

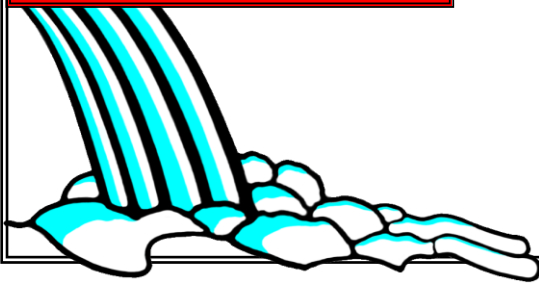
WATERSHED

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IN THIS ISSUE: *Fluoridation proposal regulations come into force, Israel to stop fluoridation, Thank you Elizabeth!, Fluoridation restarts in West Cumbria, New Zealand update, Portland rejects fluoridation, Calling all water company shareholders & MORE...*

Fluoridation proposal regulations come into force



The Water Fluoridation (Proposals and Consultation) (England) Regulations 2013, drafted by the Department of Health for the Secretary of State for Health, came into force on 1 April 2013. They will regulate how upper tier local authorities will carry out consultations and decision-making regarding proposals on existing and new fluoridation schemes. The Regulations supplement the provision for the fluoridation of water supplies made under Part 3 of the Water Industry Act 1991 (as amended). The Regulations also make provision for the circumstances where there must be consultation on whether to maintain existing arrangements for fluoridation, where maintaining the scheme would involve upgrading or replacing a fluoridation plant, except where the purpose is to meet operational requirements or health

and safety standards.

The DoH reveals its bias in regulation 17 that provides for a minimum term of 20 years between termination proposals. There is no minimum term for proposals of new schemes.

NPWA responded to the Department of Health's consultation on the above regulations which ran from 4 September to 27 November 2012. The DoH's consultation documents and our response can be found on our website –

<http://tinyurl.com/o2m2p7a>

For those members who do not have internet access we have published part of our response as an insert to this issue of *Watershed*, which counters the Department of Health's reliance on British Fluoridation Society's publication – *One in a Million*, 2012, to support its fluoridation policy.

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Israel to stop fluoridation in 2014

Israel will cease fluoridating its water supplies in the summer 2014. Israel's Health Minister, Yael German, signed new water regulations into law on Thursday, 11 April 2013. Although Regulation 20 of the Public Health Regulations (Sanitary Quality of Drinking Water and Drinking Water Facilities), 2013 (the New Regulations) permits the option of fluoridation i.e. no mandate, it's set to expire in a years time by Regulation 40 and means that no fluoridation legislation will then exist. In a parallel development, on 29 July 2013, the country's Supreme Court struck out a petition¹ by campaigners that demanded the State of Israel order the cessation of fluoridation in the country.

Fluoridation has been permitted as an option for local authorities in Israel since the passage of Public Health Regulations (Health-Related Quality of Drinking Water) in 1974. These regulations were amended in 1998 to mandate the fluoridation for water supplies serving communities with at least 5,000 residents.

Yael German, who served as mayor of Herzliya from 1998 to 2013, was opposed to the 1998 mandate. In 2002, The City of Herzliya and the Union of Local Authorities (ULA) joined the Israel Union for Environmental Defense to file a petition to the High Court of Justice against the Health Ministry's fluoridation mandate on 28 May 2002. The Supreme Court, probably sitting as the High Court,

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Regulations cont'd

Also drafted by the DoH for the Secretary of State for Health were The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013. These regulations came into force from this year, will commence through to 2015 and will modify provisions in primary legislation relating to a committee appointed under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 in so far as those provisions relate to Health and Wellbeing Boards and provides that certain provisions do not apply to Health and Wellbeing Boards. The modification and disapplication provisions also apply to sub-committees of Health and Wellbeing Boards and joint sub-committees of such boards.

Amongst other provisions, these regulations make provision for health scrutiny functions to be conferred on local authorities directly with powers to enable those authorities to make various arrangements for the discharge of those functions, including discharge by overview and scrutiny committees.

The DoH consulted twice on different aspects of the draft of these regulations.

