



# Connect



Stay connected



OCTOBER 2024  
ISSUE 147

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Take a tour  
of our networks  
for National  
Inclusion Week

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Innovative sampling  
technique used  
at Hartlepool

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Sunday Saver  
benefits customers  
and net zero

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Supporting local  
with our Community  
Benefit Funds

## MISSION TO GENERATE '10 BY 35'

Matthieu Hue, CEO of EDF Renewables,  
UK and Ireland, shares his plans to build  
10GW of renewable capacity by 2035.





## EDITORS' NOTE

Welcome to our October issue. Our employee networks are a supportive place to share experiences and meet like-minded people. We're thrilled to announce our new series of **Connected podcasts** on eNZO, which celebrates them.

Renewable energy has a huge part to play in reaching our net zero ambitions. Our **Big Interview** is with Matthieu Hue, CEO of EDF Renewables UK and Ireland who shares exciting plans to generate 10GW by 2035.

EDF Renewables UK and Ireland also does amazing work in the **local community**. Fallago Rig and Corriemoillie wind farms have awarded a combined £3.5 million to projects so far, with more to come.

There's a **world-first** at Hartlepool as they use 'trepanning' equipment. Dalkia is doing great work for the NHS with three new **hospital contracts**. And **Sunday Saver** is proving a great success. Why not take part and see how much free electricity you can get on a Sunday?

We love to hear your stories and share them with everyone around the business. Email us your news and pictures at [connect@edfenergy.com](mailto:connect@edfenergy.com).

**JULIA NUTLEY AND KATHY MANSON**  
The Connect team



## MODULAR MEGALIFT AT HINKLEY POINT C

Hinkley Point C's recent 'megalift' of one of its prefabricated fuel building staircases showed the efficiency of modular construction.

The installation of the east staircase of Unit 2's reactor building involved the world's largest crane, Big Carl. A specially-constructed lifting frame hoisted seven separate prefabricated cages, with an estimated weight of more than 87 tonnes.

With the modular technique, large items are built as complete structures and then lifted into position in one go. It means the team can build quicker and create extra production capacity, while reducing the amount of manual handling and installation work.



## READY TO SCORE

Nuclear Operations is gearing up for its second SCORE awards to recognise outstanding performance.

They're based on the SCOREcard framework - Safety, Cash, Operations, Reputation and Employees - with an additional People's Champion award.

Earlier this year, talented teams and individuals were recognised in a glittering celebration for the 2024 awards. We look forward to seeing more people win awards in March next year.

ALL THE DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON eNZO

## LEAN MACHINE

Lean training is a framework of improvement practices to help us to continually develop and be aware of opportunities around us. Lean training can now be accessed within the company.

Martin Mayoh, a Business Improvement Coach in Nuclear Operations, has worked with Lean Competency System (LCS) to provide accredited Lean training companywide, in association with Cardiff University.

The training builds cross-functional skills for leaders and employees that maximise value for the customer and eliminate wasteful activities. It shares our values of respect for people and continuous improvement.



FIND OUT MORE ON eNZO

FIND OUT MORE ON MYLEARNING HUB



## NUCLEAR SERVICES OUTLINES NEW TEAM PURPOSE

Forging the expertise to deliver the UK's nuclear future. That's Nuclear Services' new purpose statement, introduced at last month's summer social by Richard Bradfield, Nuclear Services Managing Director. He underlined how they will use their unique position, excel in delivery, ensure they have expert capability at the right capacity and provide technical conscience and safety leadership to achieve this.



## R&D TEAM DIVERSITY AT THE SERVICE OF STRATEGIC AMBITIONS

UK R&D's 2024-27 ambitions reflect the team's evolving role and set out how they're delivering research and innovation to help Britain achieve net zero. The five priorities for the team include digital innovation for European pressurised reactors (EPRs) like Hinkley Point C, expertise in advanced modular reactors (AMRs), flexibility and storage, grid stability and off-shore wind.

Diversity encourages innovation as it brings in a range of new and exciting ideas and understanding. UK R&D is one of the most diverse teams in the business with employees from over 25 nationalities.



