

## Look out for:

- Editorial- Peter Jackman
- News from around the division
- Your chance to comment on the IFE ECD

## Individual Highlights:

Newsletter	1
Editorial	1
Portfolio News	2
General News	9
Comments	10
Next Issue	10

## Bringing the News to the Membership

### *A new Newsletter for all Members of the Institution*

After discussions held at the Board of the ECD and considering feedback from members, it was decided to produce a regular newsletter for all members of the institution that focuses on the Engineering Council Division and its membership. The newsletter should help all members of the institution understand the value that the ECD brings in the hope

that membership of the division can be increased.

The newsletter will be published four times a year and will cover issues ranging from professional development to new publications and other interesting issues affecting the ECD membership.

It is hoped that the letter will be read by members of all grades of the Institution of Fire Engineers. One objective of the newsletter is to ensure that the workings of

the ECD is open and transparent to all.

Each month, a member of the ECD Board will produce an editorial detailing their work with the institution. This issue's editorial is produced by Peter Jackman and is presented below. In addition, each issue of the newsletter will see a different editor from the ECD board membership. The editor for this issue is Nathan Hewitt.

## Editorial- Peter Jackman

It is the opinion of the Engineering Council Division of The Institution of Fire Engineers that the most important task that the Division has is to get Fire Safety Engineering recognised as a profession. There is no doubt that the more complex that buildings become, and the more that the prescriptive guidance provided in support of regulations is seen to have very little validity in practice, the greater is the role of the fire safety engineer in building design. Very few projects of any complexity manage to get built without eventual consultation with a professional fire safety engineer at some stage during the design and/or construction, but despite this fact there is no allowance in any of the 'bills of quantity' for the appointment of a

Fire Safety Engineering professional when the project is conceived. Such a fire engineer should work alongside the construction engineer, the civil engineer, the M & E engineer, and even the landscape consultant, from concept to completion, to ensure that the fire safety objectives are met. Unfortunately, this is not just a question of credibility, because without such recognition the estimated project costs fail to allocate even a reasonable sum for the provision of specialist fire engineers' services. The first time in many projects that the design team realises that they need the assistance of a fire safety engineer is when confronted with the Building Control Department or the Approved Inspector who ask a

number of embarrassing questions as to how the building functions in a fire. Probably, the BCOs and AIs account for more commissions for fire engineers than one would anticipate and the profession must consider them as our allies. However, this need is recognised long after fees have been agreed, by which time nothing has been allocated for our profession. As a consequence, our fees are being pinched from the other disciplines, which inevitably mean that the fee allowance is always going to be small, unfortunately much smaller than the role would indicate that it should be. Obviously, any commissioned fire safety consultant will only provide time up to the level at which it can be



Meet Peter Jackman-  
Board Member and  
Portfolio Holder  
Member Services

paid. This invariably means that the fire safety engineer is probably never properly consulted for the overall scheme and the fire safety of the project can often be compromised by sections of the strategy which revert back to prescriptive solutions.

The need for recognition of the profession is not just restricted to the consultant engineer. There is a need within the Regulatory Authorities, the Fire Service and the Building Control, to be able to differentiate between those persons who are able to audit a fire safety engineered strategy

and those who are able only to check a code compliant solution. One of the most common frustrations to the fire safety engineer is to find that his work is being audited by somebody without the necessary fire engineering skills who continually revert back to prescriptive solutions.

The Engineering Council Division has therefore set itself a goal which is to have the profession recognised at all levels in the built environment and even extending into sectors such as transport and infrastructure. However, it is so long ago that a

new profession was invented that we do not have a simple model to follow in order to achieve these objectives. Your Board would welcome any suggestions from Engineering Council registrants as to how this goal can be achieved in the most effective and timely manner.

Please contact Nathan Hewitt – [nathan.hewitt@arup.com](mailto:nathan.hewitt@arup.com) with any suggestions that you may have as to moving this objective forward, so that he may pass them onto the relevant Portfolio Holder.

## Message from the CEO- Ellen Jesset



Ellen Jesset- IFE CEO

The ECD Newsletter is a welcome addition to the Institution's communications and I congratulate Editor Nathan Hewitt and all contributing members of the ECD Board for bringing the initiative to fruition.

