

Specialist Estates Services

NEWSLETTER

eNewsletter Edition 20, September 2025

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Introduction

Another summer has flown by. I hope you've all been able to fit in a break to re-charge your batteries.

Looking across the board, activity has slowed little, with pressure to deliver across the full scope of estates and property services. Pleasingly, colleagues throughout NHS Wales are attending the various forums at which we all seek to catch up and share in best practice.

Our newsletter briefly summarises some key events, including:

- The Endoscope Decontamination forum held at Builth Wells in June, achieved record attendance with NHS and private sector colleagues joining together to deliver a great event
- The USW Built Environment Taster Day was also held in June and was aimed at promoting the real Estate Degree course to potential students. We remain keen to support initiatives to ensure that we have a good skill base pipeline available to meet the needs of NHS Wales in the future.
- The joint SES/IHEEM conference held in May was well attended and included presentations on a wide range of issues and challenges we are facing today. The appearance of Sir Gareth Edwards at the Gala Awards Dinner was a real highlight for many of us.
- The Royal Welsh Show held in July, was an opportunity for us to support the Armed Forces covenant, which seeks to promote the NHS as an avenue for members of the forces as they integrate into a civilian workplace.

In other news:

- It's great to be able to record our work to get out and about to inform colleagues within NWSSP and other NHS organisations about what we do. Also, the continuing work to promote the surveying career to young people in our schools.
- An array of awards have been won in multiple areas of service and in some cases, working across NWSSP divisions. It's also good to cover the ongoing progress of staff in achieving educational and professional qualifications.
- We were able to make long service awards to 8 of our staff this year, which is a reflection of their dedication and hard work for the NHS.
- Our claims to fame now include having a Tug of War champion – I don't think you'll guess who until you read the article!

Finally, don't forget to look at the History Corner article. Cardiff Royal Infirmary certainly goes a long way back!

Enjoy the read!

Stuart

Stuart Douglas
Director

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Endoscope Decontamination Forum 2025: A Record - Breaking Event for Innovation and Collaboration

The 2025 Endoscope Decontamination Forum took place on 12th June at the Hafod a Hendre Centre, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells and marked its most successful year yet. With the highest number of delegates and corporate sponsors to date, the forum has grown into a pivotal event for professionals across NHS Wales and beyond.

A Day of Insight: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly

This year's theme, "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," explored the current challenges, risks, and innovations in endoscope decontamination. It served as a platform to not only highlight ongoing concerns but also celebrate examples of best practice and promising developments. Delegates from every Health Board and Trust within NHS Wales were joined by attendees from NHS England and Northern Ireland fostering valuable crossborder learning and collaboration.

Opening Remarks and the 'Bad'

The forum opened with Mark Gapper, Head of Engineering at SES, before Aidan Parkes (Decontamination Engineer) took over to chair the opening session focused on the "Bad" critical issues still affecting the field.

Presenters Oleg Tuchs (ASP), Ellie Wishart (Nanosonics), and Mett Smart (20/30 Labs) delved into the persistent challenge of biofilm in flexible endoscopes. Their talks examined biofilm formation, associated infection risks, and emerging cleaning technologies aimed at mitigating these risks. The session concluded with expert commentary from Mark Furmage (Independent AE(D)), offering an engineering perspective on this growing concern.

Tackling the 'Ugly'

The next session addressed persistent, solvable problems deemed the "Ugly" that are often hindered by lack of resources, knowledge, or commitment. Jenn Stevenson (Anderson Caledonia) highlighted safety challenges in using peracetic acid and the critical need for risk-based protocols and staff training. Vanessa Blount (Partners for Endoscopy) discussed infection risks tied to water bottles and clinical accessories, while also spotlighting sustainability as a driving consideration for future solutions. John Prendergast (SES) concluded the morning by addressing gaps in governance around engineering tasks related to decontamination equipment. He emphasised the need for robust systems, competent engineering support, and a proactive approach to mitigating organisational risk.



Endoscope Decontamination Forum 2025: A Record - Breaking Event for Innovation and Collaboration

Networking and Innovation

A networking lunch allowed attendees to engage with corporate partners and explore cutting-edge innovations set to shape the future of endoscope decontamination. Many exhibitors showcased technologies with the potential to become industry standards in the coming decade.

