

Region Newsletter

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Intro and Welcome



Welcome to the latest edition of the CIHT North East & Cumbria Region newsletter and my final as Regional Chair. We have had another successful six months, with a packed programme of evening seminars, socials and membership events.

In March we had the pleasure of hosting CIHT President Sue Sharland and Chief Executive

Sue Percy, where we held a day of events aligned to the President's theme for the year: "Intelligent Transport in a Connected World". We were delighted that both also agreed to be on the judging panel for our annual Young Professionals Papers Evening, which is reviewed later in this newsletter.

Our CPD series continued with seminars on the design of the spectacular Queensferry Crossing in January, co-hosted with ICE and IStructE, and Maintaining Transport Structures held at Teesside University in February.

Our social programme has also been well received, with our Annual Quiz attracting over 60 participants and our YPG Socials proving very popular.

We have also been very busy on the education and membership front, recently hosting our annual Transport Careers Event, and a number of student membership seminars at universities across the region.

I am also delighted to announce the launch of our local CIHT Mentoring programme, where candidates can work with a Mentor to support them towards their professional qualifications. Details of how to get involved in this initiative are provided on page three of this newsletter.

Looking forward, our AGM is fast approaching being held on May 18th at the Royal Station Hotel, where we are delighted to welcome Alex Hynes to discuss the New Northern Rail franchise. As part of the AGM, we are also welcoming new members onto our Committee, and I encourage you to come on board and play an active role in the continued growth and success of the CIHT North East and Cumbria region. Interested parties should contact us at: northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk

Another date for your diaries is the 2016 Annual Dinner and Awards Evening, being held on Thursday 20th October at the Assembly Rooms in Newcastle. I am delighted to announce that we are now accepting expressions of interest for our three awards categories. We encourage you to take part.

As this is the final newsletter in my tenure as Regional Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my committee colleagues for their help and guidance over the last 12 months.

A big thank you must also go to the wider membership for your support and involvement in our activities. We have seen a big increase in event attendances and we hope this trend continues over the coming year.

It has been a privilege to serve as the first Chair of the new North East and Cumbria region, and I look forward to supporting my colleagues in building upon this progress, over the next 12 months and beyond.

With best wishes,

Phil Freestone

Email: Phil.Freestone@pbworld.com

Liaison Groups

In order to develop wider visibility of the work of Regional members near the Tees and across Cumbria, we are trying to establish an improved information exchange and dialogue between members in these areas. This will not dilute any work undertaken by the Region as a whole, but seeks to get most out of these areas for members.

Initially we are thinking of setting up an email group that highlights who we are, what we do, and perhaps a statement on some new initiatives and projects.

Trevor Platt (who works by the Tees, lives on the Wear, and supports a team on the Tyne) has agreed to support the coordination of members around the Tees and Ernie Boardman has agreed to support this initiative within Cumbria.

If you would like to participate in these groups, could please email your details to either Trevor Trevor.platt@nicander.co.uk or Ernie office@clemmettgill.fsnet.co.uk

Contacts

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Newsletter and Communications: craig.waller@aecom.com

Branch Website: www.ciht.org.uk/neandc

LinkedIn: search for "CIHT North East and Cumbria Region"

Follow CIHT on Twitter: @CIHTUK



@CIHTUK

Your CIHT: News and Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

The first AGM of the Region will be held at **6:00pm** on **Wednesday 18th May**, at The Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle.



The Region are seeking nominations for the Committee for the 2016/2017 session. We are looking for current members who can commit their time to help with the organisation and running of local events. All members are welcome to nominate themselves for Committee and we would be particularly interested to hear from contractors and members in local authorities.

To find out more about the roles of the Committee members, please visit the Who's Who section of the Region webpage or to register your interest please contact: northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk

All members are welcome along to the AGM, not just those standing for Committee. Following the formal AGM proceedings, there will be a buffet and a talk by Alex Hynes, Managing Director of Northern, the new franchise operator of rail services across the north of England to 2025. Alex will give an overview of the scale of transformation to trains, services and infrastructure required to deliver the vision of the Northern Powerhouse whilst still running a commercially viable business.

