

# Chimney

Issue No. 75 - June 2012

## JOURNAL



The official publication of

**The National Association of Chimney Sweeps**

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The front cover picture is of "The Fairy Tale Chimneys" at Gaudi's Casa Batlló in Barcelona, which was created by the famous Catalan architect Antonio Gaudi. Casa Batlló is listed for preservation since 1962 and was declared an UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005.



NACS Board of Directors  
(Back row from left to right) – Steven Ross-Girard, David Donald, Martin P. Glynn, Steven Howard  
(Front row from left to right) – Ron Clark, Bob Leonard, Vic Crompton

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**I**t's been a very busy and productive first half of the year so far! The NACS Board of Directors, Sally Caine the NACS Office Manager and her team have been working really hard to strive towards progression of the NACS and moving the Association forward. We are therefore delighted that the NACS National Chimney Training Centre (NCTC) has been awarded as a HETAS Approved Training Centre, and we are now able to provide the HETAS H001, H002, H003 & H006 training courses, which is in addition to our ever growing list of training courses on offer at our NCTC in Stone, Staffordshire. The NACS hosted an historic meeting with the Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps at the NCTC earlier in the year, further details can be found in this magazine. We also hosted our annual Trade Show and 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner in April at the Chesford Grange Hotel in Kenilworth, which attracted the most attendees so far, providing NACS with a much needed boost. A tremendous amount of organising and preparation goes into this event, so I was delighted to see so many of you there supporting our Association. We also saw the launch of our new NACS Website, from which we have received a lot of positive feedback. Further details of the new NACS Website and all of the above news can be found in this Chimney Journal Magazine. On 3rd July, NACS will officially open its new National Chimney Training Centre, to which you are all invited. Further details and an RSVP slip can be found inside this magazine. I really hope you are able to attend so you can see first-hand the expansion and progression of the facilities at the NACS National Chimney Training Centre, which is unique and something that all NACS Members should be very proud of.

Best regards,

*M. P. Glynn*

Martin P. Glynn  
President & Director of Public Relations

## Celebrating 30 years – 1982-2012

The Official Publication of THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIMNEY SWEEPS  
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**Kenny Paterson** – NACS Area Assessment Inspector & Regional Officer  
**Gordon McKinlay** – NACS Area Assessment Inspector & Regional Officer  
**Ray Langford** – NACS Area Assessment Inspector & Regional Officer

## NEW NACS MEMBERS RECENTLY OBSERVED AND PASSED



Mbr No.	NAME	COMPANY	TOWN	COUNTY
10/727	Richard Ashmore	Barton Gate Chimney Sweeping	BARTON GATE	Staffordshire
11/741	Charles Berrington	Berringtons Chimney Sweep	THATCHAM	Berkshire
11/809	Jamie Bull	Bull & Son Chimney Sweeps	BURY ST EDMUNDS	Suffolk
11/792	Philip Capers	Warwickshire Chimney Sweeping Services	HARBURY	Leamington Spa
11/768	Matt Carless	Goodfires Chimney Sweeping	SARISBURY GREEN	Southampton
11/784	Martin Chesworth	AKM Heating Limited	GOLBORNE	Warrington
11/791	Robert Church	Warwickshire Chimney Sweeping Services	SOUTHAM	Warwickshire
11/816	Rod Cooper	Rod Cooper / R C Engineering Limited	HALSTEAD	Essex
12/010	Tim Croft	Air Valley Chimney Sweeps	KEIGHLEY	West Yorkshire
11/755	Jack Cummings	J C Chimney Sweeps	PERTHSHIRE	Scotland
11/763	Nick Eaton	Neaton Solutions	WITNEY	Oxon
11/802	Shaun Finnerty	Cabby Sweeps	CHRISTCHURCH	Dorset
12/006	Matthew Gallagher	P & J Gallagher Chimney Sweep	STOCKPORT	Cheshire
11/762	David Gardner	Buckland Chimney Sweeps	EYTHORNE	Kent
12/019	Josh Gray	c/o R C Engineering Limited	HLASTED	Essex
11/780	Craig Groves	Meadow Chimney Sweeping Services	COLSTERWORTH	Grantham
11/773	Paul Hodgkinson	Paul Hodgkinson Chimney Sweep	REDFIELD	Bristol
11/745	Jonathan Hopkins	Bristle & Vac	SALISBURY	Wiltshire
11/801	Michael Huskinson	Sootshifter	BILBOROUGH	Nottingham
11/766	Dean Knowles	Solid Fuel Stoves	LOWER GRESHAM	Norfolk
12/027	Martin Lewis	Martin Lewis Chimney Sweep	GREAT WHELNETHAM	Suffolk
11/746	Jeff Martin	House Martin	NEW ADDINGTON	Surrey
11/769	David McGrath	A Smart Sweep	CHELMSFORD	Essex
11/799	Ross McLenaghan	Roof & Chimney Maintenance	PENICUIK	Midlothian
12/012	Wesley Meyler	Abbey Chimney Sweeps	CLITHEROE	Lancashire
12/016	Julian Miles	STACKS	SPILSBY	Lincolnshire
10/685	Chris Newton	Elemental Services	BARNACRE	Preston
11/756	Ben Oakden	Hot Spot Chimney Sweeping	KENDAL	Cumbria
11/772	David Qualter	Home Fires & Fuels	STOCKPORT	Cheshire
11/776	Iain Roberts	Iain Roberts Chimney Sweep	WYMONDHAM	Norfolk
11/778	Robbie Savill	William Newham & Sons Chimney Sweeps	ST CLEER	Cornwall
11/751	Mark Smith	Mark Smith Chimney Sweep	WOLVERHAMPTON	West Midlands
11/759	Les Strong	Les Strong Chimney Action	PENRITH	Cumbria
11/770	John Taylor	Taylor Chimney Sweep Services	CAMPSEA ASHE	Suffolk
11/752	Philip Unsworth	Breckland Brush Chimney Sweep	THETFORD	Norfolk
11/789	Michael Wallace	Ayrshire Chimney Services	KIRKMICHAEL	Ayrshire
10/685	Chris Newton	Elemental Services	BARNACRE	Preston
11/756	Ben Oakden	Hot Spot Chimney Sweeping	KENDAL	Cumbria



