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electrotechnical industry

# cabletalk

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026 | £4.50



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rising stars**

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knowledge**

Changes to standards  
about hazardous areas  
and emergency lighting

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**cabletalk**  
Published on behalf of SELECT by  
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*cabletalk* is the official magazine of SELECT  
and is distributed free to qualifying readers.  
ISSN 1365-3288. SELECT is the trading  
style of the Electrical Contractors'  
Association of Scotland. The SELECT  
logo is a registered Collective Mark.



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WIN  
£200 OF  
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## OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY PARTNERS



# Celebrating our

**A**S 2025 draws to an end, so does our very special 125th anniversary year – and what a year it's been!

As you'll see in this issue of *cabletalk*, the recent Grand Ball was the culmination of events held across the year to mark the founding of the world's first trade association for the electrical industry.

The day after the ball – 15 November – marked the official 125th anniversary of the first-ever meeting of what was to become the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland, now known of course as SELECT.

As I told the 300 friends who joined us at the Marriott Hotel in Glasgow, when I think about the journey we've had, I can picture those first few contractors in 1900, huddled in a room lit by the very technology they were pioneering, determined to raise standards and bring respect to a new and rapidly growing profession. They couldn't have known then that their small association would grow into the strong and influential organisation we all know today.

Fast forward 125 years and the industry would look hugely different to what these pioneers experienced, but in some ways, nothing has changed. In those first few years, our founders were discussing new entrants into the sector, unqualified people doing electrical work and getting paid on time. Issues that we're still discussing today!

**"THROUGH EVERY CHANGE AT THE ASSOCIATION, ONE THING HAS BEEN CONSISTENT AND NEVER WAVERED – THE PEOPLE WHO GIVE THEIR TIME, SKILL AND ENERGY TO MAKE SELECT WHAT IT IS"**

## CHANGES AHEAD

The next 12 months will see a change in SELECT's staff too. As you will read later in this issue, I will be stepping down next summer and my successor, Sharon Miller, has already joined the team.

In addition, our long-serving Finance Director and Association Secretary, John McGhee, will retire in March and his replacement, Jenny Petrie, is already in place to ensure she is up to speed when he departs The Walled Garden.

And finally, our hugely experienced and well-respected Director of Technical Services, Bob Cairney, will also retire in March, with his role taken over by Robert McGoogan. Those of you who know Robert from his time as a Technical Adviser in Ayrshire and Dumfries will know what a good fit he is for the role and I look forward to seeing him flourish and grow.

This may seem like a lot of change for any organisation to go through, but I'm more than confident that the new Management Team will lead SELECT to even greater success.

## PRIDE AND PURPOSE

Those of you who attended the Grand Ball will recognise the following words from my speech, but I think they're worth repeating to a wider audience as we prepare to wind down for the festive season.

Through every change at the association, one thing has been consistent and never wavered – the

people who give their time, skill and energy to make SELECT what it is.

So, as we look back with pride and forward with purpose, I want to say thank you to everyone who has shaped this journey. Whether you've served in the highest office as President, served on one of our Branches, been on a committee, trained an apprentice or simply carried the SELECT name with pride, you are part of something truly enduring.

In conclusion, here's to our founders, our past and our future, to 125 years of excellence and to many more years of lighting the way for Scotland's electrotechnical industry.

Here's to SELECT – 125 years old and still going strong! 🌟



**ALAN WILSON**

Managing Director, SELECT





# special year

**A**S I write these words, I'm still basking in the success of our recent 125th Anniversary Grand Ball in Glasgow.

How wonderful it was to spend the evening with so many friends from across Scotland and beyond, celebrating all that is good about our industry.

Looking around the room at the Marriott Hotel in Glasgow, I was struck – not for the first time – by the amazing wealth of talent we have in our sector.

From young apprentices just starting out to established business people and industry stalwarts, it was truly humbling to be President for such an occasion.

I was also reminded of how fortunate we are to be part of a trade association like SELECT, which, like its Members, has flourished and grown over the past century and a quarter.

**"WILL THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE FUTURE SEEM LIKE IMPOSSIBLE SCIENCE FICTION, JUST AS TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY WOULD TO THE LIKES OF OUR PRESIDENT DONALD SMEATON MUNRO IN 1922?"**

As the event proved, this unique organisation continues to serve its Members' interests and empower electrical contractors from the Borders to the Shetlands – and everywhere in between.

## GETTING TOGETHER

I've seen this for myself over the past 12 months as I've attended more events and met Members from businesses of all sizes.

One of the undoubted highlights was this year's Toolbox Talks, which were bigger and better than ever, with four topical technical presentations and hundreds of Members flocking to the 12 venues for essential updates.

With Amendment 4 on the horizon, next year's events promise to be even more popular, and I'm already looking forward to attending – both before and after I hand over the chains of office to my successor in June.

With Branch Updates, the President's Cup and the fifth Professionals' Day also pencilled into the diary – not to mention numerous committees and other meetings – 2026 will be just as busy as the past year when it comes to association activity.

As I said last year, this is a good thing though as in our industry, it's vital to never stand still.

## FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Looking at the images of Past Presidents beamed onto the walls at the Grand Ball,

I wonder what they'd have made of today's electrotechnical landscape and what would they think about EVs, PV and battery storage.

I also wonder what the electrical contractor of the future will be installing, maintaining and repairing when it's time for SELECT's 150th anniversary in 25 years' time. Will the technology of the future seem like impossible science fiction, just as today's technology would to the likes of our President Donald Smeaton Munro in 1922?

One thing is for sure – whatever we are working on, SELECT will be by our side and having had a peek behind the curtain at The Walled Garden for the past 18 months, I know how committed the staff are to all our welfare.

As the Grand Ball showed, although the faces may change down the decades, it's comforting to know that the ethos behind our association does not and that it will keep looking after Scotland's electricians for many years to come.

Have a very merry Christmas when it comes and here's to a successful 2026 for us all. 🎁



**MIKE STARK**

President, SELECT



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

# News



↑ The updated  
timeline brochure

## NEW UPDATE FOR SELECT'S STORY

SELECT's special timeline brochure has been updated with events from our 125th anniversary year.

The revised publication now includes details and images from this year's Toolbox Talks, Branch Updates, President's Cup, Professionals' Day and 125th Anniversary Grand Ball.

It also includes other landmark events from 2025, including the visit by Midlothian Council Provost Debbi McCall at a special anniversary lunch in March.

Download the updated timeline from the 'Publications' section at [www.select.org.uk](http://www.select.org.uk)



↑ Mike Stark, Alan  
Wilson, Sharon Miller  
and Darren Crockett

## 'Privilege' to lead association's next chapter

Our new Managing Director Designate Sharon Miller reveals she's ready to deliver for our Members and tackle the challenges that may lie ahead for our industry



↑ Sharon will bring  
her experience  
and expertise

# S

**ELECT'S** new Managing Director Designate says "it is a great privilege" to lead the association after she becomes the first woman to hold

the post in our 125-year history. Sharon Miller – who has broad experience across government and a strong reputation for delivery – took up her position on 1 December, shadowing current association MD Alan Wilson until he leaves next summer.

Sharon, who has worked in both the UK and Scottish governments

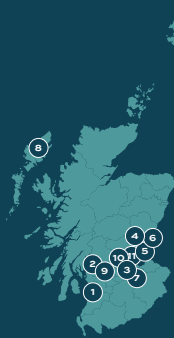


## + PAGE 8 /

Warning over short electrical training courses that are putting public safety at risk

## + PAGE 10 /

Alan Wilson tells construction podcast about the need for urgent action over regulation



# 11 FIRMS HAVE BECOME SELECT MEMBERS SINCE 1 OCTOBER 2025

1. DB Electrics, Ayr
2. ADR Electrical Contracting Ltd, Milngavie
3. Action Electrical Ltd, Bathgate
4. JH Electrical, Perth
5. B G Mac Electrical, Dundee
6. Renewable & Electrical Power Systems Ltd, Carnoustie

7. Calderwood Electrical Services Ltd, Livingston
8. Ali Macleod Electrical Ltd, Stornoway
9. Arc-Tech (Scotland) Limited, Glasgow
10. DCL Joinery & Contractors, Grangemouth
11. Reece Doyle Electrical, Kirkcaldy

## "WE KNOW SHARON'S EXPERIENCE WILL HELP THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS MEMBERS WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THEIR HISTORY"

since 1988, was instrumental in the creation of the Construction Leadership Forum (CLF), a unique collaboration of industry, government policy, academia, trades unions and professional representatives.

She also has experience of the challenges faced by SMEs in the construction sector, which is particularly relevant to SELECT as around 65% of its membership is comprised of small and medium-sized companies.

Sharon said: "It is a great privilege to have been asked to lead the team at SELECT, which has a proud 125-year history of providing excellent services to its Member companies and is working hard to ensure the long-term health of our industry.

"During my work with the CLF and the Construction Accord team, we achieved levels of collaboration not seen in the sector before. I want to continue this partnership approach in my new role to deliver progress for our Members on the issues that matter to them.

"My years working with the construction sector and my family background in small businesses has given me a keen understanding of the challenges faced by SMEs in construction."

### RECORD OF SUCCESS

Alan, who has been SELECT MD since 2019, said: "SELECT could

not have chosen a better successor than Sharon to my time in office. She has an impressive depth of experience and a strong reputation for delivery through partnership and collaboration.

"I know she will take forward SELECT's ongoing campaign for the professional recognition of electricians and will guide the association and its Members into an exciting future as we all become increasingly dependent on the use of electricity."

SELECT President Mike Stark added: "On behalf of the SELECT Central Board, I would like to welcome Sharon to Scotland's largest construction trade association and we look forward to working with her.

"In our 125th year, we have spent a lot of time reflecting on the past, but it is also important for us to look to the future and plot the path ahead for the electrotechnical industry.

"We know Sharon's experience will help the association and its members write the next chapter in their history."

Sharon holds a Master's degree in Business Administration. Her personal interests are global cuisine, gym, aquafit, travel and theatre. She has carried out a variety of voluntary work over the years, most recently with Riding for the Disabled.

## CHANGES AHEAD AT THE WALLED GARDEN

As well as the arrival of Managing Director Designate Sharon Miller, SELECT will see a number of other staff changes in the coming months.

In the **Technical Services** team, Director Bob Cairney will be stepping down in March 2026. His replacement will be Technical Services Manager Robert McGoogan, who will act as Director of Technical Services Designate from 1 January and take on the role full-time from 1 April.

Technical Adviser Bruce Findlay will take on Robert's role as Technical Services Manager, while Technical Adviser Keith Hagen will retire at the end of the year, with a successor to be appointed shortly.

In the **Finance** team, Jenny Petrie has taken over as Director of Finance from John McGhee, who will be stepping down as Director. John will continue to act as Association Secretary until the end of March.

SELECT recently welcomed Ruth Wallace as our new Database Coordinator, replacing ICT Project ManagerCarolynn Shaw, who has retired after 25 years at the association.

And in **Employment Affairs & Resources**, Ellie Cochrane started at The Walled Garden on 24 November as an Employment & Skills Administrator. Megan Wilson has also joined the team as our new full-time Receptionist and Office Assistant.



↓ Robert McGoogan



↓ Bruce Findlay



↓ Jenny Petrie



↑ Carolynn retired in October



↑ Yvonne flew the flag for SELECT

## PUTTING PUPILS ON THE PATH TO GREAT CAREERS

SELECT's Yvonne Wilson represented the association at a recent event which encouraged youngsters to consider a career in construction.

The Skills & Client Relations Manager promoted the benefits of the electrotechnical industry at the Step into STEM day at South Lanarkshire College on 8 October.

Yvonne spent the day meeting 260 pupils from nine secondary schools across Lanarkshire, answering questions and sharing her insights about the sector as a rewarding career path.

She said: "It was an extremely engaging event, with plenty of interest from the pupils."

# 'Six-week wonders' are still a danger to public safety

SELECT issues a renewed warning about the risks posed by organisations claiming to be able to train electricians in just a few weeks instead of following a proper apprenticeship route

**S**ELECT has once again warned of the ongoing danger to public safety from organisations offering

to train people in electrical installation skills in just a few weeks.

The association has repeated its alert about the rising trend of "six-week wonders" – and expressed dismay that some courses now appear to be offering even shorter training periods in electrotechnical work.

Alan Wilson, Managing Director, said: "Despite repeated warnings, we continue to see short courses being offered, including a recent example that promised to equip candidates with electrical

installation skills in a month with no prior experience needed.

"It is a matter of considerable concern that some of these so-called training providers appear to be suggesting that it's possible to learn

in a few weeks some of the

complex technical skills that qualified electricians take years to acquire.

"Inadequately trained people pose a significant risk to both consumers and the electrical sector itself.

There is no substitute for a proper apprenticeship, followed by extensive on-the-job experience." SELECT has been at the forefront of a long-running campaign for the professional recognition of electricians, which would make it illegal for unqualified people to pose as electricians.



↑ Mark Heaney with Livingston captain Ryan McGowan

## JHE'S PERFECT MATCH WITH LIVINGSTON FC

SELECT Member firm John Heaney Electrical (JHE) has increased its sponsorship of local Scottish Premiership club Livingston.

The electrical, mechanical and HVAC specialist has been a long-time supporter of the Lions, with the company name emblazoned on the first-team squad's shorts and perimeter advertising at the stadium.

West Lothian-based JHE has now further strengthened

its ties with the Premiership outfit by sponsoring the plinth which holds the match-day ball in front of the main stand.

Managing director Mark Heaney, who also sponsors skipper Ryan McGowan's home shirt, said: "We have supported Livingston FC for several years now and are delighted to see them back in the top flight, where they belong.

"When the opportunity was presented to us to sponsor the plinth, we said yes as it gave us the opportunity to further our support for our local team and it keeps the JHE name out there."





↑ Proper training is essential for safe electrical installation

Alan added: “The key to keeping the sector safe is to make sure that people get work done properly and that those who work in the industry do so in a safe and competent manner.

“With the rise in renewables and ever more sophisticated technology, it’s vitally important that only properly qualified and suitably skilled experts install products and carry out repairs and maintenance.”

SELECT, the Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB) and Unite the Union all work in close partnership with



↓ Apprenticeships are vital for a properly skilled workforce

## **“INADEQUATELY TRAINED PEOPLE POSE A SIGNIFICANT RISK TO BOTH CONSUMERS AND THE ELECTRICAL SECTOR ITSELF”**

the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) to ensure the Modern Apprenticeship in Electrical Installation produces an annual pipeline of talent.

Alan added: “The wellbeing of the public and the safety focus on the work undertaken by electricians have always been at the forefront of everything that SELECT does, which is why we help run some of the most rigorous and most demanding apprenticeships and training courses in the industry.

“The industry already has routes to entry for people with transferrable skills but, in general, adult apprenticeship schemes are still the best option for securing a recognised qualification for people wanting a change in career.”

→ SNP politicians add names to Wall of Support: Pages 24 & 25

## **Toolbox Talks hit road with support from Aico**

SELECT has secured two significant sponsorship deals with Aico that will help us continue to deliver our popular events in 2026.

The Associate Member has generously stepped up and agreed to support our Toolbox Talks, which will be visiting 13 venues across Scotland in May, June and July, delivering updates on Amendment 4 and other technical topics.

The market-leading experts in home life safety will also be sponsoring our fifth Professionals’ Day, which will once again see senior industry decision-makers gather to discuss relevant electrotechnical issues.

SELECT is now in discussions with other Associates to secure sponsorship for our Branch Updates, President’s Cup, President’s Lunch and Past Presidents’ Lunch.

Iain Mason, Director of Membership, Events & Communications, said: “The response from Aico has been phenomenal and once again we are truly grateful for their support.

“We are confident of securing other sponsorship deals in the coming weeks, as well as a range of prizes to hand out to Members at our events next year.”

To find out more about sponsorship and exhibition opportunities, please contact Linda at [linda.rolfe@select.org.uk](mailto:linda.rolfe@select.org.uk) or call us on 0131 445 5577.

→ Aico is generously supporting our events



## ROBERT SPREADS SAFETY MESSAGE

Robert McGoogan flew the flag for SELECT at a recent conference which promoted the importance of net zero installations.

Our Technical Services Manager was a guest speaker at a customer day event hosted by Zurich Municipal at the Radisson Blu in Glasgow on 20 November.

Robert discussed the importance of always using suitably qualified electrotechnical contractors and the technical and safety aspects of renewable installations.

He told delegates: "It's vital for public sector organisations to ensure that they are assessing the credentials of electrical contractors whom they wish to employ to undertake the installation of decarbonisation systems and equipment.

"The installation of PV systems or transition from gas central heating to electric heating can be expensive, so it's vital that the correct contractor with the relevant qualifications and experience is selected so these systems can operate correctly and efficiently."



↑ Robert speaking at the net zero event



# Alan's call for urgent action on regulation

SELECT MD tells construction podcast about the risks of poor quality electrical work and the dangers to the public posed by unqualified operators

**U**NQUALIFIED electricians in Scotland pose a significant threat to public safety, SELECT Managing Director Alan Wilson has warned in a new construction industry podcast. The association's MD voiced his

concerns in the latest episode of *Hard Hat Talks*, during which he also reinforced the urgent need for the regulation of the electrical sector in the country.

Speaking to architect Kenneth Martin, Alan said that as many as 13% of fires in the home could be traced back to poor electrical work, though accurate

## Yvonne re-elected to role in Holyrood industry group

SELECT Skills & Client Relations Manager Yvonne Wilson has been re-elected as Secretary of the Scottish Government's Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Construction.

Yvonne was confirmed in her role at the group's

AGM on 1 October, which included a presentation on embodied carbon from Jonathan McQuillan and Dr Fatma Pel Ekdi from Anderson Bell & Christie.

Others attending included SECTT CEO Fiona Harper, Elaine Ellis of SDS, Grahame Barn

from CECA Scotland, the FMB's Gordon Nelson and Jocelyne Fleming of the CIOB.

The group was also joined by three MSPs – Sharon Dowey, Mercedes Villalba and Monica Lennon, who is convenor of the CPG.

↓ Yvonne, centre, at the CPG meeting







statistics were hard to come by. And he highlighted that although professions such as doctors, nurses and even farriers and door staff were tightly regulated, there is no such requirement for electricians – meaning anyone can set themselves up as an apparent expert, risking public safety.

Alan said: “These kind of people tend to be the kind who will turn up at your house in a van that says ‘Plumber, Electrician, Decorator, Joiner, Roofer’ on the side – and then one person gets out. That’s who they tend to be.

“What they tend to do is small scale electrical work, where they’ll maybe connect bits of wiring. If they’re doing kitchen work, they’ll maybe connect up lights or cookers.

“But electrical installation is becoming ever more complex.