If you want to bring diverse thought to a company, bring diversity to your team.

**PATRICK DUPEYRAT**  
R&D UK DIRECTOR



## POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT ACHIEVED EARLY

The Customers team has a target of 1.5TWh of contracts to be signed by the end of 2025 and is delighted to have achieved this a year and a half early.

A Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is when a business enters into a long-term agreement to buy energy from a new renewable asset at a fixed price, usually for around 10 - 15 years.

A huge amount of work has gone into these contracts across Large Business, PPA, WMS and other areas of the business. Congratulations to all the teams!

## SIZEWELL C WELCOMES GRADUATES AND APPRENTICES

34 new starters have joined the Sizewell C project through the Early Careers programme, which offers young people the chance to experience real-life, on-the-job challenges and learn from industry experts. Graduate Mohammed Alom said, "The Sizewell C team and senior leadership have been excellent in immersing us into the culture at Sizewell C, enabling us to comprehend the magnitude of this project. Meeting my new colleagues was an enjoyable experience and I am looking forward to contributing to this project."



Taking part in Sunday Saver made me think twice about the energy we use as a family at peak times. You get a daily update in your online Energy Hub that tells you how you did the evening before and if you're on target for free energy.



**STEVE REDFORD,**  
ENERGY AND EV COMMUNICATIONS LEAD



# SUNDAY SAVINGS



After successful employee and customer trials, Sunday Saver is being rolled out to customers.

**Callum Morgan, Enterprise Planning Lead,** tells us all about it.

Sunday Saver encourages smart meter customers to move their electricity usage away from peak hours. In our latest trial, 98% of customers told us they'd made a conscious effort to change their behaviour.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each month we ask customers to shift their 4-7pm weekday consumption to times when there's less demand on the grid. In return, customers can earn free electricity on a Sunday. The amount varies and is dependent upon how much electricity was shifted: they can earn either 4, 8, 12 or 16 hours of free electricity a week.

 **FIND OUT MORE ON**  
[EDFENERGY.COM](https://www.edfenergy.com)

### WHERE DID THE IDEA COME FROM?

Inspired by the success of [Beat the Peak](#), we want to reward customers for making a positive change to their behaviour. We considered providing bill credits or vouchers to customers, but after crunching the numbers we landed on free electricity.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

We've had two successful trials and the next step is to focus on scaling the product, which will be supported by some great PR and brand activity over the next few months. As always, we'll be using customer feedback to keep improving the product.



# POWERING UP A RENEWABLE FUTURE

THE BIG INTERVIEW

There's a hive of activity at EDF Renewables UK and Ireland. CEO **Matthieu Hue** shares some of his highlights.

**Tell us a bit about yourself - what do you like to do outside of work?**

I love spending time with my wife and children, who are aged 8 and 6. I also enjoy cooking and exercising. A typical Sunday morning would start with homemade pancakes followed by a swim or a run. To anyone who likes swimming, I highly recommend the Tooting Bec Lido, the largest outdoor pool in the UK, it's absolutely fabulous!

**What are your priorities for EDF Renewables in the UK and Ireland?**

Our focus is on continuing to build a competitive business and an organisation engaged on delivering high and sustainable growth. Today we operate close to 2GW of generation and storage assets. Our strategy is to reach 10GW of safely developed operating assets by 2035. We have significantly expanded and diversified our portfolio in recent years and we now have over 10GW of projects in development across offshore wind, onshore wind, solar and storage. We can be confident that we'll deliver our 10GW objective but cannot underestimate the major challenges we're facing, particularly in relation to the demands on grid, supply chain, and skilled labour.

**How do you work with the EDF's other 'families' in the UK to help Britain achieve net zero?**

Since our creation in 2008, both EDF Renewables in France and EDF here in the UK have been key to our success. Being part of the EDF family in the UK and working together with a shared purpose is a source of enormous value, inspiration

and pride. The work with the Customers team on corporate PPAs and the optimisation of battery storage and industrial and commercial solar rooftop installations are great examples of collaboration. We also have effective existing and new collaborations with R&D UK, Dalkia and Nuclear Operations. The shared work on data centres is another example of how working together can help set us apart from our competitors.

