

London remembers asbestos victims

On Action Mesothelioma Day on 1st July a flock of 300 white doves at the gates of St. Bartholomew's Smithfield site, symbolised the memories of all those who have died of the incurable asbestos cancer mesothelioma.

Under the statue of King Henry VIII founder of Barts, the crowd listened to Michael Dooley of London Hazards and Tony O'Brien of the Construction Safety Campaign, dedicate the doves to asbestos victims: including John Towersey, who was the Barking and Dagenham asbestos support worker; Raymond Beadle husband of Eileen; Edward Fogarty father of Bev Green; Bob Gordon, founder member of the Construction Safety Campaign, and all those who have died from mesothelioma.

We also remembered Nancy Tait and Alan Dalton – two Londoners who fought passionately to get asbestos banned.

Silence from the crowd and commuters muted the bustling City of London energy – the fluttering doves bringing home the message asbestos is still claiming the lives of ordinary people and cutting short their hopes and dreams.

Hope for better treatments

At the following seminar Dr. Jeremy Steel – consultant oncologist and a lung cancer specialist at St. Barts and Chair of Mesothelioma Action Campaign – set out his views on the need for a bespoke approach to treatment with continuity from the medical staff to the patient.

New treatments in chemotherapy and pain control mean that with earlier diagnosis many victims will have a few more years, with better quality of life than in the past. Considering the need for a national centre



Eileen Beadle releases doves outside Barts

for research into the disease or a better funded UK research program into the disease, he said the government has spent £250 million fighting in Libya in three months which is more or less the annual

turnover for Cancer Research UK. The US and Australia have better research programs. It is hoped developments in molecular genetics will find the clues to treatments as has happened with some breast cancers.

Eileen Beadle established ELMs, the East London Mesothelioma Group, based in Plaistow East London to support other families. Her husband Ray was only 54 when their hopes for a long life together after their children had grown were shattered. He contracted the disease when he was a painter working for British rail in the early 1980s. Eileen said "I knew nothing of mesothelioma and could not say it let alone spell it, we did not know what hit us, I do not want any other family to find themselves in the situation we did and that is why I set up ELMs"

Carol Hagedorn, a schoolteacher with mesothelioma, finished the seminar telling her own story with hope – highlighting the campaign about asbestos in schools and public buildings. Simple monitoring, a recording of where asbestos is properties and safe removal, hopefully before they cause harm to many more schoolchildren and those who work in our public institutions, is urgently needed

Asbestos is still with us

A recurring theme of the day was that asbestos is still with us and that it is

affecting more people than building workers. Asbestos victims are not just manual workers in construction and shipbuilding: housewives, white-collar workers, teachers and some doctors are also dying.

Michael Dooley said "I was also angry to hear that in the same week Canada had vetoed the world ban on the safe use of asbestos. Many countries still use asbestos with little regard to the dangers. London Hazards Centre will continue to assist Londoners with asbestos disease and try to prevent them being exposed."

Behind A Smile

Shadows of blowing trees play, as the moon lends it's light
Silhouettes of buildings, depicted against the dark sky at night
The bright stars twinkle, in a disorganized rhythmic pattern
Clouds silently float like pillows, puffed up, not flattened.

Quietness fills the air, as slowly time depicts a new dawn
The sun lifts the veil of yesterday, to bring a new day born
With memories of what befell, to bring about this occasion
Mesothelioma Day stands true, of the global asbestos situation.

Standing as one, for those we remember, and those who suffer
Broadening the knowledge, asbestos more than man, is tougher
As tears fall like raindrops, our symbols of hope are placed
With doves of white released, tributes of love and embrace.

In this moment we show equality, and race come together
Kindred spirit of mind, to erase the asbestos legacy forever
As quietly as arriving, the breeze signifies the ending of the day
Our footprints left to acknowledge, innocent lives stolen away

Even though we all share the same picture, and hear the identical
Asbestos disease is with awareness, thought and care, preventable
This day may be but a mention to others, and forgotten in a while
Victim's families and friends, live with the memories, **behind a smile.**

This poem for Action Mesothelioma Day, by Pauline Bonney, South East Action and Victims Support Group, whose husband John died of the cancer, was read out by Eileen Beadle.