Celebrating the 'Good'

The afternoon highlighted excellence and progress in practice. Kevin Owens from Beaumont Hospital, Dublin, presented the hospital's transformation from minimal decontamination facilities to a state-of-the-art unit, showcasing gold-standard sterilisation for ENT scopes. The day concluded with a joint presentation from John Prendergast and the ABUHB team, detailing the journey from a JAG audit to the development of a new centralised decontamination facility at Royal Gwent Hospital. Nicola Merry, Craig Gane, and Lorraine Morgan guided delegates through the challenges and milestones of delivering what is set to become one of NHS Wales' premier decontamination environments, scheduled for completion in early 2026.

Looking Ahead

John Prendergast formally closed the forum, thanking all delegates, presenters, sponsors, and exhibitors for their contributions. SES also extend special thanks to IHEEM, our event partners, for their support with event coordination and finance. Reflecting on nearly two decades of evolution starting from a re-purposed ward in Bronllys hospital to this year's landmark event held at the prestigious Hafod a Hendre Centre at the Royal Welsh Showground stands as a testimony to the sector's progress, collaboration, and shared commitment to excellence. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in June 2026 as we continue this vital conversation and drive forward innovation in endoscope decontamination.



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USW Built Environment Taster Day

On June 25th, 2025, hundreds of students from around the region attended a taster day at the University of South Wales. Sian Cornwell-Shaw, our Senior Property Surveyor, as part of her work as a RICS Inspire Ambassador, organised the day. This is in the hopes of promoting the new Real Estate course at USW, which was launched in 2023 after a 20-year gap of having any real estate focused courses in South Wales.

As part of the day, students took part in various activities such as a measuring competition where students could win a £100 Amazon voucher by attempting to measure the lecture theatre without any tools or their phones. They did a 'build a town activity' which encouraged students to consider the size and budget when building a town. Each type of building had a specific price and the students had to try and work out how many they could add within the budget and they had to draw this out whilst thinking about sustainability. Other activities included a building survey demo, learning about valuation and a drone flight demonstration.

Students had the opportunity to view a fly-through video and tour courtesy of BAM construction company, of the new Calon building on campus which will be home to Computing, Technology and Engineering at USW.

Our Network75 students, Sadie Enoch, who is studying on the Real Estate course and Steffan David, who is studying on the Quantity Surveying course, alongside other students on their respective courses were also in attendance to give a firsthand account of their experience doing the courses and Network75 opportunities.

The day was such a success in giving students a taste of what they can expect on the course that it is set to be a more regular event in our calendars.

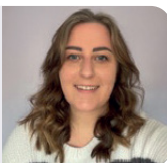
To read more about the Real Estate course, please see Issue 16 and the course webpage.



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SES/IHEEM Regional Conference 2025 - A Recap

The Institute of Healthcare Engineering and Estate Management (IHEEM), along with its Wales Branch and NWSSP - Specialist Estate Services (SES), held its Wales Regional Conference, Exhibition, and Gala Awards Dinner on 7-8 May 2025 at the International Conference Centre (ICC), Newport.

The Conference brought together estates professionals, engineers, NHS leaders, and innovators to shape the future of healthcare infrastructure. With a packed two-day programme, the event focused on achieving Net Zero, driving innovation in estate design, and strengthening clinical engineering collaboration.

Following a virtual opening by Judith Paget, NHS Wales CEO, Stuart Douglas, Director of SES, delivered a keynote speech addressing the future of Wales's healthcare estate, outlining key priorities including optimising underused buildings, achieving Net Zero, and improving management tools across the NHS Wales estate, which spans over two million square metres.

Emphasising the need for consistent use of modern Computer-Aided Facilities Management (CAFM) systems, he highlighted the limitations of manual processes and the benefits of data-driven estate oversight. Drawing comparisons with England's draft NHS Estate Code (HBN 00-08), Stuart endorsed estates essentials, such as up-to-date CAD drawings, risk registers, and sixfacet surveys and praised NHS Wales Health Boards and Trusts who are already piloting tools like 3D imaging with Matterport. His talk underscored the urgent need for smarter, standardised, and digitally enabled estate management to futureproof NHS infrastructure in Wales.