↑ Alan, right, chats to Kenneth on the *Hard Hat* podcast

**WATCH**  
Watch the  
podcast at  
[bit.ly/hht-  
alan-wilson](http://bit.ly/hht-alan-wilson)



↑ Even farriers have to be regulated

**“WE’RE NOW LOOKING AT THE ONGOING ELECTRIFICATION OF SOCIETY. IT’S SO IMPORTANT THAT THE PRODUCTS IN OUR HOMES ARE INSTALLED SAFELY BY PEOPLE WHO ARE PROPERLY TRAINED AND KNOW WHAT THEY’RE DOING”**

## Very merry Christmas from SELECT

SELECT would like to wish all Members a very happy Christmas. Our offices will close on Wednesday 24 December and re-open on Monday 5 January 2026.



The Wiring Regulations, which lay down the requirements for electricians, are currently being updated, with the latest version due next year.

“Every year that goes by, working practices change. If the person maybe did have some knowledge back in 2000, the landscape is completely different 25 years later.”

Alan said SELECT was continuing its push for regulation and, while it had been successful in garnering cross-party support in the Scottish Parliament, it was now trying to embed the promise of regulation into party manifestos ahead of next year’s elections.

He said: “Whenever we explain to politicians that it’s an unregulated profession, they throw up their hands in horror and say, ‘How has that not happened?’ In turn **WE** throw our hands up and say, ‘Make it happen – **YOU** have the power to do something.’

“The opportunity is there because we’re now looking at the ongoing electrification of society. It’s so important that the products in our homes are installed safely by people who are properly trained and who know what they’re doing.”

Alan said SECTT saw 19,000 people undertake its aptitude test between January and July this year. However, he said the number of apprentices taken on by firms in Scotland averages between 850 and 900 annually, partly because the smaller businesses who take

on the majority of apprentices are not being given enough government support.

He added: “I don’t think anyone who recruits an apprentice does so on a planned return on investment basis. Employers invest huge amounts of time and money when you consider everything that they put in.”

Alan also used the podcast to stress that the construction industry is an enabling sector, which relies on clear, consistent policy direction from the government regarding initiatives such as renewables. He said policy changes, or withdrawal of funding, make it impossible for micro-businesses to commit to vital, time-consuming training.

Both he and host Kenneth agreed that the sluggishness of the planning system sends ripples across the entire construction sector and that fixing planning would be the single most impactful action the government could take.

Kenneth added: “Frankly, it’s surprising that in 2025, when we’re designing £50,000 kitchens and renewable systems, anyone can call themselves an electrician.

“As architects, we carry a huge burden of liability, but when the very safety of a family in their home depends on unqualified work, that is a failure of the system. Alan’s fight for regulation is not just about protecting a trade; it’s about protecting the public.”

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complete range



WORDS

SANDRA BENNETT

Membership Manager



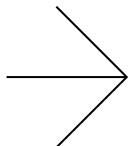
**T** was encouraging to see healthy attendances and lively conversations across the board as Members gathered for their second local get-togethers of 2025.

Held across four weeks in October, and sponsored by Associate Member Hispec, the autumn Branch Updates saw Members enjoy a range of presentations and technical topics at each event – and go home with plenty of prizes too.

Contractors also had the chance to ask questions and discuss local and wider industry issues, with members of the SELECT Presidential Team on hand to give an insight into association activity.

As well as hosting the first meeting at their premises, Garry Cowan from The Electric Heating Company delivered an update on the company's technology at the Lanarkshire Branch Update on 7 October, followed by presentations at the Tayside, Glasgow & West of Scotland, Ayrshire and Aberdeen & North East of Scotland events.

Marc Sherwood and Marc Barron from Fluke Corporation delivered technical updates for Members of the Dumfries & Galloway and Inverness



↑ It was good to see busy rooms and plenty of discussion at each event

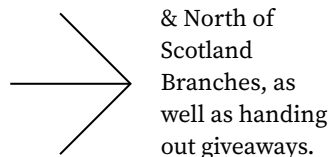
# Insights, issues and bright ideas

Industry issues and great giveaways were the order of the day at our second round of Branch Updates for 2025, with Members gathering for an evening of discussion and debate at our autumn regional meetings, sponsored by Hispec





## "THE BUILDING SAFETY GROUP HOSTED A VIRTUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CLINIC AT SIX MEETINGS"



& North of Scotland Branches, as well as handing out giveaways.

At the Edinburgh & South East of Scotland meeting at Borders College, Neil Noades from Hispec showcased a selection of new products before answering Member questions. At the same event, Member Chris Micheau also won smoke alarms donated by Hispec.

Special prize draws meant that two Members at each of our other events also went home with a VF5 voltage stick and MST220 socket tester worth £50, donated by Associate Member Megger.

Representatives from the Building Safety Group also hosted a virtual health and safety clinic at six of the eight meetings, answering Member questions on a range of health and safety issues.

Training Officers from the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) delivered invaluable updates about apprenticeships and training at each meeting too, as well as fielding Member queries.

The SELECT team is now preparing for the next round of Branch Updates in March 2026. If you have any suggestions for topics or presentations, please speak to your Member Representative, email [memberservices@select.org.uk](mailto:memberservices@select.org.uk) or call 0131 445 5577. ■



↑ Aberdeen winner Garry Shand from Hutcheon Services Ltd



↑ Ayrshire winner Graham McCutcheon from GS McCutcheon Electrical



↓ Dumfries and Galloway winner Alan Smith from CS McKelvie Electrical Services



↑ Ayrshire winner James McTaggart from Electro Installations (Scotland) Ltd



↑ Lanarkshire prize winner Sandy Mitchell of Eastwood Electrical (Scotland) Ltd with Mike Stark



↓ Glasgow winner Paul Baillie from Angel Electrical Services Ltd



Scotland's largest trade association





↑ Edinburgh winner David Hardie of JS Hardie (Electrical Services) Ltd



↑ Lanarkshire prize winner Frank Rodgers of Rodgers Electrical Services Ltd, with President Mike Stark



↑ Dumfries and Galloway winner Stewart Cobban of Stewart Cobban Electrical



↓ Edinburgh winners Mark Edwards and Chris Micheau from Shawfair Electrical Services



↓ The meetings gave Members the perfect chance to catch up with industry and technical issues



↑ Aberdeen winner Greggor Ferguson from James Ferguson Electrician



↑ Glasgow winner James Mackie



↓ Garry Cowan from hosts EHC catered for Members at the Lanarkshire event



↓ Tayside winners John McLean of JSM Electrical Services and Stephen McNally from new Member firm McNally Electrical Services



↓ Dumfries and Galloway winner Chris McMillan from DG Project Solutions

# Be prepared for the price of a greener future

If businesses think costs are high now, there is more bad news coming when the UK version of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism comes into effect in January 2027. Our guest columnist explains how the move is likely to increase the price of key materials and filter through the supply chain, adding to existing financial and recruitment pressures

WORDS  
**CRAIG STOBO**  
Partner, VITA



**S** **ELECT** Member businesses may be aware that the EU's wide-ranging initiative to drive decarbonisation and promote less carbon intensive manufacturing – the snappily named Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) – is nearly upon us.

It will apply in the EU from January 2026 and from January 2027 in the UK. But what business really needs to be aware of is that these are just the skirmishing salvos at the start of something much, much bigger.

CBAM is, in effect, the offspring of the many COPs which have been held around the world in recent years – including COP26 in Glasgow – at which world leaders spoke passionately about the need to create a greener economy and, more importantly, to change business behaviour around carbon emissions.

The underlying concept is that only by attaching a significant price to the production of greenhouse gases will businesses be incentivised to find other, less harmful ways of creating their products. It will be a gradualist approach, but there is no doubt whatsoever that, over time, it will involve less carrot and more stick.

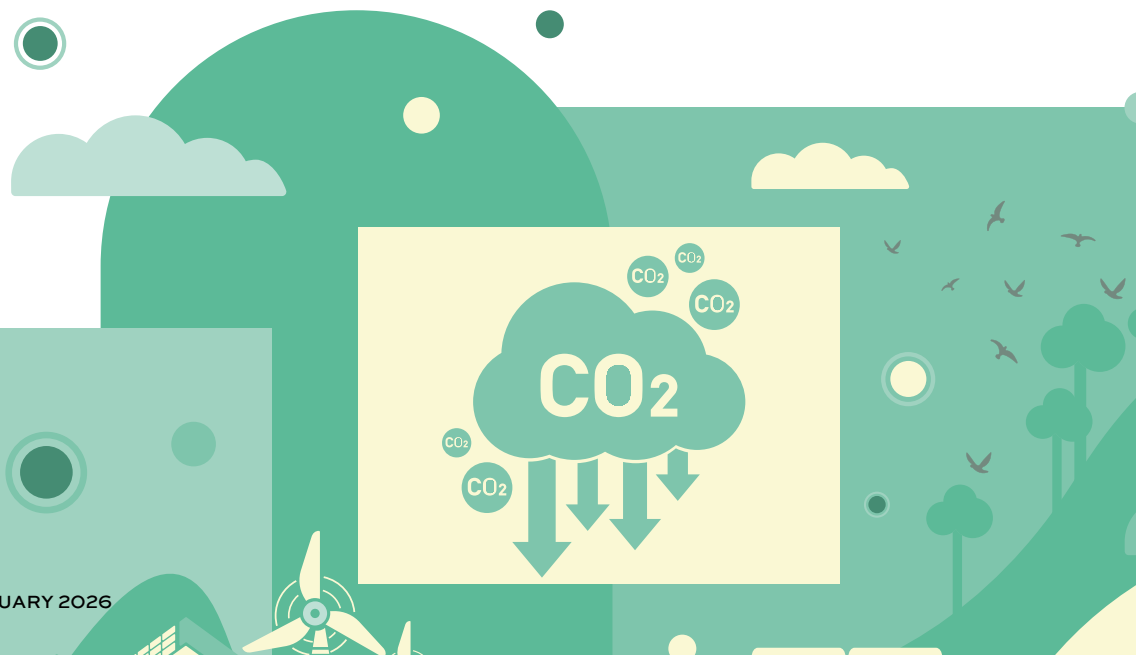
The EU version of CBAM is already in its reporting phase as a new tool to put a cost on the carbon emissions embedded in certain imports – initially the most emissions-intensive industrial goods including aluminium, cement, fertiliser, hydrogen and iron and steel.

## THE NEXT STEPS

Steps have been taken to minimise “carbon leakage” – that is, the movement of production and associated emissions from one country to another to take advantage of different levels of decarbonisation effort, since not all jurisdictions are moving at the same pace.

This is where the “adjustment” in CBAM comes in. The intention is to ensure that anything imported into the EU will carry the same carbon costs, create a level playing field and reduce the temptation to circumvent the measures by switching to other, less committed, countries.

**"AT THE MOMENT WE'RE SEEING THE VELVET GLOVE, BUT THE IRON FIST ISN'T FAR AWAY"**





The UK, now of course outside the EU, is taking its own rapid action on industrial decarbonisation, although it is well aware that aligning more closely with Europe will bring the added benefit of not creating more friction to trade.

Indeed, in the most recent agreement between the UK Prime Minister and the EU over a “reset” of relationships with the bloc, CBAM figured prominently, and there appeared to be a will on both sides to bring the schemes into as much sync as politically possible.

Of course, since the EU’s carbon trading price is higher than in the UK, this will have the effect of pushing up raw material prices across a number of sectors in Britain, most notably in construction and in agriculture, which will bear the brunt of more expensive fertiliser imports.

Businesses need to be conscious of the fact that in the EU, although the schemes are starting at a low percentage of the price per tonne of carbon, that price is projected to rise in the years ahead and the amount of CBAM payable will also be ramped up between next year and 2034. In the UK, the full carbon price will be payable from the outset.

It is also important for businesses to factor into their long-term planning that, while at the moment CBAM only applies to upstream products – i.e. the activities involved in sourcing raw material, manufacturing and production – in the foreseeable future it will almost certainly be applicable to downstream activity, or delivering the goods to end customers.



## GET THE RIGHT DATA

One of the immediate challenges for importers is to get hold of the accurate data needed for CBAM calculations. When the EU commenced registration, only 10% of companies reported the first quarterly returns, mainly due to a lack of awareness of the need to do so.

To get round this stumbling block, estimated data was allowed. It was subsequently phased out but then reinstated – with the catch that the use of estimated data was more expensive than actual numbers. But

standards will become ever stricter and, ultimately, scheme administrators will require actual data across the board.

So what can companies who are initially affected by CBAM do at the moment?

First, they will have to register, then work out what the relevant emissions are, then find out where they can obtain the data. They will have to identify qualifying products throughout the supply chain – and, most of all, they will have to get it right.

At the moment we’re seeing the velvet glove, but the iron fist isn’t far away. The EU is clear that penalties will apply and, eventually, non-compliant entities face the risk of not being allowed into the single market, as well as potentially serious reputational damage.

The other side of that coin is that those who make the effort to digest the new rules and understand the position will have such a clear trading advantage that they will leave competitors in their dust.

Professional advice will be crucial. The clock is ticking, and the time for forward-looking enterprises to seek guidance and make their dispositions is now. ■

↑ The move towards a greener future presents some cost challenges

Craig Stobo is a Partner and CBAM specialist at VITA, a Glasgow-based team of VAT and indirect tax advisors. Find out more at [www.vita-uk.com](http://www.vita-uk.com)



A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a grey suit and a dark tie, is smiling and holding a large, framed award. The award is blue and silver, with the text 'APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR 2025' and 'WINNER Callan White' visible. He is also holding a small, clear glass trophy in his other hand. The background is dark and out of focus.

# Celebrating our sector's rising stars

The SJIB Apprentice of the Year Awards once again saw the electrotechnical industry gather to celebrate the cream of young Scottish talent, with Callan White crowned the 2025 champion



# A

WORDS  
**ERIKA FERGUSON**  
Employment  
& HR Manager



**USSIE-BORN** electrician Callan White has been rewarded for his outstanding commitment and skill by being named Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB) Apprentice of the Year for 2025.

The 26-year-old took home this year's

top title, which is presented in conjunction with Edmundson Electrical, after impressing the judges with his technical ability, professionalism and "exceptional attitude towards learning and improvement".

Callan, who works for SELECT Member firm H F Electrical Ltd, received his trophy from SJIB Chair Jock Simpson at the Edinburgh Marriott Hotel Holyrood on 9 October, where guests gathered to celebrate the next generation of Scotland's electrical talent.

The winner – who moved to Scotland from Melbourne as a teenager and now lives in Livingston – was presented with a £1,000 voucher as part of his prize, recognising his achievement in a highly competitive field of finalists.

Catherine Gillon, Secretary of the SJIB and Director of Employment Affairs at SELECT, said: "Every year, the SJIB Apprentice of the Year Awards highlight the incredible talent that continues to emerge across Scotland's electrical industry.

"Callan stood out for his exceptional performance, dedication and willingness to go above and beyond – qualities that perfectly reflect the standards we want to see in our future

electricians. His success is a testament not just to his own effort, but also to the ongoing commitment of his employer, college lecturers and training officers.

"As Scotland continues its transition to net zero, our apprentices play a vital role in delivering the skills and innovation the country needs.

"Callan, and others like him, represent the bright future of an industry that is essential to a modern, sustainable society."

**"CALLAN HAS CONTINUED TO EXCEL AND IS NOW ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER ELECTRICIANS IN OUR TEAM"**

↓ Ewan receives his runner-up award from Jock Simpson



### ABILITY AND ATTITUDE

Callan completed his apprenticeship with West Lothian College, supported by Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) Training Officer Jim Birrell, and achieved an impressive 97% in his Final Integrated Competence Assessment (FICA) earlier this year.



He said: "I'm absolutely delighted to have won this award. My apprenticeship has been full of challenges but it's also been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

"To be recognised by the SJIB among so many talented peers is a huge honour. I owe a lot to the team at H F Electrical, my lecturers at West Lothian College and to Jim Birrell for all the guidance and support they've given me throughout my training."

Gary Muir, Line Manager at H F Electrical, said Callan's professionalism and work ethic had been evident from the start, adding: "Within weeks of joining us, it was clear Callan was going to be a success. He's got an experienced head on his shoulders and a real drive to learn and improve.

"His work has always been of the highest standard, even in his first year he was producing the quality of a third or fourth-year apprentice. All our engineers wanted to work with him, which says everything about his ability and attitude.

"Since qualifying, Callan has continued to excel and is now one of the most sought-after electricians in our team. We're incredibly proud of what he's achieved."

### CELEBRATING SUCCESS

This year's competition also saw Ewan MacDonald, 22, from Inverness, and 24-year-old Duncan Lucy, from Kilmarnock, named as finalists.

Ewan works for Ross-Shire Engineering (RSE) Ltd and trained at UHI Inverness under SECTT Training Officers Graham Keil and Iain Lamont, while Duncan works for Ronnie Duncan Electrician and studied at Ayrshire College under Training Officer Daniel Flanigan. All three finalists received gift

# Quick catch-up with Callan

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR WIN. HOW DID YOU COME TO SCOTLAND?

My family is Scottish, from Haddington, East Lothian, but I was born and grew up in Melbourne, Australia. When I finished high school in 2016 I came straight to Scotland and I've never left as I still have lots of family here.

## WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME AN ELECTRICIAN?

I had a few influences through my friends back in Australia who were in the electrical trade, plus my sister's boyfriend was an electrician and he was always telling me about the jobs he was doing on-site, which intrigued me and pushed me towards it as a career.

## DID YOU START AN APPRENTICESHIP STRAIGHT AFTER ARRIVING IN SCOTLAND?

I did a few jobs at first, including working in Skechers on Princes Street in Edinburgh, while also playing football. I did a bit of delivery driving, then worked in the Sheep Heid Inn pub in Duddingston. I worked

in the Sheep Heid throughout most of the first year of my apprenticeship to earn a bit of extra money. It was all worth it in the end.

## WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

Obviously learning new skills, plus working with the guys above me who were teaching me those skills. I loved the banter and camaraderie on-site too. If you were having a bad day they would pick you back up and get you going again. I was always taught that, particularly on-site, you are always learning every day, even when you've qualified. There's always a little challenge every day that makes you think that extra bit harder, which I really enjoy.

## HOW MUCH HELP DID YOU GET FROM THE SJIB AND SECTT?

They were all fantastic, particularly with the OneFile throughout college. They really helped put the practical knowledge back into theory and vice versa. My lecturers were great too – everyone has helped me get where I am today.

## "I WAS ALWAYS TAUGHT THAT, PARTICULARLY ON-SITE, YOU ARE ALWAYS LEARNING EVERY DAY, EVEN WHEN QUALIFIED"

## WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE?

Green energy and renewables will be the main thing to get into, but really I want to take it step by step, get my Approved status and then get a few extra tickets under my name with the help of my company. I really enjoy it at H F Electrical and there is plenty of work, so I plan to stay in Scotland.

## SO NO PLANS TO GO BACK TO AUSTRALIA?

No. I go back regularly for holidays, and because my family are Scottish they come over here every year too, so we see each other quite often.