Preceding this will be the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the CIHT North East & Cumbria Region which we encourage all members to attend. The AGM will review the successful first year of the Region and seek to build on this with an exciting, relevant programme of events and activities, through to May 2017. The new Chair and key Committee members will also be elected.

To confirm your place at the event, please also contact: northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk

Cumbria Liaison Group

The Cumbria Liaison Group (CLG) is seeking a new Secretary following the Region's AGM on 18th May. Cumbria based members are invited to offer their services.

The role of Secretary provides a single point of contact for Cumbria based members and prospective new members in the west of the Region. The Secretary works in close cooperation with the North East & Cumbria Regional Committee to host local events and meetings, and encourage greater involvement in CIHT affairs.

To discuss the matter further or to register your interest please contact: office@clemmettgill.fsnet.co.uk

Council Update

March Meeting

Tony Robinson (Regional Representative to Council)

CIHT Council is made up of elected ordinary members and regional representatives. They act as the decision making bodies for the CIHT, delivering the strategy, business plans and outputs on behalf of the membership. Council generally meets four times per year.

Highlights from the March meeting included a presentation from David Quarmbay of the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund, on their report "Major Roads for the Future" - a long-term vision of the nature, role and development of a major road network in England, to 2040. Since commencing two years ago, the study has faced an ever changing political landscape, including the devolution agenda, but is now in its final straight with an emerging core proposal that is undergoing extensive consultation over the next few months. The final report is due to be published in October. Further information can be found on their website at: www.futureroadsengland.org

An update was provided on the consultation process for the CIHT Business Plan for 2017-22, including key issues raised and their outcome. Draft layouts, graphics and visuals were circulated for comment and feedback. The new Business Plan is due to be published in the autumn.

At the Membership & Skills Strategy Board, which is one of a number of technical panels individual Council members sit on, we had an update on membership statistics and current recruitment/retention strategies. There was further progress made on delivering a CIHT Annual Recruitment Fair, tentatively scheduled for early 2017, the launch of CIHT careers materials, and development of the Transport Planning Technician Trailblazer Apprenticeship. Finally, an update on evaluating the Mentor Match Me pilot in London was given, with a view to rolling the initiative out across the regions.

Your CIHT: News and Upcoming Events

Local Mentoring Service

The CIHT North East and Cumbria region is now offering a Mentor service to help candidates prepare for their **Professional Reviews**. Support is available across each of the following qualification routes:

- Transport Planning Professional (TPP);
- Chartered Engineer (CEng);
- Incorporated Engineer (IEng); or
- Engineering Technician (EngTech).

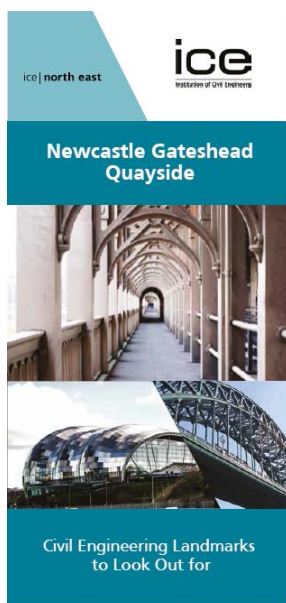
To find out more about working with a Mentor, please either register at www.CIHT.MentorMatch.Me or send us an email at northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk.

We will soon be arranging a Mentee drop in session where Professional Review candidates can come along to have their portfolio reviewed, ask questions or simply find out more about the Review process. Details for the drop-in session will be announced shortly via our regular Regional Mailshots.

For those that have completed the CIHT's Mentor Training, you can register as a mentor at www.CIHT.MentorMatch.Me

For those that would like to undertake CIHT's Mentor Training, please contact us at northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk for dates of our next Training Sessions.