As reported in *Watershed*, Spring/Summer 2012, the Health and Social Care Act 2012 abolished Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), and required upper tier and unitary authorities (LAs) to establish Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs). The authorities that are subject to this requirement are primarily county councils, London borough councils and unitary authorities. District councils in counties with a county council are not subject to the requirement but could have appointees to the HWB of the county council.

HWBs, whose 21 commissioning responsibilities will include dental public health, will comprise of at least one councillor, the Directors of Adult Social Services, Children's Services and Public Health for the LA; a representative

of the local HealthWatch organisation; representatives from each relevant clinical commissioning group and such other persons, or representatives of such other persons, as the local authority thinks appropriate. According to the consultation document *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health* (2010), Directors of Public Health (DsPH) will be employed by local authorities but jointly appointed by Public Health England (PHE), an Executive Agency of the NHS. Oral health surveys will continue to be carried out to criteria set by the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD) used by the fluoridists for their infamous and unscientific oral health league tables. The Network of Public Health Observatories, that served as regional repositories for health indicators, including oral health, will now be incorporated within PHE and the Association of public Health Observatories has been formally dissolved.

So, members and supporters will see that when the results of an oral health survey data become available you can be sure that somewhere in England a DPH will, at the next meeting of his or her HWB, present the data with an unscientific and statistically questionable claim that children in a particular area have some of the worst dental health in the country, which will inevitably lead to discussion about fluoridation. But, the stage is also now set for the termination of existing schemes which is obviously what NPWA will be working towards, as well as the repeal of Part III, Chapter IV of the Water Industry Act 1991.

Thank you Elizabeth!



On behalf of our membership the Executive Committee would like to thank Elizabeth McDonagh for all of her hard work producing *Watershed* since 2005. p

Israel cont'd

issued a restraining order against the Health Ministry's mandate one month later stating that the Ministry must respond to studies showing that fluoride causes diseases, including cancer.

In November 2002, on the High Court's recommendation, the ULA withdrew a petition protesting the addition of fluoride to drinking water. A three-judge panel informed the ULA that it lacks the wherewithal to resolve the technical dispute between the ULA and the Health Ministry regarding fluoride's impact on human health.

On the 29 July 2013, the Supreme Court, sitting as the High Court of Justice, struck out the petition referred to above¹ as the New Regulations made it redundant. The Court's ruling stated that the State's Regulations 20 and 40 lacked legal clarity. Regulation 40 could be amended before it takes effect but the Court made note of the State's commitment to cease the practice of adding fluoride to drinking water.

The Petition¹ was submitted by Izun Hozer, Association for Dissemination of Health Education in Israel, and Yaacov Gurman demanding the State of Israel and Ministry of Health order the cessation of adding fluorine to drinking water. In the Petition, submitted on 12 November 2012, the Petitioners indicated the dangers that this policy entails and claimed that the concept on which the 1974 Regulations were based is outdated and is no longer widely accepted. The Court ruled that the Respondents shall bear the Petitioners' costs at a total of 5,000 NIS.

Israel's largest cities were fluoridated from 1982. When fluoridation was introduced in Jerusalem in 1988 Betsy Ramsay, the daughter of the late allergy specialist Dr Waldbott, became one of the pioneers in the fight against fluoridation in Israel and she remains involved today. Many members and supporters will recognise the name Dr George Waldbott who was the leading opponent of fluoridation in the US

from the 1950s onwards and who authored many books and scientific papers. Dr Waldbott was also the leading spirit behind the formation of the International Society for Fluoride Research in 1968 and the first editor of its quarterly journal Fluoride.

In a report from Israel last December, Miriam Westerman, assisted by Betsy, expressed their gratitude to Fluoride Action Network for professional articles, videos and peer-reviewed primary research papers, many of which Israeli campaigners have translated into Hebrew. They said this information has had a real impact on many people in Israel, not only amongst the professors, doctors, dentists and other staff in the medical profession but also on the Israeli population in general.

