

Welcome to the latest edition of our 'Year in Review' – keeping you up to date with just some of the activity we have carried out in 2025.

We continue to benefit from the guidance of a dedicated Board of volunteer Trustees whose extensive industry experience provides strong and informed leadership. As always, we do not rely on fundraising to support our work. Instead, the charity remains financially independent, with all surplus income reinvested back into the industry. This surplus is generated through the operations of BPEC's trading arms: BPEC Certification and BPEC Services.

The BPEC Charity is committed to investing in the plumbing and heating industry and this year the BPEC Trustees were pleased to support several charities and community led projects which you can read about below. We'll continue to fund a number of important projects and will be looking for UK initiatives to support in 2026.

We hope you find our latest Year in Review an interesting read and we look forward to working with you over the next 12 months.



Neil Collishaw,
Chief Executive Officer

IN SUMMARY...

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

- Continuing support of Aquabox and the Lighthouse Charity, as well as community project 'Warriors of Warmth'
- Investing in the future of plumbing and heating apprenticeships in Scotland
- Donations to support three important water, hygiene and sanitation projects across Africa
- Delivering the SkillPLUMB competition across the UK and supporting WorldSkills and Scottish competitions
- Collaborating with many industry organisations on skills development issues
- Launching a new FESS EPA facility at our headquarters in Derby



INVESTING IN STANDARDS



BPEC has invested a significant **£15,000 to strengthen the future of plumbing and heating apprenticeships in Scotland.**

The funding supported the revision of the National Occupational Standards and also advanced the Framework and Assessment Strategy for the Scottish Plumbing and Heating Apprenticeship - work led by SNIPEF in partnership with employers, apprentices, training providers, Skills Development Scotland, SQA Awarding, SQA Accreditation and industry stakeholders, to ensure the apprenticeship remains modern, credible and fit for the future.

A BUSY YEAR OF COMPETITIONS!

We remain fully committed to supporting regional, national, and international plumbing skills competitions as a means of showcasing the best in apprenticeship training.



Heating, Dillon Newton from Cornwell College was crowned the SkillPLUMB UK Champion. At the event, BPEC Trustees Mark Antrobus and Mike Purnell were able to meet all the UK finalists and industry VIPs that came to witness the impressive skills on show.

SkillPLUMB

SkillPLUMB, organised by BPEC, continues to be the leading industry competition and the only route via which students can progress to WorldSkills events in Europe and beyond.

Following a successful round of heats across May and June, in November 2025 the SkillPLUMB UK final was held as part of the WorldSkills UK National Finals week, at Bridgend College in South Wales. After a tough few days of competition, which also incorporated a heat pump task held in conjunction with Ideal

Supporting Scottish competitions and skills

BPEC continues to support SNIPEF’s plumbing competition in Scotland and we were proud to be the headline supporter for all the skills competitions that were held under their Scottish Plumber of the Year event.

Also this year, SNIPEF and BPEC signed a partnership agreement to provide apprentices with a clear pathway to national and international recognition through the WorldSkills UK framework.



WorldSkills progression

For those who progress beyond SkillPLUMB at UK level, BPEC continues to support the recruitment, selection, and training of candidates for the WorldSkills international plumbing competition.



Former SkillPLUMB UK finalist Andrew McCann has been shortlisted to represent the UK team at WorldSkills Shanghai in September 2026. Andrew has already received a Medallion of Excellence at EuroSkills 2025 and we wish him the best of luck for Shanghai selection.



CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Supporting Aquabox

One of our charity projects is Aquabox, who manufacture, assemble and send water filters internationally to countries where clean running water is unavailable.

BPEC has donated £3500 to support their efforts in producing these important filtration systems, which supported their disaster-response work in Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Lebanon, Malawi, Uganda, Mozambique, Rwanda and Ukraine. In December they dispatched a consignment of water filters to Jamaica for the Hurricane Melissa aftermath, sent a shipment to Sri Lanka in support the relief effort in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah, along with a combined shipment of filters and Aqua Aid boxes to Pakistan.



To date, over 125,000 water filters have been produced and dispatched to disaster areas and conflict zones. So far over 50 countries have received aid from Aquabox and an estimated 2 billion litres of contaminated water has been converted into safe, clean water.



Warriors of Warmth

In July 2025, the BPEC Charity supported Warriors of

Warmth - a Nottingham-based initiative that brings together volunteer engineers and apprentices to help tackle fuel poverty and carry out free plumbing and heating services for charities, shelters, and community spaces.

Founded by heating engineer Jonathon Hallam, their latest project focused on a Nottingham centre offering food bank services and a safe haven for vulnerable individuals and families.

As part of BPEC's ongoing commitment to raising standards and supporting skills development, we donated 10 BPEC training manuals to the apprentice volunteers involved in the project. BPEC staff also attended to meet the team, offer encouragement, and present the resources in person.

Lighthouse Charity support



BPEC continued its support of the Lighthouse Charity, an organisation that provides emotional, physical and financial wellbeing support to construction workers and their families.

The Lighthouse Charity is renowned across the construction industry for its comprehensive package of assistance for those in need. Its 24/7 confidential helpline and self-support app is available to workers including subcontractors, agency workers and allied trades.

In 2025 the charity supported over 6930 families supported and delivered 8568 counselling sessions. BPEC donated £1500 to this worthwhile cause and a further £1000 to support a specific plumber and his family who was going through tremendous hardship.



CHARITABLE DONATIONS

We also provided £1500 each to two African initiatives delivering vital improvements in water, sanitation and hygiene.