**Tell us about your role as co-chairperson of the new Onshore Wind Industry Taskforce.**

The taskforce is focused on accelerating onshore wind in the UK and we want to double the installed capacity to 30GW between 2030-35. The taskforce will make policy recommendations to tackle the challenges we face in increasing onshore wind to make a greater contribution to net zero without increasing the cost to customers. It's a great opportunity to be co-chair alongside the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Miliband. We hope to have developed our policy recommendations by the start of 2025.



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We have the technologies to contribute towards net zero and make a real difference. This is a big motivator.

**How have we benefitted from the Government's decision to increase the Contract for Difference (CfD) budget by £530 million to just under £1.6 billion?**

The CfD allows renewables to be deployed at an affordable price, which is good news for everybody. More than 9GW of projects secured a fixed inflation price indexed for 15 years.

This is a strong signal that the UK is serious about meeting its net zero objectives and supporting growth in renewables. We're pleased that two of our projects were among those successful in this round; a 400MW Longfield solar farm in Lincolnshire and a 80MW Heathland wind farm in South Lanarkshire.

**How do you think EDF Renewables will work with the newly formed Great British Energy (GBE)?**

It is still too early to know exactly how we will work with GBE but we expect that it will be on owned community projects, supporting investment in floating offshore wind and the allocation of new offshore wind leases, where a partnership with the Crown Estate was recently announced.

**What major projects do you have coming up?**

All our projects matter to us whether they are in development, under construction or fully operational. Many of our projects are either already under construction or are close to starting. For example, the 100MW Stranoch onshore wind project, the 448MW Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind, the Tye Lane and Bloys Grove

solar projects (both 140 MW), 250 MW battery storage projects at Braintree, Indian Queens, Sundon, Breadbury and Tye Lane, and a [private wire](#) extended to the Oxford SuperHub.

There are also two standout Irish projects. Codling will be the largest offshore wind farm in Ireland and is a flagship project for us. We submitted the planning application for the 1400MW project last month which was a huge milestone. We've also recently secured a 75MW contract for TDC Community Solar Park in County Roscommon.

**What are the most exciting innovations in renewable energy right now?**

Innovation has been critical in reducing our costs and will continue to help us make renewables and storage more affordable. To give a sense of progress, our first offshore project at Teesside used 2.3MW wind turbines whilst Codling will have turbines of at least 15MW.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is already bringing great innovation to our industry. For example, we use it to assess damage to wind blades and solar panels faster and with much greater accuracy. The impact of AI on innovation in renewables will be tremendous.



**What keeps you motivated and passionate about renewable energy?**

What's not to be excited about? We have the technologies to contribute towards net zero and make a real difference. This is a big motivator. The relationships we develop with communities across the country are also very inspiring and it's great to see how we're making such a positive contribution at both a local, national and global level.



# DALKIA SUPPORTS THE NHS TO PROVIDE FIRST-CLASS CARE

The team has won prestigious hospital contracts to create energy efficient and state-of-the-art hospital buildings.



## TRAFFORD HOSPITAL

In partnership with Manchester Foundation Trust, Dalkia will design an £18.9m green transformation project at Trafford Hospital, the birthplace of the NHS. It will become the UK's first retrofitted zero carbon in-patient hospital.

Dalkia's design will include replacing the hospital's ageing steam energy infrastructure with a low temperature heat network using heat pump technology to boost overall energy efficiency.

Mark Cubbon, Group Chief Executive of Manchester University Foundation Trust, said: "Trafford Hospital has an incredible heritage, and we are incredibly proud that it will once again be making history by helping to preserve the planet for future generations."



We're delighted to have secured this project to help create new facilities that will provide support to patients and benefit the wider community.



**TONY WALKER**  
DALKIA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

## COUNTESS OF CHESTER HOSPITAL

Dalkia has been awarded a £25m contract to deliver the mechanical, electrical, and public health services for the new Women's and Children's Building at the Countess of Chester Hospital.