Miriam and Betsy said they were especially grateful for Dr Paul Connett's visit to Israel in 2007 and kept him very busy giving lectures in key locations – the Israeli Parliament (the Knesset), Hadassah Hospital, Givat Ram University, Tel Aviv Municipality and Haifa University. Public Health Professor, Jimmy Krikun, a fellow fluoride fighter, commented to Miriam at Haifa University "I organized this event for the sake of my grandchildren." To Miriam and Betsy, Krikun's grateful voice was in sharp contrast to others in the medical establishment that were not happy to have Paul speak in their institutions and in some cases were obstructive. Iris, a co-worker, translated Paul's powerpoint presentation into Hebrew and this has also been useful in their educational campaign.

Miriam and Betsy's other efforts included circulating important petitions and arranging demonstrations, one of which took place in front of the Knesset and another in front of the Prime Minister's office. They also had Christopher Bryson's book – The Fluoride Deception, translated into Hebrew and this has been distributed as widely as possible, including the Hebrew University Medical School at Hadassah.

Co-workers spoke out on the radio and on TV. Anti-fluoridation

websites were started, often using material from FAN's vast supply of articles and videos that reveal the health dangers of fluoridation. All this information was circulated further through hundreds of e-mails sent by concerned citizens to members of the Knesset. As a result a Knesset Health Committee was created in May 2011. The Committee's purpose was to look into the whole matter of water fluoridation in Israel. The committee consisted mainly of Health Ministry officials, who strongly favoured water fluoridation, but it also included a few of Miriam and Betsy's co-workers, i.e. those opposed to the law mandating universal water fluoridation in Israel.

These efforts culminated in the formulation of a Law Proposal forbidding fluoridation in Israel, which was raised in the Knesset and which, unfortunately, failed to pass in a very close vote. Sadly, of the 57 Knesset members who initially signed this proposal in a preliminary show of support, 15 later changed their minds in deference to party discipline during the first reading of the proposed law and this killed the proposal.

NPWA congratulates everyone in Israel who has campaigned against fluoridation resulting in the signing of the New Regulations that will end the practice in 2014!

Reference

1) Israel Supreme Court sitting as High Court, Case No. 8173/12, July 2013.

Fluoridation restarts in West Cumbria

Fluoridation restarted in West Cumbria this year at the Cornhow and Ennerdale treatment works. Fluoridation stopped at Cornhow works in April 2006 and at Ennerdale works in November 2011 for essential maintenance and was re-introduced at both works in a phased way from the beginning of September to mid-October this year.

The West Cumbria fluoridation scheme was established by Cumberland County council at Cornhow and Ennerdale treatment works in 1968 and 1971, respectively, before there was any

enabling legislation for the practice. When the Water Fluoridation Act 1985 was passed, all schemes that predated this legislation became existing schemes. The 1985 Act was incorporated within the Water Industry Act 1991 which was amended in 2003 and 2012.

The original agreement between the elected County Council and the original water undertakers exists now between the Secretary of State for Health (SSH) and [United Utilities](#) (UU).

The arrangements are managed for the SSH by Public Health England (PHE) with whom UU consulted during the re-introduction. However, affected Cumbrian residents were not consulted before the fluoride dosing taps were turned on again, just as they were not consulted when fluoridation started in the county.

With a break in fluoridation of up to seven years in the county and the tide turning against the practice globally, Cumbrian residents hoped the controversial scheme would never restart. Poor information about the start dates and inaccurate postcode details on the United Utilities website caused some concern that a wider area than previously was being fluoridated. United Utilities say they have corrected any errors on their website and only residents receiving water from Cornhow and Ennerdale reservoirs are receiving fluoridated water.

Cumbrians Against Fluoride (CAF) has formed. The group has a website – <http://tinyurl.com/o36pw5t> and a Facebook page. CAF would really appreciate some 'likes' from social media users.

The group will work towards informing all Cumbria County Council Councillors of the case against fluoridation with the aim of achieving a full council debate. To this end CAF has created a petition on Cumbria County Council's website – <http://tinyurl.com/oxeasa6> Only those who live, work and study in Cumbria can sign this petition.

Allerdale and Copeland Borough Councils, in the affected areas, are opposed to fluoridation.