## NACS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### JUNE 11

NACS Working Safely at Heights Course  
(Rooftop & Ladder Safety)

### JUNE 12

HETAS Twin Wall Installer Course – 1 day (H006)

### JUNE 18/19

NACS Induction Training Course: Sweeping  
Techniques, Regs & Standards

### JULY 2

Finance Committee, Management & Board of  
Directors' Meetings

### JULY 3

NACS OFFICIAL OPEN DAY OF NEW  
PREMISES

### JULY 4

NVQ Existing Candidates Workshop, New  
Inductions & QA Visit

### JULY 5

NACS Fire Safety Training Course

### JULY 10

HETAS Introduction to Solid Fuel Course – 1  
day (H001)

### JULY 10/11

HETAS Solid Fuel Regulations & Standards  
Course – 2 days (H002)

### JULY 17-19

HETAS Dry Appliance Installer Course - 3 days  
(H003)

### JULY 23/24

NACS Induction Training Course: Sweeping  
Techniques, Regs & Standards

### JULY 31

NACS Advanced Training Course: Chimney/  
Flue/SF Appl. Service/Repair

### AUGUST 1

NACS Advanced Training Course: CCTV  
Inspection & Survey

### AUGUST 20/21

NACS Induction Training Course: Sweeping  
Techniques, Regs & Standards

### SEPTEMBER 4

HETAS Introduction to Solid Fuel Course – 1  
day (H001)

### SEPTEMBER 4/5

HETAS Solid Fuel Regulations & Standards  
Course – 2 days (H002)

### SEPTEMBER 10

Regional Officers' Meeting

### SEPTEMBER 11-13

HETAS Dry Appliance Installer Course - 3 days  
(H003)

### SEPTEMBER 17

NVQ Assessors & IV Team Meeting

### SEPTEMBER 24/25

NACS Induction Training Course: Sweeping  
Techniques, Regs & Standards

### OCTOBER 8

NACS Working Safely at Heights Course  
(Rooftop & Ladder Safety)

### OCTOBER 9

HETAS Twin Wall Installer Course – 1 day  
(H006)

### OCTOBER 10

NACS Fire Safety Training Course

### OCTOBER 11

NACS Advanced Training Course: Flue Smoke  
Testing Procedures

### OCTOBER 15

Finance Committee, Management & Board of  
Directors' Meetings

### OCTOBER 16/17

NACS Induction Training Course: Sweeping  
Techniques, Regs & Standards

### DECEMBER 21

Office closes for Christmas & New Year  
(Re-opens on 2nd January 2013)

All of the above dates are held at the  
NACS CTC (Chimney Training Centre)  
unless otherwise stated

### KEY:-

Board of Directors' & Finance Committee  
Meetings

Regional Officer Meetings

Training Course Dates

NVQ

Chimney Works Trade Show / Special  
Events

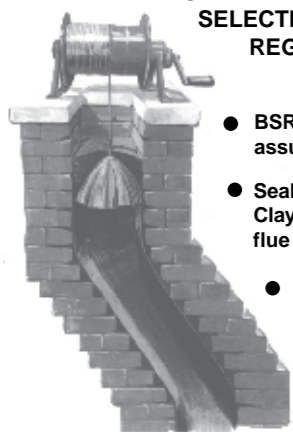
Information

## The Approved Document J - Chimney and Flues

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# CHANGES TO ‘THE RULES’

**This article is an edited version of the Seminar given at the NACS Chimney Works Trade Show on 27th April this year.**

There are three changes to rules and regulations which you need to be aware of, some of which are likely to come into effect during the next 12 months or so. The three items about which I refer are:-

National Annex to BS EN 15287:2007 – Chimneys – Design, installation and commissioning of chimneys

BS 8303:1994 – Installation of domestic heating and cooking appliances burning solid mineral fuels,

Construction Products Directive: – Re. CE Marking

## National Annex to BS EN 15287:2007

BS EN 15287 Part 1 covers chimneys for non room-sealed heating appliances, including masonry, flue block chimneys and metal chimneys. As its name implies, this is a European Standard and there exists a National Annex applicable to installations in the UK. Since 2007, there have been a number of changes to the market with the introduction of new appliance types, changes to the Building Regulations plus commercial pressures. Consequently, the National Annex is being revised to reflect these changes. Bear in mind that ADJ contains references to various British Standards in support of the guidance contained in the document. In this instance, some of the changes to BS EN 15287 are significantly different to the guidance contained in ADJ. For example, some points you need to be aware of are:-

1. Table 1, Size of Flue – now includes reference to wood pellet burning appliances. In particular, it recognises that flues may be reduced to less than 100mm when permitted by the appliance manufacturer and supported by calculation.
2. Thatch Properties – now includes reference to the HETAS guidance document entitled ‘Chimneys in Thatched Properties’.
3. Flue pipes – now recommends a maximum vertical length of 2m above an appliance.
4. Flue pipes – Significantly, a horizontal flue pipe from the rear of an appliance may in future extend 450mm before a change of direction (currently 150mm).
5. Twin Wall Insulated Flue System – Distance from below a ceiling to a single skin connecting flue pipe should be a minimum of 425mm (currently 150mm). There are also a number of installation requirements which you will commonly find in the chimney system manufacturer’s instructions.