London Hazards Centre Asbestos Conference

Friday 18 November 2011

Abbey Centre, 34 Great Smith Street
Westminster, London SW1P 3BU

Speakers from: UK Asbestos Support Groups, International Campaigns, Trade Unions, Medical and Legal experts.

Kevin Williamson, Chair London Hazards Centre writes:

I would like to thank our staff for organising the events on 1 July for Action Mesothelioma Day which gave us the opportunity to remember all those who have died from this totally preventable asbestos disease.

Thanks also to the speakers for their contributions, to our generous sponsors and all who attended.

We hope that you will all make a note in your diaries of our major conference on asbestos which we are holding on 18 November, and look forward to welcoming you to this event.

In solidarity, Kevin

Action Mesothelioma Day at Barts was sponsored by: RMT Trade Union, Field, Fisher Waterhouse, Leigh Day, Thompsons, Fentons Solicitors.





The Centre rebuilds its asbestos work

London Hazards Centre has just appointed an Asbestos Support Worker to help coordinate action against asbestos in the London boroughs. Michael Dooley, a bricklayer, was until recently a trade union official for construction union UCATT.

Michael is 52 and originally from Glasgow. He has worked in the construction industry since 1976.

His role is to help ensure advice on the dangers of asbestos gets out to communities in London, in all 33 boroughs, especially tenants groups and schools, and to support asbestos sufferers. Michael says:

“As a building worker from Glasgow I understand the issues surrounding asbestos.”

The Management of the London Hazards Centre recognises the need for a worker in this area and welcomes Michael on board. Having just organized Action Mesothelioma Day at Barts with over 60 people attending, he is now set to organize a London-wide conference on 18 November at the Abbey Centre in Westminster. There will be local meetings in other parts of London.

For all asbestos related enquiries and details of the November conference contact Michael at the Centre on 020 7794 5999 or on michaeldooley@lhc.co.uk.

Another new face



My name is Dana and I have recently joined London Hazards Centre as a Volunteer. I am Romanian and a postgraduate from Durham University. I am going to be helping London Hazards develop links with Romanian workers in London and help them provide a more relevant advice service. My personal interest is analyzing and interpreting migration data, as migration is interesting and has different economic, political and social reasons depending on the country's context. Most people would say that the main reason for migration is financial or seeking better paid jobs, but things are not that simple. A destination country is chosen based on several reasons – like kinship or friendship networks, language affiliations, geographic accessibility and then is the economic reason as the major pull factor. Therefore I have a particular interest in researching the Romanians in London and other communities. Romanian migration to London is relatively recent, and their working conditions can be very poor. A number of Romanians have been killed at work recently. Little is known about this community and the differences between Romanians and Roma. Working with migrant groups is interesting as you get to know people with different social and cultural values.

Numele meu este Dana si sunt un nou voluntar la London Hazards Centre. Am absolvit de curand Masterul in Cercetare Sociala la Universitatea din Durham, studii pentru care am primit o bursa integrala direct de la universitate. Analiza si interpretarea datelor despre migratie este ceea ce ma intereseaza in mod deosebit, intrucat fenomenul migrational este extrem de interesant si are diferite motivatii economice, sociale, politice, care difera in functie de contextul situational al fiecarei tari. Majoritatea ar mentiona motivul financiar sau cautarea unor slujbe mai bine platite ca motiv principal pentru emigrare, dar lucurile nu sunt chiar atat de evidente. Tara de destinatie este aleasa in functie de mai multe motive – precum legaturi de familie sau de prietenie, afinitatile lingvistice, accesibilitatea geografica si apoi este ales factorul financiar. De aceea, cercetarea grupului de emigranti Romani din Londra si alte grupuri emigrante este ceea ce ma intereseaza. Grupul emigrantilor romani este extrem de interesant intrucat este unul relativ recent si cu un statut intermediar pe piata muncii. Se cunosc foarte putine informatii despre romani si despre diferenta dintre acestia si Romi. Lucrand cu diferite grupuri de emigranti poti cunoaste diferite valori sociale si morale.