New Zealand update

Fluoridation opponents in New Zealand achieved a great victory this year when councillors on Hamilton City Council's Fluoridation Tribunal voted to stop fluoridation by seven votes to one on 5 June. Fluoridation actually stopped on 21 June. But, just a week after the council's decision, fluoridation proponent Councillor Ewan Wilson, who is also a member of the Waikato District Health Board (WDHB), pushed for a referendum saying Hamilton's ratepayers should make the final decision on whether to keep fluoride in their water. Councillor Wilson's initiative managed to collect 2,500 signatures, 1,000 more than required, to force a full council vote on whether to hold a referendum on the issue. Full council voted 7 to 6 in favour of a referendum on 4 July but the decision controversially included the votes of Cllr Wilson and two other DHB members – Cllrs Martin Gallagher and Pippa Mahood, who previously had excluded themselves on this issue in accordance with conflict of interest rules in the Crown Entities Act 2004. Cllrs Wilson, Gallagher and Mahood exploited a loophole and were allowed to vote on whether to hold a referendum as this vote was considered by Hamilton Council's lawyers to be about process rather than about fluoridation.

If the Council's Fluoridation Tribunal had voted to continue fluoridation, would Cllr Wilson have called for a referendum?

Clearly, Cllr Wilson and his fellow proponents had nothing to lose by pushing for a referendum in Hamilton, which was conducted by post between 20 September and 12 October in conjunction with local body elections. There was a 34% turnout and 68% voted in favour of fluoridation. Following the referendum result, a full meeting of Hamilton Council on 28 November considered the issue and voted 7 to 6 to defer a decision on whether to restart fluoridation until after the outcome of a judicial review of South Taranaki District Council's (STDC's) December 2012 decision

to add fluoride to Patea and Waverley's water supplies. Cllr Wilson voted on this decision even though he was advised not to by Hamilton Council's lawyers, claiming he was eligible because he was "open-minded" on the issue. Members of the public at this meeting couldn't help but start laughing. The term 'open-minded' does not appear in the 2004 Act.

The STDC Judicial Review took place from 25 to 27 November in New Plymouth and on the final day Justice Hansen reserved his decision which is expected early in the New Year. The case was opened by New Health New Zealand (NHNZ), a natural health advocacy group. NHNZ's lawyers claimed local councils are breaking the law and breaching human rights by fluoridating water supplies.

Kapiti Coast District Council is also facing a judicial review over its 2010 decision to retain water fluoridation. Kapiti Coast resident, Mike Woods, lodged a Judicial Review with the High Court in Wellington on 29 October. The legal challenge is to Kapiti Council's decision to allow a councillor with a conflict of interest to vote. The 2010 vote was split 5 to 5. If one vote is declared invalid, the vote will retrospectively become 4 in support of retaining fluoridation and 5 opposed and will immediately end the practice in Kapiti Coast. The outcome of this particular judicial review, expected towards the end of February, may have implications for Hamilton Council in relation to its joint council/WDHB members latterly refusing to exclude themselves from council decisions on fluoridation due to conflicts of interest. Fluoridation is, of course, Ministry of Health policy.

Fluoridationists have historically opposed referenda and in New Zealand this was reflected in a 2000 ESR Report.¹ recommendation that councils consider tribunals, which can involve taking submissions from professionals and lay people from near and far. Councils can choose a referendum instead of a tribunal and this has happened.

Since 2009, opponents have put fluoridation on the agendas of nine councils – Far North, New Plymouth, Kapiti Coast, Lower Hutt, Waipukurau, Taumarunui, Hastings, Whakatane and Hamilton. Councillors in Far North, Central Hawke's Bay, Taumarunui, New Plymouth and Hamilton chose to stop. Hastings and Whakatane chose referenda and voted to continue fluoridation, Hastings being binding and Whakatane non-binding, and which, like the Hamilton referendum, were held during this year's local elections. It is likely that Hastings will continue with fluoridation but it is less certain in Whakatane where a sizeable 40% of people voted to stop. Far North held a referendum where the people voted to end their two year experiment, New Plymouth held a Tribunal Hearing where the council chose to stop, and Central Hawke's Bay and Taumarunui invited public consultation through their draft annual plan and councillors subsequently voted to stop. Lower Hutt commissioned a council report on fluoridation but a voted 8 to 5 not to hold a referendum.