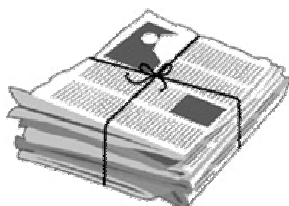
2006 was a year of further progress and development and I am pleased to advise that this included strengthening of the staff team undertaking membership and registration activities. The work is led by Professional Standards Officer Louise Craig and full details of

staff and contact information can be found on the Institution's web site [www.ife.org.uk](http://www.ife.org.uk)

There has been an encouraging increase in admissions to the Division and registrations at all levels together with a significant rise in enquiries from potential members and their employers. In order to meet this demand, work is underway to ensure that the membership and registration processes are streamlined and supported by user- friendly guidance. It is also essential to have sufficient member

volunteers to undertake the peer review aspect and we are always keen to have expressions of interest from registrants wishing to participate in activities. There is currently a shortage of representatives from academia.

The Newsletter includes details of all of the activities being progressed by the ECD Board and Board members are keen to have views and input from all members of the Division.



Portfolio News

## News from Portfolio Holders

Each issue of the newsletter will contain a News section. The section will cover the topics held by each portfolio holder of the ECD board. The portfolio holders are as follows:

- Membership** - Colin Todd
- Education and Accreditation** - Dougal Drysdale
- Membership Development** - Joe Ruane + Jack Goble
- Learned Journal** - David Smith/Eric Marchant

- Members services** - Peter Jackman
- Events** - Nathan Hewitt
- Promotion** - Alistair Brown
- CPD** - Eric Marchant
- IFE Board** - John Woodcock

## Membership- Colin Todd

Membership of the Engineering Council Division is growing day by day. We now have more interviewers and assessors than ever before allowing applications to be processed quickly and efficiently.

Dominic Goble is leading the drive towards registration of fire officers and other professionals at EngTech level and assessors are being put in place to assist in

the processing of 50+ applications for this valuable qualification. The interest in the EngTech registration has been phenomenal and we look forward to welcoming the new members of the division.

All eligible applicants are encouraged to use their New Year enthusiasm to apply for membership of the Engineering Council Division at EngTech,

IEng or CEng levels. Employers are acknowledging the value of the grades more and more and many clients now see registration as a pre requisite for contract appointment.

## Membership Development- Joe Ruane and Jack Goble

Joe Ruane (representative of the Institutions ECD board and membership committee) and the Institutions International President, Mr Bill Cox, visited firefighters stationed at Banja Luka in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 24 - 27 January, to present personnel with books to assist in their studies and understanding of fire safety engineering. Colin Todd of the board of the ECD kindly donated the fire safety books and the Defence Fire & Rescue Service forwarded to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo for personnel in these locations.

Bill Cox was accompanied by Divisional Officer Graham Knight (Graham is also a member of the ECD membership committee) of the Defence Fire & Rescue Service to Banja Luka Fire Station. Bill will present nine Intermediate Technician Diplomas (TIFireE) to members of the Banja Luka Fire Station who have studied hard to

achieve the awards, whilst Divisional Officer Graham Knight is to present a Chief Fire Officers commendation. The scheme has been so successful that a further 27 fire fighters are now interested in studying for the diplomas. Bill will also present an education/examination workshop to the fire-fighters, which was specifically requested by staff at the fire station.

Personnel at Banja Luka Fire Station are setting up a large reception for all their staff and their families to celebrate the achievement of 9 of their colleagues and Bill is very excited to be joining them.

Our friends in Bosnia are now interested in starting up a Bosnia-Herzegovina branch of the Institution and it is hoped that this visit will be the catalyst for this to occur.

This initiative demonstrates how the valuable work of the ECD can make a huge difference to

the lives of fire professionals around the world and it is hoped that similar initiatives will encourage further branches to be set up.

Finally, Peter Jackman mentions in his editorial that in the opinion of the Institution's ECD, fire safety engineering has to be recognised as a profession. I hope that you will agree with me that the 'seeds have been sown' for the fire-fighters in Bosnia to progress and ultimately reach this important goal and recognition of fire safety engineering.