Contact Dana at mail@lhc.org.uk leaving a phone number.

Disabled by long hours

Building merchant Jewson has had to pay out almost £400,000 in compensation after a worker who had been averaging over 60 hours a week suffered a stroke and then was sacked on the grounds of incapacity after five months of sick leave. The case concerned the Cardigan outlet. But these hours are commonplace in the sector. The worker, Jonathan Jones, was working these long hours, and not taking holiday entitlement, consistently carrying over a considerable portion of holiday each year having signed a 48 hour opt out agreement under the Working Time Regulations.

After the stroke, Jones's doctor said the manager needed to avoid stress at

work. But all agreed, Jones included, that no role would be without stress.

In August 2010, an employment tribunal in Cardiff decided the dismissal was unfair and amounted to disability discrimination because of failure to make reasonable adjustments. This year the tribunal ordered Jewson to pay Jones £390,870.

The tribunal found that some reallocation of duties and additional managerial support could have created a less stressful environment for Jones and that it would also have been reasonable to allow him more time to recover so that he could return to it.¹

London's Easter SMOG

Air pollution was Level 9 on the Old Kent Road and at the Greenwich and Bexley Falconwood air quality monitoring station between 17 and 24 April 2011.

This is almost as bad as it gets for air pollution – the scale for measuring particulates only goes up to 10. The press reported a level 7 for PM₁₀ on the monitoring site on the Marylebone Road – this one is the responsibility of Defra – and when it hit that level on 24 April it had exceeded EU rules for the permitted 35 of days in the year for high levels of PM₁₀.

Third time lucky?

The UK Government is 'third time lucky' with the European Commission (EC) in terms of EU legal limits for PM₁₀ in London, avoiding legal action for breaches of the pollutant from 2005–2011, according to Clean Air for London, following their Freedom of Information request to find out what was going on.

London will be in breach of EU pollution standards in 2012 if there are more than 35 "bad air" days, after which further action can be taken by the European Commission.

Simon Birkett, director of Clean Air in London, said the extension was "disappointing" as it gives the government "dispensation for breaking the law in London every year since these 1999 legal standards entered into force in January 2005".

"The good news for public health is that no future breaches of this standard are allowed in any circumstances including during the Olympics and Paralympic Games.

"This means the mayor must act now to introduce one or more Clean Air Zones in inner London."

The EC said it will not tolerate breaches of air quality limits from June 2011 onwards. The Government now faces the threat of huge fines – possibly hundreds of millions of euros – if PM₁₀ standards are not met across the whole of the UK.

The EC partially rejected two previous applications for a back-dated time

extension for dealing with high PM₁₀ levels. It finally granted the time extension after the government set out a series of temporary measures to tackle air pollution in London.

New inquiry

On 8 June 2011 the Environmental Audit Committee launched a new inquiry into air quality in the UK to see if the Government is developing an effective strategy for meeting its obligations under the EU Air Quality Directives for PM₁₀ and NO₂.

Evidence was taken from Professor Frank Kelly of King's College London who described the acute but transient effects that pollution episodes have on susceptible individuals such as those with asthma, as well as the chronic, and more worrying effects, experienced by people who live in areas with poor air quality. Witnesses were overwhelming in their verdict that the Government had not improved air quality policy over the last few years despite an initial commitment to work towards EU limit values and that large parts of the UK will not be meeting the targets for NO₂ and PM₁₀ under EU Air Quality legislation.

The need for smarter policies to deal with emission sources, targeting those areas with poor air quality was emphasised. In London, the primary source on a day to day basis was identified as local transport and more specifically, a disproportionate amount of diesel powered vehicles in private cars and public transport. Practical solutions included a shift away from diesel, further congestion charging and an expansion in low emission zones.