Newcastle Gateshead Quayside Leaflet



The updated version of the Newcastle Gateshead Quayside Leaflet is the latest in a series of local heritage leaflets promoted by ICE and supported by CIHT in the region to make the public aware of the rich heritage we have in the region; particularly in the Transport, Bridges and Railways fields.

The leaflet has been well received and is available in various outlets such as libraries, information centres and hotels in the region. Further subjects are being looked at for the future and it is hoped that CIHT will continue to support this ongoing venture.

Apprentice Grade

Join CIHT for FREE

If you are an apprentice working in the Highways and Transportation sector, you can join CIHT as an Apprentice Member by completing the online form below. Apprentice membership is FREE.

Why choose to do an apprenticeship?

Earn – Learn – Develop – Progress

An apprenticeship is a great way of:

- learning new skills
- gaining valuable work experience
- getting qualified
- while earning

Why choose highways and transportation?

Transport is part of everyone's lives; it connects communities and supports the economy. The highways and transportation industry offers an interesting and exciting range of opportunities that allow you to get involved in all aspects of the building, maintenance, operation, design and planning of transport networks.

Why join CIHT?

CIHT is an organisation with a membership of 13,000 professionals working in highways & transportation worldwide.

Through CIHT you can

- join in with local branch events and meet other members who can advise you on how to develop your career
- read CIHT's magazine Transportation Professional in the members area of the website and find out about the latest developments in the industry
- gain professional registration as an Engineering Technician (EngTech) with the Engineering Council
- continue your professional development and enhance your career prospects.

How to join

CIHT offers FREE membership to apprentices specialising in highways and transportation related occupations.

You can apply for Apprenticeship Membership by simply completing the online application form found on the CIHT website:

<http://www.ciht.org.uk/en/membership/individual-membership/membership-grades/apprentice.cfm>

Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony

CIHT North East & Cumbria Awards

The Region's Annual Awards are now into their third year and have proved a huge success since launching in 2014. They celebrate the very best the region can offer across the highways and transportation sector and are open to everyone: members and non-members, small and large organisations, public and private sector. Expressions of Interest are now open until **30th June**, for our three Awards:

Young Professional Award sponsored by



Awarded to a young person, aged 35 years and under, on 1st September 2016, who has made a significant and exceptional contribution to the development of highways and transportation in the North East & Cumbria Region.

Previous winners are Claire Whitfield, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff (2015) and Wendy Thompson, Balfour Beatty (2014)

Sustainability Project of the Year Award

Sponsorship Available

Awarded to projects, products, policy initiatives, research or strategies delivered by the highways and transportation industry that demonstrate a contribution to sustainable working and living in the North East & Cumbria, or by people/teams working in the Region.

Previous winners are Tyne & Wear local authorities for the Better Bus Project (2015), and Dig-a-Crusher highway materials recycling, from Newcastle City Council (2014).

Project of the Year Award

Sponsorship Available

Awarded as a mark of recognition where innovation, imaginative concepts, excellence and best practice within the highways and transportation sector have contributed to an outstanding project, small or large, where a marked positive benefit has been achieved in the North East & Cumbria, or by people/teams working in the Region.

Previous winners are Central Gateway, Newcastle City Council (2015) and St. John's Crossing, Balfour Beatty (2014)

Along with our previous winners, we have welcomed entries from all sectors in the industry, including:



Each of our Awards is available for sponsorship. Please visit our dedicated page on the CIHT North East & Cumbria website at: <http://www.ciht.org.uk/en/branches/uk-branches/north-east--cumbria/events/dinner-and-awards.cfm> for further details.

Expressions of Interest should be received by **30th June** with Closing Date for Entries on **2nd September**. Shortlisted entries will be announced in mid September, with the winners of each category announced at the North East & Cumbria Dinner on the 20th October, at the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle upon Tyne.