## **BS 8303:1994 (Installation of Domestic Heating & Cooking Appliances burning solid mineral fuel)**

### **Proposed Revisions**

In general, the types of solid fuel heating appliance being sold into the UK have changed since 1994 when BS 8303 was published. This has been recognised by British Standards Committee RHE-28 which is responsible for this document. This group asked the HETAS Technical Committee to consider what changes were necessary and propose changes to reflect current requirements. After much deliberation by the HETAS Technical Committee, a first draft of a revised BS 8303 was tabled by Chris Pederson for consideration. It

is clear that due to the magnitude of the task further work is needed to get this document to the point of completion. The procedure for updating British Standards is however complex and the best way to move this project forward is yet to be decided. Be aware, this BS will undoubtedly change in due course and will form the basis of a further technical briefing.

### **Air Supply**

As part of their deliberations, the Technical Committee commissioned a test on closed appliances to ‘Investigate Potential Spillage using Batch Fed Appliances with External Air Supply’. The purpose was to establish whether ‘room-sealed’ type appliances (ie those designed with direct air supply from outside), still needed an external air supply in accordance with the requirements of ADJ. The test proved that under normal operating conditions (with fire-doors closed) the direct air supply worked satisfactory. However, all the test appliances spilled fumes and smoke into the room when the fire-door was opened for refuelling, causing a spike in carbon monoxide levels to the room. What this means in practice is that this appliance type still needs additional ventilation in accordance with ADJ. Perhaps in time manufacturers will devise methods of diverting air to the periphery of the door frame to overcome this problem. However, until this occurs additional ventilation is still required, especially in newly built properties where Building Regulations demand high levels of air tightness.

### **Flue Pipe Length**

It is likely the revised BS 8303 will reflect the changes mentioned previously in BS EN 15287 regarding maximum length of horizontal flue

from the rear of an appliance. In addition, it contains some clarification of the recommended vertical flue pipe length. This is a question which regularly arises and which I will endeavour to clarify now. BS 8303: Part 1:1994, para. 9.4 states – ‘*There shall not be a change of direction in the flue for at least 600mm from the outlet of a top-outlet appliance unless the appliance is fan blown.*’ This is an issue which causes much confusion and misunderstanding. British Standards are **guidance documents** and set out what is ‘good practice’. There is an extensive list of British and Harmonised European Standards at the rear of Approved Document J. It is not illegal to install an appliance in a different manner to any BS, provided that installation meets the basic requirements of ADJ and is therefore safe for use and thus fit for purpose.

On this point, ADJ requires:-

- Discharge of products of combustion
- J2 Combustion appliances shall have adequate provision for the discharge of products of combustion to outside air.
- Protection of building
- J3 Combustion appliances and fluepipes shall be so installed, and fireplaces and chimneys shall be so constructed and installed, as to reduce to a reasonable level the risk of people suffering burns or the building catching fire in consequence of their use.

Note: ADJ does not ask for 600mm vertical flue above the appliance.

To clarify the situation, as stated previously, BS 8303 was written prior to 1994. No doubt at that time, nearly 20 years ago, the type of solid fuel appliance most commonly fitted was the inset room-heater, such as the Parkray 111 and the Charnwood LA. Most freestanding appliances were independent boilers or cookers whist stoves were less popular.

Today however, the majority of installations are freestanding wood burning or multi-fuel stoves, many of which are fitted into a fireplace recess otherwise known as the builders opening. Especially in older properties, commonly the existing flue above the fire is offset to pass a bedroom fireplace in the room above. Consequently, it is impossible to fit 600mm of vertical flue pipe. In most cases therefore it is necessary to fit 2 x 45° offsets in the flue pipe to reach the centre line of the chimney. Provided there is adequate draught available for safe use of the appliance and the flue can be adequately swept, this is perfectly acceptable practice. It should be recognised that the 600mm rule in BS 8303 applies only to fully freestanding appliances positioned against a wall containing a chimney. The latest HETAS H003 Training Manual clearly illustrates this and specifically refers to *the installation of an appliance not in a chimney breast* and thus recommends a 600mm vertical flue pipe. Unfortunately, this whole issue has been causing total confusion. I recall one installer confessing he had turned work away in the belief that it was illegal to install otherwise. More recently, it was reported that a reputable stove manufacturer was refusing to honour the warranty on an appliance which they claimed was incorrectly installed because the installer was forced to fit two 45° bends directly off the top of the stove due to the constraints imposed by the configuration of the chimney breast design, as described above. The BS 8303 draft prepared by Chris recommends adding some clarification. He suggests – ‘*For practical reasons, such as installing an appliance into an existing opening, it may be necessary to have a “dog-leg” in the flue pipe directly above the appliance. The purpose is to by-pass an obstruction such as a lintel above the fireplace opening... In such cases, a small change in direction of the flue pipe is permitted, providing it does not prevent easy passage of a correct size of flue brush and does not affect the performance of the*

*appliance.*’ I hope in the future we will be in a position to formalise this advice.

### **Construction Products Directive**

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have published a consultation document which closed on 27th April 2012. This document includes reference to the Construction Products Directive which relates principally to the marketing of products. Significantly, assuming no alterations are introduced, the major change affecting the UK will be the introduction of CE marking. On the last occasion that CPD was suggested by the EU the UK Government made the decision not to adopt the proposal. However, it is now proposed that CE Marking will be mandatory from 1st July 2013. DCLG propose – ‘*The Construction Products Regulation will apply fully from 1st July 2013. From that date, in the UK it will be mandatory for a product covered by a harmonised European standard... to have a Declaration of Performance and be CE marked in order to be placed on the European market.*’ In practice therefore, where products have not been tested by an independent laboratory and do not have a CE mark, it will be illegal to import and sell it in the UK or Europe after this date. In most European countries for some time it has been illegal to import products without appropriate CE marking – but currently this does not apply to the UK. We are all aware of the proliferation of new appliances introduced into the market over the past years, some of which are of questionable quality. This move will hopefully sort the wheat from the chaff. We are all too aware of problems associated with sub-standard appliances purchased off the internet by unsuspecting customers. Appliance manufacturers and importers need to be aware of this proposed change to the law.

**Jim Lambeth**

NACS Technical Advisor  
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## KEEPING YOU INFORMED

BY MARTIN P. GLYNN PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

New and bold developments are taking place within our Association. It is now 30 years since the NACS was formed.