A new Air Quality Index proposed

Recommendations for a new Air Quality Index have been published by COMEAP they propose keeping the current 10 point scale, and four bands (low, moderate, high and very high), with some of the bands becoming more stringent to reflect the latest scientific understanding of the health effects of air pollution.

COMEAP recommends removing carbon monoxide from the index, as outdoor levels have fallen dramatically since 1998, and adding of PM_{2.5} as now required by EU directives. Additionally, COMEAP is proposing the use of 'trigger' values to give people advanced warning of likely short-term increases in air pollution which could affect health. A member of COMEAP said: "The Easter air pollution episode was an important reminder that smog is not a thing of the past. The new index will help people understand how daily changes in air pollution can affect their health and provides practical advice to help asthmatics and other sensitive people cope during pollution episodes."

- ▲ Healthy Air Campaign, 12.7.2011, <http://www.londonair.org.uk>
- ▲ BBC, 13.7.2011 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-14129576>

Rat infestations

London Tonight (22.7.2011) reported a police investigation into a rat infestation in Reading thought to be the cause of a death of an eighty year old. This summer the Centre has been called about rats seen in daylight in parks and community farms.

Rats spread Weill's disease – leptospirosis – you should seek medical attention straight away if bitten by a rat. Initial symptoms are similar to flu. Most cases are mild. Dogs and urban foxes may also carry the disease.

You can catch leptospirosis by touching soil or water contaminated with the urine of infected animals. Good hygiene (washing hands) is important for people working in potentially infected areas, and for children playing in parks and places where the soil may be contaminated. Facilities for washing hands must be provided.

Report infestations to your local council's Environmental Health Department.

- ▲ NHS information at: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Leptospirosis/>
- ▲ Download the HSE leaflet from: www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg84.pdf

Workers Memorial Day 2011

At the statue to The Building Worker, Tower Hill, black balloons were released representing all those killed at work. A roll call of all those killed in London was read out. Speakers included Jerry Swain, UCATT London Regional Secretary, Gail Cartmail, Deputy General Secretary Unite, and Avril Grant who has had two partners die from asbestos cancer mesothelioma.

At lunchtime campaigners protested outside the Department of Work and Pensions and confronted the Minister Chris Grayling, see photo. Simon Heston, PROSPECT, revealed there will be 11,000 fewer HSE inspections in the coming year and that large construction projects will no longer have preventative inspections – the unannounced knock on the door. Tony O'Brien, Construction Safety Campaign Secretary, asked "why are the government set on this path? They are not mad, they are criminal, they know the consequences they just don't care."

Other speakers outside DWP were Peter Farrell, Shrewsbury Campaign, Alex Gorden, RMT, Mick Gilgunn and Mick Dooley, London Hazards Centre.

Roll call of those killed in London in the last year

There were 11 London fatalities between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010, according to HSE official figures. From 1 April 2010 up until now the HSE database of those killed at work records these 14 London workplace deaths:

30.4.2010 Raymond Holmes, 60
Waltham Forest, Extractive, Utility

8.7.2010 Linas Mataitis, 25,
Hammersmith, Recycling

21.7.2010 Diyan Hristov, 22
Newham, Specialist Cleaning

5.8.2010 Anton Dochev, 54,
Westminster, Construction



Construction Safety Campaign confronts the Minister outside DWP over cuts in HSE budgets

21.8.2010 Amrick Sing Mann, 55
Ealing, Construction

8.9.2010 Carlos Ramon Foster, 48
Merton, Service sector

22.9.2010 Peter Knight, 26
Southwark, Construction

30.9.2010 Xi Hon Ye, 50
Lewisham, Construction

5.10.2010 Stephen Loake, 53
Islington, Manufacturing

16.10.2010 Martin Walton, 27
Hounslow, Construction

20.10.2010 Mihai Hondru, 28
Essex, Construction

2.12.2010 Ancohel Milosavlevici, 35
Hammersmith, Construction

18.1.2011 Armand Jonathan Meguer, 54
Bromley Architectural services.

23.4.2011 Noel Main, 62
Essex, Construction

Condolences to all their families.

