Message from the Editor

REHIS is about to enter one of its busiest periods with the REHIS/SFSORB Professional Examinations, the Health and Safety Update Course, the Annual Presentation of Awards Ceremony, an Environmental Health Update event and the Annual General Meeting all taking place in the next few weeks. Full information on these events is available from the REHIS office. Kevin Freeman, recently appointed as Director of Professional Development, joins the Manor Place team on 5 November and we look forward to his experience as an Environmental Health Officer who has worked in both the private and public sectors enhancing the work of the Institute. If you wish to feature an environmental health or public health initiative, event or activity in the newsletter please do not hesitate to let me know.

Tom Bell
Editor

Health Protection Scotland

The Health Protection Scotland (HPS) website www.hps.scot.nhs.uk provides a very current news service on all areas of health protection in Scotland. The HPS Weekly Report can also be downloaded from the site. Recent items cover ‘Europe’s Environment – The Fourth Assessment’ and the ‘Scottish Pollution Release Inventory’.

Eat well, be well

The Food Standards Agency dedicated website www.eatwell.gov.uk/foodlabels/ provides excellent advice on food labels and enables consumers to make healthier, safer and more informed choices. Links to traffic light labelling, labelling terminology, e numbers and advice on what manufacturers can and cannot say on food product labels are easily accessed. Also on this website are some excellent eating tips for students. Information on safe eating, eating on a budget and healthy eating is provided.

Port Health Advice

Useful links to information on Ship Sanitation Certificates, guidance on Norovirus on Cruise Ships and to an online Port Health Forum can be found on the Association of Port Health Authorities’ website www.apha.org.uk.

Alcohol Awareness

The drinks industry, health professionals and the Scottish Government joined forces for a week long initiative to foster a culture of sensible drinking in Scotland through ‘Alcohol Awareness Week’ which took place between 21 and 27 October. An excellent toolkit, which can be accessed on a dedicated website www.alcoholawarenessweek.com, provides

WHO Public Health and Environment

The ‘Public Health and Environment’ pages of the World Health Organisation (WHO) website www.who.int/phe/en/ provide a wide range of excellent technical information, data and statistics, news items, programmes and projects and reviews of new publications on the environment and its impact on public health. Under the headline ‘Health through a better environment’ the website states that ‘Proper environmental management is the key to avoiding the quarter of all preventable illnesses which are directly caused by environmental factors. The environment influences our health in many ways – through exposures to physical, chemical and biological risk factors, and through related changes in our behaviour in response to those factors’. A very concise summary of what environmental health, the environmental health profession and environmental health service is all about in Scotland!
helpful advice and information on understanding units of alcohol, learning about responsible drinking, frequently asked questions and tips for healthy drinking.

**Scottish Environmental Statistics Online**

Statistics on a wide range of categories including climate change and the ozone layer, air quality, noise pollution, waste and recycling, radioactivity and water quality can be found on the Scottish Government website www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso

**Scottish Consumer Council**

The Scottish Consumer Council (SCC) Annual Review 2006/07 can be downloaded from the SCC website www.scotconsumer.org.uk.

**Dates for your diary**

**Health and Safety Partnership Event**, 12 November 2007, Edinburgh (an event co-hosted by HSE, REHIS, the Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland, CoSLA and LACoRS)

**REHIS Health and Safety Update Course**, 13 November 2007, Edinburgh

**REHIS Annual Presentation of Awards Ceremony**, 21 November 2007, Edinburgh (evening event by invitation only)

**REHIS Environmental Health Update event**, 22 November 2007, Edinburgh (a free to members morning event, prior registration essential)

**REHIS Annual General Meeting**, 22 November 2007, Edinburgh (members only)

Scottish Government Seminar on Contaminated Land, Edinburgh, 14 December 2007 (re-arranged from 5 November 2007). All Scottish local authorities have now been notified.

**REHIS Law Enforcement Course**, Tulliallan, 22 to 24 February 2008

**UKPHA Annual Forum**, 1 and 2 April 2008, Liverpool (www.ukphaconference.org.uk)

**REHIS Annual Conference**, 17 and 18 April 2008, Edinburgh

**AIEH/IFEH 10th World Congress on Environmental Health**, 11 to 16 May 2008, Brisbane, Australia

If you wish to feature any Environmental Health or Public Health initiative, event or activity in the REHIS Newsletter, please contact Tom Bell, Chief Executive, on 0131 225 6999 or tb@rehis.com