CIHT North East & Cumbria 2016 Dinner

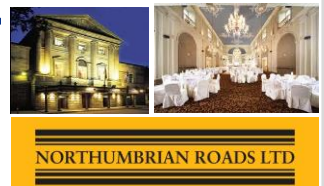
We are very pleased to announce that, following the success of last year, Northumbrian Roads Ltd has once again agreed to exclusively sponsor the 2016 CIHT North East & Cumbria Dinner. The Region extends its thanks to Chris Dancer and the team at Northumbrian Roads, and looks forward to a memorable evening at the Assembly Rooms, in October.

Our Dinner and Awards webpage will be updated regularly throughout the summer and early autumn with the latest updates on the Awards submissions, sponsorship announcements and details of the Dinner itself.

Please feel free to contact us at northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk if you have any queries regarding the Awards or Dinner.



Assembly Rooms
Newcastle upon Tyne
20th October 2016



NORTHUMBRIAN ROADS LTD

CIHT Bulletin: Reviews of Recent Events

Road Safety Seminar, November 2015

John Barrell

Around 40 people attended a very good day at County Hall, Durham, to hear a range of national and local speakers on various aspects of 'Developments in Road Safety'.

The morning started with Lindsay McConnell (AECOM), winner of the SoRSA Young Professional Presentation for 2015, deliver an interesting analysis of the relationship between gender and young child casualties. Alan Kennedy of Roads Safety GB then delivered an insight into their expanding role in professional road safety education.

John Barrell of TRL, and branch Treasurer, delivered a talk on the implications of HD19/15 for local authorities and the developing role of the International Road Federation in Road Safety Audit internationally. This was followed by Richard Owen from Road Safety Analysis illustrating ways of integrating data sources to understand better the causes and locations of collisions. Sandra Brown from Highways England then spoke about the development of new guidance for cyclists on the strategic road network.

After lunch David Davies of PACTS talked about the changes in road safety nationally since 2010 and the concern of the potential increase in casualty rates. Fiona Robertson from Green Welly Stop then presented a motorcyclists perspective of the road network. The event concluded with a group presentation from AECOM and Grontmij on the use of BIM models in major scheme design and the opportunities that this presented for safety audit, using the A1 upgrade between Leeming and Barton as an active case study.

Queensferry Crossing, January 2016

John Jeffrey



The talk on the new Queensferry Crossing was given by Lawrence Shackman, the project manager for Transport Scotland. Lawrence has been involved from the very early days of the project and covered the concept, design options and various proposals and took us through to the final design and the work behind the arrival at the preferred bidder, preliminary stages of construction and bringing us up to date with the current stage of the project at January 2016.

He gave an enthralling presentation on the tremendous amount of work which has gone into the project from all parties and went into great detail on some of the very interesting and innovative engineering solutions which were arrived at on almost a day by day basis.

This was a joint meeting with ICE and IStructE and it is hoped that a further talk will be given upon completion of the project.

Maintaining Transport Structures, February 2016

John Jeffrey

The talk on the Maintenance of Highway structures was given by Graham Yates, Engineering Technical Manager (Building & Structures) for Nexus.

Graham looked at various aspects of what is needed to keep our infrastructure up to date and focussed on the asset management of the various types of structure from Bridges to culverts and retaining walls.

Various testing techniques were briefly highlighted, but it would be useful to have further presentations encompassing more detail and opportunities for discussion in the future.

This presentation was of particular interest to our younger members who were grateful to gain an insight in such procedures.

Annual Quiz, February 2016

John Barrell

The CIHT North East & Cumbria Region Annual Quiz was held this year on 24th February at the Tyneside Irish Centre and was attended by over 60 people in 12 teams. The overall winners were a team from Newcastle City Council, 'Smart Cards', closely followed by 'Respect for Your Elders' and 'Will Give it Some Thought'.