Construction deaths increase

According to provisional figures from the Health and Safety Executive released at the end of June, the number of construction

deaths rose to 50 last year, up from 41 the year before, despite falling workloads. The construction death toll equates to a rate of 2.4 deaths per 100,000 workers, compared to a rate of 1.9 recorded in 2009/10.

HSE chief construction inspector Philip White said: "The construction industry continues to see more deaths than any other industrial sector." He added: "The majority of deaths continue to be on small construction sites."

'Disabled by long hours' continued from page 3

The number of Employment Tribunal cases taken in a year can reflect underlying pressures at work.

Last years figures show a 14% overall rise in accepted cases to 392,800 claims in 2009–10. Of these:

▲ just under a quarter, (95,200) concerned the Working Time Directive many from the airline industry and 75,500 were unauthorised deductions (Wages Act).

REFERENCES

- 1 Lucy Ponting, 18.7.2011, Health and Safety at Work Magazine.
- 2 Ministry of Justice, Tribunals Service, Employment Tribunal and EAT Statistics 2009–2010.



The women's health and safety course Oxford House, Bethnal Green, June 2011

Community training

In the last quarter we have continued to deliver our health and safety taster training courses to London not for profit and community organisations. This work included sessions for Lewisham Refugee Network, Deptford, in April and West London Womens Refugee Forum, Brent, in July. And we ran a one day course at Oxford House, Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets, on Women's Health and Safety: low pay, harassment and hazards.

Women's Health and Safety

The women's health and safety course proved to be very popular. It looked at issues like PMS, the menopause and breast cancer, which do not get covered on our standard courses.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer for women. Every woman has a different experience and employers need to be aware and sensitive finding out what each woman wants for time off for treatments and recuperation or not (some women prefer to work). Trade unions will play a vital role in negotiating individual plans and will help when things do not work out and early retirement needs to be arranged.

Talking about the menopause they said: "Because of the familiar symptoms of hot and cold sweats, this can cause distress in the workplace. Some women experience mood swings, as with PMS, and can become snappy with colleagues. Employers should take this seriously and provide perhaps a "cool" area where the employees can work." The group said in their experience employers had a lack of understanding of pregnancy and its mental and physical effects on a woman. And a huge issue was getting time off to look after children and elderly parents.

Although the women were mainly working or volunteering for charities in

Tower Hamlets – they had done a range of jobs previously including working in clothing factories, waitressing, delivering mail, community care and working in a sorting office and many types of office work. Finally considering the issue of the health effects of low pay the group flagged up the following issues: stress, less access to health care, isolation and depression, family breakdown, domestic violence.

London Hazards and the WEA

In the autumn we will be working with the WEA to deliver a three day course on womens health and safety at work. This will be part of the TUC program and available to TUC representatives.

London Hazards Advice Line

Free advice and support for Londoners on health and safety at work and in the community. We aim especially to work with local groups such as tenants/residents organisations, black and minority ethnic networks, union branches, etc. We'll provide the level of support you need, from a single phone call to long-term support for a local campaign.

Call 020 7794 5999
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 10–12 and 2–5

USING THE
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Training

Autumn programme

The Centre runs one day taster courses for community groups and trade union reps. Taster courses provides a basic introduction to health and safety at work. They look at the relevant laws, including risk assessment, and provide practical solutions to creating a safe working environment. Most are free but they are not accredited.

This autumn they have been arranged as follows:

▲ Introduction to Health and Safety

9.45am to 4pm
Thursday 15 September 2011
The Forum @ Greenwich
Trafalger Road, London SE10 9EQ

To book a place contact Greenwich Action for Voluntary Service, GAVS on 020 8858 1363.