*Membership of the Engineering Council Division is growing day by day.*



*CS Todd has generously donated a shipment of fire engineering publications to firefighters in Bosnia. The publications were presented by Keith Todd (CS Todd's son) to Mr Joe Ruane EngTech MIFireE at Middle Wallop Fire Station this month.*

Learned Journal- David Smith and Eric Marchant

The IFE and the Fire Service College collaborate to produce the journal, Fire Safety, Technology & Management, and members of the ECD should all receive a free copy.

The journal provides an opportunity to publish peer-reviewed papers on all and any issues concerned with fire engineering and the ECD Board are keen to see more contributions to this journal from the Division.



The Fire Prevention Fire Engineers Journal is going from strength to strength. If you are interested in writing an article for the Journal, please contact the Editor, Rupert Gilbey at RGilbey@thefpa.co.uk For consideration.

Members Services- Peter Jackman

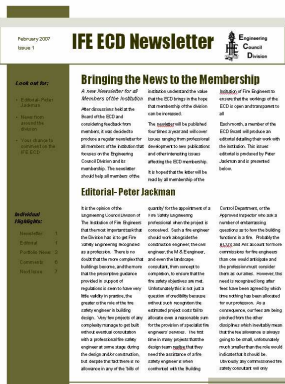
As the portfolio holder, the Newsletter is an ideal opportunity to express the goals that the portfolio hopes to achieve and to provide regular progress statements.

The portfolio's primary objective is to ensure that Engineering Council members are able to set themselves apart from the non-qualified 'fire consultants' that frequently undertake work, at very competitive costs, but which is frequently outside of the skill sets of the consultant in question. The initial goal which is being achieved, purely in recognition of being an Engineering Council registrant, is to ensure that you are accredited for your general fire knowledge. The second objective is to

ensure that any specialist skills that the registrant has can also be identified in special registers, again with peer accreditation confirming those skill levels.

A major method of achieving this differentiation is by using logos that are restricted to professionals who have passed that accreditation process, in whichever form it takes. Such logos need to be able to be put on business cards, professional practices, publicity material when they employ the skills of such accredited engineers and even on site boards. This latter concept has not been previously done, despite the number of fire safety engineering consultants working on major projects. A third objective is to have an

appeals procedure or arbitration service in respect of any professional disputes that may occur between consultants or between clients and consultants. These are only a few of the goals, but they indicate the direction that the membership is working towards. On the progress front I am pleased to announce that thanks to the assistance of fellow board member, Patrick Hamblin, we have started the recognition process by turning our attentions to the IFE's own register of consultants. It was quite unfortunate that this important register itself failed to discriminate between the various professionals and the wording has already been significantly changed from earlier days to



The new IFE ECD Newsletter will be published 4 times a year

reflect that need. You are asked to visit the website, look at the register and feel comfortable that it now leads the enquirer towards using an Engineering Council registrant consultant for the services required, in preference to other non-registered consultants.

We will continue to refine this

## Events- Nathan Hewitt

There is an exciting program of events organised by the ECD members for 2007.

The Graduate Lecture will be taking place on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at the Arup Offices in Solihull. We are pleased to welcome a variety of interesting and informative speakers. We hope to see attendance at the conference by many of the people studying fire disciplines plus any other interested members of the Institution.

The Rasbash Lecture will also be taking place in early summer (date to be confirmed). The Rasbash medal will be presented to Geoff Cox at the ceremony for his lifetime work in the industry. The theme for the day will be computational modelling and various expert speakers will be presenting the new developments in this area. It is hoped that members of the Institution will join us for this prestigious award ceremony.

It is also hoped that the Engineering Council Division Away Weekend will be held this

register so that it becomes a critical tool for architects, businesses and the legal profession etc., to use when they want to source competent persons. If you have any ideas in respect of how the register can be improved please let the ECD Board know. Also, the members working on this portfolio of

year. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled last year due to lack of interest. My experience of this event has been that it is an excellent opportunity for networking at all levels. It also gives members a chance to air their views relating to Institution matters at a gathering attended by board members and Institution staff. It also gives a real opportunity to make a difference to the fire engineering profession. The date for this event is still to be confirmed, but will occur during the summer.