Eight closely contested rounds of general knowledge topics (some a little bit cryptic) with ongoing Dingbats and Picture rounds produced a very enjoyable evening. Our thanks again goes to Gordon Wanless for organising such a testing and enjoyable event. Hope to see you all again next year.

Young Professionals Group Update

The annual YPG Comedy Social took place in April at the Stand in Newcastle. This event, which was hosted once again in co-operation with TPS, was a great opportunity for our younger members to get together and network with colleagues while enjoying some high-class stand-up comedy in a friendly atmosphere.

On Wednesday the 27th of April, the annual Transport Careers Event was held at Newcastle University. The main objective of this seminar was to share some work life experiences with students of relevant subjects and inform them about potential career paths they could take in the future. As part of the event, various CIHT members gave presentations about their own career paths and their day to day work. Amongst the topics covered were consultancy, Intelligent Transport Systems, engineering in transportation, road safety and academia. The event was concluded with a Q&A / networking session, as well as a short presentation about the CIHT and its activities within the region.

If you are interested in joining the YPG committee, have any suggestions about future events, or any questions about the YPG group, please contact Vincent.Muller@Jacobs.com

CIHT Bulletin: Reviews of Recent Events

Presidential Visit and Young Professionals' Papers Evening, March 2016

Phil Freestone

On 9th March we were delighted to welcome CIHT President Sue Sharland and Chief Executive Sue Percy to the region. A day of activities were planned aligning with the President's theme for the year: 'Intelligent Transport in a Connected World'.

Following a welcome reception held at Newcastle University, our first port of call was a seminar at the Transport Operations Research Group (TORG). Myriam Neaimeh presented findings from Real World Electric Vehicle Trials which provided a very interesting and comprehensive update on recent research on many aspects of the uptake of electric vehicles. Her presentation reviewed perception and barriers to using EVs, how technology has extended the average range of these vehicles, charging options (including networks of Rapid Charging Points) and the potential impact on UK carbon emissions with the increasing EV fleet size.

Our next visit was to the North East Combined Authority (NECA) Urban Traffic Management Centre (UTMC). Ray King outlined the history, capability and operation of the UTMC and showed us the operations room. He also described their involvement in an EU project called COMPASS4D, and their focus looking at energy-efficient intersections.

Next on the agenda was a roundtable discussion with Mark Wilson, Head of Transport Policy for NECA and North East LEP, and David Bartlett from the NEXUS Passenger Transport Executive. Discussion points included the NECA 20 year Transport Manifesto for the north east, the opportunities as Transport for North (TfN) develops and CIHT engagement with shaping the debate and development of the vision for transport and delivery. David provided an update on the new smart ticketing introduced on the Newcastle metro (the POP card) and how smart ticketing might develop across TfN. We also talked about other innovations in the region with extensions to the UTMC, the focus on EV and development of charging infrastructure.

The visit culminated with the annual CIHT Young Professionals Papers Evening held at Northern Stage. The five finalists were:

- Vincent Muller, Jacobs – Airport Surface Access Modelling
- Michael Dodds, WSP | PB – Durham LSTF: Local Motion
- James Macpherson, AECOM – Twickenham Station Pedestrian Modelling
- Bradley Sparkes, Northumbria University, Highway Asset Management for Extreme Events
- Peter Conlan, Milestone Transport Planning – The Economic Efficiency of Traffic Management Systems

The standard of presentations was extremely high which made the judges' task difficult to choose the winner. The eventual winner was **Michael Dodds** for his presentation on Durham's LSTF Project: Local Motion'.



Papers Evening winner Michael Dodds (centre) with CIHT President Sue Sharland (left) and NE&C Chairman Phil Freestone (right).

Membership

Our membership is always growing and the table on the right shows the latest membership figures.

Whilst the majority of the membership is based in Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, and Durham, there is a healthy spread of members right across the North East and Cumbria Region.

The 'other' category includes members based outside our region but who are attached to the North East and Cumbria Region.