↑ Winner Callan with SJIB Secretary Catherine Gillon



↑ Professor Sean Smith was guest speaker at the event



↑ SELECT MD Alan Wilson welcomed guests to the event







↑ Winner Callan with his family



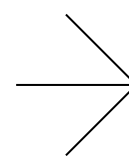
↑ SECTT Training Officer Jim Birrell with Inverness Branch Chair Mike Campbell



↓ Finalist Ewan, right, with his family and SJIB Chair Jock Simpson



↓ Winner Callan with his employers from H F Electrical



vouchers from Darren Coppola of Edmundson Electrical, who said: "Callan, Ewan and Duncan have every

reason to be proud of their success. Their dedication and hard work are clear for all to see.

"We're delighted to continue supporting these awards, which shine a light on the outstanding new talent entering our industry each year."

The guest speaker at this year's event was Professor Sean Smith from the University of Edinburgh's School of Engineering, who is Chair of Future Construction and Director of the Centre for Future Infrastructure at Edinburgh Futures Institute.

Professor Smith gave an inspiring speech, during which he outlined the growing importance of electricity and the many opportunities that await fully skilled professionals.

Also attending the event was SELECT Managing Director Alan Wilson, who is Director of the SJIB, and SELECT Past Presidents John Noble, Donald W Orr, Eric Rae and Alick Smith.

Inverness & North of Scotland Branch Chair and RSE Apprentice Training Officer Mike Campbell came to cheer on Ewan. And also in attendance were Scott Foley and John Aitchison from Unite the Union, who are long-term supporters of the awards. ■



↓ SECTT Training Officer Daniel Flanigan received the finalist prizes on behalf of Duncan Lucy, who was unable to attend



OTHER NOTABLE  
BIRTHDAYS IN  
2025

850 YEARS

City of  
Glasgow

350 YEARS

The Royal  
Observatory,  
Greenwich

250 YEARS

United  
States Postal  
Service

200 YEARS

Steam  
railways

150 YEARS

Hibernian FC

# Sharing a history of support

SELECT isn't the only electrotechnical organisation celebrating a significant milestone in 2025. The Electrical Industries Charity is 120 years old this year – and once again, it's offering advice and support to anyone who may be struggling over the festive season

WORDS  
JESS VAILIMA  
Managing Director



**A**LTHOUGH Christmas is presented as a time of joy and excitement, it's important to acknowledge that for many it can be a deeply difficult time of year.

The pressure to be joyful, to take part in holiday celebrations and the expectation of "family togetherness" can start to feel overwhelming, especially if you're dealing with grief, loneliness or a sense of disconnection from the festive spirit.

It's important to practice self-care and set boundaries for yourself during this time of heightened

stress, so here are a few things you can do to reduce anxiety:

- **Acknowledge your feelings** – It's okay not to feel Christmas cheer. If you're struggling, that's valid, and it's crucial to allow yourself to experience your emotions.
- **Gentle routines** – Try to keep your days as stress-free as possible. A gentle routine, like waking up at your own pace, eating nourishing food or taking moments to breathe deeply, can help create a sense of calm amidst the chaos.
- **Rest and recharge** – Taking the time to let yourself rest and recharge is vital. Whether it's having a nap, reading a book or simply sitting in silence, give yourself permission to step back.

♥ Christmas isn't always a happy time for everyone





# Electrical Industries Charity 120 years

Since 10 September 1905, the Electrical Industries Charity has been a cornerstone of support for those in need within the electrical and energy industries.

From humble beginnings to becoming a vital lifeline for countless individuals and families – including many SELECT Members – the charity's journey is a testament to the dedication of its supporters, volunteers and partners.

The charity covers the full electrical industry and energy industries, helping more



than one million people working in generation and renewables, manufacturing, installation, contracting, retail and distribution. Whether it's an electrician who's suffered a debilitating injury or a technician facing unexpected hardships, the charity is there to lend a helping hand. ■

Find out more at [www.electricalcharity.org](http://www.electricalcharity.org)

## "TRY PRIORITISING EVENTS THAT ARE MEANINGFUL TO YOU AND GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO DECLINE OTHERS"

- **Decline social invitations** – If the thought of holiday parties or family gatherings is overwhelming, it's okay to say no. It's not selfish to prioritise your emotional wellbeing – you don't need to explain yourself or justify your decision to anyone.
- **Step away from social media** – Social media can be a minefield during the holidays. If the constant stream of happy family photographs or cheerful holiday posts is making you feel worse, take a break. You don't need to participate in the online festivities if it adds to your distress.
- **Create space for grief** – If you're missing a loved one, Christmas might bring up particularly painful feelings. Allow yourself to grieve in your own way. It's okay to feel sadness, anger or even relief if those emotions arise.

The concept of making New Year's resolutions can also be overwhelming and add pressure that we don't need – so just celebrate being the same you. You don't **HAVE** to change!

## BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Other strategies for coping with holiday pressures include setting realistic expectations and being mindful of over-committing to holiday activities. Try prioritising events that are meaningful to you and give yourself permission to decline others.

Financial stress is another common holiday concern, so set a spending limit for gifts, outings and festive expenses to avoid strain on your finances.

If you're feeling lonely, try to connect with others through calls, video chats or in-person gatherings, even if brief. Consider reaching out to friends or colleagues to organise small, meaningful get-togethers.

And final, why not consider helping others? Volunteering or delivering small acts of kindness can help shift the focus from personal stress and provide a sense of fulfilment and joy.

Whether you're struggling with loneliness, financial pressures or emotional challenges, EIC provides tools to help you manage your wellbeing throughout the season.

This commitment to wellbeing extends beyond the holidays, with ongoing support available year-round. So if you or someone you know could benefit, reach out to the EIC today. ■



100 YEARS  
Murrayfield Stadium

100 YEARS  
National Library of Scotland

90 YEARS  
Monopoly



80 YEARS  
Thomas the Tank Engine

75 YEARS  
Formula 1

50 YEARS  
Health & Safety Executive

45 YEARS  
Pac-Man

## VIEW THE WALL

In addition to more than 40 MSPs and MPs from all five major parties, bricks have been added to the Wall of Support by professional bodies, housebuilders, surveyors and trade unions across Scotland. View the wall by scanning the QR code or going to [bit.ly/wall-25](http://bit.ly/wall-25)



↑ Mike and Yvonne  
chatted with Deputy  
First Minister Kate Forbes



↑ New signatory Jackie  
Dunbar MSP with Yvonne



↑ New signatory  
Emma Harper MSP  
with Mike Campbell



↑ Bob Doris was  
among a trio of SNPS  
MSPs who added a  
brick to the Wall

# Winning votes for regulation

SELECT headed north for this year's SNP conference, where Members helped spread the word about the need for regulation and more politicians added their names to our Wall of Support

WORDS  
**YVONNE WILSON**  
Skills & Client  
Relations Manager



**R**EGULATION and skills were the hot topics when SELECT once again took to the political front line, this time at the SNP's annual party conference in Aberdeen.

Joining me on our stand for the three-day meeting at The Event Complex Aberdeen (TECA) were Inverness & North of Scotland Branch Chair Mike Campbell and Past President Eric Rae, who both promoted the key points in the SELECT manifesto. Once

↓ Minister  
Ben McPherson  
chatted about  
apprenticeships







↑ Also joining the campaign was Councillor Lloyd Melville

## THE POLITICIANS' PLEDGE

**"I AGREE THAT POOR QUALITY ELECTRICAL WORK CARRIES HUGE RISKS TO PEOPLE'S HOMES, BUSINESS AND LIVES. THAT'S WHY I'M BACKING SELECT'S CAMPAIGN TO INTRODUCE PROTECTION OF TITLE"**



↑ Councillor David Barratt backed our cause



↑ Councillors John Redpath and Elaine Thornton-Nicol added their names



↑ Existing signatory Gordon McDonald MSP dropped by to say hello



↓ Councillor Simita Kumar was another new recruit

again our collective efforts paid off as three more MSPs signed up to our Wall of Support, along with a host of councillors and candidates for next year's Scottish Parliamentary elections.

Among those pledging their support was South Scotland MSP and SNP Whip Emma Harper, Maryhill and Springburn MSP Bob Doris and Jackie Dunbar, who represents Aberdeen Donside.

In addition to signing her name, Emma was also asked for regulation to be included in the SNP manifesto for the 2026 elections and for a supplementary question to be raised in the Scottish Parliament.

### ADDING THEIR NAMES

As well as support from MSPs, our Wall of Support was boosted by signatures from a host of other politicians at the conference, which ran from 11 to 13 October.

Councillors and 2026 election candidates Lloyd Melville, David

Barratt, Simita Kumar and John Redpath were happy to add their names and find out more about protection of title, along with fellow SNP councillors Elaine Thornton-Nicol and Alycia Hayes.

Mike and I also had the opportunity to speak with Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes, who listened with interest as we discussed our regulation campaign and the ongoing issue of apprentice funding.

We also spoke with Ben Macpherson, Minister for Higher and Further Education, about the potential impact of the Tertiary Education and Training Bill, with the minister offering to meet with us to discuss further.

It was also good to catch up with longstanding SELECT supporter Gordon MacDonald MSP, who has already signed the Wall but dropped by to chat about apprenticeships and funding.

Once again, it was another excellent weekend at the forefront of Scottish politics, talking to the people in power and raising the profile of our Members and their valuable work. ■

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SELECT  
**125**  
GRAND  
BALL

SPONSORED BY **Scolmore**  
GROUP

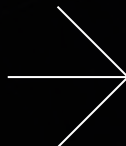
# History in the making

A proud past and a promising future were both dramatically brought to life by AI at the SELECT 125th Anniversary Grand Ball, sponsored by Scolmore Group, as the industry toasted the landmark anniversary of the world's oldest trade association for the electrical industry

WORDS

IAIN MASON

Director of Membership, Events  
& Communications





S

**ELECT** looked back with pride and forward with purpose as the association welcomed 300 Members and friends to its 125th Anniversary Grand

Ball, sponsored by Scolmore Group.

Our glittering event saw contributions from figures past, present and even future as the history of the association was brought to life through the power of artificial intelligence (AI) at the Glasgow Marriott Hotel on Friday 14 November.

As well as an evening of fun and friendly football rivalry, the event also saw the presentation of our Lifetime Achievement Award, plus a donation to Prostate Scotland that was applauded by host Fred MacAulay, who is currently recovering from prostate cancer.

Joining Past Presidents and the SELECT Central Board at the event were a range of Member businesses, who travelled from all four corners of Scotland to raise a glass to their association.

**"WHAT A FABULOUS EVENT. I PARTICULARLY ENJOYED FRED MACAULAY, THE AI PROJECTIONS AND THE PIPE BAND. A GREAT NIGHT!"**

– Neil Kelly, Consultant, Morton Fraser MacRoberts LLP

Also in attendance were colleagues from across the UK's leading electrical and construction organisations, plus sponsors and Associate Members who helped make the whole event possible.

And for six hours, the crowd laughed, cheered, danced and sang as we took a nostalgic trip down memory lane – and a fascinating glimpse into the future.

#### WARM WELCOME

The night began with reception drinks and the first AI-powered special effect, as an image of President Donald Smeaton



↑ Guests were welcomed with a drinks reception



↑ Drinks were on ice to help everyone celebrate



↑ Amokabel's Rhys Bailey with partner Caitlin Steeley



↑ Depute Vice President David Harris rings the bell for fizz at the prosecco wall



↑ Lanarkshire Branch Vice Chair Craig McGowan and wife Anne



↑ Glasgow Branch Vice Chair Alan Watt was among the guests



↑ Partygoers sparkled in glam outfits for the special event





↑ Friends and colleagues enjoyed a night of surprises



↑ Branch Chair Stewart Anderson with wife Brenda



↑ EDA CEO Margaret Fitzsimons, BESA CEO David Frise and JIB CEO Jay Parmar



↑ Guests watch as the image of Donald Smeaton Munro comes to life



↑ Past President Kevin Griffin with wife Liz and Dianne McGuinness



↑ SECTT CEO Fiona Harper and husband Brian



↓ Past President Alick Smith with wife Lizzie



↑ MD Alan Wilson poses proudly with wife Anne and family





↑ Bow ties, beer and bubbly were all part of the celebrations



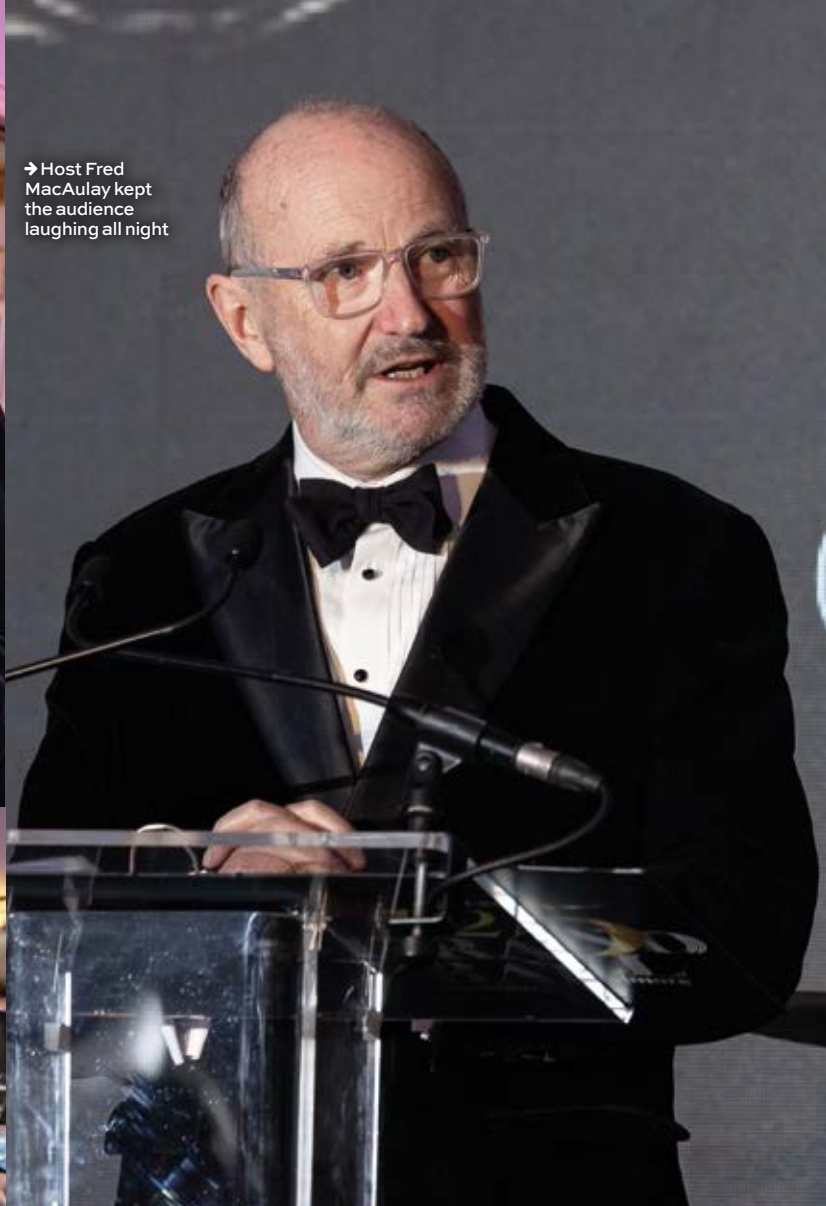
↑ SELECT MD Designate Sharon Miller enjoyed mingling with industry colleagues



↑ Signature LED's Dylan Mansfield, right, was among our guests



↑ Guest enjoyed a drink and some laughs before dinner



→ Host Fred MacAulay kept the audience laughing all night



↑ Industry figures travelled from across the UK to join the party





↑ MD Alan Wilson with wife Anne



↑ Immediate Past President Alistair Grant with wife Pauline and Membership Manager Sandra Bennett



↑ Attendees raised a glass to SELECT's anniversary



↑ President Mike Stark enjoyed the night



↑ SELECT's Carolynn Shaw and Michelle Courtney

**"IT WAS A PRIVILEGE TO SHARE IN SUCH A MILESTONE MOMENT. THERE WAS A SENSE OF PRIDE IN THE ROOM THAT WAS AN HONOUR TO EXPERIENCE FIRSTHAND"**

– Jay Parmar, Chief Executive, JIB



Munro from 1922 suddenly came to life and called guests to dinner.

Filing into the main room, attendees were surrounded by more giant images from the earliest days of the association, which also began moving as the amazed partygoers took their seats.

These 'live' photos were a key theme throughout the evening as dozens of images from 1900 to the present day were animated via AI.

The animations even included an early reprimand for TV and radio personality Fred, who was corrected by a talking image of Donald for referring to a lamp as "a bulb"!

After recovering from his virtual heckle, the comedian introduced Managing Director Alan Wilson, who arrived after a delay wearing a Hearts hat and scarf and waving a football rattle – a dig at the attending Hibs fans in the crowd for the Jambos' last-minute 1-0







↑ Hundreds of guests gathered to help mark the milestone



↑ SNIEF CEO Fiona Hodgson, husband Mike and MD Designate Sharon Miller



↑ President Mike Stark and wife Lindsay



↑ Past Presidents John Noble and Eric Rae



↑ VP DC with Technical Advisers Keith Hagan and Bruce Findlay



↑ SELECT's Sandra Bennett and Michelle Courtney



↓ Immediate Past President Alistair Grant with wife Pauline



↑ Director of Membership, Events and Communications Iain Mason with wife Sheena and Alan Ramsay from Connect



# Alan Wilson

Managing Director , SELECT



↑ Alan sported a Hearts hat after arriving late

**"IT WAS A BRILLIANT NIGHT; THE SPEECHES WERE TOP NOTCH, FRED WAS GREAT AND THE TWO MUSICAL ACTS WERE AMAZING. PLUS ALAN WORE A GREAT HEARTS TAMMY!"**

– Alan Ramsay, Managing Director, Connect Communications



↑ Partygoers mingled over drinks before the dinner began



↑ The team from sponsors Morton Fraser MacRoberts



↑ Vice President Darren Crockett and wife Gill

↑ Ryan Conway from Aico, right, enjoyed the night

→ victory in October. After apologising for leaving things late “just like Hearts”, Alan told guests: “It’s an honour to stand here tonight as we celebrate 125 years of people, progress and pride in our profession.

“When I think about our journey, I often picture those first few contractors who came together back in 1900. I can imagine them — huddled in a room, lit by the very technology they were pioneering — determined to raise standards and bring respect to a new and rapidly growing trade.

“They couldn’t have known then that their small association would grow into the strong and influential organisation we all know today.

“It’s just a pity we can’t ask people like one of our first Presidents, Donald Smeaton Munro, what issues were challenging them in the first few years of the association.”

Right on cue, the image of Donald once again came to life through the power of technology as our forefather explained that the issues of the early 1900s included “regulation of the industry, not getting paid on time and a shortage of skilled labour coming through”.

