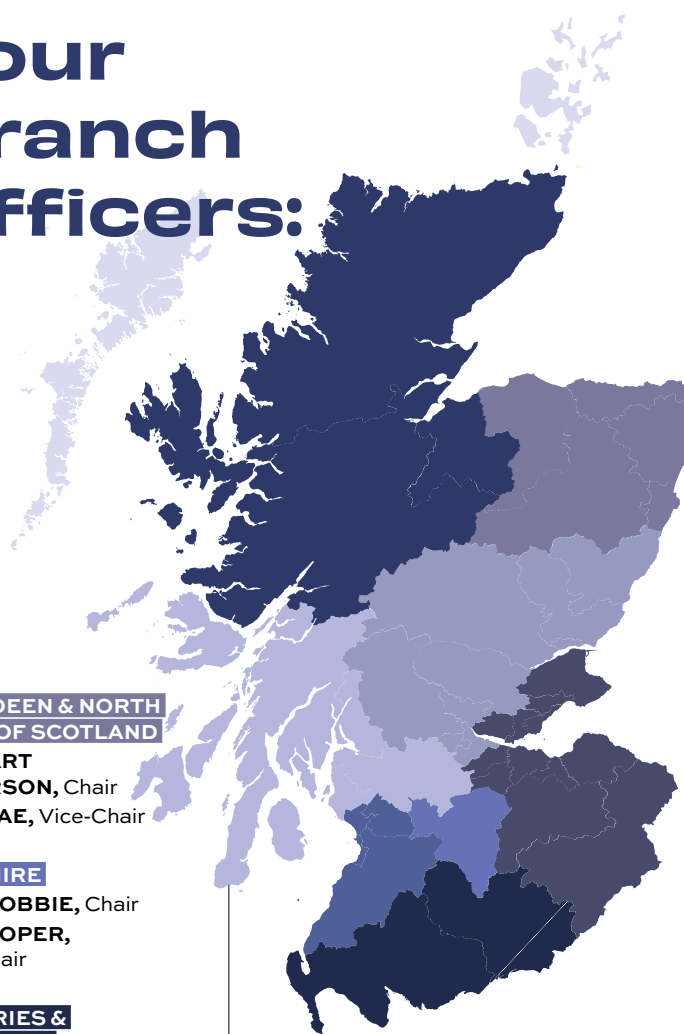
In this useful film, we offer exclusive guidance and practical advice on bidding strategies.

- ➔ Watch it now at bit.ly/STV-matbid

Watch now at
bit.ly/SELECT-TV



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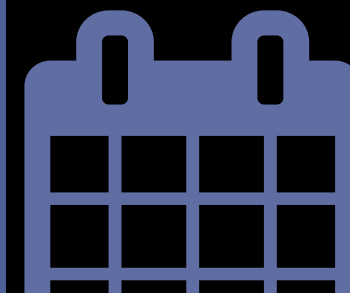
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SELECT EVENTS 2025

Catch up with colleagues
at the final events in our
125th anniversary year

WIN £200 OF **Megger** TEST EQUIPMENT



MEMBERS // DIARY

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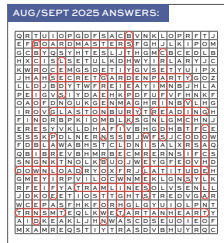
Fire alarm wordsearch

Z	A	Q	W	S	X	E	D	C	R	F	V	T	G	B	Y	H	N	U	J	M	I	K
M	G	E	M	E	R	G	E	N	C	Y	E	R	T	Y	U	B	I	O	D	P	H	L
K	H	A	G	X	W	J	O	V	O	L	K	H	F	E	V	A	C	U	A	T	E	O
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P	L	D	R	I	L	L	O	H	T	N	B	V	C	X	M	R	L	R	G	H	T	T
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R	S	M	D	H	U	S	S	D	S	S	J	A	C	D	E	M	F	F	A	S	D	I
F	A	S	C	E	K	Y	L	H	M	D	M	L	T	L	G	V	S	E	N	S	O	R
S	U	P	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N	Y	E	H	S	H	X	L	T	O	P	P	E
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D	G	N	B	V	C	M	J	K	L	O	P	D	B	S	S	M	R	E	R	T	Y	R
F	H	K	S	P	O	Y	T	J	K	L	P	X	C	S	I	W	T	V	G	H	J	T
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M	L	O	P	B	U	Z	Z	E	R	L	K	G	F	D	E	T	E	C	T	P	O	N
B	A	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	N	A	F	J	L	K	U	I	O	P	D	E	I	P

- ALARM
- ALERT
- BARRIER
- BUZZER
- CONTROL
- DANGER
- DETECT
- DRILL
- EMERGENCY
- EXTINGUISHER
- EVACUATE
- EXIT
- FIRE
- FLAME
- HEAT
- HORN
- SAFETY
- SENSOR
- SIGNAGE
- SIREN
- SMOKE
- SPRINKLER
- SUPPRESSION
- SYSTEM
- WARNING

Here's your chance to win a top-of-the-range Megger voltage tester and proving unit worth more than £200 by completing our prize wordsearch about fire alarms.

Find all the words listed above then take a picture of your completed wordsearch and email it to **memberservices@select.org.uk** by Friday 7 November. The winner will be drawn at random. Ts&Cs are online. Congratulations to our August/September winner **Kevin Simpson** from **KS Electrics**.



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.

CENTRAL BOARD
Thursday 4 December,
Balmoral
Hotel, Edinburgh



125TH ANNIVERSARY GRAND BALL

Friday 14 November –
Marriott Hotel, Glasgow
Places still available, priced at £125 per ticket or £1,250 for a table of 10.
Email **memberservices@select.org.uk** or call **0131 445 5577** to book



PAST PRESIDENTS' 125th CHRISTMAS LUNCH
SPONSORED BY **electrium**

PAST PRESIDENTS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

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