These two programmes stood out for the direct, tangible impact they make in their communities and our donations will support practical, on-the-ground work that aligns with BPEC’s long-standing commitment to public health and plumbing education:

Bansang Hospital Appeal

In 2014, BPEC representatives Neil Collishaw, CEO and Mark Antrobus, Trustee, visited the hospital to see and support the charity’s work first-hand, and BPEC have continued to follow their progress closely.

In 2024 alone, the hospital’s Children’s Unit treated over 2,600 young patients, many with life-threatening conditions where reliable water, sanitation, and clinical hygiene systems are essential. The new Intensive Care Unit will serve a catchment area of more than 600,000 people, and BPEC’s contribution towards plumbing



materials directly supports the safe operation of this life-saving facility.

Village by Village is an independent charity delivering hygiene, water and education projects across rural Ghana. Their ‘Clean Water Saves Lives’ initiative has already delivered 36 school projects, reaching more than 9,000 children.



Their gravity-fed systems, rainwater harvesting installations and child-friendly handwashing stations significantly reduce waterborne disease and improve school attendance. Monitoring shows a 22% increase in handwashing and more than a 20% reduction in reported diarrhoeal illness in participating schools, clear evidence of the long-term public health benefits.

This toilet has been twinned

The BPEC Charity



1 in 5 people around the world don't have a loo. By Supporting Toilet Twinning you are helping flush away poverty.

TOILET TWINNING

Tearfund Toilet Twinning!

In September, BPEC supported Tearfund’s toilet twinning initiative that helps transform lives by funding safe toilets, clean water and hygiene education in some of the world’s poorest communities.

We are proud to say that all toilets at BPEC’s Derby offices have been officially ‘twinning’! Each facility is paired with a toilet in one of six countries: Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Unsafe sanitation and dirty drinking water remain a deadly global issue, causing 1.4 million deaths each year, including over 1,000 children under the age of five every day. Toilet Twinning tackles this through community-led hygiene workshops and by helping families source local materials to build their own sustainable toilets.



COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS

- BPEC sponsored APHC's annual **Quality Plumber Week Awards**, held each October. Support was given to the *Commitment to Training* award, which recognises individuals or businesses that demonstrate a strong commitment to continuous professional development by prioritising upskilling, keeping up to date with industry standards and fostering a culture of learning in the workplace.



- We continue to be an active member of the **World Plumbing Council (WPC)**. BPEC regularly generates articles for the WPC's newsletter and the Chairman attended several virtual meetings and attended the conference throughout the year.



- We also work closely with other like-minded organisations, such as **NET** within the electrotechnical sector. Quarterly meetings are held to share good practice with a common objective to raise the knowledge and skills across both industries.



- Mark Antrobus (BPEC Trustee) continues to be a member of the Yorkshire and



Humberside **Apprenticeship Ambassador Network** and

provides regular updates to BPEC Board of Trustees on wider apprenticeship issues.

- BPEC is an active member of the **Heat Pump Association's Training Group** and we also regularly engage with government departments and industry bodies to provide advice and guidance on renewable energy and the development of low carbon technologies.

- As part of the **Housing, Growth and Green Jobs Alliance**, this year BPEC contributed to the Communities that Work research project on Green Jobs in Housing. The research aims to



provide up-to-date recommendations for Government and the sector, informed by the practical experience of social landlords and the expertise of key practitioners.

PLUMBING AND HEATING SKILLS PARTNERSHIP



Plumbing Heating Skills Partnership

STANDARDS • QUALIFICATIONS • APPRENTICESHIPS

The PHSP met in August to discuss the development of standards, apprenticeships and qualifications for the plumbing and heating industry.

Led by the charity's Chairman, the PHSP continues to champion the dangers of fast-tracking training solutions and carried out work such as representation on the Gas Strategic Management Board that

reports on Matters of Gas Safety, and liaison with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) to provide strategic support to the ongoing maintenance of the plumbing and heating Mandatory Technical Competencies (MTCs).





FESS SUPPORT AND EPA LAUNCH

In May we were proud to officially open the new BPEC End-Point Assessment (EPA) facility for Fire, Emergency and Security Systems (FESS) apprenticeships at our headquarters in Derby. This marked a major milestone in the continued expansion of the FESS apprenticeship programme across the UK. The new facility will play a vital role in increasing local EPA access for learners completing the highly successful FESS apprenticeship, helping to meet growing demand across the sector and deliver high standards, technical competence and increased opportunities for apprentices nationwide.

We have also supported the research and development of new learning materials, qualifications and assessments for the fire and security industry.

OUR ONGOING WORK...

Awards and Grants

Our ongoing contingency fund supports learners that have been let down by their training provider, e.g. if the provider ceases to trade and leaves the learner without support. This fund continues to provide advice, guidance and support to learners and helps them access other appropriate training providers, to enable them to complete their studies.

The BPEC Brief

Two further issues of the BPEC Brief were developed and published in March and October 2025. These e-newsletters, accessible via the BPEC website, provide the latest news and policy updates affecting the training sector.

Learning Materials and Resources




We continue to offer a range of resources for apprentices and their employers, as well as delivery materials in support of tutors in colleges and private training centres. These resources include:

- Downloadable plumbing textbook.
- Safety awareness materials.
- Essential plumbing skills manual.
- Gas ACS reassessment poster.
- Legionella risk assessment.
- Water Regulations video.
- Resources for schools.

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:

-  BPEC
-  @BPEC1
-  BPEC