▲ Introduction to Health and Safety

10am to 4pm
Tuesday 11 October 2011
Oxford House, Bethnal Green

Contact: margaretsarkey@lhc.org.uk for more information.

New partnership with WEA

This is part of the TUC education program and courses must be booked with the WEA. Courses will be at the WEA Education Centre in Clifton Street, EC2A 4TP. Near to Old Street Tube and Liverpool Street.

Our first course will be a 3-day course on Womens Health and Safety which will run on Tuesdays over the following days: 1, 8 and 15 November 2011. Contact Monica Gort at the WEA for more details mgort@wea.org.uk.



Air pollution

The main pollutants to worry about are particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides and ground level ozone. Road transport, large fuel-burning plants such as power stations, and agriculture are key sources for one or more of these pollutants. The economic cost in the UK is estimated at £9–19 billion every year. Poor air quality is associated with poorer areas – urban areas close to busy roads.

Air Pollution in London

This is much worse than most of us realise and averages over twice legal limits and World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines near our busiest streets. London is experiencing the biggest public health crisis since 1952 the year of the Great Smog which led to the Clean Air Act in the 1950s.

- ▲ Air pollution caused over 4,000 early deaths in London in 2008 – around the same number that died during the Great Smog.
- ▲ Traffic-related air pollution near busy roads could be responsible for 15–30% of all new cases of asthma in children.
- ▲ 1,148 schools in London are within 150 metres of roads carrying 10,000 or more vehicles per day and a total of 2,270 schools within 400 metres of such roads.¹
- ▲ long-term exposure to air pollution may have contributed to all 15,800 deaths due to cardiovascular causes in London in 2009 at an average additional loss of life for each of these adults of some three years.
- ▲ All London boroughs have Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA see below) where UK standards and objectives are currently not being met.²
- ▲ Air pollution hits poorer people, who often live near main roads, the hardest.

What the experts say

“Given that much of the impact of air pollution on mortality is linked with cardiovascular deaths, it is more reasonable to consider that air pollution may have made some contribution to the earlier deaths of up to 200,000 people in 2008” says COMEAP, Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants.³

COMEAP is a committee of experts chaired by J G Ayres, Professor of Environmental and Respiratory Medicine in the School of Health & Population Sciences at the University of Birmingham. These experts say particulate air pollution in the UK is likely to be a greater cause of ill health and death than environmental tobacco smoke or road traffic accidents; although by using modelling techniques they have made estimates of life-years gained by the population as a whole by reducing particulate air pollution, specifically PM_{2.5}, in preference to estimates of deaths. As well as cardiovascular effects particulates and other air pollutants cause or make worse lung cancer, other lung diseases and asthma.

What causes the health problems?

Particulate air pollution

Particulates are small particles of matter in the air: natural sources are from volcanoes, burning forests, dust clouds from deserts and even sea spray. Man-made sources are from burning fossil fuels in vehicles, homes and power stations. They are categorised by size – PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀, are particles with diameters of 2.5 or 10 microns respectively. The smaller PM_{2.5} particles are known to penetrate more deeply into the lungs.

Ozone

Ground level ozone from traffic can cause coughing, irritation of the airways and breathing discomfort. It can

aggravate asthma, emphysema and other respiratory diseases.

Nitrogen Oxides

Nitrogen Oxides, mainly nitrogen dioxide, inflames the lungs. In cities 80% come from vehicle emissions. It also is more of a problem for those with lung problems.

Environmental Legislation covering air quality

The European Union has set standards for controlling a variety of pollutants known to be harmful to health and the environment.⁴ In English law this is now the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010. The standards are based on World Health Organisation guidelines, are legally binding and must not be exceeded. They set:

- ▲ A concentration level for the pollutant.
- ▲ An averaging period over which it is measured.
- ▲ The date by which the limit values are to be achieved.
- ▲ The number of times this can be exceeded per year for some pollutants only.

There is also:

- ▲ The Environment Act 1995.
- ▲ The Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000.