The theme of the 2007 AGM is "Extending the boundaries of fire engineering". The event will take place on 13 July and is to be held at the Churchill College, Cambridge.

The Conference theme is of relevance to all professionals operating in this fast changing discipline. The programme will be developed by International President Elect, Mr Charles Chu, and will include a panel of influential speakers from across the fire world.

objectives are always looking for assistance in achieving these goals and if you can assist the group, please contact myself, any member of the Board or Nathan Hewitt at [nathan.hewitt@arup.com](mailto:nathan.hewitt@arup.com)

The Engineering Council Division is very excited about this event, which places special emphasis on performance-based design and fire engineering issues.

The Engineering Council Division is also considering organising an event to bring together representatives from all the fire safety related university courses that exist in the UK. This would provide a great opportunity for networking with academics and benchmarking courses. The main objective of the event is to develop a strategy for encouraging more students to enter fire engineering and related courses. The date of this event is still to be agreed, but is likely to take place in September, after the exam period. If course representatives would be interested in this kind of event, contact me at [nathan.hewitt@arup.com](mailto:nathan.hewitt@arup.com)

Further details of events can be found on the IFE website under "Events".



*Peter Jackman discusses the use of the IFE logo and the benefits it could bring to Members.*



*Geoff Cox is to be awarded the Rasbash Medal at an award ceremony and conference to held in the summer of 2007*

*For a full breakdown of events in 2007, visit the IFE website "Forthcoming Events" page at [www.ife.org.uk/about/events/](http://www.ife.org.uk/about/events/)*

## Education and Accreditation- Dougal Drysdale

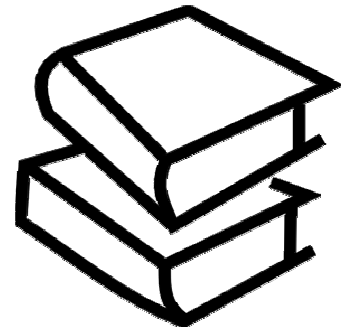
Since the change in the Building Regulations in the 1990s, which heralded the introduction of performance-based fire safety engineering design, it has become increasingly clear that the number of suitably qualified Fire Safety Engineers is insufficient to meet the demand from all sectors of the industry. The major engineering consultancies, in particular, are concerned that the future development of performance-based design will be seriously inhibited unless this problem can be addressed. A clamour for university courses in Fire Safety Engineering by the industry has been developing, yet the education system has not been able to respond adequately. There is one full-time postgraduate degree course, at the University of Ulster, but currently only three universities offer undergraduate courses. These are of very different character, and include the part time courses available at the University of Central Lancashire (BEng and MEng), the full-time courses at the University of Leeds (BEng and MEng) and the new degree programme, Structural and Fire Safety Engineering (MEng), which has been available at Edinburgh University for three years. They have different goals and aspirations, reflecting closely their origins and indeed the skills and research interests of the members of academic staff. Sadly, the number of students presenting themselves for these

degrees is very limited, the consequence of which is that the future of these courses is not guaranteed. The apparent lack of interest is surprising given the diverse career opportunities that are open to fire safety engineering graduates. However, this is probably a reflection of the fact that we as a profession, have not promoted these opportunities and thus Fire Safety Engineering is not recognised as a credible career by those entering the tertiary education sector.

The argument for increasing the stream of fire safety engineering graduates has been rehearsed on many occasions, for example at the 2006 Rasbash Lecture. As the relevant professional body, the Institution of Fire Engineers has the responsibility to take up the challenge and promote and nurture the courses that are currently available in the UK. It also has the more fundamental responsibility of ensuring that the courses that are available are of a standard commensurate with the requirements of UK<sup>SPEC</sup>, as set by the Engineering Council (ECUK), whose mission is "to set and maintain realistic and internationally recognised standards of professional competence and ethics for engineers, technologists and technicians, and to license competent institutions to promote and uphold the standards". Only part of professional competence and ethics can be taught -- an essential component of the

progression to achieving the status of Chartered Engineer, Incorporated Engineer or Engineering Technician takes place in an appropriate working environment, and under the guidance of an experienced mentor of the same ilk .