The Membership continues to grow from 30 Members in 1982 to over

400 in 2012. This achievement in numbers is our highest total to date.

With the increase of Members we have outgrown the Office facilities and training centre.

Last year the NACS expanded by

renting an additional unit adjacent to the existing premises.

Building alterations were made to accommodate a refurbished training centre with a new lecture room and offices (further details below).



## NEW NATIONAL CHIMNEY TRAINING CENTRE

After many months of planning and building work we have finally achieved a training facility for Chimney Sweeps and our Trade Associates. There are a number of purpose built chimneys with appliances such as stoves, boilers and cookers. There is also an Assessment area for candidates undertaking the vast assortment of courses offered.

The NACS Centre also has a teaching / lecture room named "The Valentine Gray Room" – Valentine Gray was a Climbing Boy apprentice aged 10 years who fell to his death in 1822 whilst cleaning a chimney in Newport on the Isle of Wight.

The reinvestment into our training centre and new office facilities has cost the NACS budget a considerable sum. The



expansion and modernisation was long overdue and vital to maintain the credibility and professionalism of the NACS. We are also pleased to announce the NCTC is now a HETAS Approved training centre offering the following

courses:-

H001 – Introduction to Solid Fuel

H002 – Solid Fuel Regulations & Standards

H003 – Dry Appliance Installer

H006 – Twin Wall Installer



## HISTORIC MEETING HELD BY NACS AND GMS

The first ever meeting between NACS & GMS Officials took place at the new NACS centre on 21st March 2012.

The purpose of this historic meeting was to begin a dialogue for the benefit of the consumer by raising standards and qualifications for all Chimney Sweeps. There is common ground in which both the NACS and GMS can work towards.

On behalf of the NACS I have proposed that there should be a National Code of Practice that all Chimney Sweeps should work to.

Other topics discussed were a common Chimney Sweep Certificate for both organisations, and the membership of ESCHFOE; both NACS and GMS pay an annual subscription to ESCHFOE which would benefit the Chimney Sweep profession if we could speak with one united voice. Both NACS and GMS have agreed to work together on the above projects. Our thanks to the GMS for their attendance and co-operation.



In attendance were from left to right Ron Clark – NACS Honorary Vice President, Daniel Hodgson – GMS Chairman, Martin Glynn – NACS President, Steven Howard – NACS Vice Chairman, Lawson Wight – GMS Public Relations Trustee, and Bob Leonard – NACS Chairman.



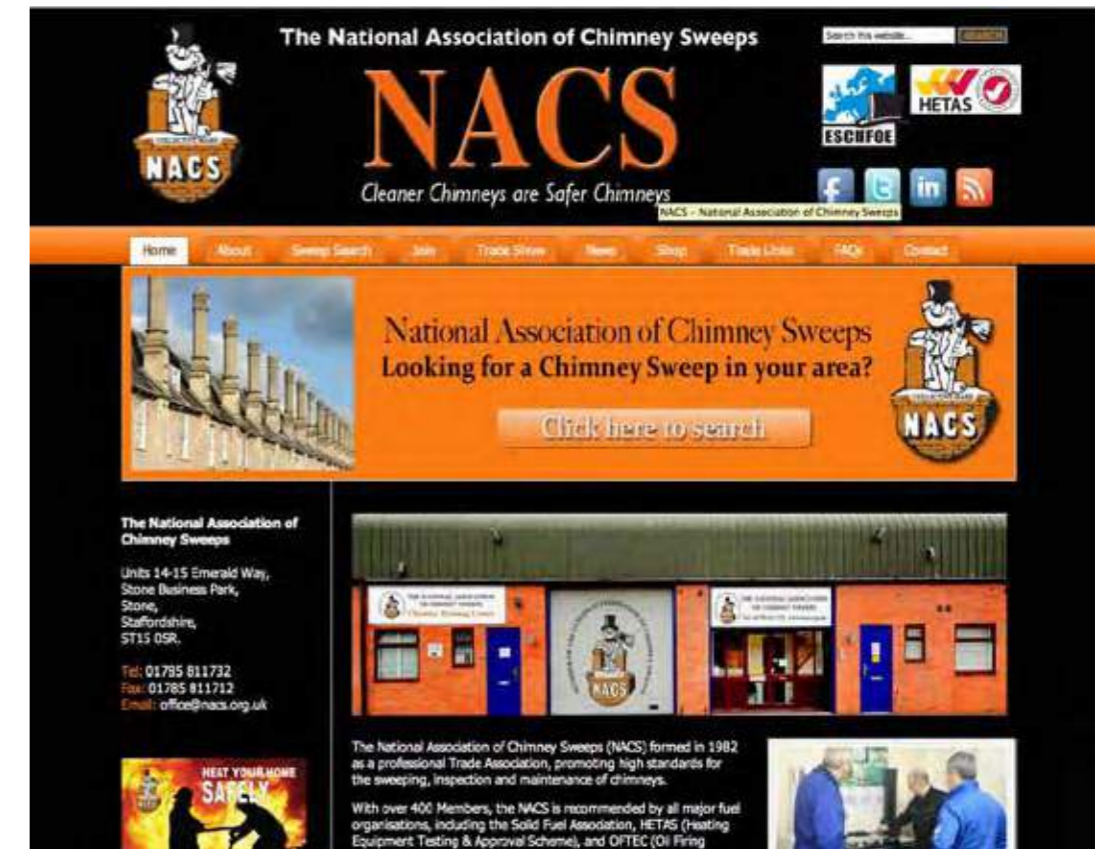
NEW NACS WEBSITE  
– [WWW.NACS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.NACS.ORG.UK)

The NACS has launched a new website which has a more modern design and has been designed to be more informative and user friendly.

We took into consideration many Members' points of view and comments made at meetings.