Thanking the Past President for his AI-assisted input, Alan responded wryly: “Thank

WATCH OUR CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY MESSAGES  
bit.ly/select125messages





↑ The haggis is carried into the room



↑ Piper Andrew Low delivered the Address to a Haggis



↑ Making the first cut



↑ Andrew gave a dramatic performance before dinner



↑ The piper involved the audience in the Address



you Donald. Who would have guessed that, more than 100 years later, those same issues would still exist?"

## PEOPLE AND PROGRESS

Warming to his theme, Alan went on: "Since the association was founded, 124 years, 364 days and five hours ago, the spark of vision has been kept alive by thousands of people — our Past Presidents, Central Board, committee

members, Member firms, apprentices and staff.

"Together, we've built an organisation that champions professional recognition, delivers first-class training, supports a gold standard apprenticeship scheme and stands up for high standards and safety across Scotland.

"We've seen huge progress and change over the years as technology and our ways of working have altered. But through every change,



↑ Alistair Grant and Donald W Orr scrubbed up well



# Coming from far and wide

It was great to see so many familiar faces at the party as Members from across Scotland flocked to Glasgow to celebrate the 125th anniversary of their association



↑ Inverness Chair Mike Campbell and wife Rebecca

↑ Ayrshire Chair Chic Dobbie and partner Rona



one thing has been consistent and never wavered: our people. The people who give their time, their skill and their energy to make SELECT what it is.

"One hundred and twenty five years is a long time, but it's really a collection of stories; stories of businesses built from scratch, apprentices who became mentors to the next generation, business colleagues who became lifelong friends, and an association which started out helping firms embrace a new technology to one which leads the way."

As he asked guests to stand and raise a toast to the association and the people who shaped it, Alan said: "Tonight, as we look back with pride and forward with purpose, I want to say thank you to everyone who has shaped this journey."

"Whether you've served in the highest office as President, served on one of our Branches, on a committee, trained an apprentice or simply carried the SELECT name with pride, you are part of something truly enduring."

"Here's to our founders, our past and our future — to 125 years of excellence and to many more years of lighting the way for Scotland's electrotechnical industry. Here's to SELECT – 125 years old and still going strong!"

## TASTE OF SCOTLAND

As part of the evening's distinctly Scottish flavour, the starter was

**"THE FEEL OF THE EVENT WAS FRIENDLY AND CLASSY, WITH SO MANY INTERESTING, INNOVATIVE AND ENJOYABLE ELEMENTS. IT WAS CLEAR TO SEE THE AMOUNT OF WORK PUT IN TO ACHIEVE SUCH A FLAWLESS CELEBRATION. YOU SHOULD ALL BE VERY PROUD"**

– Newell McGuinness, former SELECT Managing Director



then piped in by Andrew Low, who proceeded to deliver a flamboyant *Address to a Haggis* worthy of Robert Burns himself.

Recruiting the help of the audience, the piper recited the famous verse before the haggis was sliced open and shared among guests for the starter. Grace was then said by Steve Bratt, Group CEO of our southern counterpart ECA, as dinner began in earnest.

There was more entertainment throughout the meal as host Fred returned to the floor with his trademark wit – including a few well-aimed barbs at selected partygoers. The images from SELECT's history were also replaced with photos of the evening's guests, taken in a special AI photobooth that turned them into figures from the 1920s, '60s, '70s and even the 2050s.

The results were a major talking point until coffee was served, Fred

**"IT WAS A GREAT NIGHT, WELL ORGANISED DOWN TO THE FINEST OF DETAILS. WELL DONE AND CONGRATULATIONS ON 125 YEARS OF SELECT"**

– Tony Boyle, Regional Director, Aico



↑ MFM's David Wilson with SELECT MD Alan Wilson



↓ Steve Bratt said Grace before dinner



↑ Aico's Gregor Morrison and Ryan Conway with industry colleagues



↑ Vintage association images on the walls came to life thanks to AI



↓ Flexel's Craig Herriott, left, acts as an impromptu seat



↓ Catherine Gillon chats with Member Amy Garrick-Wright



↓ All smiles at the CEF table



introduced the next act and the Biggar Pipe Band filed into the room to a pounding drumbeat.

The 14-strong band marched into the dance floor where they performed a 15-minute medley of Scottish classics, including a rousing rendition of *Flower of Scotland* which had guests singing along and wiping away a few tears.

Departing to thunderous applause, guests were by now in no doubt that this was a celebration party like no other, with a **VERY** Scottish flavour.

## PRESIDENT'S PRIDE

As Fred himself joked, Mike Stark had the unenviable job of following the pipe band, but the SELECT President rose to the task as he took to the stage next.

He told guests: "As President of the oldest electrical trade body in the world, I'm honoured to stand before you as the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland celebrates its 125th year."



↑ Aico's Rory Fraser, left, was all smiles



↑ Host Fred shares a joke with Sheena Mason



↓ Each of the 31 tables was named after a Past President



↑ Connect MD Alan Ramsay was delighted with his pre-dinner gift



↓ Guests from sponsor OCS

↓ All photobooth images were beamed onto the walls during dinner



↓ Association Secretary John McGhee enjoyed the evening







↑ Iain Mason with Blueprint's Drew Johnston



↑ Dinner came with some extra surprises on the table



↑ Sharing a laugh and some beers during the celebrations



↓ Photos from SELECT's history surrounded Grand Ball guests



↑ Alistair and Pauline Grant with SNIPEF CEO Fiona Hodgson



↓ Biggar Pipe Band took to the floor to entertain the crowd



↓ Guests applaud the arrival of the haggis





↑ Biggar Pipe Band was greeted with loud cheers from the crowd



# GRAND BALL // FEATURE



↑ AI images and snapshots of our history were on display



↑ Pictures from the past were brought to life thanks to AI



↑ Guests got a real flavour of Scotland with the dinner



↑ President Mike Stark with his wife Lindsay



↑ Images created by the AI photobooth were a big success



↑ All smiles after checking out the menu for the evening



↑ Kevin Griffin sported his famous baseball cap



**"WELL DONE TO ALL INVOLVED IN PROVIDING AN OUTSTANDING EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT. THE FLOW FROM START TO FINISH WAS GREAT"**

– David Harris, Depute Vice President

→ "As Alan mentioned earlier, our success and longevity has been down to people, both inside and outside the association, and I'm delighted to see so many of those people here tonight. For my own part, I'd like to say a massive thank you to my wife Lindsay for all her support during my presidency.

"I would also like to thank the many SELECT Past Presidents who are with us this evening, namely Alistair Grant, Kevin Griffin, John Noble, Donald W Orr, Eric Rae, Alick Smith and David Smith, as well as former Managing Director Newell McGuiness.

"These men have been the backbone of SELECT for the past 30 years and more and it is testament to their hard work and good judgement that we continue to help their fellow contractors thrive and prosper. Gents, thank you."

Mike also thanked all the many people from across the industry who had attended the event, including representatives from BE-ST, BESA, BSD, Certsure, ECA, EDA, EIC, ESF, FSA, EuropeOn, FMB, IET, JIB, SBF, SDS, SECTT, SJIB, SNIPEF and the SQA.

Also helping us celebrate were representatives from Associate Members Aico, Amokabel, Dimplex, Flexel, Luceco, Megger, National Ventilation and Signature LED Lighting, plus creative partners Connect and Blueprint, and workwear suppliers Ross.

Mike added: "We are extremely grateful for these organisations' ongoing support and I know that we will continue to enjoy a close relationship, whatever the future brings."

→



## Grand Ball GUESTBOOK

**"WE HAD A BRILLIANT EVENING AND REALLY ENJOYED IT. THANK YOU FOR LETTING US BE PART OF YOUR SPECIAL NIGHT"**

– Rhys Bailey, Business Development Manager, Amokabel

**"WHAT A BRILLIANT NIGHT! FRED MACAULAY, YOU WERE PURE DEAD BRILLIANT! THANKS TO THE TEAM FOR A SUPERB EVENT AND SOME AI MAGIC"**

– Craig Herriott, Flexel International

**"WHAT A CELEBRATION! IT WAS A GREAT EVENING AND GOOD TO CATCH UP WITH CONTACTS FROM ACROSS THE INDUSTRY"**

– Julie Scott-Gilroy, Morton Fraser MacRoberts



↑ Tayside Branch Chair Keith Smith and his family

**"A GREAT AND WELL ORGANISED NIGHT WITH BRILLIANT ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD AND COMPANY"**

– Keith Smith, Chair, Tayside Branch

**"A BRILLIANT AND SUPERBLY ORGANISED EVENING THAT SHOWCASED THE LONG HISTORY AND A CLEAR FUTURE. YOU KNOW HOW TO THROW A PARTY!"**

– David Frise, CEO, BESA



↑ Steve Bratt and David Frise share a joke



# SELECT Lifetime Achievement Award



↑ Ruth Devine and Steve Bratt receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from Mike

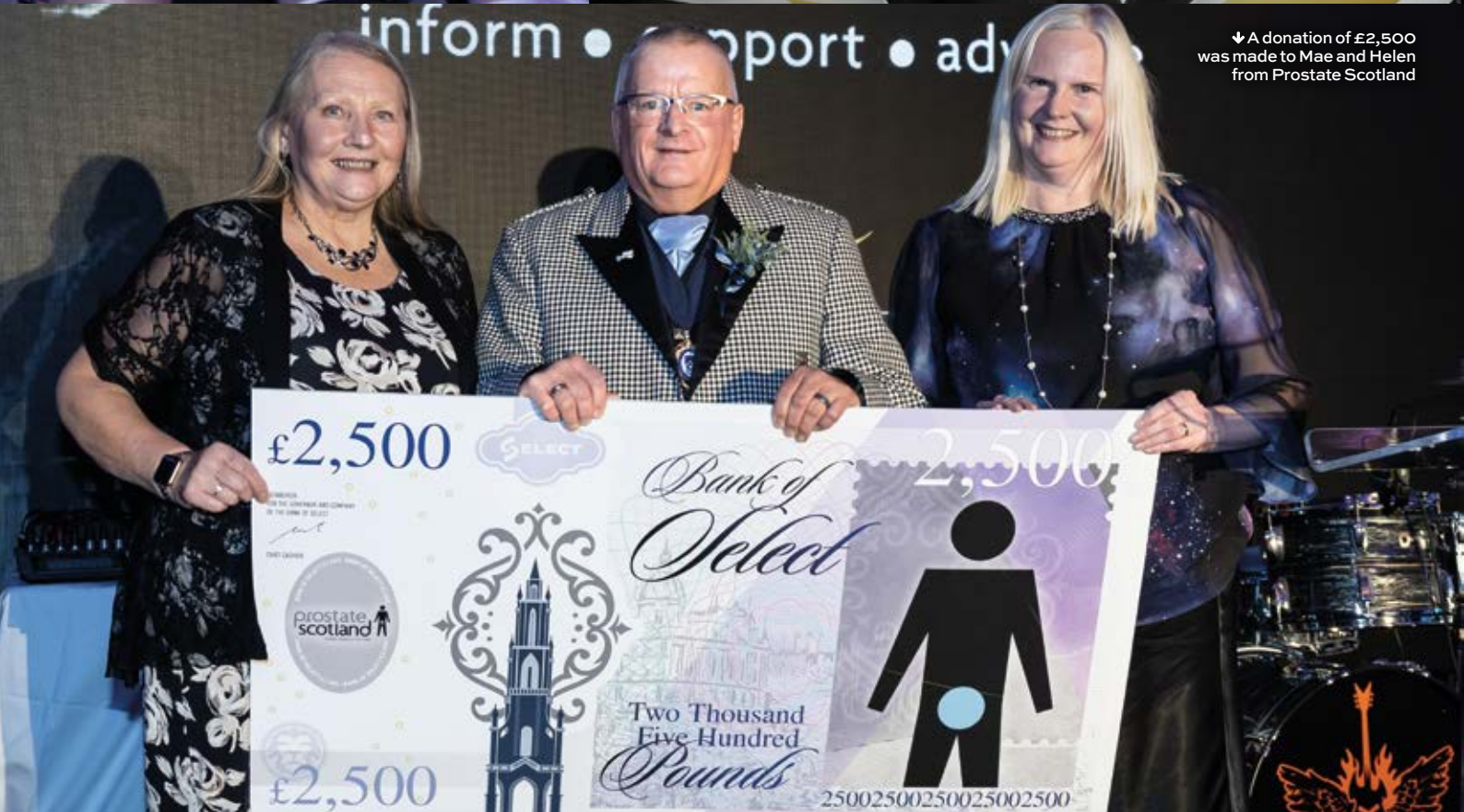




↑ Mike Stark paid tribute to his predecessors as President



↑ Jock Simpson celebrates with Keith Hagan



↓ A donation of £2,500 was made to Mae and Helen from Prostate Scotland



↑ The team from legal experts Morton Fraser MacRoberts



↑ There was plenty of lively chat at tables throughout the night



## Grand Ball GUESTBOOK



↑ ECIS MD Hugh Wright attended with partner Jade Strang

**"WHAT A FANTASTIC EVENT! IT WAS GOOD HUMOURED WITH A LOVELY ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT. THE PIPE BAND WERE SUPERB AND IT WAS GREAT TO SEE A FINE ADDRESS TO THE HAGGIS. I CAN ONLY APOLOGISE FOR MY APPALLING ATTEMPTS AT A CEILIDH THOUGH!"**

– Hugh Wright, Managing Director, ECIS

**"ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC NIGHT. IT WAS GREAT TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU ALL AND GREAT TO CATCH UP WITH MANY. KUDOS TO EVERYONE INVOLVED IN PULLING TOGETHER A SPECTACULAR EVENING"**

– Luke Osborne, Technical Director, ESF

**"A BRILLIANT EVENT – I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED IT ALL. WHEN THE BAND PLAYED FLOWER OF SCOTLAND I WISHED I'D BEEN BORN JUST A BIT FURTHER NORTH"**

– Lesley Rudd, CEO, ESF



↑ Taylor McSween video from the future



### VOICE OF TOMORROW

Speaking of the future brought Mike to a very special part

of the evening as once again AI made it possible to beam a special message onto all four walls. This time it was electrical apprentice of the future Taylor McSween, who took centre stage to deliver an update from the year 2050.

To applause from the crowd, she revealed that in the future, robots and holograms would help contractors – and that regulation of the industry would finally have been passed. To rousing cheers, she also revealed that Scotland would have won the 2048 World Cup!

After thanking our futuristic apprentice – and pointing out that most of the World Cup-winning team would be Hibs players – Mike made two very special presentations.

Firstly, he presented a special £2,500 banknote to Mae Bell and Helen Fleming from Prostate Scotland to help raise awareness of prostate cancer and prostate disease.

Mike said: "Our esteemed host and many of you in this room will know only too well that prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in Scotland.

"We therefore want to raise awareness among

## Message from the future

"Hello to everyone back in 2025. Life in the future is amazing for electrical apprentices like me. For example, the robots do all the time-consuming jobs like running conduit and drilling holes. The SECTT training holograms are a huge help as we're really busy installing renewables. And best of all, the Scottish Government has finally introduced regulation, which has been a massive help. So life is good and I'm now looking forward to the 2052 World Cup when Scotland will be defending the trophy and aiming to make it two in a row. C'mon Scotland!"

Taylor McSween, electrical apprentice, 2050



## FEATURE // GRAND BALL



↑ Stewart Anderson and Darren Crockett enjoyed the night



↑ Events Manager Linda Rolfe takes a well-earned breather with events adviser Judith Wilson



↑ Ceilidh rockers Bahookie had everyone up dancing



↓ The dance floor was packed with people joining the ceilidh



↓ Fun and smiles during the dancing

our Members, encourage them to get themselves checked out and let them know that help and support are out there. To help it continue its work, the SELECT Central Board has therefore agreed to make this donation to Prostate Scotland in recognition of its fantastic achievements.”

It was then time for our second presentation of the evening, as Mike revealed the winner of the 2025 SELECT Lifetime Achievement Award.

The President told guests: “As well as being a great supporter and ally of SELECT over the years, tonight’s winner has worked tirelessly to improve standards in the electrical industry.

“They are patient, knowledgeable, always eager to help and go the extra mile to ensure that electrical contractors of all sizes have the help and



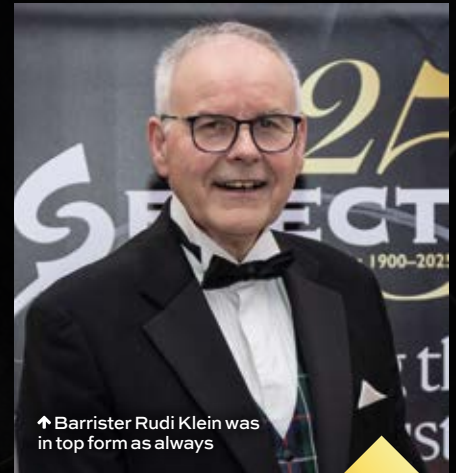
↑ The FMB’s Gordon Nelson with wife Meg



## Grand Ball GUESTBOOK

**"IT WAS AN EXCELLENT NIGHT AND THE USE OF AI AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY THROUGHOUT THE ROOM WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE. IT WAS A PERFECT REFLECTION OF SELECT ITSELF – CUTTING EDGE FOR THE PAST 125 YEARS AND COMMITTED TO LEADING THE WAY FOR MANY MORE TO COME"**

– Michael Crawford, Account Director, Blueprint Media



↑ Barrister Rudi Klein was in top form as always

**"WHAT AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING – SELECT CERTAINLY KNOWS HOW TO PUT ON A VERY SPECIAL PARTY. CONGRATS TO THE TEAM WHO ORGANISED SUCH AN INCREDIBLE EVENT"**

– Rudi Klein, Barrister and legal expert

**"IT WAS THE BEST NIGHT – FANTASTIC FROM START TO FINISH!"**

– Wayne Mackay, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, ESF

**"IT WAS A FANTASTIC EVENT WITH SOME INCREDIBLE PEOPLE"**

– Alastair Blyth, Territory Sales Manager, Megger



↑ Thumbs-up from Chic Dobbie

**"THE WHOLE NIGHT WAS WONDERFUL AND THE SELECT TEAM DESERVES A BIG PAT ON THE BACK AS NO STONE WAS LEFT UNTURNED. EVERYTHING SEEMED TO GO ACCORDING TO PLAN – MAYBE EVEN FLAWLESS!"**

– Chic Dobbie, Chair, Ayrshire Branch

**"CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT EVENING – IT WAS VERY WELL THOUGHT THROUGH AND EXECUTED. ALSO, THANK YOU FROM EVERYONE AT ECA FOR THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. IT IS VERY GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND MEANS A LOT"**

– Steve Bratt, CEO, ECA

**"WE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME CELEBRATING WITH THE WORLD'S OLDEST ELECTRICAL TRADE ASSOCIATION. SUCH A PHENOMENALLY WELL PUT TOGETHER AND ENTERTAINING EVENING!"**

– Colleen Grant, Key Account Manager, Dimplex



support they need to carry out their work safely and to the highest standards.