Kapiti Coast and Hastings District Councils lowered their fluoride levels to 0.7 ppm in 2010. Dunedin City Council reduced its fluoride level to 0.75 ppm following the draft annual plan process this year during which Dr Paul Connett put the case against fluoridation and the Ministry of Health did what they do.

This year's referendum results will be a challenge to fluoridation opponents in New Zealand. But, despite the legal challenge in Kapiti, fluoridation is already on the Kapiti Council's agenda and the campaign against fluoridation will continue across the country until all enabling legislation is repealed!

Reference

1) Council decision-making in relation to fluoridation of public drinking water supplies, Ann Winstanley, Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited ("ESR") for the NZ Ministry of Health, September 2002.

Portland rejects fluoridation



Clean Water Portland

Photo: Mark Colman

Portland, Oregon, the largest non-fluoridated city in USA, rejected adding fluoridation chemicals to the city's water supply by a 61% to 39% margin on 21 May 2013. Portlanders agreed with the position of most western nations that there are safer, more effective, and less intrusive ways to achieve good oral health than adding a chemical to the water supply that is linked to thyroid disease, IQ loss, and other ailments.

Portland's clean water campaign was spearheaded by Clean Water Portland (CWP), a broad coalition formed in August 2012 after a newspaper revealed secret ongoing fluoridation meetings with Portland City Council members that were illegally kept off the record. With virtually no public input, the City Council mandated fluoridation for the city on September 12. CWP then led an unprecedented effort that gathered over 40,000 signatures in less than 30 days to halt the mandate and force the referendum vote.

In Portland, opposition to fluoridation included the regional Sierra Club, the Portland branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality employees union and more than 200 local medical professionals. National leaders and organisations also weighed in, including Ralph Nader, Lois Gibbs, John Stauber, Food and Water Watch, Organic Consumers Association. Esteemed scientists Drs Theo Colborn, William Hirzy and two members of the NRC's review also supported CWP's campaign.

The breadth of the coalition was reflected in polling data showing bipartisan opposition to fluoridation amongst democrats, republicans and independents alike and overwhelming opposition amongst communities of colour.

Voters who rejected fluoridation were concerned by research showing low-income communities to be at highest risk of fluoride's adverse effects with virtually no offsetting benefit. This fact was not lost on Portland's low-income neighbourhoods, which voted overwhelmingly against fluoridation.

Fluoridation proponents had a massive war chest, raising almost \$1 million. They used their nearly 4-to-1 funding advantage and media clout to flood Portland with misleading adverts and editorials touting fluoridation as an urgently needed tool for solving the "dental crisis" in the city's poor neighbourhoods.

But, there really wasn't a dental crisis in Portland as the Oregon Department of Health's own reports indicate. Fluoridationists tried to hide this inconvenient truth, pressuring state officials to not publicize new Smile Survey data showing Portland children's decay rates have improved without fluoridation and, in fact, are better than most fluoridated cities.

"Fluoridationists had no evidence that any Portland child was fluoride-deficient but did prove that some Portland children are dentist-deficient. We urge the legalisation of dental therapists in Oregon who will treat the low-income children who dentists refuse to treat," said Paul

Connett, Director, Fluoride Action Network.

Portland's vote comes just six months after voters in Wichita, Kansas soundly rejected fluoridation by a 20% margin and follows close on the heels of an announcement this April that Israel will be ending its mandatory fluoridation program. In Ireland, legislation was proposed this spring that would make it a criminal offence to add fluoride to public water supplies, and in Canada, the number of people drinking fluoridated water has dropped by about 25% since 2008.

Sources – FAN and CWP

Calling all water company shareholders

Executive Member George Pinnell's initiative to apply pressure on water companies that choose to medicate their customers with fluorosilicic acid continues.

If you hold shares in Severn Trent or United Utilities we would like you to endorse the following resolution:

"Pursuant to our duty of care to consumers the company will ensure that any substance added to the water supply by way of medication (including for fluoridation schemes) must henceforth have a medical products license."

Such a motion would need the support of 100 shareholders, with an average holding of £100 worth of shares, in order for it to be tabled at their subsequent AGM.

Please email – georgepinnell@yahoo.co.uk or write to George at our York address if you can help.

Non-shareholder members can also contact George regarding a possible bulk purchase of shares, which would avoid individual stockbroking fees. These shares would then be transferred to the participants.