SES/IHEEM Regional Conference 2025 - A Recap

The overarching theme “Pioneering Estates for Tomorrow” highlighted the programme’s dedication to future-focused topics:

- Achieving Net Zero
- Integrating Estates in Design and Build
- Emerging Energy Solutions like Hydrogen Fuel
- Procurement Strategies for Sustainability
- EV Fleet Transitions
- Innovations in AI and Digital Infrastructure (e.g. BIM, ChatGPT, CoPilot etc)

Key presentations on the first day explored the challenges of achieving Net Zero, with insights from Simon Russell (SES), Craig Morgan (SES), Tony Chatfield from NWSSP, and Des Keighan (SBUHB), followed by a panel discussion chaired by Pete Sellars.

Afternoon sessions focused on digital innovation and sustainability, including talks by Clive Nattrass (NHPower) and Matthew Hubbard (WSP). The first day’s closing address was given by John Prendergast, (Chair of the IHEEM Wales Branch/SES).

Day two featured sessions on infection control, infrastructure upgrades, and operational technologies, with contributions from Tracey Gauci (H DUHB), Jason Williams (CTMUHB), and Ashley Wood (SES) followed by the afternoon session with Steve Bishops (Spirax Sarco), Caroline Finlay (MTS Health) and Carl Magnus von Behr (innex.ai). The conference concluded with a panel discussion and closing remarks from Stuart Douglas.

The evening of 7th May featured a dinner at Celtic Manor with guest speaker, Wales rugby legend, Sir Gareth Edwards C.B.E.

The IHEEM Wales 2025 Conference reaffirmed the importance of sustainability, technical resilience, and digital innovation in transforming healthcare estates. It provided a critical forum for knowledge exchange, problem-solving, and setting a collective vision for the future.

Thanks go to IHEEM and NHS Wales colleagues for hosting a successful 2025 regional Conference.



SES/IHEEM Regional Conference 2025 - A Recap

GALA AWARDS WINNER

WALES REGIONAL AWARDS

ESTATES AND FACILITIES TEAM OF THE YEAR

Honoured for their expert support across NHS Wales, ensuring technical excellence, safety, and adherence to best practice in healthcare systems.



Sponsored by Approved Air



The Engineering Team within NWSSP-SES



Partneriaeth Cydwasaethau Shared Services Partnership

Wales Regional Conference, Exhibition and Gala Dinner 7-8th May 2025

GALA AWARDS WINNER

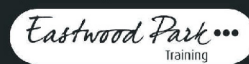
WALES REGIONAL AWARDS

CHAMPION OF CHAMPION

Celebrated for his progression from apprentice to senior leadership, and for shaping a positive, patient-focused departmental culture.



Sponsored by Eastwood Park



Jason Williams Assistant Head of Operational Estates Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB



Partneriaeth Cydwasaethau Shared Services Partnership

Wales Regional Conference, Exhibition and Gala Dinner 7-8th May 2025

GALA AWARDS WINNER

WALES REGIONAL AWARDS

SUSTAINABILITY ACHIEVEMENT

For innovative imaging upgrades that significantly improved sustainability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness in healthcare.



Sponsored by Tarkett



Operational life extending imaging upgrades and the beneficial effects on sustainability by Joanne Sewell - Assistant Diagnostic Imaging Advisor for NWSSP-SES



Partneriaeth Cydwasaethau Shared Services Partnership

Wales Regional Conference, Exhibition and Gala Dinner 7-8th May 2025

GALA AWARDS WINNER

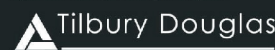
WALES REGIONAL AWARDS

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

Recognised for his outstanding enthusiasm, technical knowledge, and commitment to professional development in healthcare engineering.



Sponsored by Tilbury Douglas



Samuel Burnett Trainee Estates Officer Morriston Hospital



Partneriaeth Cydwasaethau Shared Services Partnership

Wales Regional Conference, Exhibition and Gala Dinner 7-8th May 2025

GALA AWARDS WINNER

WALES REGIONAL AWARDS

CAPITAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Honoured for its patient-led design, community engagement, and environmentally responsible approach to transforming breast care.