“SELECT is proud to call our winner a close friend

– and a younger sister. So I am delighted to present the 2025 SELECT Lifetime Achievement Award to the ECA.”

ECA CEO Steve Bratt and President Ruth Devine MBE then took to the stage to accept the award, with Steve telling guests: “Everyone likes a prize, especially from an elder sibling, but we’ve just won a prize from an organisation that is 125 years old and has done amazing things for the Scottish electrical contracting industry and knows us very well. So the fact they have chosen us for this award is a real honour.

“On behalf of our President, all the staff at ECA and all of our members, a real big thank you for such an honour and we look forward to working with you for another 125 years.”

#### TRIBUTES AND THANKS

The evening’s final words went to SELECT Vice President Darren Crockett, who delivered the closing remarks to the packed room.

After Fred jokingly said that guests would need subtitles to understand him, Darren played along by starting his speech in broad Dundonian.

To much laughter, he then apologised and told guests: “Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to say a few words of thanks for tonight’s event.

“Firstly, thanks to the team at the Glasgow Marriott Hotel; the food and service were excellent and fitting for this special occasion.

“Thanks also to the SELECT team for all their work behind the scenes to make tonight such a great event, with a special mention to our Events Manager, Linda Rolfe, who did a great job in bringing everything together, even when called up for jury duty with two weeks to go.

“To our many sponsors, thank you again for your ongoing support – we continue to enjoy close partnerships with some of the biggest names in the industry and you, too, are a valued part of our long history.

“Thank you in particular to our host for this evening,

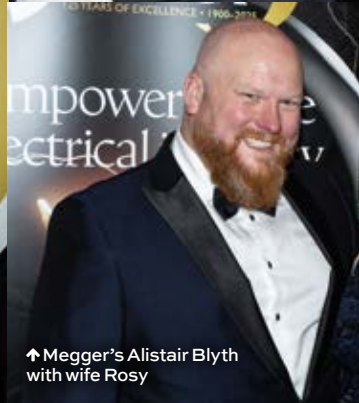
↓ Darren Crockett gave the final speech of the evening



↑ Lanarkshire's Craig McGowan and Donald W Orr



↓ Lucecco's Steve Conn with Carl Pye



↑ Megger's Alistair Blyth with wife Rosy



↓ Bahookie soon had the room rocking





↑ Alistair Grant, Alick Smith and Jock Simpson



↓ Guests filled the dance floor to show off their ceilidh moves



↑ John Renwick joins the fun with the Dimplex team



↑ Alan Watt and John Wilson on the floor



↑ Karen Ainslie gets in the swing on the dance floor



↑ Bruce Findlay shows off his medals to fellow Technical Adviser Keith Hagan



↑ Stewart Anderson tackles a reel



## Sharing a slice of history

SELECT Past Presidents line up with our special 125th anniversary cake at the end of the evening



**KEVIN GRIFFIN**  
President  
2017-20

**ALISTAIR GRANT**  
President 2022-24

**DONALD W ORR**  
President  
2020-22

**ERIC RAE**  
President  
2015-17

**JOHN NOBLE**  
President  
2011-14



↑ Cracking a joke with Alistair Grant



↑ Vice President Darren Crockett with Mike

## OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS



Official Headline  
Event Sponsor



Official Guest  
Speaker Sponsor



Official Programme  
Sponsor



Official Table  
Sponsor



Official Piper  
Sponsor



Official Pipe Band  
Sponsor



Official Drinks  
Sponsor



Official Entertainment  
Sponsor





**ALICK SMITH**

President  
2009-11

**MIKE STARK**  
President

**DAVID W H SMITH**

President 2005-07

↑ Past Presidents help Mike Stark cut the cake at midnight



↑ Mike cuts the cake as the clock strikes 12

## "A WELL ORGANISED AND THOROUGHLY EXCELLENT EVENT FROM START TO FINISH WITH GREAT COMPANY"

– John Renwick, Communities Manager, Warmworks

Fred MacAulay, who I'm sure you'll all agree it's great to see in good health and back where he belongs – taking the mickey out of people.

"And finally, thanks to **YOU** all for attending this evening and helping us celebrate the 125th birthday of the world's first trade body for the electrotechnical industry."

As a giant family photo appeared on the screen behind him, Darren went on: "I'm extremely proud to be a Member of SELECT, just as my father and grandfather were before me. I've made many friends through SELECT and I'm delighted to see so many of them here tonight.

"When you look around the room, it's amazing to see the depth of talent and enthusiasm in our industry, from the apprentices just starting out, to the business leaders who have trained and employed generations of electricians.

"We often don't give ourselves the credit we deserve, but each of us should be proud of the job we do, keeping the wheels turning and the lights burning across Scotland, and we should look ahead with confidence to the next 125 years.

"Thank you again for helping us celebrate this unique milestone. Enjoy the rest of the night – and I look forward to seeing you later on the dance floor."

### READY TO PARTY

Darren's closing remarks brought the formal part of the evening to a close, and after another hilarious monologue from host Fred, Bahookie took to the stage.

Billed as "Scotland's leading rock ceilidh band", the fantastic four-piece soon had the dance floor full, with kilts flying as guests enthusiastically showed off their best Dashing White



Sergeant, Strip the Willow and Eightsome Reel. After an hour-and-a-half of frantic whirling, it was time for traditional closers *Auld Lang Syne* and *Loch Lomond*, which saw guests join hands and dance in a giant circle in the centre of the room.

As the clock inched closer to midnight, Fred invited Mike and the SELECT Past Presidents onto the stage to count down to 15 November – the official 125th anniversary of the association's very first meeting in Glasgow in 1900.

Surrounded by seven of his predecessors, Mike then cut into the 1m-high cake – complete with twinkling LED lights – to mark the formal anniversary of the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland.

With cheers and applause still ringing out, special birthday messages then played out on the giant screens to bring the night to a close, including greetings from industry figures and celebrities including Basil Brush, Stephen Hendry, Paul Chuckle and Rebecca Adlington.

Managing Director Alan Wilson said: "I would like to thank everyone who attended the Grand Ball for being part of our party and helping us celebrate 125 years of the world's oldest electrical trade association.

"The overwhelmingly positive feedback we have received is testament to the hard work and meticulous planning behind the scenes from the SELECT team and I would like to thank everyone who helped deliver a phenomenal event.

"We'll need to start planning now if we're to top it for the association's 150th birthday!" ■

**"THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL EVENING – YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO CELEBRATE IN STYLE. THE IMAGES BROUGHT TO LIFE WITH AI WERE AN INSPIRATION. HERE'S TO THE NEXT 125 YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR OUR INDUSTRY"**

– Ruth Devine MBE, President, ECA



↑ Jay Parmar, JIB



↑ Wayne Mackay, ESF

## A trip through time

Our AI photobooth was a massive hit, with guests queuing up to have their picture taken and be transported to the 1920s, '60s, '70s and even 2050s! Can you spot any familiar faces?



↑ Sharon Aitchison, SELECT



↑ Gordon Nelson, FMB



↑ Steve Bratt, ECA

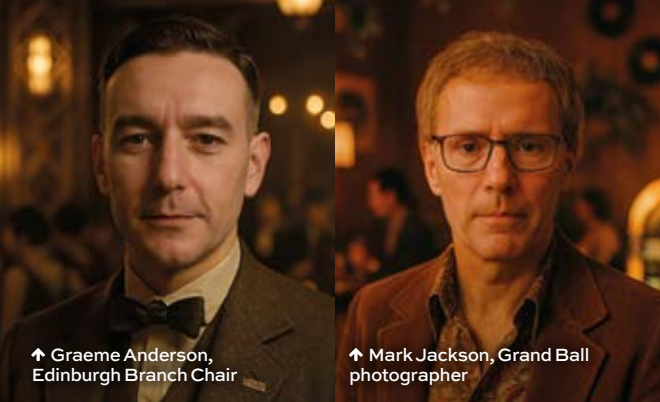


↑ Kevin Griffin, Past President



↑ Fiona Hodgson, SNIPEF CEO





↑ Graeme Anderson,  
Edinburgh Branch Chair

↑ Mark Jackson, Grand Ball  
photographer



↑ Amy Garrick-Wright,  
Probationary Member

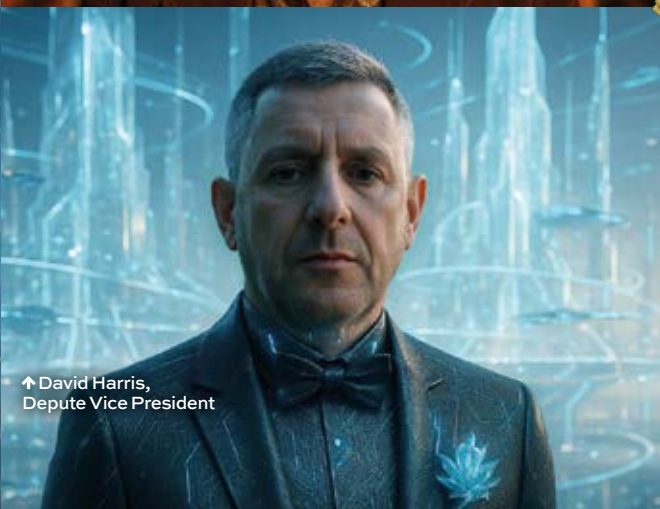


↓ Jock Simpson, SJIB

↑ Fiona Harper, SECTT CEO



↑ Alan Wilson, SELECT



↑ David Harris,  
Depute Vice President

# 125 SELECT

125 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE • 1900-2025

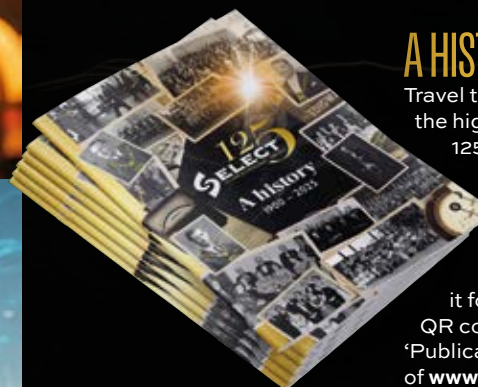
## Thanks for being part of our party

A massive thank you to all our anniversary partners for making 2025 a very special year and helping us celebrate our 125th anniversary in style.

### ANNIVERSARY PARTNERS



### KEEP THE CELEBRATIONS GOING



#### A HISTORY OF SELECT

Travel through time to discover some of the highlights of our history in our special 125th anniversary publication – now updated to include events from our year of celebration.

Download it for free via the QR code or go to the 'Publications' section of [www.select.org.uk](http://www.select.org.uk)



#### OUR YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS

Watch our video featuring the Members, Associates, staff and industry colleagues who helped us celebrate this year.

[bit.ly/SELECT-TV](https://bit.ly/SELECT-TV)





# Technical

## Keep up to date with the standards

Working in hazardous areas requires contractors to be well versed in the latest regulations, so Members should familiarise themselves with recent changes to two vital technical standards

WORDS  
**ROBERT MCGOOGAN**  
Technical Services  
Manager



**M**EMBERS should be aware of recent updates to technical standards applicable to the scope of work assessed in SELECT membership

work category 3.7, Hazardous Areas.

The sixth editions of BS EN 60079-14 and BS EN 60079-17 in particular have introduced notable technical changes and restructuring to improve standards for explosive atmosphere electrical installations and inspection and maintenance requirements.

Among the new updates in BS EN 60079-14, the standard's title now emphasises "installation design, selection and installation of equipment, including initial inspection", clarifying its full scope.

"Installation of equipment" replaces "erection" in terminology for broader understanding, while requirements for simple apparatus are aligned with IEC 60079-11.

In addition, the standard introduces a revised flowchart for flameproof cable gland selection as well as a change in criteria for selection of glands for IS circuit, which can be found in table 15.

Cable testing practices have also been updated, with Annex C now normative for pressure testing of cables in flameproof enclosures.

The update also means that initial inspection tables, formerly normative, have moved to an informative Annex O, allowing customised checklists for specific installations.

As well as the above changes, new considerations have been added for external influences like humidity, waves and sandstorms, intrinsic safety with combustible dust and provisions for portable equipment. Terminology improvements include replacing "Special Condition of Safe Use" with "Specific Conditions of Use".

And references have been changed to match continuous supervision terms, e.g. "Skilled Personnel" and "Technical Persons with Executive Function", replacing older references to Responsible Persons, Operatives and Technicians.

Finally, some content has been removed with the introduction of cross referencing, for example static requirements (Part 31) and trace heating (Part 30).

### CHANGES FOR THE BETTER

The updates to the sixth edition of BS EN 60079-17 also mean there are changes that Members should be aware of.

For example, the sixth edition from 2024 now aligns more closely with other parts of the IEC 60079 series, especially concerning inspection and maintenance for hazardous areas.

New requirements on Type of Protection "o" (liquid immersion) have been added, including an updated table 4 reflecting changes in BS EN 60079-6.



**"THESE CHANGES ARE DESIGNED  
TO IMPROVE USABILITY FOR  
DESIGNERS, INSTALLERS,  
INSPECTORS AND REGULATORS"**



Table 4 – Inspection schedule for Ex “o” installations

Check that: X = required		Grade of inspection		
		D	C	V
<b>A</b>	<b>Equipment</b>			
1	Equipment is appropriate to the EPL/Zone requirements of the location	X	X	X
2	Equipment group is correct	X	X	
3	Equipment temperature class is correct	X	X	
4	Equipment circuit identification is correct	X		
5	Equipment circuit identification is available	X	X	X
6	Enclosure, glass parts and glass-to-metal sealing gaskets and/or compounds are satisfactory	X	X	X
7	There are no unauthorised modifications	X		
8	There are no visible unauthorised modifications		X	X
9	Bolts, cable entry devices (indirect) and Blanking Elements are of the correct type and are complete and tight – physical check – visual check	X	X	X
10	Electrical connections are tight	X		
11	Condition of enclosure gaskets is satisfactory	X		
12	Breathing and draining devices are satisfactory. The manufacturer's schedule for maintenance requirements for the drying agent are documented to have been followed	X		
13	Sealed enclosure press-relief devices are satisfactory	X		
14	Enclosures marked Permanently Sealed have no visible evidence that the enclosure has been opened	X	X	X
15	Maximum/minimum criteria of the protective liquid a) level of the protective liquid shall be at or below the maximum and above the minimum permitted level; b) the maximum working angle to the horizontal of the equipment shall be satisfactory	X	X	X
16	Enclosures intended to be opened The level of the protective liquid is correct	X		
17	When a dipstick is provided, the dipstick is secured in its measurement position and its seal is satisfactory	X	X	
18	Remote-indicating protective liquid level indicating device operation is satisfactory	X	X	X
19	Switching device schedule for cleaning/filtering/replacement of the protective liquid following a given number of normal switching operations or interruption of fault currents is documented	X	X	X

References have also been changed to match continuous supervision terms, e.g. “Skilled Personnel” and “Technical Persons with Executive Function”, replacing older references to Responsible Persons, Operatives and Technicians.

In addition, the document continues to address all aspects relevant to inspection and maintenance in explosive atmospheres across diverse industries.

These changes are designed to improve usability for designers, installers, inspectors and regulators.

The updates provide greater consistency, safety and flexibility for those working in hazardous environments, supporting compliance and technical excellence in installations and ongoing inspections.

To help, SELECT Associate Member CompEx has created a handy technical guidance document that can be downloaded by scanning the QR code on this page or by visiting its website at [www.compexcertification.com](http://www.compexcertification.com) ■

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Download the CompEx Standards Guide



# Poster shows the value of compliance

BEAMA has published a new poster to inform the industry of the importance of product conformity in relation to the design, build and installation of low-voltage (LV) switchboards.

BEAMA's Low Voltage Switchboard and Busbar Systems (LSBS) Group has launched the safety campaign to educate professionals about why the issue is critical to BS EN IEC 61439-2.

It highlights the importance of compliance with BS EN IEC 61439-2 across the lifecycle of LV switchboards, supporting safer and more reliable installations throughout our industry.

BS EN IEC 61439 is a series of standards related to low-voltage and switchgear assemblies which define good practice and ensure conformity with basic safety requirements. Low-voltage assemblies form an integral part of most electrical distribution networks and have two prime functions:

- To safely control and distribute energy
- To safely isolate sections of faulted networks.

BEAMA's *Guide to Verification – Low-voltage Power Switchgear and Controlgear Assemblies (PSC) in Accordance with BS EN IEC 61439-2:2021* can also be referenced.

It details the methods to confirm verification of a PSC assembly and the information a specifier should provide to enable switchboard manufacturers to verify an assembly meets the customer's requirements in the most efficient way.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Download the BEAMA LV switchboard poster



Download the BEAMA guidance document



↓ The poster is designed to highlight important safety issues





**M**EMBERS assessed by SELECT in work category 3.5, emergency lighting systems, should be aware of the recent updates to technical standards.

Published on 29 October and coming into effect on 31 October, the new BS 5266-1:2025 standard supersedes BS 5266-1:2016 and ensures that buildings have adequate lighting to guide occupants safely during a power failure.

To do this, it covers three main types:

- **Emergency escape lighting** – continues to cover the illumination needed to guide people to a safe exit during an emergency
- **Local area lighting** – provides illumination to specific points or tasks, ensuring people can safely complete vital activities in the event of power failure
- **Standby lighting** – designed to allow normal activities to continue when the main power supply is lost.

BS 5266-1:2025 now has more guidance and information to include local area lighting and standby lighting in addition to emergency escape lighting.

It also expands on guidance for high-risk areas and aligns the standard with the recent updated European standards that define lighting requirements, BS EN 1838:2024 and BS EN 50172:2024.

This alignment strengthens the UK's consistency with international best practice while ensuring that local application remains clear and practical.

The updated standard also introduces clearer criteria for assessing existing installations and provides more detailed guidance on testing, verification and maintenance procedures.



# Spotlight on safety

A raft of changes have been introduced to the technical standards which deal with emergency lighting – so here's a rundown to ensure you're not left in the dark

**WORDS**  
**BRUCE FINDLAY**  
Technical Adviser



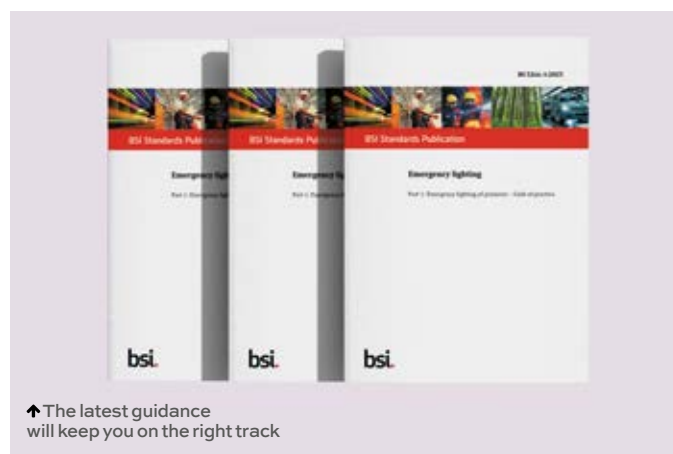
## LIGHTING THE WAY

Other key updates in BS 5266-1:2025 include an expanded scope which gives guidance on local area lighting and standby lighting, covering situations that go beyond evacuation.