This project, secured through the Procure23 Framework, will see the construction of a new facility providing maternity, neonatal, paediatric and gynaecology services.

## SUNDERLAND EYE INFIRMARY

The Dalkia team is also undertaking a mechanical and electrical installation at Sunderland Eye Infirmary. The project will use an ambient loop air source heat pump system and photovoltaic array to improve the building's energy efficiency. Funded by Sunderland City Council, the project has a contract value of £21.6m.



## MENTAL HEALTH MONEY MILESTONE

Teams across Dalkia have raised an incredible £100,000 for Mind and Scottish Action for Mental Health (SAMH).

Individuals take on many different challenges to raise money, from cycling 100 miles through the beautiful Surrey countryside and the iconic London to Paris route, to the Three Peaks Challenge.

The donation helps Mind and SAMH to:

- 1 Handle 12,000 Mind Infoline calls
- 2 Keep its online community support, Side by Side, open for 15 weeks
- 3 Fund 45 days of suicide prevention research



Dalkia's commitment to the mental health cause, along with their enthusiasm to get involved in the partnership and determination to make a difference has been incredibly inspiring.

**FIONA LEWIS, SENIOR MANAGER - WORKPLACE ENGAGEMENT AT SAMH**





# BENEFITTING THE COMMUNITY AND THE PLANET

EDF Renewables' projects across the UK benefit both the local community and the local environment. We shine a spotlight on two wind farms doing just that.

### CORRIEMOILLIE WIND FARM, SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

The 17-turbine, 47.7MW development in the Scottish Highlands has been operating since 2017. Its annual community benefit fund is available throughout the lifetime of the project and aims to support activities for people living in council areas local to the wind farm. More than £1.5 million has been awarded to communities around the site so far.

“

One of the best things about my job is to hear the positive impact these funds have made to those who live near our developments. As a business, we should take great pride in the fact that our impact extends beyond our climate and net zero aspirations.



**KERRY MACPHEE**  
COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER



From archaeology projects in Contin, to a zero-waste shop in Strathpeffer - the fund has helped to support a range of worthwhile community projects.

Ullapool Community Trust received £3,000 towards hospitality skills training for local residents. The Trust's project coordinator said: "To have the support of the EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Fund was invaluable. We could add to the pool of trained people and benefit the whole community."

### FALLAGO RIG WIND FARM, SCOTTISH BORDERS

Last month the Scottish onshore wind farm hit a milestone by awarding over £2 million to 164 projects across the Scottish Borders since it was established 11 years ago. The 48-turbine project generates funds for initiatives to enhance the region's built, natural and cultural environment. Grants from the fund are often match-funded, with an extra £10 raised for every £1.



### KEY PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- 1 Tweed Foundation's Atlantic salmon smolt tracking project
- 2 Torwoodlee Tower conservation
- 3 Union Chain Bridge, the world's oldest vehicular suspension bridge
- 4 Restoration of Sir Walter Scott's Pavilion and Furnace House
- 5 Modernisation of the Jim Clark Motor Museum in Duns
- 6 Border Ice Rink for new, more eco-friendly ice-making equipment
- 7 Emergency recovery fund during the pandemic



# CONNECT TO OUR



# NETWORKS

To recognise **National Inclusion Week** from 23-29 September, we've launched a new podcast series focusing on our employee networks and how they help everyone to be their best and most authentic self.

Our networks offer support and guidance, raise awareness and work towards positive change, while being a great place to share your own experiences.



CHECK OUT OUR NEW PODCASTS FEATURING REPRESENTATIVES FROM ACROSS OUR NETWORKS. HAVE A LISTEN ON **eNZO**.



The [Cancer Support Network \(CSN\)](#) is for everyone impacted by cancer, whether you've had a recent diagnosis, are going through treatment or are supporting a loved one. It has monthly meetings and one-to-one support, as well as webinars, resources and toolkits.



The [Carers and Accessibility Network](#) understands and supports colleagues who identify as having a disability, non-visible condition and/or carer responsibilities. They work to raise awareness and remove barriers, while offering disability support and advice.