Sponsored by Mott MacDonald



Unified Breast Unit Project (YF)



Partneriaeth Cydwasaethau Shared Services Partnership

Wales Regional Conference, Exhibition and Gala Dinner 7-8th May 2025

GALA AWARDS WINNER

WALES REGIONAL AWARDS

EXHIBITOR STAND

This award was presented to the exhibitor whose stand best incorporated the conference theme 'Pioneering Estates for Tomorrow'.



Sponsored by IHEEM Wales Branch

Air Sentry



Partneriaeth Cydwasaethau Shared Services Partnership

Wales Regional Conference, Exhibition and Gala Dinner 7-8th May 2025

GALA AWARDS WINNER

WALES REGIONAL AWARDS

GRAHAM STANTON AWARD: COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Honoured for over four decades of dedicated service and exceptional commitment to hospital estates and patient safety.



Sponsored by IHEEM and NWSSP-SES

Andrew Hartson Mechanical Craftsperson, Estates Department, Royal Glamorgan Hospital



Partneriaeth Cydwasaethau Shared Services Partnership

Wales Regional Conference, Exhibition and Gala Dinner 7-8th May 2025

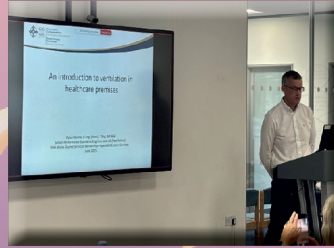
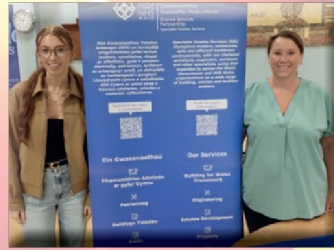
Achievements and Accolades: A Season of Recognition for SES

Over the past few months, SES staff have been incredibly active, participating in numerous events and making significant contributions that haven't yet featured in the newsletter.

Assistant Engineers **Aran Chaplin** and **Rebecca Mason**, along with Network75 student **Sadie Enoch**, represented SES at the People and OD Development Day held at IP5. They shared insights into the work we do across SES, helping others understand the value and impact of our services.

Senior Performance Standards Engineer **Dylan Morris** spoke at the HARP (Healthcare Associated Infection, Antimicrobial Resistance and Prescribing Programme) Summer Forum at CQ2 on June 25th, delivering an informative presentation on ventilation in healthcare environments.

Senior Property Surveyor **Sian Cornwell-Shaw**, regularly working in partnership with schools throughout South Wales, recently attended a Year 10 Careers Pathway Event at Idris Davies School in Caerphilly, accompanied by **Sadie Enoch**.



SES has also seen great success at a number of recent awards ceremonies: **Sadie Enoch**, our Network75 student, was awarded the **Robert Knight Memorial Award** for Best Overall Real Estate Student 2025. She received the award from the Knight family during the University of South Wales Graduation ceremony on July 16th.

At the NHS Wales Sustainability Conference & Awards 2025, SES proudly won the **Sustainability Network/Community Award**. This award reflects our team's commitment to sustainable healthcare in Wales. Congratulations to **Craig Morgan**, Senior Environmental and Facilities Management Advisor, who accepted the award on our behalf.

During the IHEEM Regional Conference Awards Gala, SES celebrated multiple accolades:

- Estates & Facilities Team of the Year: **NWSSP SES Engineers**
- Sustainability Award: **Joanne Sewell**, NWSSP SES Estates Development
- Estates Champion of Champions (Highly Commended): **Ashley Wood**, NWSSP SES Estates Development



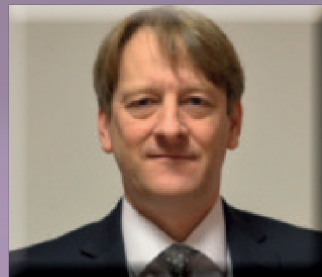
At the NWSSP Staff Awards, congratulations go to:

- **Sian Cornwell-Shaw** and **Anthony Pitcher** for winning in the Hidden Hero category
- **Sadie-Marie Enoch**, who received Highly Commended in the Listening and Learning category

