

LEAPP Alliance UK Update

LEAPP Alliance (Lead Exposure and Poisoning Prevention Alliance) is a joint initiative of the Lead Containing Materials Association, Lead In The Water and Lead Safe World UK.

The mission of the alliance is to use our collective knowledge, experience and skill to promote lead poisoning prevention in the UK. If you want to do something about lead toxicity in the UK, please endorse us. You can find their website here: <https://leappalliance.org.uk/>

Here's their update.

LEAPP ALLIANCE UK UPDATE



To: All Supporters of the LEAPP Alliance

This is one of my occasional updates on activities of the LEAPP Alliance. Firstly, some appeals for help...

- Do you live in a council home, or other social housing, and think you may have lead hazards?. I am working with a journalist from the Financial Times called Laura Hughes who is interested in writing a piece on this. She would like some personal stories, but these can be anonymous if you wish. Please let me know if you can help.
- There are many potential opportunities to try to progress lead poisoning prevention and we are letting a lot pass by. Please let me know if you are willing and able to help in any way – you choose what way, of course.
- If you would like to get more involved with setting our priorities, I would like to invite you to join our steering group. We meet for an hour once every two months. Please let me know if you would like to be told about the next meeting which will be in May.

LEAD *Action* NEWS

Some things that have been happening include:

Supporters

We now have over 90 supporters with a good mix of householders, researchers, service providers and advocates.

Spokespeople

I am attempting to grow our capability by having spokespersons on different topics. The idea is that I can field enquiries to others. So far we have the following:

- Child health – Erik Millstone
- Toys and baby foods – Becky Farr-Barron
- Lead-safe DIY – Tim Pye

If you feel you could be the spokesperson on any of the following topics, or others, please let me know:

- Drinking water
- Soil
- Construction
- AVGAS
- Food
- Ceramics, glasses and other foodware
- Cosmetics
- Traditional medicine
- Jewellery
- Wildlife
- Health impacts of lead toxicity

LEAD Action NEWS

UK Lead Safe Mamas

A private Facebook group called [UK Lead Safe Mamas](#) is active and growing rapidly - now with 110 members. You don't have to be a "mama" to join!

Media

BBC Morning Live presented two good films about lead hazards from old paint on 8th February. Clips from the programme can be found [here](#). Or on [BBC IPlayer](#) from timings 11:56 to 19:29 and 29:25 to 36:08. The films feature LEAPP Alliance supporters Suzanne How, Paulina Spencer, Caroline Taylor, Ludovica Gazze and Hesaan Sheridan. The anchor man said they had a lot of emails.

Lee Crawford has published a succinct and persuasive article for the Social Media Foundation called "[The need for the UK to address lead poisoning](#)". I recommend sharing it.

I recorded a podcast for the [ENDS Report](#) ("*The UK's No 1 source of intelligence for environmental professionals*"). It is not published yet.

Laura Hughes, Financial Times, is working on articles about lead in the food chain and lead hazards in council homes. I am providing information.

Governmental

Health and Social Care Committee

Our submission to their prevention enquiry is now online. However, there have been 300 submissions with no transparency on prioritisation. Their report on "[Prevention in health and social care: healthy places](#)" does not mention lead hazards.

Healthy Homes and Building All Party Parliamentary Group

I asked a meeting of the HHB APPG, on 24th Jan, why their "[Healthy Homes Manifesto](#)" does not mention lead hazards. The chair, Lord Best, responded with "another one for the list". I also gave him a copy of our manifesto.

Manchester and Liverpool Westminster Group

I attended a meeting of this group titled "[Unlocking Great North West Homes and Places](#)". This was not really useful, but I did talk to Lord Stunnell who is a member of the HHB APPG and gave him one of our leaflets.

National Screening Committee

The NSC review of their [recommendation against screening children](#) was due in 2021/22. I have asked why this has not been done. Their answer was recruitment and procurement difficulties. They added that it is now "part of a wider programme of work" and there is no confirmed date.

UK Health Security Agency

I have corresponded with Dr Edward Wynne-Evans, Director, Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards, in the UKHSA. He acknowledges the importance of preventing lead exposure, but the plans are to gather more evidence and to map the health and policy landscape before doing anything. I have asked why they cannot take some quick, cheap simple actions that do no more than amplify existing messages. I have not yet received an answer.

I also attended a meeting of the Lead Exposure, Public Health Interventions and Surveillance (LEPHIS) steering group where priorities were voted on. I had suggested some more before the meeting, as requested, but these were not added to the list. I expressed frustration at the lack of practical action to prevent lead poisoning.

ECLIPS

The funding application for the Elevated Childhood Lead Interagency Prevalence Study (ECLIPS) pilot has been submitted. A decision is expected by June. If approved, it is expected that the pilot will take 2 years starting in October and be followed by a study which will estimate the prevalence of elevated blood lead in UK children.

Water

Sampling protocols

We have had further discussion with Nicholas Adjei, Deputy Chief Inspector, Drinking Water Inspectorate about recommending that water companies ask customers to leave their taps overnight before testing for lead. He says that “the Inspectorate does not consider there is a level of evidence to support a change in the position”. We wonder what evidence they are basing their 30 minute stagnation time position on. Our plan is to make contact with Colin Hayes who has published research into this.

Scottish Government

The new [Repairing Standard: Statutory guidance for landlords](#) requires that properties “should be free of lead pipes”. Landlords are required to comply from 1 March 2024. I am not aware of any plan to extend this to the rest of the UK.

Communications

Painting and Decorating Association

We have submitted over 50 suggested changes to a draft leaflet prepared by Shepherd PR for the PDA.

Royal Society of Chemistry

An article called “Why we still need to worry about lead” is being prepared. A number of revisions were identified at a recent meeting and I now need to apply them to the draft.

Manifesto and Leaflets

I just thought I would mention that our leaflets and manifesto, that several of you contributed to, continue to be used. The leaflets are on their third reprint! Thank you for your input to these.

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Social Media

I continue to post on Facebook, Linked In and Twitter.

DIY Testing

I have been doing some comparative amateur evaluation of two newish lead detection methods.

Scitus Swabs

These seem to work as well as 3M LeadCheck including not giving false positives on copper, tungsten, or even in air, as found with some water activated swabs.

I have also been sent a prototype for testing for lead in soil.

Lumetallix

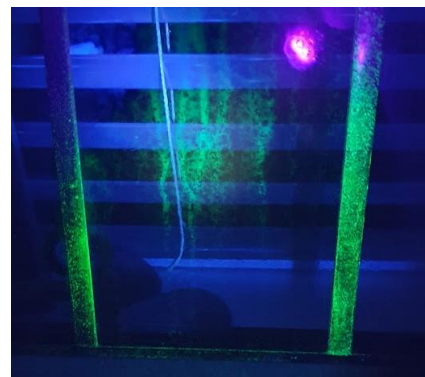
This kit utilises a reaction, used in the production of solar panels, where methyl ammonium bromide reacts with lead to form perovskite compounds which luminesce in ultra-violet light. I will be sharing a report on what I have found.

What is disturbing, and also found by the developers, is that many beer glasses that are coated with lead paint. For example:



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The method also shows up how contamination spreads from leaded windows to the glass in between.



Individuals

I try to help individuals where I can. I was also contacted by a team of final year students at Manchester who are looking at lead contaminated water in schools and heavy metals in industrial waste

Best regards,

Tim Pye, LEAPP Alliance UK