The [Environmental Professionals Network](#) provides a link between company activities and individual professional development within the environmental sector. The network aims to share, learn, mentor and support development of its members.



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More and more employees are joining our network. It gives them reassurance that they're not alone. We're always there for each other and we're here for you.

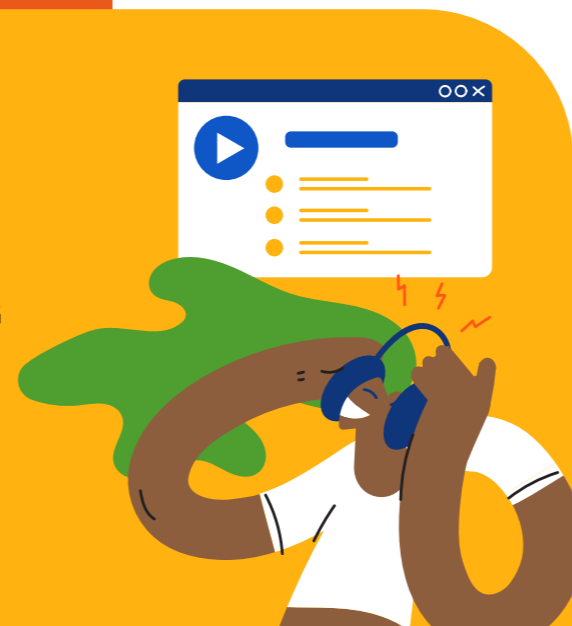
**VIVIENNE HILL**  
CANCER SUPPORT NETWORK



The [Forces Support Network](#) brings together former Armed Services personnel to help maximise the contribution that their military experience brings to the company. It also works to position our company as an employer of choice for Service leavers.



The [LGBTQ+ Supporters Network](#) raises awareness of the issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community, provides guidance and promotes inclusion. It aims to increase visibility of LGBTQ+ issues and helps our LGBTQ+ people access relevant mental health services.



## YP Network

Young Professionals Network

The [Young Professionals Network](#) aims to promote the views of young people and organise activities they are passionate about. It hosts speaker sessions, site tours, charity events, STEM outreach, and lots more, not to mention the YPN annual conference.



## WorkingPARENT Network

It can be challenging and isolating when you're going through a unique experience as a parent. Sometimes you just want people to experience it with.

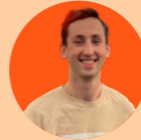


**MAGGIE BROWN**  
WORKING PARENTS NETWORK

The [Working Parents Network](#) provides a forum for anyone interested in issues relating to working parents or families – both inside and outside of work. It aims to bring a community together around a host of issues by delivering events and webinars and acts as a champion for improved policies and support for working parents across EDF.

“

Our values are to lead, learn and connect. We have a lot of young professionals at the start their career who want to connect with other young professionals in other parts of the business.



**HARRY O'CONNOR,**  
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

## Mental Health Supporters Network

The [Mental Health Supporters Network](#) is a varied and inclusive group of people who are interested in mental health support. Members can learn, share and positively influence the company's approach towards mental health. It hosts learning and awareness events, local support groups and creates visible role models. As part of the network, the EDF Man Club, is a safe space for men to discuss their mental health.



The [Women's Network's](#) purpose is to accelerate gender parity by supporting the recruitment, retention and development of female talent. With over 1200 members, it hosts a comprehensive programme of virtual events, an annual conference and a Women's Development Programme, as well as a number of local and specialised initiatives such as a book club and a Women+ in Data and Tech Group.



The [Neurodiversity Network](#) recognises and celebrates diversity of thought. It aims to improve knowledge around neuro-divergence, provide a supportive forum for our neuro-divergent colleagues and those of us with neuro-divergent peers, friends or families. It also works to build conscious inclusion with a neurodiversity lens. The network hosts monthly meetings and is open to anyone who'd like to learn more or get involved.

“

We help create a more inclusive and supportive environment where people feel more empowered to speak out and challenge any behaviours or practices they're seeing which might be discriminatory.