Australia

During 2013, 17 Queensland Councils have rejected fluoridation either ending, or voting not to start fluoridation, with some councils even voting not to use fluoridation plants which were almost completed.

Sad news

Albert William Burgstahler



died on Saturday, 12 October 2013 at his home aged 85. Many members will be aware that Albert co-

authored the classic book *Fluoridation: the Great Dilemma* (1978) with Dr George Waldbott and H Lewis McKinney.

Albert studied at a number of US universities and received a BS in Chemistry in 1949, his MA in 1950 and his PhD in 1953. The latter two qualifications with honours from Harvard University. He began his life-long career at the University of Kansas in 1956 as an Associate Professor in Chemistry. He then became a full Professor of Chemistry in 1965. He became Professor Emeritus of Chemistry in 1998.

At the University of Kansas his teaching and research were devoted mainly to general and organic chemistry and the synthesis and chemistry of natural products. Other interests included toxic effects of environmental pollutants. His true passion was helping to eliminate fluoridation of public water all over the world. His interest in fluoride began in the early 1960s and in a short time he became one of the world's best known authors on the dangers of fluoridation. He was the Editor-in-Chief of the quarterly scientific journal *Fluoride*, published since 1968 by the International Society for Fluoride Research.

In 2006 he received the Scientific Integrity Award from Fluoride Action Network which is awarded annually to scientists upholding the highest standards of scientific integrity in the effort to end fluoridation worldwide.

Albert enjoyed his studies on the Shakespeare Authorship question which began in 1997 and

he presented international lectures and research papers on the subject.

Albert's wife of 53 years preceded him in death, 17 April 2010. They are survived by three daughters, two sons, ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Robert Pocock, who fought mandatory fluoridation in Ireland for over 20 years, died unexpectedly on 21 April 2013.



He was instrumental in bringing attention to the scandal of rising dental fluorosis rates suffered by Irish children.

The Irish Government lowered the concentration to which communities' supplies are fluoridated in the country from 1 to 0.7 ppm in 2007.

Robert was pursuing a petition through the Petitions Committee of the European Union in order to compel the EU to adhere to its own regulations and end water fluoridation in Ireland, England and Spain. He showed great expertise and determination in pursuing his petition through the EU, managing to navigate the endlessly bureaucratic and complex processes in order to challenge, inform and persuade MEPs to back his very important cause. We understand Robert's petition is still active and can be viewed here –

<http://tinyurl.com/nf68zy5>

He worked closely with and supported other campaign groups worldwide, including FAN, NPWA, UKCAF and Hampshire Against Fluoride (HAF). Robert made a number of trips to Brussels to lobby MEPs and was joined on his visit of 2006 by NPWA's Elizabeth McDonagh. Robert joined campaigners from other UK campaign groups in attending HAF's meeting with MPs in the UK Parliament in

2009 and with other international campaigners attended a Brussels meeting of the EU's *Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks* in 2010 to consider the scientific evidence.

Robert leaves a wife Kerry, daughters Iva and Clare, and grandchildren Cólín, Finn, Tarla and Alannah.

Jimmy Wray, died on Saturday 25 May 2013, aged 78. Many of



our senior members will remember his long-running political campaign against

fluoridation of the public water supply, a cause that he pursued relentlessly both as a councillor in Glasgow and then as an MP at Westminster. Wray believed that fluoridation was mass medication without the consent of the people and questioned the dental health benefits attributed to it.

He promoted the case pursued in the name of Catherine McColl, a Glasgow grandmother who went to the court of session in order to challenge the right of Strathclyde regional council to introduce fluoride into the water supply. It was at that time the longest hearing in Scottish legal history and [Lord Jauncey's eventual ruling in 1983](#) found in McColl's favour.

In Parliament, Jimmy used his long experience of the subject to resist efforts by the Labour government to reduce local authorities' discretion to prevent fluoridation. He claimed that inner London, which never had fluoride in its water supply, had the best dental health record in the country while attributing the abysmal dental statistics in his own constituency to poverty rather than the absence of fluoride.