There is also a Members' page, so if you have anything to post please forward to the NACS office. Further developments of this site will be made in the near future.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark Eustace of Spire Web



Tech who designed the new NACS website for us. If anyone is looking to have a new

website or perhaps thinking of having their existing website re-designed, Mark can be

contacted on 01543 671526 / 07961 673807 or email [mark.eustace@spireswebtech.co.uk](mailto:mark.eustace@spireswebtech.co.uk)

# CHIMNEY WORKS TRADE SHOW 2012

## ORGANISERS:

MARTIN P. GLYNN, NACS PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS;  
BOB LEONARD, NACS CHAIRMAN & DIRECTOR OF TRAINING;  
& SALLY CAINE, NACS OFFICE MANAGER



C-Caps



Chimney Care



General view



Colt Cowl



Esse



Dustcontrol



Eurocowl



Docherty



MMF Ltd



NFU Mutual



Panda Press – the NACS printers



Firespares



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Specflue Ltd



Pennine Systems



Stovax

## Exhibitors' Raffle

1st Prize,  
Ian Calderwood – FlueCube2nd Prize, John Humphreys,  
Percy Doughty & Co

3rd Prize, Frank Nowell, Stovax

## Thanks to Sponsors:

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Wohler



Straw Fuels



Sturdy Vac



Wakefield Brush

Dave Donald & Sarah Leonard on the  
NACS Merchandise StandRod Murdoch & Steven Ross-Girard  
on the NACS Recruitment StandThe Organisers meeting the Mayor &  
Mayoress of KenilworthNACS 30th Anniversary Flower  
Display – donated by Sandra Mitchell  
– NACS Honorary Life President

# NACS 30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER

## ORGANISERS:

MARTIN P. GLYNN, NACS PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS;  
BOB LEONARD, NACS CHAIRMAN & DIRECTOR OF TRAINING;  
& SALLY CAINE, NACS OFFICE MANAGER



Happy Raffle Prize Winners



Juno Weaver, Martin P. Glynn, Sally Caine  
& Emily Huthwaite

Steven Howard is pleased to win  
a raffle prize



Above left, The Toastmasters Heads or Tails Game - guess who won.  
Above right, the Winner



Juno Weaver & Martin P. Glynn enjoy some magic, along with other guests.

Magician surprising the children



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Martin P. Glynn presenting Bob Leonard  
with his 60th Birthday Gift



Ron  
Clark,  
NACS  
Honorary  
Life Vice  
President  
& Director



Bob Leonard NACS Chairman presenting Sandra Mitchell NACS Honorary Life President  
with her bouquet



The President's Toast



Gala Dinner Raffle



NACS Chairman Bob Leonard presenting Steven Howard  
NACS Vice Chairman & Director with the Chairmans Award



FUNKification entertained the guests at the Gala Dinner



Above left, Robert Ellis excited to win a raffle prize.  
Above right, Ian Lancaster wins a prize!



30th Anniversary Gala Dinner



Dancing the night away

## DOCHERTY CHIMNEY GROUP ACQUIRES MMF LTD TO FORM UK'S LARGEST CHIMNEY PRODUCTS GROUP

**D**ocherty Chimney Group, the UK's largest independent supplier of chimney products, has announced the acquisition of MMF Limited, one of its major competitors and another specialist chimney and flue supplier. The enlarged group will have an unrivalled range of products and provide expertise, support and increased levels of product availability across the UK.

Docherty Chimney Group and MMF will continue to trade as separate businesses, together the two companies will have:

- Increased regional presence - the group



Allister Moorcroft, MD of Docherty Chimney Group (left) and Phil Mangnall, newly appointed MD of MMF Ltd (right)

has 11 branches – vastly improving the ability to

rapidly supply products and provide customer support across the UK.

- Increased financial stability, strength and buying power with group turnover increasing to £20 million.
- More than 140 employees, UK wide.
- Increased investment in employees' skills and training - MMF will now have access to Docherty's Sure Fire training centre in Ripley, Derbyshire.
- A solid fuel liner production machine will be installed at MMF's Smethwick factory enabling improved distribution of solid fuel liner.
- The two companies together have been in business for almost 100 years and the group has a management team comprised of some of the UK's leading industry

experts.

Allister Moorcroft, Managing Director of Docherty Chimney Group commenting on the acquisition said: "With the acquisition of MMF, Docherty Chimney Group is another step closer to achieving its goal of becoming the UK's preferred supplier of chimney and related products.

"Rising distribution costs mean our customers increasingly require us to provide a wide range of products available locally at short notice.

"Adding MMF's network of branches and the expertise of their staff we have dramatically improved our ability to serve our customers across the country. Docherty Chimney Group is now well positioned to meet the demands of a growing but still very competitive market."

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## Custom-made open fires

**5x greater efficiency\***

### New Referral Scheme

We're a small family business, who have developed in the Midlands through word of mouth, and are now able to supply what we believe is a unique product throughout the UK.

**As you go about your work do you meet fans of wood-burning open fires who are disappointed because:**

- Their fire smokes;
- It just doesn't look the part;
- They just can't get any real heat;
- Having lined or repaired their chimney an open fire seems impossible.

**We will pay a generous (£100 min) referral fee to anyone who introduces us to a new customer of our Thermovent wood-burning open fire.**

Email me, Paul Shaw, on [paul@camelotrealfires.co.uk](mailto:paul@camelotrealfires.co.uk) or call on **0845 437 7221** when you next meet a fan of open fires who is in need of help with their fire, or if you would like more information.