**NAHIDA USHA**  
RACE NETWORK



The [RACE Network](#) supports people of minority ethnicities by understanding their diverse needs, promoting equity and inclusive leadership. It works to drive parity across the business, while celebrating cultural diversity and challenging conscious and unconscious barriers.



FIND OUT MORE AT [BLACKHISTORYMONTH.ORG.UK](https://BLACKHISTORYMONTH.ORG.UK)



## SHARING THE STORIES OF BLACK HISTORY IN BRITAIN

October is Black History Month, a time to celebrate the important impact of black heritage and culture in the UK. This year's theme is Reclaiming Narratives, to shine a brighter light on the stories of our black Britons and correct historical inaccuracies.

The [RACE Network](#) will host a panel discussion with a group of members discussing their experiences and favourite cultural recipes.

The Network is also planning a new five-week career development programme to help members' discover their strengths and set personal goals.



# SUCCESSFUL WORLD-FIRST AT HARTLEPOOL

Innovative new control rod channel ‘trepanning’ equipment used at the power station last month.

“

Safely starting this process is not only a massive milestone for our outage but also for the lifetime aspirations of all generating AGRs.

**MARK LEES**  
**HARTLEPOOL**  
**STATION DIRECTOR**



Newly developed equipment safely extracted the first ever graphite sample from a control rod channel in a milestone moment for the station and our nuclear fleet. The process, called ‘trepanning’, involves cutting a small, circular hole into a component. In Hartlepool, holes are being made in control rod channels to extract cylindrical samples for analysis.

This success follows a £9 million fleet investment; a team of 100 engineers, technicians and professionals; and 18 months of design, development, manufacture, assembly and testing. Control rod channels have been trepanned in the past, but not with an interstitial brick control rod channel which is much narrower. Mark Lees, Hartlepool Station Director, said: “Let’s not underestimate the gravity of this. New kit, new process and new people taking highly irradiated graphite samples remotely through a hole the size of grapefruit, many metres below the pile-cap.”

Hartlepool power station aims to get 72 trepanning samples from across eight channels on Unit 2, and to then deploy trepanning at three other reactors at Heysham and Hartlepool during 2025.

 FIND OUT MORE ON eNZO



# MICROGRID MAKES MEGA-DIFFERENCE

For the first time in the US, a microgrid has been developed to maintain critical power by using renewables and storage alone.



Vermont, USA

The Stafford Hill Solar Project in Vermont, USA, is a microgrid which combines solar power with battery storage. In operation since 2014, the project was designed to improve resiliency and safety of supply in the local community, also powering an emergency shelter at Rutland High School.

To do this the microgrid disconnects from the larger electricity grid during power outages. It then supplies energy from the solar panels and battery until grid power is restored. This is the first time that this has been achieved by only using renewables and storage in the USA.

Stafford Hill is the first solar microgrid funded by the US Department of Energy and uses land on historic landfill sites which are unsuitable for other developments.

Engineered and built by EDF Renewables for its owner Green Mountain Power, the project consists of 7,700 solar panels, which are capable of generating more than 2.51MW of electricity, and includes more than 4MW of battery storage. It received a Project of Distinction Award from PV America in 2015.

 FIND OUT MORE ON  
EDF-RE.COM

“

I'm really excited about this project. It reduces carbon, reduces waste and will have a positive impact on our community.