Air Quality Objectives

The Air Quality Objectives are policy targets generally expressed as a maximum ambient concentration to be achieved, either without exception or with a permitted number of times they can be exceeded, within a specified timescale. The Objectives are set out in the UK Government Air Quality Strategy.

The Greater London Authority Act 1999 requires the London Mayor to prepare and review a London Air Quality Strategy to comply with legislation and provide information about measures to be taken by the Mayor, Transport for

London, and the London Development Agency. *Clearing the Air*,⁵ was published in December 2010 proposing measures to reduce emissions from transport and other sources.

Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

If a Local Authority identifies any locations within its boundaries where the Air Quality Objectives are not likely to be achieved, it must declare the area as an Air Quality Management Area. The area may be just one or two streets or it could be almost the whole borough, for example the entire borough of Southwark, except for the area to the south of the A205, has been declared an AQMA, largely due to heavy traffic. The Local Authority must then put together a plan to improve air quality in that area – a Local Air Quality Action Plan.

The London Air Quality Network

The London Air Quality Network (LAQN) was formed in 1993 to coordinate and improve air pollution monitoring in London. The LAQN is facilitated by the Association of London Government on behalf of the 33 London Boroughs and is operated and managed by the Environmental Research Group (ERG) at King's College London. Each borough funds monitoring in its own area.

The core LAQN activities are funded by ERG itself. Defra funds ERG to operate the Marylebone Road monitoring site and to maintain eight of the LAQN sites.

Increasingly, these data are being supplemented by measurements from

local authorities surrounding London, thereby providing an overall perspective of air pollution in South East England.

They produce a website which contains information about air quality in and around Greater London. Measurements are collected either hourly or twice daily from continuous monitoring sites, processed and checked then placed on this website with an hourly update. <http://www.londonair.org.uk/> You can use this to find out the nearest monitoring point to where you live.

Find out more

Defra, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, provides lots of information, which we have used in this factsheet, including a useful glossary with definitions of common terms used in descriptions of air pollution. See: <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/air-pollution/glossary/>

Get involved

The following campaigns are all putting out information and taking actions to raise awareness of this important public health issue:

Environmental Protection UK launched **Healthy Air Campaign** on 5 July 2011, the 55th anniversary of the Clean Air. Website: www.healthyair.org.uk/. It is a coalition of many organisations that have been tackling this issue including:

- ▲ **Clean Air in London's** mission is to achieve urgently and sustainably at least WHO recommended standards of air quality throughout London and elsewhere. Website: www.cleanairinlondon.org

- ▲ **Campaign for Better Transport's** website has a great video "Unfinished London" explaining why London's roads are so congested, and policies that have made things worse. The website has a local group directory with details of many London Action Groups. See: <http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/local/directory/>
- ▲ **Asthma UK** is the charity dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the 5.4 million people in the UK whose lives are affected by asthma. Website: www.asthma.org.uk/
- ▲ **Living Streets** is the national charity that stands up for pedestrians. They work to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets, where people want to walk. One campaign is for more 20mph zones to reduce the number of pedestrians killed. Website: www.livingstreets.org.uk
- ▲ **Sustrans** is the pioneer of the 'Safe Routes' cycling concept in the UK. Website: www.sustrans.org.uk

REFERENCES

- 1 Clean Air in London (July 2011), <http://www.cleanairinlondon.org/>
- 2 *Clearing the Air*, 1.2 The policy context, page 6.
- 3 COMEAP (2009), The Mortality Effects of Long-Term Exposure to Particulate Air Pollution in the United Kingdom, download at: <http://comeap.org.uk/membership/128-the-mortality-effects-of-long-term-exposure-to-particulate-air-pollution-in-the-uk.html>.
- 4 Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe.
- 5 Greater London Authority, 2010, *Clearing the Air the Mayor's Air Quality Strategy*, 14.12.2010, download from: <http://www.london.gov.uk/publication/mayors-air-quality-strategy>.

Factsheets online www.lhc.org.uk London advice 020 7794 5999



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