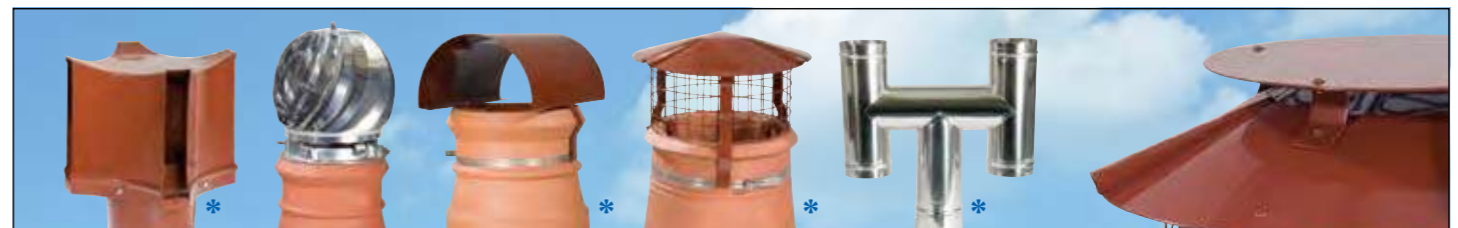
Paul Shaw



The only wood-burning fire of its kind that is HETAS approved. If your customers open fire smokes or they want more heat, or that genuine period look, we can help.

\* Camelot Thermovent II at 51.6% Net efficiency versus traditional open grate at 10%.

**To find out more call 0845 4377221 or visit [www.camelotrealfires.co.uk](http://www.camelotrealfires.co.uk)**



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## New product

### FLEXI NYLON TRIGGER LOCK RODS (Ref. no. Z6927)



Bends to 180°, flexible enough for tight bends & turns, can be turned left or right, fits the all new trigger lock nylon brush range as below.

Tried & tested by experienced tradesmen. Can be used for flues, chimneys and also drains with the Z0090 Lockfast adaptor as below, which is sold separately and needs to be thread locked on before use.



Brushes are available in two sizes:  
5" – product ref. Z6929  
7" – product ref. Z6930  
In addition an adaptor (ref. Z6931) is needed to attach the brush securely to the rod.

Cheaper than most of the other non-locking nylon rod sets and can be used on most aspects of small flue clearing and cleaning.



**Not to be used with drills or any other devices. Hand use only, which seems to be the preferred method of professionals.**

For prices and placing orders contact our Sales Office below.

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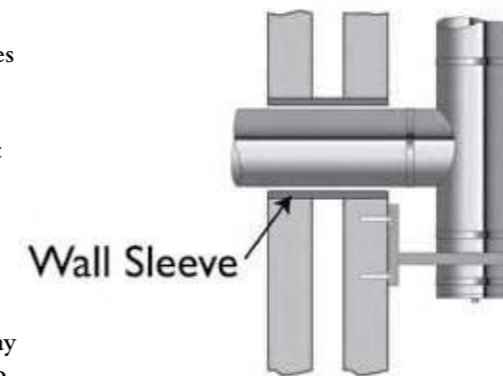
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• For more information visit [www.schiedel.co.uk/rite-vent](http://www.schiedel.co.uk/rite-vent)

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## Hepworth

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- BSi certified gas terminals
- Ventilation terminals for capping off redundant flues
- Airbricks in a range of styles, shapes and sizes

All the above are offered in three colours: red, buff and blue/black.

Other products include firebricks and firebacks, cavity liners and the chimney commissioning pack.

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and other national and independent merchants.

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or email: [terracotta@hepworth.co.uk](mailto:terracotta@hepworth.co.uk)

# FLUECUBE MEETS WITH TRADE APPROVAL

So, our first time exhibiting at the NACS trade show. When we left on the Saturday afternoon we were buzzing, we had enjoyed it so much.

After launching the FlueCube chimney cowl in December 2011, we appreciated the challenge of getting a new product to market. The most logical route would be contacting and informing the experts, sweeps. It was obvious to us that the people, who spend time in front of the wood burning public, and educating them to best practice when burning wood, would be our ablest ambassadors.

In this endeavour the NACS from the start made the process easier by being helpful and informative. We immediately signed up to become associate members. Considering the NACS represents a trade going back to the start of the age of industrialisation in the 18th Century, we were impressed about how it has embraced 21st Century methods, and as we received tweets from Sally, we could see this was a genuinely modern organisation.

For those people we didn't speak to, a brief history. The FlueCube was invented in New Zealand by Neville D'Herville the father of one our team and my cousin. Neville, an engineer and inventor for some 50 years, invented the FlueCube 2 years ago to solve the problem of wood smoke that would lie in the valley of his home town Nelson and other towns in New Zealand. It proved to be a success, so much so that Neville is on a crusade against councils trying to get rid of woodstoves for more expensive versions that are not necessarily more efficient in New Zealand. (We leave him to fight that battle as we don't have this issue in Europe). He patented the FlueCube around the world. Neville asked us to launch the FlueCube in Europe as he knew we already had experience of launching new patented products to market



Ashley and Ian on their stand at the NACS Trade Show

albeit in a different industry.

The reduction of smoke (black carbon) is an important issue and to paraphrase someone else's slogan, "every little helps." But we recognised that the FlueCube's other benefits of achieving more heat from your wood and your wood pile lasting longer and overall making wood stoves more efficient would be a real benefit in the UK. As the market knows, wood stoves and multi stoves have proved to be very popular over the last few years and with that we have seen an increase in the price of quality wood to burn. Combine that

with a double dip recession and a rise in utility bills, any savings delivered are good news.

From the start we wanted the FlueCube to be manufactured in the UK and found a manufacturer in Kent. We also wanted to be clear and transparent with regard to the effectiveness of the FlueCube; we had a lot of positive feedback from New Zealand as there were already hundreds of FlueCube owners, but little in the way of official data. We wanted to follow the British data model on effectiveness as this was our market. So our first call was to HETAS, but we quickly found that they had no regulation regarding cowls. So there was nothing they could do. We then went to BSRJA who

tested it to conform to British Safety Standards BS715:1993 & BSEN 1856-1:2005, but don't test for effectiveness data. A contact at Specflue confirmed there is no effectiveness data on anti downdraft cowls.

