

History of the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering

The following are some key historical facts about the Chartered Institute.

The Institute was founded in **1906** and incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in **1907** by the National Association of Master Plumbers. Known then as the Institute of Plumbers, its original objectives related to development of both the industrial and technical aspects of the plumbing trade. Membership was restricted to plumbers in business.

In **1925**, what is now the Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors (APHC), was established to take over industrial and commercial aspects leaving the Institute to concentrate on education, training and technical matters.

In **1957**, the Institute's constitution was revised and its title changed to the Institute of Plumbing (IoP). Membership was extended to any individual holding technical qualifications irrespective of their position in the Industry.



In the late **1960's** discussions began between the Institute and the Registered Plumbers Association (RPA) to bring about a merger of the two bodies. The main role of the RPA was to manage the Register of Plumbers (created in **1886**) on behalf of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers - the origins of which date back to **1365**.



The amalgamation of the IoP and RPA took place on 10 January **1970**. The new Institute was charged with the task of further developing technical and educational work; the recognition of qualified plumbing professionals and the pursuit of better standards.

In **1979** the Institute became a registered educational charity in recognition of its work in the public interest. **1986** marked the centenary of the Register of Plumbers, which was started by the Worshipful Company on 21 July **1886** to identify competent and responsible plumbers in the absence of any statutory regulation in the UK - a position which still exists today.

In **2000**, to mark the new millennium, the Institute was granted Arms by the College of Heralds. The motto "Competence and Commitment" aptly describes the Institute's work as a professional body.



At the Institute's AGM on 4 June **2004**, it was announced that corporate members had voted overwhelmingly for a name change. From that point, the Institute's full title changed to the Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering (IPHE). Members believed that the new title better reflects their

scope of work and firmly identifies plumbing and heating as an engineering discipline.

In **2005**, Nigel Watson, a renowned historical writer, produced a new publication for the IPHE - 'Competence and Commitment – an illustrated history of the Institute'. It was launched at a press conference held at City & Guilds headquarters on 8 December **2005**.

The Institute celebrated its centenary in **2006** by holding a special annual conference in Torquay and held a number of events throughout the year to mark this achievement. In the same year the IPHE took the first steps in its quest for a Royal Charter.

On 12 February **2008** the Queen gave the order for the award the Charter of Incorporation to the IPHE. This news was announced at the President's Dinner on 5 March, but the formal change of name did not take place until 1 July **2008**. At that time the Institute became the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering. This achievement was celebrated on 10 July **2008** at the House of Commons at an event called 'Tea on the Terrace'.