Barry Groves died on 26th April 2013, aged 77. Many members will remember Barry's



book – *Fluoride, drinking ourselves to death?* published in 2001.

Barry became interested in the subject in 1997 after attending what was to be a debate between Professor Paul Connett, Director, Fluoride Action Network, and Professor Michael Lennon, Chairman, British Fluoridation Society, at Oxford University. The latter declined NPWA's invitation to put the case for fluoridation and attendees heard just the case against from Dr Connett. Barry soon joined the Association's Executive Committee and served for two years during which time he setup NPWA's first website.

After leaving the RAF in 1981, Barry pursued his interests in archery, sustainable living and diet. He won a number of British and world titles in different archery events, built an energy efficient home with wife Monica and somehow found the time to write a manuscript – *Diet and be damned* about the effects of 'healthy eating' since 1984, eventually published as *The Calorie Fallacy* in 1994. This was followed by books *Eat Fat, Get Thin* (2000), *Fluoride, drinking ourselves to death?* (2001), *Natural Health and Weight Loss* (2007) and *Trick and Treat: how 'healthy eating' is making us ill* (2008). In 2002 Barry won the prestigious Sophie Coe Prize at the Oxford Symposium on Food History and was awarded a doctorate in nutritional science for his work on fluoride.

Two Executive Members joined Monica, family and friends in a celebration of Barry's life at Banbury Crematorium on 17 May.

NPWA was sorry to learn of the death of long-term member Brian Graham in 2013.

Southampton update

We last reported on Southampton in the Autumn/Winter 2011 edition of *Watershed* when on 14 September of that year the Conservative-controlled Southampton City Council voted to oppose fluoridation. Two years later, the scheme has not been implemented by South Central SHA (SCSHA), or Public Health England (PHE) who took responsibility for existing fluoridation schemes in England from April 2013.

Senior members of Hampshire Against Fluoridation have obviously kept a close eye on the situation in Southampton. A stumbling block to implementing the scheme subject of the 2008 consultation has been that it would result in areas not originally identified by SCSHA as being in the fluoridated area receiving fluoridated water. But, leading up to the switch from SCSHA to PHE in April 2013, a major obstacle (more a brick wall) came to light when Southampton campaigners discovered that SCSHA had not entered into arrangements with Southern Water Services Ltd.

This means there is no existing scheme. Fluoridation in Southampton and south west Hampshire can only happen with the co-operation and agreement of Southampton City Council (SCC) and Hampshire County Council (HCC) who as upper tier authorities assumed responsibility for many aspects of public health, including fluoridation proposals, within their respective boundaries from April 2013.

HCC's opposition to fluoridation is well known.¹ In 2011, it was Hampshire Against Fluoridation petitioning the SCC that resulted in the council reversing its position from one in favour of the proposed scheme to one opposed. In the

May 2012 local elections, Labour took control of SCC and campaigners feared a reversal of its latest position of opposition to the proposed scheme but this hasn't happened.

On 10 May this year, Cllr Simon Letts was elected Leader of the Labour group and six days later the *Southern Daily Echo* reported Letts' declaration: 'The public will decide on fluoride.' Although personally in favour of fluoridation, Cllr Letts said that if and when the controversial decision becomes the council's responsibility, he will hold a referendum. Cllr Letts would have been aware of the HAF demonstration and public meeting that took place the following day (see next article).

Professor Stephen Peckham from HAF met with Cllr Simon Letts and the Cabinet member for Health in July this year to argue that they should explore **ChildSmile**. Cllr Letts said he was contacting HCC. A motion about fluoridation went to HCC in June this year and as a result of the SCC/HCC discussion a QC was asked for an opinion on whether PHE had any authority to put a scheme in place. The QC's opinion concurred with HAF's view that as no contract had been signed by 31st March 2013, PHE had no authority. However, in response to letters from senior members of HAF, PHE have continued to say they are reviewing the issue. Even a letter from Julian Lewis MP got the same response. With PHE seemingly unable to admit defeat, the Hampshire fluoridation project remains in limbo. Senior members of HAF will be writing to Duncan Selbie, PHE's Chief Executive, again about this.

