



In the News May and June 2009

Headlines

Pupils win cash for smoke-free pledge Daily Post (Wales) 16/06/09

Inflation not falling as fast as expected Western Mail, 17/06/09

Call to ban smoking in all cars to protect kids Daily Post (Wales), 17/06/09

Traders fears for future over cig display ban South Wales Evening Post 17/06/09

Shopkeepers' fear on tobacco ad ban Flintshire Evening Leader 17/06/09

Shopkeepers' fear on tobacco ad ban Wrexham Evening Leader , p. 4 , Unattributed, 17/06/09

Proof pipe smoking is really a virtue South Wales Argus 17/06/09

Making smoking on screen 18-rated Daily Post (Wales), 19/06/09

Pledges by pupils win schools prizes South Wales Evening Post , 18/06/09

Crisis-hit smokers refuse to stub out Flintshire Evening Leader , 22/06/09

Pupils top of smoke-free class Brecon & Radnor Express & Powys County Times , 19/06/09

Smokers ignoring hospital ban Flintshire Evening Leader, 26/06/09

Stop smoking session Flintshire Chronicle, 25/06/09

Cadets graduate from North Wales force North Wales Weekly News 25/06/09

The proven way to attain your goal Flintshire Chronicle, 25/06/09

Crackdown on smokers Neath & Port Talbot Guardian, 23/04/09

Women more vulnerable to cancer-causing effects of smoking Western Mail 04/05/09

Tobacco should be out of sight in our shops Western Mail , 04/05/09

Glass half empty? South Wales Evening Post, 04/05/09

Call to get tobacco out of sight in shops Wrexham Evening Leader, 04/05/09

Talking trash South Wales Argus , 05/05/09

Too much hot air is being talked about these gowns South Wales Echo, 08/05/09

Imperial sees its volumes increase Western Mail, 13/05/09

Drivers burned by own actions South Wales Evening Post, 15/05/09

Centuries come and go for pub thriving on the net Western Mail, 18/05/09

Taxi driver fined for smoking cigarette South Wales Echo, 18/05/09

Poster pupils meet Olympic swimmer Tenby Observer , 15/05/09

Elinore makes a splash The County Echo, 15/05/09

Cigarette makers lose court appeal Western Mail , , 23/05/09

Positive thinking Flintshire Evening Leader, 22/05/09

Prizes to be given out to ex-smokers Western Mail , 25/05/09

Positive thinking Flintshire Evening Leader , 29/05/09

Positive Thinking, Wrexham Evening Leader, 29/05/09

Defensive stocks are not always a safe bet Western Mail, 03/06/09

I W@llb@ing Getting the most out of life with Gabrielle Wrexham Evening Leader , 05/06/09

Smoking bill for NHS now GBP5bn a year Wrexham Evening Leader , 09/06/09

Dates for the Diary

5th & 6th October -Collaborate, Communicate, Celebrate: Tobacco Control Conference 09

[Communicate, Collaborate, Celebrate](#) is a two day tobacco control conference that recognizes the importance of working in partnership across diverse agencies, of spreading the tobacco control message and of celebrating successes in reducing prevalence rates.

Please visit the conference website at www.smoking-conference-wales.org.uk to register and/or to submit an abstract. Please note: Closing date for submission of abstracts is 14th July.

7th October – Cessation Master Class

After the overwhelming level of feedback we received from the last Masterclass presented by Associate Professor Renee Bittuon we have been lucky enough to secure a return visit from Renee in October to run another masterclass.

The Masterclass is designed for practitioners with experience in smoking cessation who are looking to further develop their skills, especially with respect to supporting "hard to reach" clients.

Course Details

Date: Wednesday 7th October 2009

Time: 10.00am – 3.00pm

Venue: Mercure Holland House Hotel & Spa

Full details are on line and to download a registration form please visit <http://www.smoking-conference-wales.org.uk/masterclass.php> or call us on 029 2064 1101 and we will send you the details.

This is what participants at the last master class facilitated by Renee had to say:

- *“Best conference or workshop, I have ever attended. ...”*
- *“I thought that Renee was brilliant, her knowledge was inspirational”*
- *“Brilliant speaker –we need her in this Country more!”*
- *“Brilliant, interesting, informative speaker. Very helpful and thought provoking – research based.”*
- *“Very motivating and stimulating, lots of information to contrast our UK policies and practice. This will create a lot of interesting discussion and more reading. Thank you”*
- *“Inspirational ‘mind stretching’ presentation. Stimulated my brain cells to ‘Think outside the box!’ Thank you for a terrific talk.”*
- *“A lot of information –didn’t want to visit the bathroom in case I missed something”.*
- *“This was an excellent and inspiring day, from which I will take away key practises back to my work place. Will come again next year”.*

Thought for the Month: Health Bill

Apologies for missing the newsletter in May – we were a little stretched for resources last month and hence a “*Two For The Price Of One*” effort from us this month!

A contributor to our rather overstretched working conditions at the moment is the Health Bill currently making its way through Parliament. You can see from the media coverage that the tobacco lobby have been quite effective in scaring retailers about the “exorbitant” costs associated with Point of Sale display changes. They have also been working away at MPs to raise concerns about the economic impact on small retailers.

The evidence from other jurisdictions is that implementing “under the counter” or “out of sight” requirements for tobacco sales have not proven to be a crippling cost to small retailers. Additionally, in the UK there is a commitment from the Government to implement cost effective solutions and to phase in the requirements for small retailers after they have been implemented by the large supermarkets. For a comprehensive response to the tobacco industry lobbying tactics please refer to this briefing document “Tobacco Displays at the Point of Sale”

http://www.ash.org.uk/files/documents/ASH_701.pdf.

The beginning of July sees Ireland implement Point of Sale regulations and registration of tobacco retailers. This is great news for Ireland who, once again, are at the forefront of implementing effective tobacco control strategies. In Ireland the new rules on tobacco sales stipulate no advertising or displays of tobacco are permitted in shops; tobacco must be stored out of view; vending machines are banned except in pubs and clubs; and retailers must display signs warning tobacco can only be sold to over 18s. The new laws also require retailers to only use a card of pictures to inform smokers what tobacco they sell.

It is vitally important that we ensure that the pro-tobacco lobby are not the only voices being heard by our MPs. Please do write to your local MPs and press urging support for the measures in the Health Bill. If you require assistance with contacting your local MPs or drafting letters please contact us. A sample letter (with thanks to the Smokefree Action Coalition) is reproduced below and can be obtained from us in electronic format.

Dear Sir,

I am writing as **[define the capacity in which you are writing]** in support of legislation which is currently being voted on in Parliament to remove the display of tobacco in shops and end the sale of tobacco from vending machines.

Smoking is a significant burden to health locally **[include local stats]**

The legislation would put tobacco out of sight and out of reach of children but would not stop adults from smoking. Removing displays would prevent tobacco companies from funding prominent gantries to promote their products. These gantries are often large, colourful and near sweets and crisps, acquiring innocence by association.

The ending of sales from vending machines is a sensible measure to prevent children from buying tobacco without being challenged and would bring the UK in line with much of the rest of Europe.

Some have claimed that this will be a burden on our small shops. These are scare tactics by the tobacco industry and without foundation. The cost of changing the display can be as low as £200 and sales would not decline overnight.

This is a sensible public health measure which would protect our children over time leading to fewer taking up this destructive addiction.