This raises a significant dilemma. An appropriate environment would be one in which the young graduate or trainee is working alongside competent Fire Safety Engineers with the relevant education, training and experience. There are very few organisations which can provide this type of training ground. There is not much we can do about this in the short-term, but what we must do is make sure that new graduates have the necessary education base and skill set which will allow them to change the environment to one which will be supportive of the profession as a whole, in as short time as possible. The IFE - in particular the ECD education committee - has a vital role to play here. We must ensure that University degree programmes are of a standard consistent with the requirements of the ECUK. As in the fields of Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, the young graduate must be aware of his responsibility as an engineer in modern society, with particular emphasis on professional integrity and a commitment to the safety of members of the public. This can only be achieved if the education base is



*Dougal Drysdale discusses the need to maintain quality of fire engineering courses and emphasis the high demand for qualified fire engineers in the industry.*

**“the opportunity of a career in fire protection engineering is one of the best kept secrets.”**

*Professor David Lucht*

of the highest standard. For this reason, the Education Committee of the ECD has embarked on the process of visiting those universities with Fire Safety Engineering degree programmes with a view to accrediting them under the rules set by the ECUK. The first edition of the IFE Academic Accreditation Handbook, which was published in July 2002, has provided the basis on which the committee is undertaking this task. With recognised,

accredited degrees available, it is hoped that the numbers of entrants will begin to rise and that in a few years time we will have a healthy flow of new graduates for the industry. However this will not happen until it becomes general knowledge that Fire Safety Engineering offers an exciting career across the entire range of activities associated with fire, from the Fire and Rescue Service to cutting-edge multinational consultancy

organisations. Professor David Lucht has often said of the USA market that the opportunity of a career in "fire protection engineering" is one of the best kept secrets. The same seems to be true on this side of the Atlantic and it is high time that this veil of secrecy was lifted.

## CPD- Eric Marchant

It is well understood that CPD is an obligation for all members of the ECD. At this time we do not have a programme, national or local, of events that would be appropriate for ECD members. Recently, a short questionnaire was circulated to all branches about the likely response and take-up of a 'national travelling seminar' that would be arranged as a single seminar to travel round the branches. This would be the series of events that were arranged last year for the RR(FS)O. There were only three responses: we have our own programme; we will assist in the arrangements but we wish to dictate the content; and a good idea but we do not have sufficient money to post the information to our members.

The Institution does run successful conferences, for example the annual 'Graduate Lecture', the Rasbash Lecture

and 'The annual conference' at the time of the AGM. Quite a number of members of the ECD attend these events and may gain some benefit from them.

So that the needs of the members of the ECD can be identified I will welcome your ideas as we are not meeting our obligations and CPD value is important when any member wishes to gain a higher status within the ECD of the IFE.

*There are three fundamental reasons for carrying out CPD:*

- *to demonstrate that existing knowledge and skills are being regularly refreshed, in order to maintain existing competency*
- *to acquire new knowledge and develop more skills necessary in order to keep up with developments in fire engineering*
- *to acquire new underpinning knowledge and skills that may be necessary for career development.*

*For further guidance on member's obligations for maintaining CPD, visit the IFE website at [www.ife.org.uk/professional/](http://www.ife.org.uk/professional/)*



*The Institution of Fire Engineers takes CPD very seriously.*

## IFE Board- John Woodcock

This section of the newsletter is designed to inform you of relevant matters being addressed at the main IFE Board, as well as things relating to the overall operation of the ECD. It will provide short summaries of current and planned activities.

Two major reviews of the IFE were undertaken in 2006 – the Independent Review and a Risk Review. As its name implies, the Independent Review was designed to look at the workings of the IFE, confirm that they are satisfactory and make recommendations for necessary changes. It was undertaken by SOLACE in July 2006, considering the IFE's charitable status, and produced valuable results. In particular, it reinforced some of the Board's plans for change (e.g. portfolio holders' terms of reference, reduced dependence for core activities on shared resources with FPA, specific Board Members responsible for audit, finance and governance and improved interaction between portfolio holders).