More detailed guidance also provides clearer and expanded information and guidance on the design, installation and maintenance of all types of emergency lighting.

Enhanced safety is also a feature, with a spotlight on new measures for high-risk areas, with luminaires to be wired from at least two separate circuits so that no more than 20

**"THIS ALIGNMENT STRENGTHENS THE UK'S CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE WHILE ENSURING THAT LOCAL APPLICATION REMAINS CLEAR AND PRACTICAL"**





luminaires are affected by a single-circuit fault. As mentioned earlier, harmonisation is also key, with the updated standard aligning with the current European standards BS EN 1838:2024 and BS EN 50172:2024.

The standard also contains clearer criteria for evaluating whether existing installations need to be upgraded to meet current requirements.

And the classification has also been updated, with the replacement of the old NM/M system with a new letter-number-letter-number classification to give greater clarity of the classification symbol.

Finally, there is now more provision and structured protocols for verification and testing, including requirements for photometric verification every five years.

#### AN IMPORTANT STANDARD

BS 5266-1:2025 is not just for lighting designers and is also relevant for a broad community of professionals and organisations.

These include local authorities and regulators, who need clear benchmarks for enforcement and compliance, as well as insurers and trade bodies, who rely on consistent standards to evaluate risk.

The standard is also important for safety and fire professionals, who are responsible for safeguarding people in diverse environments.

It also applies to engineers, contractors and developers, who must incorporate emergency lighting into projects at every stage of design and construction.

And it is also relevant to responsible persons under UK fire safety legislation, who carry legal duties to ensure safe evacuation and occupant protection. ■

#### USEFUL RESOURCES

Members can obtain a discounted copy of BS 5266-1:2025 from SELECT Technical Services on request. Scan the QR code to order online. Alternatively, visit the SELECT Shop at [www.select.org.uk](http://www.select.org.uk) or contact our team on 0131 445 5577.



The SELECT training course in emergency lighting, AKA course 221, has now been updated to align with the changes. To book, scan the QR code or go to the Training section at [www.select.org.uk](http://www.select.org.uk)



Emergency lighting certificates are currently being updated and will soon be available in hard copy and electronic format in SCO-CERTS. Find out more about SCO-CERTS by scanning the QR code or going to [www.sco-certs.co.uk](http://www.sco-certs.co.uk)



## BS 7671 TRAINING COURSES AVAILABLE



### Modules now available in line with the current edition of the IET Wiring Regulations, as amended:

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

TO BOOK, CALL

▶ **0131 445 5577**

[www.select.org.uk](http://www.select.org.uk)



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↓ Legislation is designed to  
keep people safe in the workplace





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COURSES TO BOOST YOUR SKILLS AND  
KEEP YOUR KNOWLEDGE UP TO DATE

# Training

## MORE INFORMATION

To enquire about SELECT's range of training courses, please call 0131 445 5577 or email [training@select.org.uk](mailto:training@select.org.uk)



↑ Gain the skills and knowledge needed to install and maintain solar PV panels

## Help for your clean energy transition

Following our new training partnership in the east, SELECT has teamed up with the Renewable Energy Performance Centre to deliver more solar PV and battery storage courses near Glasgow

WORDS  
**JENNY CRYVANS**  
Training Manager



**S** **SELECT** is delighted to announce that it now offers another combined training course in solar PV and battery storage after joining forces with the Renewable Energy Performance Centre (REPC) in Kirkintilloch.

This regulated qualification combines the battery storage and solar PV courses into one five-day module, to get Members fully certified in installing and maintaining renewable energy systems.

Bryan Booth, REPC Director, said: "We're delighted to be working in partnership with SELECT to expand renewable training opportunities for electricians across Scotland."

"This collaboration strengthens the pathway for qualified professionals to gain the accreditations needed to deliver high-quality solar PV and battery

storage installations that support Scotland's clean energy transition."

The qualification is based upon the National Occupational Standards (NOS), as published by industry, and is recognised by Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) registration bodies as an acceptable qualification to join the scheme. It has also been extensively updated to bring it in line with BS7671:2018+A3:2024.

The training is structured as follows, with Members able to take modules individually or both together:

### SOLAR PV COURSE

This three-day course will deliver the skills and knowledge needed to install and maintain solar PV panels. The training is LCL Awards Level 3

**REPC**  
RENEWABLE ENERGY PERFORMANCE CENTRE



## "WE'RE DELIGHTED TO BE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SELECT TO EXPAND RENEWABLE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELECTRICIANS ACROSS SCOTLAND"

accredited, with successful students becoming fully certified to install and maintain solar PV systems in the field and gaining a Level 3 Award in the Installation and Maintenance of Small-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Systems.

This course is designed for anyone who's already a qualified electrician looking to upskill and add solar PV systems to their list of services.

The session requires previous industry experience and training. Applicants should have experience in electrical installations in domestic and/or non-domestic commercial premises.

They must also hold the following qualifications before applying:

- Level 3 Award in the Initial Verification and Certification of Electrical Installations (Equivalent SELECT Course Initial Verification – course 209)
- Level 3 Award in the Requirements for Electrical Installations BS7671 (current edition) (Equivalent SELECT Course Requirements for EI – course 218).

### BATTERY STORAGE

This two-day qualification has been designed with the latest IET Code of Practice, is recognised by MCS and will result in successful delegates achieving an LCL Awards Level 3 Award in the Design, Installation and Commissioning of Electrical Energy Storage Systems.

The course is designed for anyone who is already a qualified electrician working in domestic and/or non-domestic premises and looking to upskill and add battery storage to their list of services.

REPC runs this course in tandem with the solar PV course as a five-day combined session to give you the best possible qualifications to work on systems via one concise package.

This course requires previous industry experience and training, with applicants having the following qualifications before applying:

- Level 3 Award in the Initial Verification and Certification of Electrical Installations (Equivalent SELECT Course Initial Verification – course 209)
- Level 3 Award in the Requirements for Electrical Installations BS7671 (current edition) (Equivalent SELECT Course Requirements for EI – course 218).

### COSTS AND HOW TO BOOK

The three-day solar PV course costs £700 + VAT per delegate, while the two-day battery storage

↓ The course will help you upskill and offer battery storage as a service



### SCAN NOW TO BOOK

The Renewable Energy Performance Centre



session costs £500 + VAT per delegate. If booking both together as a combined five-day course, the cost is £925 + VAT per delegate.

For all courses, SELECT Members are entitled to a one-off 10% introductory discount – use the code 'SELECT25' at the time of booking.

Bookings are made directly with REPC by scanning the QR code on the left, visiting [www.ukrepc.com](http://www.ukrepc.com) or by calling them on 0141 258 3951. ■

## Learn more about RAMS

A reminder that training courses are now available to help with the completion of risk assessments and method statements (RAMS), thanks to SELECT's longstanding partnership with the Building Safety Group (BSG).

The half-day online 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 of the job
- Monitor and review RAMS

- Recognise the need to prepare method statements to satisfy the requirement for a safe system of work.

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.

The half-day online course runs from 8am to 12pm and costs £85 + VAT for SELECT Members.

The next session will take place on Wednesday 29 April 2026.

To book, email our team at [training@select.org.uk](mailto:training@select.org.uk)

BSG update : Pages 58 & 59



# Health & Safety

## To stay safe, knowledge is PUWER

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998 represents a cornerstone of workplace safety legislation in the UK, with particular significance for the electrical industry. Here, we run through some of the main talking points...

WORDS  
**CHRIS MAY**

Regional Manager,  
BSG



**BSG** The Building  
Safety Group

**P**UWER establishes mandatory requirements for the safe provision and use of work equipment, ensuring both worker safety and legal compliance.

For electricians, understanding and implementing PUWER is essential for maintaining professional standards and protecting themselves and others from workplace hazards.

PUWER 1998 encompasses a broad range of equipment used

in electrical work, including hand tools, power tools, testing devices and diagnostic equipment. The regulations apply to all electrical test equipment, from simple voltage indicators to sophisticated diagnostic instruments.

Personal protective equipment (PPE), while covered primarily by separate regulations, must also meet PUWER requirements when used as work equipment.

The regulations apply to all employers, self-employed electricians and equipment hire companies operating in the UK electrical sector.

This includes both commercial electrical contractors and sole traders, making compliance a universal requirement across the industry.

### KEY REQUIREMENTS – EQUIPMENT SELECTION

All work equipment must be suitable for its intended use and maintain CE marking, or UKCA marking post-Brexit, when required.

Risk assessments must be conducted before equipment selection, considering factors such as the working environment, user competence and potential



hazards. Equipment must meet relevant British Standards and be appropriate for the voltage levels and conditions in which it will be used.

### MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance schedules must be established and documented. This includes routine inspections, calibration of test equipment and immediate attention to any defects.

Records must be kept of all maintenance activities, including dates, actions taken and responsible persons.

### TRAINING AND COMPETENCY

Users must receive adequate training on equipment operation and safety procedures.

This includes initial training, regular updates and specific instruction for new or modified equipment. Training records must be maintained and regularly reviewed.







## "UNDERSTANDING AND IMPLEMENTING PUWER IS ESSENTIAL FOR MAINTAINING STANDARDS"

determined by risk assessment and equipment type.

High-voltage testing equipment demands additional safety measures and specific user competencies.

Working environments must be assessed for factors that could affect equipment safety, such as moisture, temperature and access restrictions.

Emergency procedures must be established and communicated to all users.

### COMPLIANCE AND DOCUMENTATION

Comprehensive record-keeping is essential for PUWER compliance.

This includes:

- Equipment registers detailing all work equipment
- Maintenance and inspection logs
- Calibration certificates
- Training records
- Risk assessment documentation.

Regular reviews of all documentation ensures continued compliance and effectiveness of safety measures.

### CONCLUSION

PUWER 1998 compliance is fundamental to safe electrical work practices.

Electricians must maintain awareness of their obligations under these regulations and ensure continuous compliance through proper equipment selection, maintenance, training and documentation.

Regular review and updating of procedures help maintain safety standards and legal compliance while protecting workers and the public. ■

## YOUR FREE HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVICE

SELECT's partnership with the BSG gives every Member free access to a wealth of benefits worth £750 via the BSG Hub, including risk assessments and method statements. All Member companies are enrolled automatically – just use your membership number to get started. To find out more, scan the QR code.



↑ PUWER covers a wide range of equipment used in electrical work

### SPECIFIC ELECTRICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Portable electrical equipment requires particular attention under PUWER.

PAT testing must be conducted at appropriate intervals, with frequency

## FURTHER GUIDANCE

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE)



BSG Hub: MS 43  
Record of Inspection  
PUWER & L22  
PUWER



## Breaches can mean fines and jail

PUWER breaches on construction sites have increased by 29% following 7,000 inspections conducted by the BSG, which compared Q2 with Q3 this year.

PUWER is enforced by HSE inspectors during regular checks. They will place an improvement notice on equipment if they feel it has not been subject to inspections and risk assessments detailed under PUWER.

The inspector will tell the business owner what actions are needed to comply with PUWER and give them 21 days to do so. If the actions are not carried out within this period, a prohibition notice will be enforced, preventing

use of the equipment. Fines for non-compliance can range from £10,000 to several hundred thousand pounds, depending on the risk and outcome.

In serious cases, such as when injuries occur due to faulty lifting equipment, directors and managers can face prosecution and even prison. Businesses may also face enforcement notices, halting work until issues are resolved.

As an example, one construction company was fined £120,000 after a worker was injured by an unexamined lifting accessory that failed during a lift.

Andy Harper, Head of Technical & CDM Support at BSG, said:

"Businesses need to look at PUWER closely and make note of what is considered 'work equipment', which is a catch-all term that covers any tool, appliance or piece of machinery that could potentially pose a risk to employees.

"PUWER requires a competent person to periodically inspect each piece of work equipment to ensure it is fit for use, and to officially record their findings for future reference.

"With more complex machinery, instructions on how to use the equipment, alongside any potential safety issues, should be made available to all equipment users."



# Industry insight

## Tackling the recruitment reckoning head-on

WORDS  
**PAUL McDEVITT**

Managing Director,  
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](http://www.mcdevitt.co)

Scotland's construction industry is facing one of the most pressing challenges in its modern history — a deepening recruitment and retention crisis that threatens to undermine our ability to deliver critical infrastructure, housing and energy projects. Urgent action is needed to secure our industry's future — so how do we do it?

**A**T THE recent, inaugural Scottish Construction Summit in Glasgow, more than 250 delegates from across the sector gathered to confront head-on the growing talent gap.

With a stellar line-up of speakers, including Professor Steve Petrie and Alan Tait, the event identified recruitment and retention as one of four headline themes shaping the future of Scottish construction.

The discussion was candid and, at times, sobering. While the sector is showing resilience and innovation, the data exposes cracks in its workforce pipeline – gaps that cannot be ignored.

### A REALITY CHECK FOR CONSTRUCTION LEADERS

During the summit, I shared results from a survey conducted a few years earlier among 100 industry

leaders. Asked a simple but telling question – “If you had a son or daughter, would you recommend a career in construction?” – only one respondent said yes, and even that came with a caveat.

That alarming reply speaks volumes about the industry's internal confidence and external image.

The same sentiment emerged recently during a leadership development programme that I held for a multidisciplinary consultancy. The eight participants, ranging from graduate apprentices to senior directors, were asked how they had first entered construction. Every one of them said the same thing: “By default.” None had planned a career in the sector.

Such insights are a wake-up call. If professionals view the industry as something they stumbled into rather than chose, how can we expect to attract the next generation with purpose and pride?

### THE NUMBERS BEHIND THE CHALLENGE

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) has laid out forecasts that paint a stark picture of the labour shortfall. Scotland requires an additional 3,590 construction workers annually between 2025 and 2029 just to meet current demand. Yet the workforce already falls short by around 31,000 people – and at least 26,100 more workers will be needed by 2028.

Apprenticeship recruitment – a key lifeline for future talent – continues to lag behind targets. Between August 2023 and May 2024, only 855 construction-related apprentices were recruited, against the CITB's annual target of 2,240. High drop-out rates during training further compound the problem. The picture is even



↑ Apprenticeship funding in Scotland is dramatically lower than in England



technicians in Scotland will reach 147% of current capacity. Training plans, however, address only 24% of that need.

### PERCEPTION PROBLEMS — AND PROMISING SHIFTS

Despite the challenges, there are encouraging signs that public perception is starting to change. CITB data indicates growing positivity among young people, parents and careers professionals towards construction as a viable and rewarding occupation.

Among people between the ages of 16 and 24, some 68% hold a positive view of construction careers – a marked improvement – yet only 31% would actually consider working in the sector.

The barriers are familiar: outdated stereotypes about physical demands, safety concerns and pay.

The reality is quite different. Construction today offers roles that

are increasingly digital, technical and managerial – often paying above national averages and combining innovation with meaningful impact.

However, there remains a serious visibility gap. Nearly half (47%) of young respondents said that construction was never mentioned in their school careers advice, representing a massive missed opportunity for early engagement.

Parents, traditionally seen as a major influence on career choices, present an untapped asset. Some 65% hold positive views of the industry – and 79% would support their children pursuing a construction career.

Interestingly, more than 40% said they would prefer their child to “earn while they learn” through apprenticeships rather than follow the university route – signalling opportunity for targeted outreach.

### SCHOOLS, EMPLOYERS AND THE POWER OF EARLY ENGAGEMENT

One of the most striking statistics from recent CITB research is that construction is now listed among

↑ Construction now offers roles that are increasingly digital and managerial

bleaker in the electrical sector, where Scotland risks losing an entire generation of skilled electricians. Apprenticeship funding in Scotland stands at £8,000 per apprentice, dramatically lower than the £23,000 in England. The funding gap has become a critical bottleneck, restricting training capacity and long-term workforce sustainability.

Nationally, 37% of UK firms report that shortages of qualified electricians are holding back business growth.

In Scotland, the effect is magnified by funding constraints and the pull of mega-projects such as Hinkley Point and HS2, which are draining skilled workers southward. Forecasts suggest that by 2027, demand for electrical and electronic

**3,950**  
new construction workers are required annually between now and 2029 to meet demand

**"IF EXISTING PROFESSIONALS VIEW THE INDUSTRY AS SOMETHING THEY STUMBLERD INTO RATHER THAN CHOSE, HOW CAN WE EXPECT TO ATTRACT THE NEXT GENERATION WITH PURPOSE AND PRIDE?"**



↓ An estimated 50,000 new recruits are needed across the UK each year



construction-related apprentices were recruited between August 2023 and May 2024

## "IF SCOTLAND IS TO BUILD THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF TOMORROW, IT FIRST MUST BUILD BELIEF; IN ITS PEOPLE, ITS POTENTIAL AND ITS PLACE AS A WORLD-CLASS CONSTRUCTION NATION"

the top five career preferences for pupils by Nat 5/GCSE age, i.e. year 11. This milestone owes much to employer-led initiatives across schools and colleges, where real-life examples, site visits and mentoring are helping to reshape perceptions.

An overwhelming 97% of companies that engage with educational institutions report direct benefits – from stronger talent pipelines to improved diversity and retention outcomes.

Career guidance practitioners also share this optimism, with 68% now saying their students view construction positively, up from 64% in 2022. While most feel equipped to advise students, they want more up-to-date information about the range of opportunities that are available.

These findings reinforce one clear message: when the sector engages early, consistently and authentically with young people and educators, perceptions shift – and career pathways open.

# 37%

of firms say the shortage of qualified electricians is holding back business growth



# 31%

of those between the ages of 16 and 24 would consider working in the construction sector



### URGENCY AMID OPPORTUNITY

CITB and its partners have laid out a straightforward roadmap to strengthening recruitment and retention:

- Provide clearer, more accessible career information
- Broaden and modernise outreach to schools and communities
- Promote the diversity of roles – from engineering and digital design to project management and sustainability
- Improve funding parity with other UK regions
- Support structured mentoring, lifelong learning and leadership development to retain talent.

With an estimated 50,000 new recruits needed across the UK each year just to maintain industry output, the sector cannot afford hesitation. The battle for talent will define not only the future of businesses but the pace of national progress.

### IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

The message from the Scottish Construction Summit was clear – the window for action is closing fast. The industry must change both how it presents itself and how it supports those working within it. That means every business, large or small, should be working proactively with schools, local authorities and education departments to promote construction as a modern, rewarding and essential career.