Professional Development Success

We are proud to support the ongoing professional development of our staff and note congratulations are in order for the following:

- **Ruchika Tripathi**, Assistant Technical Officer, has recently achieved BIM Professional status, equipping her with valuable skills and expertise to support the full BIM project lifecycle.
- **Craig Morgan** also secured Chartered status with the Chartered Institute of Workplace and Facilities Management.
- **Rohan Megahey** has just received notification of having passed his level 5 Diploma in Fire Engineering Design



Recognising Long Service

A heartfelt congratulations to several SESteam members who have received Long Service Awards for their longstanding commitment to NHS Wales:

- Peter Barrow** – since 1982
- John Prendergast** – since 1986
- Chris East** – since 1991
- Anthony Pitcher** – since 1993
- Jamie Evans** – since 1993
- Kate Webb** – since 1996
- Andrew Ward** – since 2000
- Clive Ball** – since 2000

Thank you for your dedication and years of service!

Armed Forces Covenant

Stuart Hanger, Fire Safety Officer and RAF veteran, attended the Royal Welsh Show on July 24th, representing the Armed Forces Covenant within NWSSP, after being invited alongside Phil Jones from Procurement (Veteran of the British Army and member of the group). Stuart was a guest of the Defence Relationship Management - Ministry of Defence (MoD), attending the Employer Briefing and VIP escorted visit around the Tri-Service Military Village at the show. Stuart said, "It was a great day out liaising with former colleagues and MoD engagement staff, who promote the support for veterans and families of veterans and serving members of the forces who work within civilian organisations. The day also emphasised the value that veterans with the right set of skills can bring to an organisation."



Tug of War Champs

Rebecca Mason, Assistant Engineer, won at the Welsh Tug of War Championships in July with her team Shirenewton Tug of War. Rebecca also attended the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show in Builth Wells and competed with the Glamorgan Young Farmers Team.

Staff Changes



We said goodbye to **Steve Dinnick**, property surveyor, who has retired. We hope that Steve has a very happy and fruitful retirement.

Steve was replaced by **Nicole Kruger**, Nicole will be working in the Property section as a Property Surveyor. Nicole is a familiar face as she has worked in SES before, welcome back!

Ruchika Tripathi, Assistant Technical Officer, is leaving SES to return back to her home of India. We wish Ruchika the best of luck with her future endeavours.



We are currently hiring for several positions within SES so we expect more exciting appointments in the near future.



Current Vacancies - NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership



History Corner

Cardiff Royal Infirmery

The Cardiff Royal Infirmery is one of the oldest hospitals in Wales, with a history dating back to 1837. Originally founded as the Cardiff Dispensary, it was established to provide medical care to the poor. In 1861, the Dispensary became the Cardiff Infirmery and relocated to a new site on Newport Road.

In 1923, the hospital was granted the title "Royal" by King George V, becoming the Cardiff Royal Infirmery.

Throughout the 20th century, the Infirmery played a major role in serving not only Cardiff but also the wider South Wales area. It was particularly significant in treating industrial injuries related to coal mining and shipping, which were central to the region's economy.

The original Victorian buildings on Newport Road are now listed for their historical and architectural importance. The main hospital building was designed by Edwin Seward of James, Seward & Thomas, who won an architectural competition for the project. Remarkably, the structure survived wartime bombings, even as surrounding buildings were destroyed.

Following the establishment of the NHS in 1948, Cardiff Royal Infirmery became part of the national healthcare system and later developed into a teaching hospital affiliated with Cardiff University.

In the 1990s, healthcare services in Cardiff began shifting to larger, more modern facilities such as the University Hospital of Wales. By the end of the decade, most acute medical services had been transferred, and the Infirmery largely ceased to operate as a general hospital.

In 2016, the building was reopened as a community health hub, offering outpatient care, mental health services, community dentistry, and other essential services. As part of this revitalisation, the hospital's historic chapel was transformed into 'Capel i Bawb', a community facility housing a library, meeting rooms, an IT suite, and a café. This renovation was completed between 2020 and 2022.



Cardiff Royal Infirmery

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NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025



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