We then asked an environmental scientist, who put together a test and control test on the FlueCube's wood burning efficiency. The Environment Agency pointed us in the direction of a British Standard, Ringlemann chart for carbon reduction; tests for both are published as a pdf on the FlueCube website. However we recognise the importance of managing expectations when dealing with woodstove customers; it was pointed out to us effectiveness will vary as

there are so many factors, for example, which make of stove, which wood, the chimney height, weather conditions etc. So these tests can only be a guide on effectiveness, we also have to rely on customer feedback for different scenarios.

We were fortunate when Craig Foster, an NACS sweep of many years, contacted us asking to buy a FlueCube for his own chimney. It was clear he was an experienced sweep and wood stove/wood expert. So when he said he was going to test it, we were in no doubt he was going to be thorough. His review is published on [www.unitedchimneysweeps.co.uk](http://www.unitedchimneysweeps.co.uk). His review has helped us modify the FlueCube to make it easier to install going forward. It was particularly rewarding when Craig told us at the Trade Fair that the FlueCube is on his own chimney, he loves it and he's not taking it down. We also received a lot of helpful feedback over the Trade Fair which has been greatly beneficial. We took orders and sold a few directly.

For us the real benefit of the Trade Fair was that it enabled us to demonstrate how the FlueCube works in person. I had contacted a number of members through email and generated a lot of interest and members had looked on the website, but as always when new products make claims, there is also scepticism. We were able to show members this was not a dark art, just very clever feat of engineering. Visitors to the stand were amazed and said they never seen a cowl like it. But the FlueCube is more than just an anti downdraft cowl, which is why it looks like it does. Visitors also were reassured that although larger than the average cowl it wasn't that much larger.

We will be at the Hearth and Home Show in Harrogate but our other current challenge is to raise the FlueCube's profile amongst the wood burning stove public so that we can hopefully make it easier for NACS sweeps to recommend this slightly more expensive cowl where necessary because there will already be a public demand.

Finally, the icing on the cake for us; was when we were just

leaving I received an email on the FlueCube website from Rory, a distinctive Chimney Sweep who purchased a FlueCube. He said...

"Ok so I purchased a FlueCube at NACS and couldn't wait to check it out. I have a brick built barrel vault bread oven which I built this year, so decided to have a play with the FlueCube.....

- Time to pizza temp - normally 2hrs 30, FlueCube 1hr 10

- Fuel used to get to cooking temp - normally 2.5 pallets - FlueCube 1.5pallets

- Time to smoke cessation - normal 45 minutes with hair dryer on through out, FlueCube 15 minutes with 5 minutes of hairdryer

Conclusion: I bought this to go on my old Baalfoss stove; looks like I am gonna have to buy another one as this one's staying on my oven!!"

We then received a tweet saying: Had fire 7 years, leaked into the house, the manufacturer pulled the fire apart but FlueCube solved the problem. Thank you

It doesn't get better than that, an honest and personal testimonial from professionals.

Great meeting you all.

Ashley Martin  
[ashley@fluecube.co.uk](mailto:ashley@fluecube.co.uk)  
[www.fluecube.co.uk](http://www.fluecube.co.uk)



## FlueCube

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Mr Capstick of GIBBS & LUND CHIMNEY SPECIALISTS has become known as  
**'The Allsaw man!'**

Renowned for his meticulous work on chimney repairs, cleaning and building maintenance Mr Capstick & his son now use the Allsaw on almost every job:  
"The Allsaw has bought us amazing advantages on site:  
Previously the first job when advancing on a stack repair would be to dismantle any aerials. We couldn't run the risk of an angle grinder catching on the withstraining wire as it would slice straight through. We found the Allsaw blades will not cut metal! Now we rake joints under and around the restraining wire with no worries – this alone has saved hours of work on some jobs.  
Whither repairs, airbrick replacements, raking out t-shaped corners and over-sailing courses have never been so easy."

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## Flue accessing?

## Re-pointing?

## Pipe installation?



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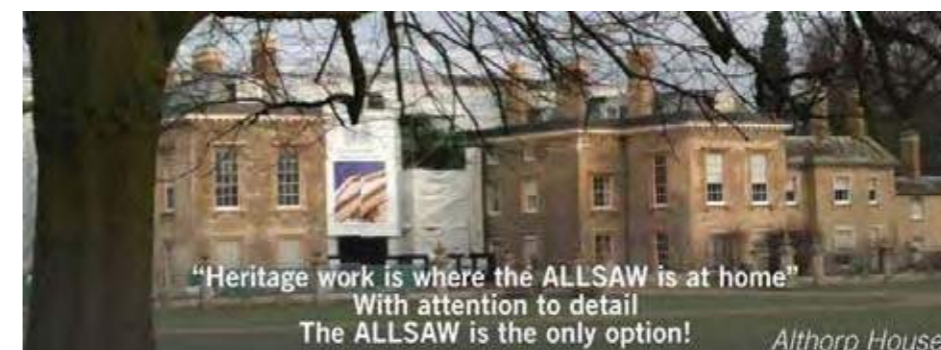
Recession has led to many companies having to diversify to keep the work flowing in. In numerous cases the Allsaw has become the solution. Not only can you offer repair to the chimney linings you can repair the brickwork and flashings with the same tool. It has given companies the ability to take on extra work in a new field and even offer their clients a superior job to the local builder ...with very little extra training required. Having the right equipment for the job means you are halfway there.

For those that already offer building services in their company portfolio, find an easier way to remove the bricks and mortar than the stitch drilling, chisels and the grinders you may have previously struggled on with. Save those hours you've spent matching up new bricks to replace the cracked & chipped ones, by being able to reuse the old ones... no more neighbour or client complaints about the dust from your job...You'll wish you invested in the Allsaw years ago – the time it saves you.