The Risk Review was undertaken to ensure that the IFE Board fully understands the risks it faces across its operations and the level of priority for each risk. The review also acted as a catalyst for the Board to consider the resources and procedures in place to address these risks and sensible and efficient improvements to improve risk management. This

was also undertaken in June/July 2006. In conjunction with the independent review, this was a timely opportunity for fine tuning of the Institution's policies and approach, as well as helping make decisions on the most effective way to move forward.

A significant shift in approach across the IFE, certainly at the Board level, is the plan to better integrate ECD and other IFE activities. The Engineering Council (ECUK) now actively encourages Licensed Institutions with a mix of Registered and non-Registered members to integrate as much as possible, while still maintaining the license requirements (competence, skills, commitments, academic accreditation etc.). Thus, we will now be able to have one academic standards portfolio, one competence standards portfolio and one technical portfolio (TSAG), avoid duplication and, worse still, gaps in these areas. In the academic and competence standards, there will ECD assurance over both.

The following is a list of the IFE portfolios and an indication of which portfolio holder is also an ECD member:

Strategic and Business Planning – **John Judd (Board Chair)**

Finance and Audit and IFE Publications Ltd – **Peter Holland (Board vice Chair)**

Audit Committee – Charles Chu, Bill Cox and David Charters (ECD member)

Governance and Management of HQ – **Ellen Jessett (CEO)**

Technical – **Colin Todd (ECD member)**

Government Fire Policy – **David Charters (ECD member)**

Professions Standards:

Academic Standards – **Jim Marsden (Lead) (ECD member) and Bill Cox**

Competence Standards – **Paul Richardson (ECD member)**

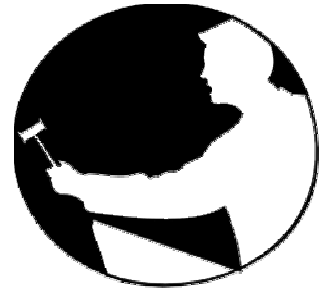
ECD Assurance – **John Woodcock (ECD member)**

Membership Communications – **Bill Stewart and HG Tay**

We are therefore really progressing towards a one-IFE culture. That would be a great achievement!

The 5-year Strategic Plan has now been developed into a set of individual year goals for each Portfolio holder. Probably the most important of these is the concerted effort to grow membership and particularly Registrants members (C.Eng., I.Eng. and EngTech). The Institution continues to have great success with EngTech registrations (recognised by the ECUK) and there are several initiatives to generate yet more momentum.

For ECD governance, there are plans to streamline the membership process, to encourage new members to apply. There has been significant feedback in recent



*John Woodcock is the Chairman of the Board of the IFE Engineering Council Division and acts as a conduit to the IFE Main Board.*

months about how time-consuming and difficult the process is. Many would-be members have been put off joining the ECD as a result. Our ECUK representative, Bob Derricott supports our plans. There are many more times that

could be discussed, but more in the next newsletter. As a closing item, Fire Safety Technology and Management (FSTM) Quarterly Publication is in need of articles submitted. The FSTM could include re-published articles with a footnote to

indicate previous publication. If there are any questions on any of the items in this section, please contact any member of the Board via Nathan Hewitt at [nathan.hewitt@arup.com](mailto:nathan.hewitt@arup.com)

## General News Items

**Please send any general news items to Nathan Hewitt for inclusion in this section of future editions.**

**Nathan Hewitt** writes- Arup Fire is organising a friendly inter fire consultancy sailing competition to be held in June/July 07. The event will raise money for charity and allow industry colleagues build friendships. For further information, or to enter a team, contact Nathan Hewitt at [nathan.hewitt@arup.com](mailto:nathan.hewitt@arup.com).

**Martin Shipp** writes- Most fire engineers working in England and Wales should by now be aware that the 2006 edition of the Building Regulations 2000 Approved Document B Fire safety was published (in electronic form) on 18th December 2006 and became available in printed form during January/February 2007.

AD B is now in two volumes; Volume 1 for Dwellinghouses and Volume 2 for Buildings other than dwellinghouses, and the revised documents can be found at:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/professionals/en/400000000084.html>

As well as the PDF documents, a description of the main changes (for each Volume) is also provided and purchase information (for hard copies). Most of the changes are straightforward but one or two may be the subject of continuing debate.