It means showcasing the full spectrum of opportunity – apprenticeships that lead to engineering degrees, digital roles at the cutting edge of technology and leadership pathways that help shape Scotland's future landscape.

Above all, it means resetting the narrative from one of shortage and struggle to one of purpose, pride and possibility.

If Scotland is to build the infrastructure of tomorrow, it first must build belief – in its people, its potential and its place as a world-class construction nation. ■



# Understanding distance contracts

Consumers have the right to change their mind at any time during the 14-day cancellation period – but there are regulations in place to help protect traders who supply services rather than goods

WORDS  
**DAVID WILSON**  
Consultant



**MFR**  
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

**T**HE Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013 give consumers rights when entering into a 'distance' contract.

A distance contract is created via a form of distance communication, not the physical presence of the parties. Here, we outline the legal position for SELECT Members in relation to how these regulations apply to service contracts.

Consumers have the right to cancel a distance contract at any time during the cancellation period, which begins on the day the contract was entered into and ends on the 14th day after this.

If the trader does not provide the consumer with specific information regarding the right to cancel, the cancellation period extends to 12 months after the day on which the 14-day cancellation period would have ended. If the trader does provide this specific information within the 12-month period, the cancellation period ends on the 14th day after the consumer receives the information.

Because cancelling a service contract is more complex than cancelling a goods contract, additional regulations apply to safeguard traders. The primary position is that the trader must not

begin supplying a service before the end of the cancellation period, except when the consumer has expressly requested this by email or in writing.

If the trader starts providing a service during the cancellation period without the consumer's request, or without informing the consumer of their cancellation rights, the consumer does not have to pay for the service.

If the consumer has made the request for the service to begin within the cancellation period and later cancels the contract during the cancellation period, remuneration received will depend on how much of the service was completed.

If the service is ongoing, the consumer must pay the trader for the service until the point the trader is informed of the cancellation. The payment is calculated in proportion to what has been supplied in comparison to the cost of the full contract.

If the service is completed, the consumer cannot cancel, except in contracts for the supply of water, gas, electricity and district heating. However, when requesting the trader to begin work within the cancellation period, the consumer must acknowledge that they will lose the right to cancel once the contract has been fully performed by the trader. If the main contract is cancelled, any ancillary contracts are automatically cancelled. The trader must inform any third party of the cancellation.

In summary, traders must not provide a service during the cancellation period without the consumer's specific request to do so – and they must provide the consumer with clear information on their cancellation rights.

Failure to comply with the regulations may result in non-payment, even if services were provided. ■

↓ Traders must provide customers with clear information on cancellation rights

**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.







# SECTT Update



↑ Craig Herriott from Flexel dropped in to the East Consortium

## Joined-up thinking brings results

SECTT regional consortiums help to energise change and look to the future by uniting Approved Centres across Scotland

**O**VER the autumn this year, SECTT brought together Approved Centres from across the country for a series of regional consortium meetings.

Two events were held in October and one in November, with representatives from the North, East and West regions gathering to reflect, collaborate and innovate in support of Scotland's electrical installation apprenticeship.

The consortiums are a vital forum for all 22 Approved Centres delivering the electrical installation apprenticeship to come together

with SECTT, Training Officers and industry partners.

The meetings provide an opportunity to share good practice, review progress and discuss future developments in curriculum, assessment and industry needs, with key themes this year including:

- **Apprenticeship growth and quality:** Encouraging numbers and strong outcomes from verification visits, with

apprentices consistently meeting required standards.

- **Curriculum development:** Significant updates to science modules, including new materials on capacitance, inductance and power and energy, supported by modern graphics, interactive websites and podcasts.

- **Innovation in learning:** A new drawing app for electrical diagrams and trials of an AI e-portfolio support tool to help apprentices refine their evidence submissions.

- **Industry links:** Presentations from the Electric Heating Company and Flexel showcased low-carbon technologies in electric boilers and infrared heating, highlighting the role apprentices will play in the transition to net zero.

**"WITH DIRECT OBSERVATION REQUIREMENTS, NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND EVOLVING INDUSTRY STANDARDS ON THE HORIZON, THE CONSORTIUMS PROVIDED A VALUABLE PLATFORM FOR COLLECTIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING"**



• **Assessment and verification:** Updates on FICA, ACA and external verification planning, ensuring that apprentices are rigorously prepared for industry standards.

Fiona Harper, SECTT Chief Executive, emphasised the importance of these gatherings, saying: “The consortiums are about more than simply updating colleagues. They are about strengthening the partnership between Approved Centres and industry, ensuring every apprentice has the tools and opportunities to succeed in a fast-changing sector.”

The get-togethers also saw Senior Training Officer Craig Johnston presenting employer and apprentice surveys which consistently showed high levels of satisfaction, with over 94% of employers rating SECTT services, Training Officer support and OneFile processes as meeting or exceeding expectations.

The meetings closed with a look ahead to 2026 competitions and the upcoming Apprentice of the Year final, underlining the pride the sector takes in recognising and celebrating its rising talent.

Fiona added: “With direct observation requirements, new technologies and evolving industry standards on the horizon, the consortiums provided a valuable platform for collective problem-solving.

## Apprentices' lesson in low carbon tech

As part of SECTT's initiative to link learning with industry, the Electric Heating Company (EHC) and Flexel International Ltd have been collaborating with Training & Development Manager Barrie McKay to incorporate modern low-carbon heating technologies into the apprenticeship curriculum.

Garry Cowan from EHC delivered a presentation on the role of electric boilers in decarbonising heat, with seven SECTT-Approved Centres now equipped with fully installed systems and plans to expand across all colleges.

Craig Herriott from Flexel also highlighted the advantages of far infrared heating, with infrared heaters and information boards supplied to all 22 Approved Centres.

Both SECTT Associate Members worked with SECTT over the summer to update coursework materials, ensuring apprentices learn about the technologies shaping a



↑ First year apprentices at North East Scotland College enjoyed their visit from Flexel

sustainable, energy-efficient future for Scotland's electrical industry.

Craig said: “This partnership is another step forward for far infrared heating in Scottish education, helping the next generation of electrical professionals learn about the latest in sustainable heating technology and how it's shaping the future of low-carbon comfort.”

“They reinforced SECTT's commitment to maintaining the high standards of Scotland's electrical installation apprenticeship – a programme that is widely regarded as one of the strongest in the UK.” ■

↑ **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](mailto:admin@sectt.org.uk) or visit [www.sectt.org.uk](http://www.sectt.org.uk)



↑ Electric heating was put under the microscope at the meetings



↑ There was plenty of useful discussion at the West Consortium



↑ Keith with the pre-apprentice group

## KEITH'S VISIT SPARKS A LOT OF INTEREST

SELECT Member Keith Groom visited West Lothian College recently to speak with its SECTT pre-apprenticeship group.

The MD of AKD Electrical Contractors dropped in to the college earlier this month, where he met electrical lecturers Stephen Addy and Alan Cavanagh, shared valuable

insights and revealed what companies look for when taking on apprentices.

Stephen said: “Keith's visit provided an invaluable learning experience. It was a brilliant session and everyone enjoyed themselves.”

Keith added: “It was a great group with some excellent questions and topics covered.”



# HEALTH & SAFETY IS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



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# SJIB Bulletin

## A year of answers to your questions

As 2025 draws to a close, we thought it would be useful to reveal some of the most frequently asked questions our team has answered this year

### MY ECS (GRADE) CARD HAS EXPIRED. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO RENEW IT?

First port of call is the SJIB's ECS Card Portal on the SJIB website to check the renewal criteria for your card. Please also check that you have completed your ECS Health, Safety and Environmental (HS&E) Assessment within the last 30 months. If you meet the requirements for your card, log in to the SJIB ECS Portal, select the 'Renewal Application' button for your card, complete the application and payment details then click on 'Submit'.

### MY ELECTROTECHNICAL ECS (GRADE) CARD EXPIRED MORE THAN A YEAR AGO. WHAT CAN I DO?

You'll be required to have completed a recognised BS 7671 training course within the last five years. Please check your card criteria or email the team through 'Contact Us' on the SJIB Website.

### I HAVE APPLIED FOR MY ECS (GRADE) CARD. WHEN WILL I GET IT?

Provided all is well with your application and payment, the team works to a maximum turnaround time for ECS Card applications of 21 days upon receipt of application and payment, however, your card will usually be with you much sooner than this. We will reach out to you directly if there are any issues. Once your application is processed, you can view a digital version of your new card from your ECS Portal, under 'ECS Cards' - 'My Cards'.

### I NEED TO SIT MY ECS HS&E ASSESSMENT, HOW CAN I DO THIS?

As most operatives will be required to sit their assessment before applying for their ECS (Grade) Card, we get asked this one a lot! The majority of assessments are organised by individual companies and invigilated in-house. Operatives who are self-employed, work for an agency or are currently seeking work can arrange to attend the

### USEFUL LINKS



➔ ECS Cards



➔ ECS HS&E Assessment



➔ SECTT CEC Guide



➔ SJIB Rates and Allowances

SJIB offices in person to sit their test. Please visit the ECS HS&E Assessment tab on the SJIB website to apply for your assessment.

### I AM A NEW RESIDENT TO THE UK. HOW DO I BECOME A GRADED ELECTRICIAN?

The Crediting Electrotechnical Competence (CEC) Scheme is open to UK and non-UK residents who hold electrical apprenticeship qualifications to SCQF Level 6/7 and are working in the electrotechnical industry. The scheme helps these applicants attain an industry-recognised qualification and is managed by the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) on behalf of the SJIB. Further information can be found on the SECTT website, or by emailing [cecscheme@sectt.org.uk](mailto:cecscheme@sectt.org.uk)

### WHAT ARE THE SJIB RATES AND ALLOWANCES?

If your terms and conditions of employment are defined by the SJIB National Working Rules, i.e. the Collective Agreement, you should receive the SJIB stated rates and allowances. ■

### FESTIVE GREETINGS FROM THE SJIB

The SJIB would like to wish everyone a wonderful festive season and best wishes for 2026. Our office will close on Christmas Eve and re-open on Monday 5 January 2026.

### 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](http://www.sjib.org.uk)





# ProZone

## BECOME AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER

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



↑ The dimmer modules come in a range of finishes

## TAKE CONTROL WITH NEW CLICK GRIDPRO

Designed to provide homeowners with a solution for enhancing their domestic lighting control, Click Scolmore's GridPro dimmer modules eliminate the need for a mounting kit.

In response to demand for a more streamlined, efficient dimmer solution, the Click GridPro dimmer modules have a compact, space-saving design that fits directly into GridPro plates. They can deliver a 100W maximum load, despite the reduction in housing size, ensuring a reliable and consistent dimming experience for standard home downlights and lighting.

One of the stand-out features of the new modules is the elimination of the previously required mounting kit. Users can easily integrate the dimmer module directly into the GridPro plates, ensuring a clean, seamless look.

The Click Grid Pro modules are suitable for a variety of domestic applications, giving the user the ability to adjust the dimming level throughout the home. Combining style, efficiency and ease of installation, they offer a versatile solution for modern lighting control.

In addition, Click's GridPro dimmers support both leading and trailing edge functions, with specific usage scenarios to complement a broad range of applications:

- Leading edge mode – use with inductive load and resistive load
- Trailing edge mode – use with capacitive load and resistive load.

➡ For more information, visit [www.scolmore.com](http://www.scolmore.com), or download the Scolmore Group app.

## Flexel's smarter and simpler solutions

**L**eading Scottish manufacturer Flexel International has introduced two innovative products designed to make heating control smarter, simpler and more energy efficient.

The Fenix Control App gives users complete remote control of their heating systems. It allows easy management of Wi-Fi thermostats and new Wi-Fi boxes from anywhere. With real-time energy consumption, users can optimise heating schedules and reduce running costs effortlessly.

The Flexel Touch Wi-Fi Thermostat offers precise, app-based control for electric underfloor heating. Featuring a sleek colour touchscreen and four

customisable preset programmes, it delivers both convenience and comfort, whether users are at home or away.

These products have been designed with electricians and installers in mind – simple to set up, intuitive to operate and built for lasting performance.

Customers benefit from improved comfort, greater energy efficiency and lower bills while installers save time and enhance their service offering.

In an era where smart control is the priority, Flexel's intelligent heating solutions help electricians deliver the modern, energy-efficient systems that their clients expect.

➡ Find out more at [bit.ly/flexel-tft](http://bit.ly/flexel-tft)

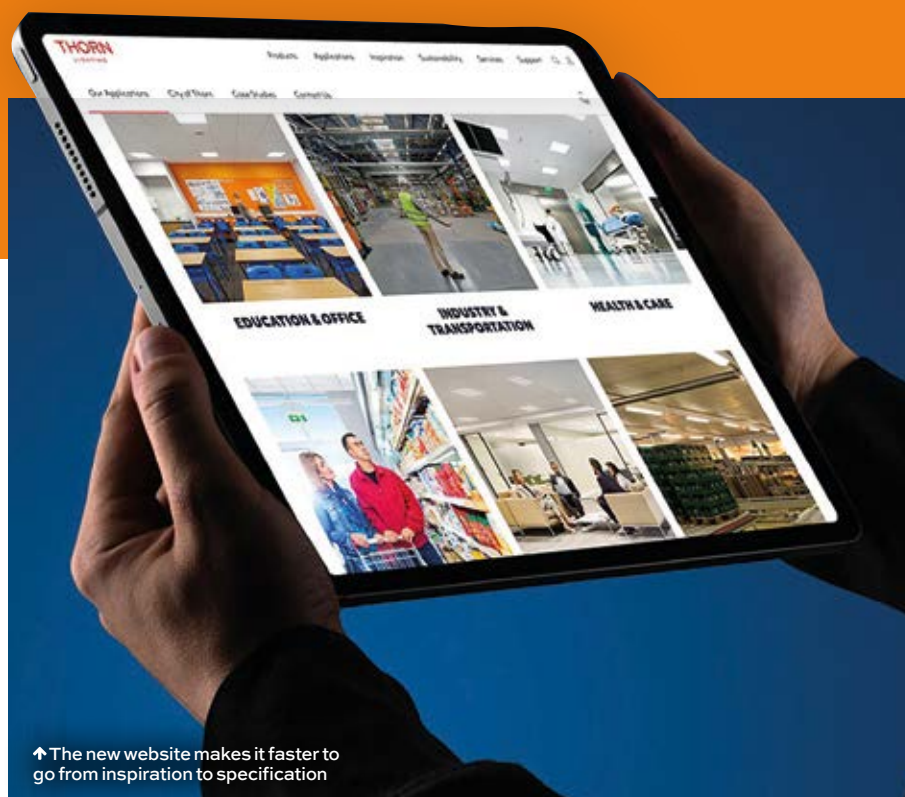
↓ Flexel's system lets users enjoy modern, efficient heating controls



MEET OUR  
ASSOCIATE  
MEMBERS







↑ The new website makes it faster to go from inspiration to specification

## Find it faster on new Thorn website

**T**HORN Lighting has launched a new customer website for the UK and Ireland, designed to give lighting professionals faster, simpler journeys from inspiration to specification.

The refreshed sites feature cleaner navigation, quicker search and direct access to support, all built around the needs of specifiers, designers, contractors and distributors.

The experience makes it easy to explore complete product ranges, review technical content and plan projects end-to-end.

Key updates include enhanced product discovery and filters, family pages with side-by-side comparison, wish lists, 'request a quote' and a customer-portal login with order and quotation overviews. Rich technical data, planning tools and configurators

are integrated to reduce admin and speed up decision-making.

Neil Raithatha, Head of Marketing, Thorn and Zumtobel Lighting UK and Ireland, said: "Our goal is to make it faster to move from inspiration to specification.

"With streamlined search, cleaner product pages and a single log-in to manage requests, we're helping project teams save time and work more confidently, while giving them round-the-clock access to the essentials."

For customers, the new site means seamless browsing on mobile or desktop, on-demand access to case studies and expert guides, and a simpler way to manage quotes and orders.

One account provides smooth access to the wider Zumtobel Group portfolio, so users can switch between Thorn and Zumtobel without losing their place.

Browse the new website at [www.thornlighting.co.uk](http://www.thornlighting.co.uk)

**CONTACT OUR TEAM TO SHOWCASE YOUR GREAT NEW PRODUCTS HERE**

David Hughes: 07767 407 402  
[davidh@connectcommunications.co.uk](mailto:davidh@connectcommunications.co.uk)

## SQUARELOCK'S TOUGH ENOUGH FOR EVERY TASK

Unicrimp has unveiled the latest addition to its Q-Crimp fixings range – the Squarelock 6" woodscrew drill bit, an essential tool for electrical contractors and installers working with SQ2 square-drive fasteners. Engineered for maximum performance, it ensures a snug, secure fit, offering unparalleled torque, reach and reliability for even the toughest installations.

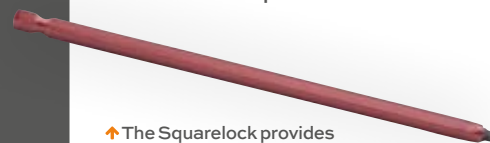
Key features include:

- 6-inch length perfect for tight or recessed spaces where conventional bits can't reach.
- Precision-cut SQ2 square tip engineered for a snug, accurate fit to reduce cam-out and minimise screw stripping.
- Locking design that provides a secure grip within the drill or driver, reducing wobble and enhancing stability.
- Made from durable carbon steel (1018A) featuring a shock-resistant SQ2 tip, built to withstand repeated heavy-duty use.
- Power tool compatible, standard 1/4" hex shank ensures easy compatibility with most power drills and drivers.

Whether you're installing cabinetry, framing, or securing decking, the Squarelock 6" woodscrew drill bit ensures smooth, confident fastening. It's also packaged individually in eco-friendly green paper, reflecting Unicrimp's commitment to sustainability.

To find out more, visit [www.unicrimp.com](http://www.unicrimp.com)

↑ The Squarelock provides performance and reliability





## WIHA DELIVERS TOOLBOX TORQUE

TIS is now distributing Wiha torque hand tools and accessories, complementing its vast range of Knipex hand tools and high quality test instrumentation.

Wiha offers precision accuracy of  $\pm 6\%$  to ensure consistent, reliable torque every time.

The adjustable range means one tool covers multiple torque settings, from 0.8 to 5NM, while the audible/tactile signal confirms correct torque.

Ergonomic design delivers comfortable, fatigue-reducing handles for daily use, with a versatile interchangeable bit system for varied applications.

And thanks to German engineering, premium build and long lasting reliability, you can now ensure screws are tightened to exactly the right torque, reducing over or under tightening.

➔ Find out more at [bit.ly/tis-wiha](http://bit.ly/tis-wiha)



↑ Wiha's hand tools and accessories are now being distributed by TIS

# Box clever with Power Quality Expert's analyser

**T**HE Pure BlackBox available from Power Quality Expert is an advanced Class A

power quality analyser embedded with proprietary PQZIP compression technology.

