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**WELCOME to our Summer journal of 2018**

I have just finished working at The Scottish Open which was hosted by Gullane Golf Club; my home club. What a great event it was and the weather made it even better. To top it all, on the final round I was a Walking Marshal for the Russell Knox and Rickie Fowler match and I thoroughly enjoyed it; what an experience!

At the time of writing my editorial the new website was just about to be launched. To access the new website you will need your e-mail address and password from the old site. If you have forgotten your password you can create a new one using the *Forgotten Password* link. This is one of the new features of the website which means that you can get a new password straight away. Please let me know what you think of the new website and please feel free to provide feedback you may wish to share. This will help us continually improve the website.

There has not been too much progress made regarding the online journal although

I hope this is to improve now that we have the new website up-and-running. The plan is to put the November journal online as a trail and we shall also be sending all members and subscribers a hard copy too. That way we can ensure everyone will get a copy.

We have thirty new candidates who have passed our IDSc Technical Certificate; well done to each and every one of them.

Our first article in this edition is by **Fred Sims-Williams** and is in two parts. In *Part 1: 1967-2017 The first 50 years of our professional development*. In this part Fred recalls past events in our history, lists, Past Presidents and Chairmen and suggests that the IDSc is a cornerstone in the development of decontamination services having gained recognition and achieved the entitlement for staff to be healthcare scientists. Part 2 completes the journey we have all travelled, to date and will be in the November journal.

In our Updates and Information section we look at a new type of electronic tracking and traceability system: *Modular software delivers stress-free integration within and between departments 'Quality management system' delivering a patient orientated approach*.

Our first paper by **Caroline Conneely**, National Clinical Lead for the Decontamination Safety Programme looks at *Building a Culture of Quality at the Centre of Our Service: A Unique Approach to Implementing Quality Improvement in Decontamination Practice*. Caroline outlines four key concepts: *Framework for Quality Improvement, Using Data for Measurement, Using the IHI Model for Improvement and Engaging Colleagues in the Improvement Process*. One of the benefits was a significant improvement at local level to increase capacity for endoscope decontamination by 20% and one of the outcomes was to spread and share learning to build a culture of quality improvement across all decontamination facilities.

The second paper is *Decontamination of reusable medical devices* by **Paul**

**Jenkins**, Assistant General Manager for the Facilities Directorate, North Bristol NHS Trust. In this article Paul provides an update of current issues and challenges relating to the decontamination of reusable medical devices. Paul suggests that to prevent the potential transmission of all forms of prion disease from one patient to the next precautions should always be taken. For those of us who work in health boards who carry out high risk procedures, we know how difficult and arduous that task can be.

I am delighted to bring back another article *From the Archives*. This article is from the ASSA journal in November 1978 by **P.A. Parsons**, *Recent Developments in Hospital Sterilizing Processes*. There were several speakers at this symposium, one of whom was from the DHSS. They were talking about the revision to *Hospital Technical Memorandum 10 – Sterilizers* and the implementation of this was seen as the biggest area of challenge to management. Wonder what they would think of the raft of guidance, policies and standards that needs to be adhered to today?!

**Phil Hadridge** is back again in our *Something Different* section and this time he is talking about *Creating the best possible organisational climate*. Phil has a list of eight compelling ideas for a Code of Conduct to ensure we are always on our best behaviour. Why is all this important? Because as humans we are 'mood-hoovers', soaking up the tone of what happens around us. Another very insightful read.

**Alan Clark** became our new Chairman in June and agreed to take part in this edition's interview. Alan started his career as a senior operating theatre assistant. He had a keen interest in instrumentation and when he was approached by the decontamination team this was an ideal opportunity to follow his interest and embark on a career in decontamination. I do like his answer to Question 6!