Fire engineers will mostly be concerned with Volume 2 and the main references to Fire Safety Engineering in AD B (in V2, Paragraphs 0.30 to 0.35, in V1 Paragraphs 0.25 to 0.29) are essentially unchanged from the previous edition. But since AD B will continue to form the "benchmark" for many fire safety engineered designs, it will be worthwhile for all fire engineers to familiarise themselves with the new recommendations. For example, one change of particular interest is in relation to the management of the completed building; the previous "... assumption that the building ... will be properly managed" is now elaborated such that the designer (fire engineer) should consider how the building will be managed and cannot rely upon an "unrealistic or unsustainable management regime".

Fire engineers do, however, need to be aware of the new, mandatory, Regulation that has accompanied these revisions; Regulation 16B "Fire Safety Information", introduced through Statutory Instrument 2006 No. 3318. This requires that sufficient information is recorded to assist the eventual owner/occupier/employer to meet their statutory duties under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and is specified as "information relating to the design and construction of the building or extension, and the services, fittings and equipment provided in or in connection with the building or extension which will assist the responsible person to operate and maintain the building or extension with reasonable safety". Guidance to achieve this requirement is given in Appendix G of AD B V2. Hopefully, this will not come as a shock to any professional fire engineer! Also of interest; HTM 05 "Firecode" should now be used for the design of hospitals and similar healthcare premises, and BB100 should be used for the design of schools.

The 2006 edition of AD B takes effect from April 2007.



*General news from around the division*



*Getting to grips with the new ADB*

## Institution of Fire Engineers

Institution of Fire Engineers  
London Road  
Moreton-in-Marsh  
GL56 0RH

PHONE:  
+44 (0)1608 812580

FAX:  
+44 (0)1608 812581

E-MAIL:  
HELEN.GRIFFITHS@IFE.ORG.UK

February  
Editor  
**Nathan  
Hewitt**

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.ife.org.uk](http://www.ife.org.uk)

**Nathan Hewitt** writes- This years InFireS Seminar will be held at the House of Commons where various key topics will be discussed relating to fire safety engineering and risk assessment. Members of the IFE interested in attending should visit the Fire Protection Associations website at [www.thefpa.co.uk](http://www.thefpa.co.uk)

**Dougal Drysdale** writes- Following the highly successful fourth International Seminar on Fire and Explosion Hazards, which was held in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, in 2003, the fifth seminar in this series is to

be held in Edinburgh at the end of April. The seminar will take place at the Radison SAS hotel from the 23rd to 27th April 2007. It brings together an exciting group of researchers and international experts who are working on the underlying science and technology associated with fire and explosion hazards and their application to prevention and the mitigation of the effects. There will be approximately 100 technical papers organised in three parallel sessions covering a range of topics which include Structural Fire Safety, Hydrogen Safety, Suppression, and Transportation & Tunnel Fires.

The full programme can be seen on the web page at [www.see.ed.ac.uk/feh5/](http://www.see.ed.ac.uk/feh5/)

where online registration is now open. For further details please contact [Ricky.Carvel@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Ricky.Carvel@ed.ac.uk)

The keynote speaker is Lord Cullen of Whitekirk who will address the topic "Public Inquiries and the Advancement of Safety". The final morning will be devoted to four major case studies, including the Buncefield Explosion and Fire (December 2005) and the Texas City Incident (March 2005).



## Members Comments

As this is the first issue of the IFE ECD Newsletter, the readership has yet to comment. The idea of this section is to allow free and open discussion on any issues associated with the IFE, ECD or the larger industry. Members will have the

opportunity to reply to comments in this area of the newsletter made by other members. It is hoped that the discussion raised in this section will be constructive and controversial. Any issues our readership wishes to discuss will be accommodated within

reasonable editorial boundaries. Please send your comments for inclusion in this section to Nathan Hewitt, who is the Editor for this issue of the newsletter. Her contact details are provided in the adjacent column.

## Next Issue

It is hoped that the member's comments will come flooding in over the next three months and that a real debate can begin in

the next issue of the IFE ECD Newsletter. We can also look forward to an editorial from Martin Shipp as well as more

details regarding the forthcoming Rasbash Lecture and Graduate Lectures.