**CATHERINE JONES,**  
SUSTAINABILITY  
AND NET ZERO LEAD IN  
NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

 WATCH A VIDEO AND  
FIND OUT MORE ON ENZO



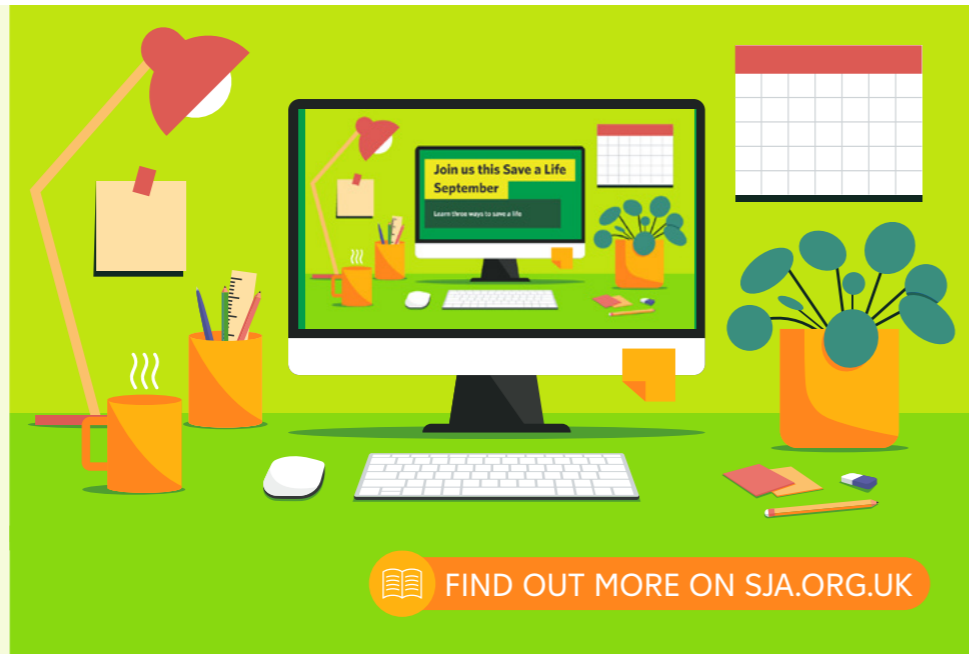
### FROM SANDWICHES AND SALADS - NOTHING GOES TO WASTE

We've partnered with Equans, one of our food suppliers, to reduce food waste around our nuclear power stations. By using the Olio platform, canteen staff can now redistribute unsold food items to members of the local community to be collected the same day. After a successful trial at Heysham, it's being rolled out across the rest of the nuclear fleet as part of our ongoing [Sustainability in Action initiative](#).

### TRAINED TO SAVE LIVES

Gloucester Business Park hosted an essential lifesaving skills training session as part of St John Ambulance 'Save a Life September' campaign.

By conducting First Aid awareness activities in community locations, as many people as possible can be equipped with the essential lifesaving skills needed so they can act quickly in an emergency.



 FIND OUT MORE ON [SJA.ORG.UK](http://SJA.ORG.UK)

# AUTUMNAL QUIZ



The leaves are beginning to fall and the days are getting cooler. Get out your cosy jumpers and hot drinks - autumn has arrived! Test your knowledge of the season with our quiz.

3. Which chemical makes tree leaves green, but starts to break down in autumn with less sunlight?

- A. Cerium
- B. Curium
- C. Chlorophyll

4. In which month is the Autumn Equinox in the Northern Hemisphere, when the nights start to be longer than the days?

- A. August
- B. September
- C. October

5. What type of tree loses its leaves in autumn?

- A. Deciduous
- B. Coniferous
- C. Evergreen

6. From which language does the word autumn originate?

- A. French
- B. Spanish
- C. Dutch

7. In Greek Mythology, who was kidnapped by Hades which caused her mother Demeter, goddess of the harvest, to mourn, beginning the autumn season?

- A. Phaedra
- B. Persephone
- C. Phyllis

8. What does the word psithurism mean?

- A. The falling of leaves in autumn
- B. Leaves changing colour
- C. A rustling or whispering sound, such as leaves in the wind

9. What causes some leaves to turn a vibrant red in autumn?

- A. Increased concentration of sugar in tree sap
- B. Specific type of chlorophyll
- C. Lack of sunlight

10. What was autumn called in Britain until 1500?

- A. Fall
- B. Back End
- C. Harvest





## 2024 PHOTO COMPETITION

**Craig Hinchliffe**, an Assistant team Leader at Heysham, is a runner up with this super photo of a sunrise hike up Kala Patthar, a 5600m mountain in the Himalayas overlooking Mount Everest. Being outdoors, exploring new places and meeting new people is great for managing your mental health, which is our theme for this year's photo competition.

See more of our 2024 photo competition entries on [eNZO](#).