**"I personally use the Allsaw on a weekly basis. I would recommend the Allsaw to anyone involved in opening up brickwork as it considerably reduces job timescales and cuts so cleanly"**

Steven Howard NACS Vice Chairman & Director, Training Committee

Repair work is well underway on the 22 chimneys at Althorp House, Northamptonshire. Home to the Earl of Spencer and late Lady Diana, Althorp House is undergoing a make-over. Several phases of repair are in the pipeline involving exterior and interior works. Boden & Ward, are main contractors for the project. Boden & Ward's Site Forman Mark Huckle reports:  
**'We've got 2 Allsaws on the job of raking out the pointing on 22 chimneys – the blades will go to 5 inch depth if a whole brick needs removing. It's also cut down the dust by 85% compared to using a grinder. The Allsaw's have been really, really good.'**



Experience the benefits - call 0800 980 99 99



# NACS OPEN DAY



Tuesday 3rd July - 10am-3pm

Join us to celebrate  
the opening of our new premises and  
refurbished Chimney Training Centre

To attend, please complete the form below and return to the NACS Office



## NACS 30th Anniversary 1982 – 2012

### RSVP NACS OPEN DAY

I would like to attend the open day of the NACS National Chimney Training Centre on 3rd July 2012:-

Name: .....

Company Name: .....

Address: .....

Tel: .....

Email: .....

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# MEET THE NACS DIRECTOR OF SAFETY

**David Donald,**  
**Director of Safety for the NACS and of Dave Donald Chimney Sweeping, Preston**



people and seeing so many different properties, from small cottages to mansion houses its fantastic to get a glimpse in to other people's lives. There are a lot of different characters we have to deal with and thankfully there are not too many awkward ones. It's true what they say that there is "nowt as queer as folk!"

## And the least?

The least thing about the business I like is cold dark afternoons and evenings in winter. You go out to the van for something and you can't see it, everything gets wet before you get into the house. I also have to admit that I am a bit slow at getting my paperwork done. When there is a stack of papers in my tray that's nearly touching the ceiling then I think to myself I better get it done!

## What accomplishments are you most proud of?

I am most proud of taking over the business and over the years building it up to the point where I have gained an excellent reputation of doing a good clean and tidy job. About 95% of custom is now repeat business and the majority of new customers are through word of mouth.

I am also very proud to have joined the NACS and after 2 years of joining I was asked to become a regional executive and then about 4 years ago I was asked to join the Board of Directors.

Without the NACS my business would not have grown like it has and I certainly would not have the knowledge and experience that I have today.

## Complete this sentence – "I still can't get the hang of..."

How many twigs and rubbish I always find in a Jackdaw nest!!

I have found pieces of wire, nails, string, bits of cd's, postcards allsorts! I am still amazed at how many bin liners I need to clear the mess!

## Who or what is your major influence?

I would have to say that my major influence is Phil Stevenson. Without Phil trusting me 15 years ago to carry on his reputation and without his guidance and help at the time I probably would have given up. In the early days I often thought what the heck have I got myself involved with!

## Do you have a 'tip of the trade' that you would like to share?

Being Director of Safety I don't want to sound boring but I always try and drill into candidates on our courses to always wear your PPE.

I think that sweeps that have been in the trade for years get a bit complacent and forget to wear gloves and a mask. You never know what the long term effect of not wearing your PPE is going to be. Take it from experience. When I first started sweeping I never wore a mask and I used to get told off by customers, especially the ones who were Doctors.

Now I can tell the difference and I always make sure I have my mask and gloves on.

## How do you like to relax after a long day/week/month?

In the evenings I enjoy cooking. I find it quite relaxing and is something very different to my day job. I like to relax at the weekends by going walking and cycling and generally chilling out.

## Tell us something about yourself that we probably wouldn't know?

Something that you wouldn't know about me is that I have a bit of an Agricultural background. I worked on a mushroom farm during school holidays and then decided to go to Agricultural College to gain some qualifications.

I finished college and started to milk cows for a living all of which didn't come in very handy for sweeping chimneys! It just goes to show that life can take some funny turns.



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Remind your customers when their chimney(s) needs re-sweeping by leaving them with a Reminder Fridge Magnet.

With space to write the due date on, and a space provided for your contact details.

Summer Sale Price = £5.00 for a pack of 10



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£50 off a place on the following courses:-

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- CCTV Inspection & Survey – 1st August 2012
- Smoke Testing Procedures – 11th October 2012

### Terms & Conditions of Summer Sale

Summer Sale Prices on Merchandise ends 31st August 2012, whilst stocks last. Bookings for Training Courses with the Summer Sale must be booked and paid for by 31st July 2012, and are subject to availability. All prices above are subject to VAT & P&P

TO PLACE AN ORDER PLEASE RING THE  
NACS OFFICE ON 01785 811732 AND  
QUOTE REFERENCE NUMBER "SSP2012" TO  
OBTAIN THE ABOVE SALE PRICES

## CHIMNEY FIRE SAFETY WEEK 2012



Following the success of Chimney Fire Safety Week in 2011, the Fire Kills campaign is once again working with the National Association of Chimney Sweeps to raise awareness of the importance of regularly sweeping chimneys.

Fire and rescue services across the country promoted chimney fire safety messages last July, but reported that it was a difficult message to deliver at that time of year. Therefore, the Week is moving to the end of summer in early September, encouraging people to ready themselves for the looming cold winter months.

The Fire Kills campaign wants to encourage Chimney Sweeps to promote key fire safety messages to householders when visiting homes to ensure they keep themselves safe:-

- Ensure your chimney is swept regularly
- Keep chimneys and flues clean and well maintained
- Be careful when using open

fires to keep warm. Make sure you always use a fire guard to protect against flying sparks from hot embers.

- Ensure your fire is extinguished before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Chimneys should be swept according to the type of fuel used (always consult your NACS Chimney Sweep for advice)
- Never interrupt the air supply by blocking air vents or air bricks.
- Fit a working smoke alarm and test it regularly.

If you want to find out what you can do to raise fire safety awareness in your area get in touch with your local fire and rescue service, and keep an eye out on our facebook page [www.facebook.com/firekills](http://www.facebook.com/firekills)

James Webb  
Department for Communities  
and Local Government  
Fire Kills Campaign

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