

Welcome to the first edition of our **'Year in Review'** – for over 32 years the BPEC Charity has been investing in the plumbing and heating industry – but you could say we are one of the industry's best kept secrets!

We are proud to be led by a board of volunteer Trustees who have many years' experience across the industry. Uniquely, we don't fundraise. The charity is self-sustaining and our surplus, all of which is re-invested into the industry, is generated by the activities of BPEC's trading companies (BPEC Certification and BPEC Services). We take an ethical approach to our projects which are focused on raising standards, supporting the training and development of plumbing operatives, and encouraging leadership, entrepreneurship and innovation.

This annual review provides just an overview of the activity we have carried out in the past 12 months.



We hope it demonstrates clearly our continued commitment to the plumbing & heating industry.

Neil Collishaw,
Chief Executive Officer

IN SUMMARY...

JUST SOME OF THE ACTIVITY WE'VE WORKED ON THIS YEAR:

- Investing in innovative learning materials, courses and qualifications that are offered through BPEC Certification and BPEC Services
- Supporting skills development activity via the Plumbing & Heating Skills Partnership
- Delivering the SkillPLUMB competition across the UK
- Providing funding for BPEC Awards and Grants to support the wider community and disadvantaged groups
- Producing the BPEC Brief to keep training centres informed of education and policy developments
- Developing plans for plumbing and heating careers guidance



PLUMBING & HEATING SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

The PHSP is led by our chairman Duncan Wilson – it's a partnership of industry bodies committed to raising plumbing and heating skills levels and the development of standards, apprenticeships and qualifications for the industry. So far, our partnership highlights include:

- Providing training advice for those wanting to enter the plumbing & heating industry
- Raising awareness of the dangers of fast-track training solutions
- Maintaining the PHSP website to profile our work
- Supporting the English Plumbing & Domestic Heating apprenticeship standard review
- Representation on the Gas Strategic Management Board that reports on gas safety matters.



**Plumbing
Heating
Skills
Partnership**

STANDARDS • QUALIFICATIONS • APPRENTICESHIPS

COMPETITIONS – SKILLPLUMB AND MORE!



Skills competitions are a great way of showcasing the best in apprentice training and at the BPEC Charity we are dedicated to supporting regional, national and international competitions.

Each year we run the SkillPLUMB competition cycle, starting with an entry stage in Spring followed by regional heats across May, June and July. The 2023 SkillPLUMB UK final was held at Oldham College in November; it was one of over 40 WorldSkills UK National Finals taking place that month across Greater Manchester.

SkillPLUMB is the only route by which young people can progress to international competition. In 2023 we were very pleased to witness 2022 SkillPLUMB Champion Ruben Duggan progress to European competition level and compete in EuroSkills, in Gdansk, Poland. Ruben put on an amazing performance and received a bronze medal for his efforts.

Outside of SkillPLUMB, we are keen to support other skills events and were proud this year to support SNIPEF's pipe, sheet lead and heat pump competitions.



CONTRIBUTING TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

In recognition of our team's knowledge and influence, we were very proud to contribute to the WorldSkills International review of the plumbing and heating occupational standard ahead of the 2024 WorldSkills Lyon event.

BPEC was the only UK-based organisation that contributed to this consultation and our input formed part of the revised Technical Descriptions for the plumbing and heating WorldSkills competition.



SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED

Via our awards and grants scheme we continue to help those who have been let down by their training provider, for example in instances where the provider ceases to trade. Our funding allows learners to gain advice and support to seek alternative training routes and, importantly, allow them to continue and complete their studies.

Also, this year we were happy to support trainee plumber Dean Collyer to gain work experience to complete his gas managed learning programme at Able Skills in Dartford whilst being a full-time carer for his elderly father.

FESS SUCCESS

BPEC Charity has been working hard to support the skills and qualification landscape across the Fire, Emergency and Security Systems (FESS) sector. In addition to developing new learning materials, qualifications and assessments for the FESS workforce, we have also invested significantly in the new FESS Experienced Worker Assessment, which allows seasoned industry professionals to be formally qualified to the same level as newly qualified FESS Technicians.

We were delighted when our work in this area was acknowledged when we were awarded the prestigious IFSEC and FIREX Security & Fire Excellence 'Solution of the Year' award.



VERY RESOURCEFUL!

In addition to developing resources to be used directly by apprentices and their employers, the Charity also produces delivery materials to be used by colleges and private training centres. Here is just a selection of the wide range of resources we've developed recently:

- Downloadable plumbing textbook
- Safety awareness materials
- Essential Plumbing Skills manual
- Gas ACS re-assessment promotion
- Legionella risk assessment
- School resources
- Research and development of heat pump resources



INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

In order to raise skills and standards across the industry, partnership working is essential. We take an active role in collaborating with partners both within the plumbing and heating industry and beyond, to help achieve our aims. Just some of the activity we've worked on has included:

- BPEC's CEO Neil Collishaw was one of the keynote speakers at the Worshipful Company of Plumbers' Annual Lecture, where the chair of the Commons Education Select Committee was in attendance
- We continue to be an active member of the World Plumbing Council and regularly provide content for their newsletter and support other WPC events.
- At the 'Installer' trade show we worked closely with WCoP, APHC, CIPHE, WRAS, JIB-PMES and other key industry bodies to promote the benefits of apprentice recruitment.



Outside of the plumbing and heating industry we work closely with like-minded organisations such as National Electrotechnical Training and The Electrotechnical Skills Partnership to share best practice and discuss common strategies.

With the move to Zero Carbon now high on the agenda, we also regularly liaise with government and industry bodies to provide skills advice on renewable energy and low carbon technologies. BPEC Charity is an active member of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) Green Jobs Action Group and has provided extensive advice to policy staff at the Government Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to positively influence their heat pump training grants for installers.

**20
23**

GET INVOLVED AND KEEP IN TOUCH!

If you have any ideas on how you would like to support our charitable activities please email us at charity@bpec.org.uk – we are always looking at new ways of supporting the industry. You can also keep an eye on our website and social media (*details below*) for regular updates on our activity.

FOLLOW US TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL OUR WORK:



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