Reference

1) *Report of the HCC Water Fluoridation Panel*, November 2008

TGAF and NPWA join HAF in Southampton



Aisling Fitzgibbon and Shane Gaynor-O'Carroll of Irish campaign group *The Girl Against Fluoride* (TGAF) and Executive Members of NPWA joined Hampshire Against Fluoridation's demonstration and public meeting in Southampton on Saturday, 11 May this year.

More than 100 campaigners gathered outside Southampton Guildhall before marching through the city to Solent University Centre for the public meeting. The events were organised by HAF to highlight its call on Public Health England to drop any idea of implementing the Hampshire fluoridation scheme and not waste any more taxpayers' money. Professor Stephen Peckham gave an excellent presentation for HAF in which he outlined the current situation and HAF's position that as there is no existing scheme, Public Health England does not have the authority to implement one (see previous article for the latest about the campaign in Southampton).

Aisling and Shane then gave an uplifting joint presentation about TGAF's high profile campaign in Ireland which launched in August 2012. Their campaign has built steadily since and the group plan to take the Irish Government to court in 2014 to stop fluoridation in Ireland as it contravenes the Irish Constitution, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the precautionary principle and over 30 EU Directives.

TGAF's origin lay in the eponymous Aisling's past when in late 2010, after four years of fatigue and depression, her attention was drawn to her water

supply by UK nutritionist Barbara Wren. During a telephone consultation, Wren asked Aisling "are you aware that your water supply is fluoridated?"

Aisling came off all medication and consumed only fluoride free water, switched to an organic diet, took a range of mineral and vitamin supplements and carried out different detox techniques. Within seven months Aisling was back to full health and ready to take on the world. Aisling fund-raised to bring Barbara over to her home town of Tralee, County Kerry, in May 2011 to give seminars on natural healing. Before returning to the UK Barbara said to Aisling "if you do one thing for Ireland, get the fluoride out of the water." The seed was sown.

Aisling and mum, Martha, began studying the fluoride literature and the more they learned the more they were disgusted that this poison has been added to their water supply and yet hardly anyone knows about it or the risk it poses to their health.

Martha, a secondary school teacher, started a fluoride project with a group of transition year students in 2011 with Aisling working behind the scenes doing research and helping run information events. They lobbied Kerry County Council who responded by voting to end fluoridation but then Aisling and Martha learned that councils have no power to stop the practice as it is mandated by national law.

Aisling's next step was to present to TDs in the Dail. During her visit to the Dail she met Thomas Pringle, an

independent TD from Donegal. Thomas advised that she could be campaigning for a very long time and that in his view the only way to end fluoridation is a take a court case against the Irish state to overturn the policy. Aisling set out to find a legal team to represent her case on a pro bono basis. Her solicitor recommended that for the case to succeed she would need to build a massive public awareness campaign and to get everyone talking about fluoride.

During a well deserved holiday to consider campaign ideas, Martha told Aisling "you are just going to have to strip off." On their return, Aisling got knickers printed with a "Get The F Out" symbol and a t-shirt saying "Irish Water contains toxic industrial waste" and headed off to Kerry airport to perform a publicity stunt. When the pictures were uploaded to Facebook the response was overwhelming.

In August 2012, Aisling and Martha created a superhero character called The Girl Against Fluoride, in the hope it would become a brand that people would recognize as being a fluoride fighter. Now, more people than ever in Ireland are aware of and support the campaign. TGAF have support from local and national politicians, musicians, writers and other celebrities. Dublin-based music and politics magazine *Hot Press* has been particularly supportive and run regular articles on the issue – www.hotpress.com

Aisling has continued with her publicity events to raise awareness. This included stripping to her pink underwear outside the Dail holding a banner with the message "Stripped of our Rights." These events have gained huge support from people that would normally never engage with the issue.

Aisling, Shane, Martha and their team need to raise €30k to fly international expert witnesses to Dublin for their High Court action and to cover the very basic legal expenses. To help with this the team have launched the *TGAF 2014 Naked Calendar*. NPWA Executive Members have already purchased a number of these beautifully produced calendars. Buy yours for just €14!

Buy yours for just €14 incl. p+p via TGAF's website – <http://tinyurl.com/pwcor9b>

Remember, success for Aisling and team TGAF would mean success for all who oppose fluoridation.