The meter is a plug-and-play device that continuously records all power quality parameters without requiring threshold settings or complex configuration.

Available in single and three-phase versions, the Pure BlackBox delivers continuous waveform recording at 256 samples per cycle, meeting IEC 61000-4-30 Class A standards.

The handheld, lightweight unit features IP40 rated rugged housing, a two-sided mounting clip for DIN

rail or magnet installation and fast USB connectivity to a PC. An SD card slot supports non-volatile storage, with data accessible via USB or direct card removal.

Optional battery banks and communication extensions enable remote data collection over LAN, Wi-Fi or mobile networks.

The PQZIP algorithm eliminates the need for trigger or threshold setup, allowing straightforward prediction, prevention and troubleshooting of power issues.

Recorded data is analysed using the free SCADA Sapphire Express Edition software, which supports drag-and-drop functionality for immediate trending, event detection and report generation. Installation errors, such as incorrect phase order, can be corrected during post-processing.

➔ Find out more at [bit.ly/pqa-elspec](http://bit.ly/pqa-elspec)



↓ The Pure BlackBox is packed with useful features

## GET ON BOARD WITH ELUCIAN'S RANGE

Three phase power and lighting distribution boards are critical components in commercial, industrial and large residential electrical systems. They provide a centralised point for power distribution, control and protection of electrical circuits, including both lighting and power loads.

Designed with the installer in mind, the Elucian power and lighting boards from Click Scolmore are engineered to deliver reliability, efficiency and ease of installation across a range of projects. Whether upgrading an existing system or



↓ The products are designed with installers in mind

building from scratch, Elucian provides a dependable solution for modern electrical demands.

The boards are split into three sections: power, lighting and accessories. Most distribution boards on the market don't allow isolation of the different

compartments. However, the Elucian board allows a section of the board to be switched off while the other section is working, providing ease of maintenance without compromise.

They feature a built-in energy meter for accurate tracking, allowing both power and lighting to be monitored separately on one energy meter and saving on cabling and space. The boards are also supplied pre-installed as standard with Type 1 and Type 2 SPDs. There are 24 different combinations available and each features quick release doors.

➔ To view the full Elucian consumer units and protective devices ranges, visit [www.elucianuk.com](http://www.elucianuk.com) or download the Scolmore Group app





↑ The finalists will receive a state-of-the-art toolkit

## Aico launches search for new rising stars

**A**ICO is delighted to announce the return of its Apprentice of the Year Award, celebrating the UK's most talented electrical apprentices who demonstrate exceptional technical ability, commitment and leadership within the industry.

Now in its second year, the award recognises apprentices who go above and beyond – those who not only excel in their craft but also inspire others to do the same.

It is open to all electrical apprentices in the UK currently enrolled on an apprenticeship scheme, regardless of their stage of training.

From the initial entries, 12 apprentices will be selected to attend a practical assessment day at the JTL Training Centre in Birmingham on Tuesday 17 February 2026. Each participant will receive a state-of-the-art toolkit filled with essential equipment for their trade.

Following the assessment, finalists will be invited to Aico's Community Awards on Thursday 16 April 2026, where the Apprentice of the Year will be announced before an industry audience.

Alongside the recognition, the winner will receive a certificate and a Megger Multifunction Tester worth up to £1,200. Entries close on Friday 9 January 2026.

➔ For more information and to apply, visit [www.aico.co.uk](http://www.aico.co.uk)

## MAKE THE SWITCH TO SANGAMO'S TRUSTED RANGE

Sangamo has been making its round pattern time switches for over 65 years and has sold more than 11 million units.

The switch is trusted by installers for a wide variety of applications, not just because of its reliability but also its ease of use. The simple dial and levers make setting it up for daily fixed timings a breeze. All round pattern time switches are also 20 A rated, making them more robust than most other products on the market.

The switches are split into four categories:

- Basic 'black dial' 24-hour time clock for simple on and off switching of up to 20 A
- Standard 24-hour 'red dial' switch with added 100-hour battery reserve
- Solar range designed for lighting applications
- Digital range – the newest addition combines the high capacity and reliability of the electro-mechanical models with full seven-day programming.

Sangamo regularly hears from people with round pattern time switches still going strong after 40 or 50 years. When they eventually need a new switch, they assume it won't be possible to get a direct like-for-like replacement. However, the original design has never needed to be updated and a switch you buy today is completely interchangeable with one bought decades ago.

➔ The Sangamo range is distributed through Scolmore Group company ESP. For more information, visit [www.espuk.com](http://www.espuk.com)

↓ More than 11 million switches have been sold during 65 years

## FLUKE'S FIVE NEW TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

Now available from Acutest, Fluke has strengthened its reputation for dependable, user-focused instrumentation with the introduction of five compact tools designed to support the daily demands of modern electricians.

The pocket-sized Fluke 107 delivers essential measurement functions in a durable, ultra-portable format ideal for quick troubleshooting.

The 15B+ and 17B+ multi meters build on that reliability with CAT III 600 V safety ratings, large backlit displays and, for the 17B+, additional frequency and temperature measurement capabilities.

For those who prefer clamp meters, the Fluke 302+ offers up to 400 A AC current measurement with everyday ruggedness, while the slim 301D AC/DC clamp meter enables confident testing in tight spaces without compromising capability. Together, these tools



↑ The 17B+ meter has extra features and capabilities

highlight Fluke's mission to provide electricians with instruments that always remain accurate, tough and safe in real-world conditions.

➔ Find out more by calling 01782 563 030 or visit [bit.ly/acutest-newtest](http://bit.ly/acutest-newtest)





## STRONG SUPPORT FROM SUPERCLIP

The LINIAN SuperClip combines strength, speed and simplicity, offering a revolutionary way to fix cables safely and efficiently.

It allows you to securely fix conduit, solar, EV and SWA cables directly to a wide range of substrates without the need for screws, plugs or additional fixings. This means less hassle, quicker installs and a cleaner, more professional finish.

Manufactured in the UK to the highest standards, the SuperClip delivers exceptional strength and outstanding fire resistance, ensuring your installations are fully compliant with safety regulations.

Installation is simple: drill a hole, fit the clip and push it into place. With no need for extra tools or components, you'll dramatically reduce both labour time and material costs, making it a smart, future-focused solution.

Available in a range of sizes and colours, the LINIAN SuperClip is trusted by professionals across the industry.

➔ Find out more at [bit.ly/linian-superclip](http://bit.ly/linian-superclip)

↑ The SuperClip is quick and easy to use

## V-TAC light blends style and safety

**T**HE V-TAC Fire-Rated Downlight delivers exceptional performance, safety and style

for modern lighting projects.

Fire-rated for 30, 60 and 90 minutes, it provides a reliable solution for both residential and commercial environments.

Designed with installers in mind, the downlight features spring clips and a quick connector for fast, hassle-free installation.

A toggle switch allows easy adjustment of the colour temperature, from 2700K, 3000K and 4000K to 6000K

and wattage between 5W and 8W, offering flexibility for every project.

Versatile in design, each downlight comes with three interchangeable bezels – chrome, satin nickel and black – ensuring it complements any interior.

With an IP65 rating, it's fully waterproof and dustproof, making it ideal for bathrooms, kitchens and sheltered outdoor areas.

The V-TAC Fire-Rated Downlight is available in two models: a six-pack for multiple installations or a single downlight with additional features such as insulation coverability and a detachable connector for first-fix wiring.

➔ Explore the V-TAC Fire-Rated Downlight range at Toolstation by going to [bit.ly/vtac-downlights](http://bit.ly/vtac-downlights)

↓ The downlight is ideal for a range of different environments including bathrooms and kitchens



## Ovia's HI-BLOC PROVIDES HIGH PERFORMANCE

An innovative addition to Ovia's industrial Highbay range, the Inceptor Hi-Bloc is designed with both performance and versatility in mind.

The Hi-Bloc is a CCT and power switchable linear Highbay, designed to deliver high-performance illumination in environments that demand precision and intensity.

The distinctive diffuser design not only elevates the visual profile of the fitting, but also supports superior glare control, with a UGR rating of ≤22. What also sets the



↓ The Hi-Bloc is versatile and easy to use, with a distinctive design

Hi-Bloc apart is its distinct linear design, engineered to improve lighting efficiency in tight aisles and long rectangular spaces.

Its rectangular form and narrow 72° beam angle focus light where it is needed most,

ensuring optimal visibility in every corner.

From installation to operation, the Hi-Bloc is engineered for versatility and ease of use.

The CCT and power switch is intuitively positioned

behind an IP65 threaded cap for easy access. Each unit includes two mounting hooks as standard and features an integrated spirit level to ensure perfect alignment.

The programmable remote allows full customisation of lighting, with the ability to adjust PIR detection range and sensitivity, daylight thresholds, standby periods and hold times.

The Hi-Bloc also integrates seamlessly with Ovia's 5W 3 Hour Maintained IP65 Emergency Pack.

➔ To find out more, visit [www.oviauk.com](http://www.oviauk.com)





◀ The new charger is compact with a clean and modern look

↑ Link is perfect for both new builds and retrofit projects

## Get in Sync with EV charging thanks to Link

**S**YNC Energy, has launched Sync Energy Link, its most compact and design-focused EV charger.

Engineered to complement modern living spaces, Link features a patent-approved two-part design that combines sleek aesthetics with installer-friendly functionality.

Available in Wi-Fi and 4G variants, Link offers a 7.4 kW Type 2 socket which can be either surface mounted or recessed with smart control via the Sync Energy App.

Its built-in Type A RCD and surge protection ensure compliance without additional devices, simplifying

installation and reducing cost. Rated IP65 and IK10, it's built to last and backed by a three-year warranty.

At just 37 mm deep when recessed, Link delivers a clean finish ideal for new builds and retrofits. Installers can choose recessed or surface mounting and the socket-outlet and control unit are supplied together as one complete kit.

Launched alongside the Sync Energy Flow hybrid inverters, batteries and solar diverters, Link is part of a connected home energy ecosystem designed to make sustainable living smarter and more accessible.

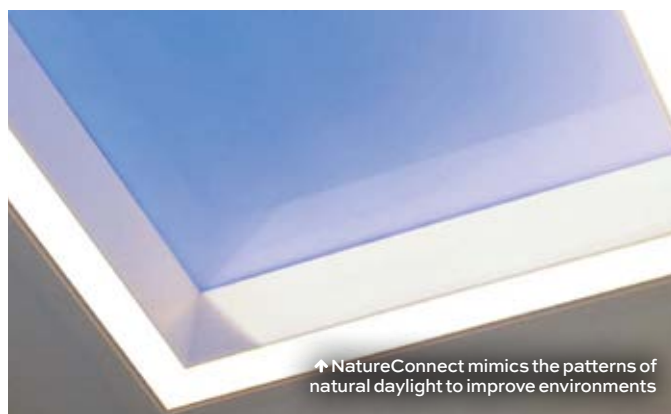
➔ Visit [sync.energy/link](https://sync.energy/link)

## Signify's natural choice for boosting wellbeing

**WE** spend a lot of our time indoors, often in locations without windows or proper access to daylight. This can negatively impact productivity and alertness, increase stress and disturb quality of sleep.

Signify understands this crucial relationship between light and wellbeing within the professional indoor space, bringing nature back into our lives with a lighting innovation – NatureConnect.

NatureConnect mimics daylight and replicates a view



↑ NatureConnect mimics the patterns of natural daylight to improve environments

of the sky using light scenes that boost energy levels, promote wellbeing and help windowless spaces feel in sync with nature.

Built on proven biophilic design principles that reconnect us to the outside world, NatureConnect mimics the natural patterns

of daylight indoors to create comfortable, and engaging environments.

Using a dynamic mix of skylight, daylight and lightscape luminaires, it creates immersive and human-centric lighting experiences that follow the body's natural rhythm

– helping people feel more energised, focused and relaxed throughout the day and creates an inspiring environment by creating a vibrant and immersive atmosphere underpinned by science.

The system is controlled by an intuitive wireless wall switch that allows users to choose between automatic day rhythm or one of the three specific natural light scenes, with the aim to encourage focus, higher alertness and vitality.

➔ Find out more by scanning the QR code or going to [bit.ly/signify-natureconnect](https://bit.ly/signify-natureconnect)







# SELECT EVENTS 2026

Catch up with colleagues  
throughout the year at  
our popular events

## CENTRAL BOARD

Wed 25 March  
Thu 4 June, including AGM  
Wed 2 September  
Thu 3 December  
Venues TBC



w/c 2 March, with AGM  
w/c 5 October  
Venues TBC



Mon 27 July  
Dunblane New Golf Club



Sponsored by aico

Thu 10 September  
Venue TBC



Fri 25 September  
Venue TBC



Thu 3 December  
Venue TBC



Sponsored by aico

Wed 6 May – Edinburgh,  
The Walled Garden

Thur 7 May – Borders,  
venue TBC

Tues 12 May – Dundee,  
The Apex Hotel

Wed 13 May – Glasgow,  
Hampden Park

Wed 20 May – Ayrshire,  
Fenwick Hotel

Thu 21 May – Dumfries,  
Easterbrook Hall

Wed 27 May – Inverness,  
Kingsmills Hotel

Thu 28 May – Aberdeen,  
Pittodrie Stadium

Wed 10 June – Oban,  
The Corran Halls

Wed 17 June – Shetland,  
Shetland Arts Development  
Agency, Lerwick

Tue 23 June – Orkney,  
The Pickaquoy Centre

Tue 30 June – Islay,  
The Machrie TBC

Thu 2 July – Stornoway,  
Caladh Inn TBC

## Your Branch Officers

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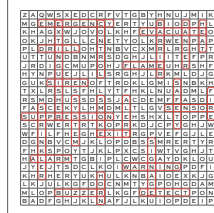
Visit our websites at:  
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**cabletalkmagazine.com**  
**selectawards.co.uk**

## Christmas markets wordsearch

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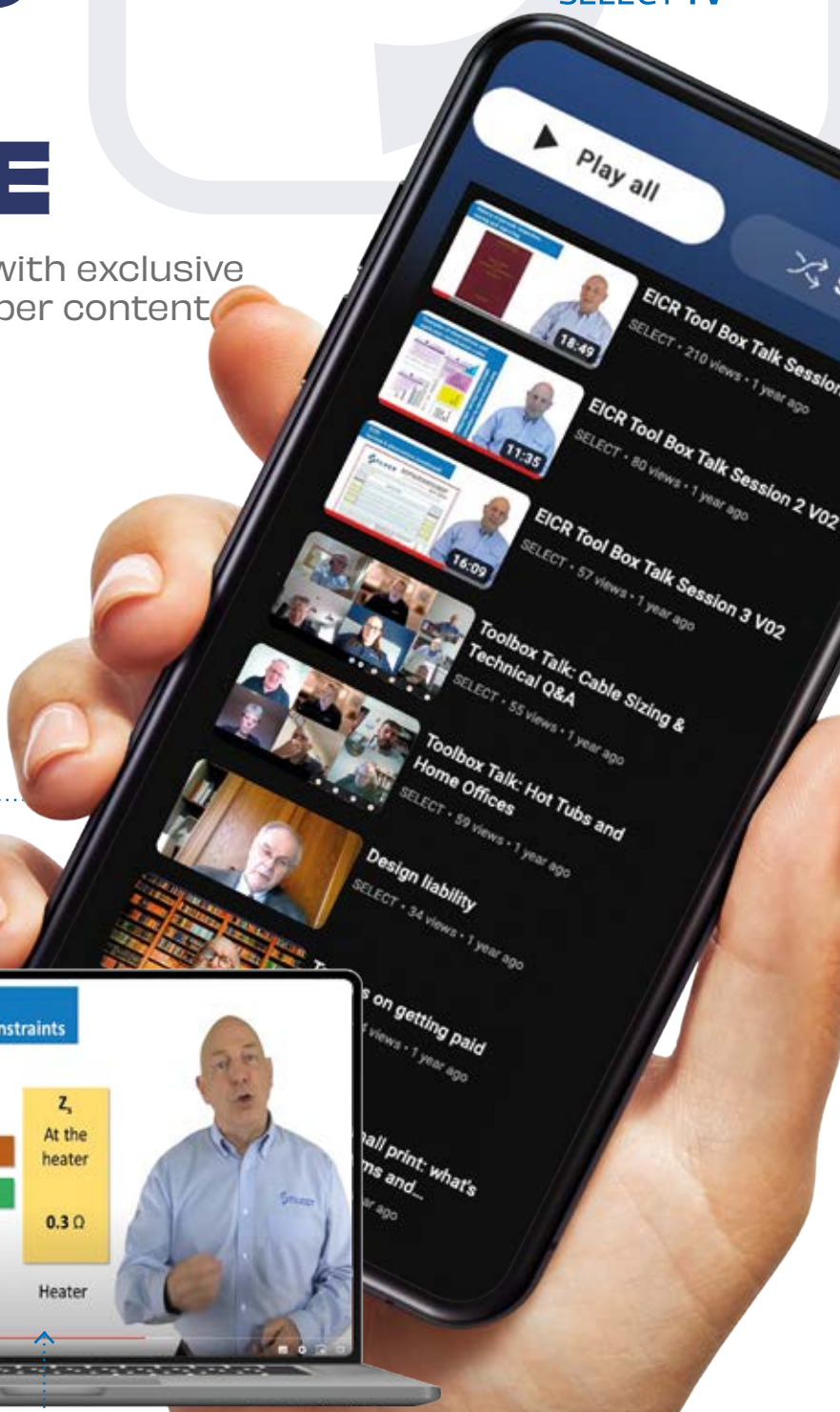
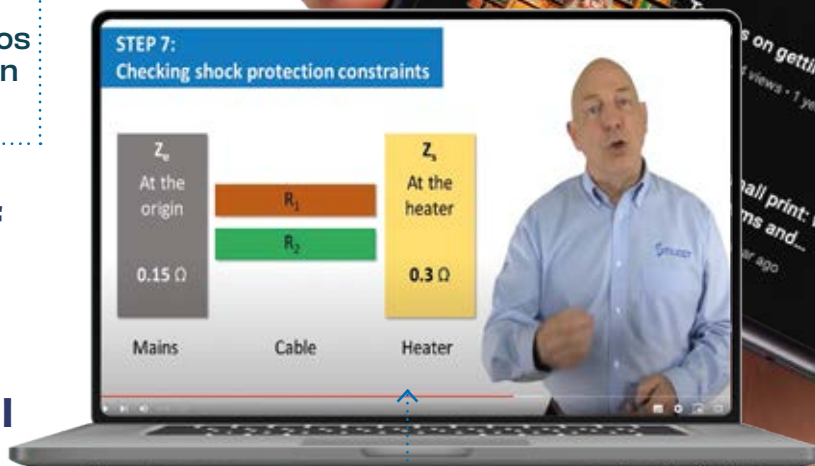
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