Area	Members	Member %
Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham	439	66%
Teesside and Darlington	97	15%
Cumbria	110	17%
Other	15	2%
Total	661	100%

A Day in the Life of...

Darran Kitchener



Job title: Associate Director, Milestone Transport Planning.

Role on Committee: Member of the NE&C Annual Dinner Delivery and Sponsorship Group.

Terms of reference: I am responsible for developing the business within the North of England and Scotland. Effectively that takes me anywhere from Birmingham to Inverness! Milestone is a specialist Transport Planning consultancy that focuses on delivering a comprehensive service to private and public sector Clients. Our core business revolves around providing highways and transport advice through the planning process, but we also offer a 'one-stop' solution to our Clients for all aspects of transport planning, highways scheme design, environmental planning, development implementation and operation.

Suitability for the job: I am an engineer "at heart" with a BEng (hons) degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering from Leeds University and as well as being a Member of the CIHT, I'm also a Chartered Member of the CILT. Over the past 15 years I have been working mostly in the transport consultancy sector and all of it based in the North of England, despite being an Essex-boy originally.

Where based: I head up our new office which has just opened in the Gateshead International Business Centre, but am regularly out and about meeting Clients and travelling to our other office in Guildford.

Transport to work: To get to the office it's a car, I'm afraid. In my defence, once I'm here I walk or use public transport as much as possible, but my commute would take twice as long by any other method. At least my current car (a boring diesel) is much more efficient than the 15mpg I got from my previous car – a 90's Saab turbo!

Top of in-tray: Agreeing the masterplan layout and highway infrastructure work for a 3,000 home, new school and neighbourhood centre development to the west of Newcastle.

Best aspects of job: Getting out and meeting people. Whether that be new or potential Clients, or students through the course I run at Newcastle University, I like the social aspect of the job as much as the technical side of things. I've found that if you can build a relationship with people, you can better understand their wants and needs in a project, allowing you to provide a more bespoke service that gives them a much better end product.

Worst aspect: We're only a 'small' consultancy, totalling about 15 people at present, so while that means we are all focused on delivering exactly what the Client wants, it can be difficult juggling the demands of numerous projects all at the same time. Still, that's part of what makes the job fun too.

What is the most important transport issue today?: In the North as a whole I think it has to be the lack of connectivity to the rest of the country. Whether that be physical links such as the A1 / A1(M) and mainline rail services, or cognitive links regarding how the rest of the country sees us. We need to work on both if we are to continue to grow and regenerate as a region.

The recent investment in the A1 around Newcastle should be lauded, as should the improvements to the A19 which are due to start. Also the recent announcement of further rail services on the ECML are pushing the region forward, but they won't help unless we can encourage people to trade with us here in the North.

Both Cumbria and the North East can be seen as so remote to the rest of the country that many people I speak to (in London, in particular) think that "The North" stops at the Leeds/Manchester corridor and there's nothing from there to the central belt of Scotland. We need to work to change this perception or else we will never capitalise on the investment in transport projects around the region. Those infrastructure projects I've mentioned help in two ways, through adding desperately needed capacity on the transport network as a whole, but also through raising the profile of the area. The national media coverage of Nissan's investment, Sunderland's new bridge, the A1 western bypass upgrade, and dualling north of Newcastle, and a potential new power station on the Cumbrian coast not only serve to show that the region is investing, but also that we have the transport infrastructure, local workforce and unrivalled enthusiasm to offer to the wider country.

It's that connectivity, physical and mental, that we need to keep working hard to provide.

How do you relax?: I'm a keen runner and participate in as many events as my time allows – unfortunately (or should that be fortunately?) most of my time is taken up by the business and spending time with my family. That said, running round after two kids can be tiring enough, and you can often find us walking or cycling along the Derwent Walk, the route of the old Consett to Sunderland railway. I also enjoy music and always have something playing in the background, be it in the car, whilst out training, or even in the office.

Ambition: To see the Gateshead office, and therefore the business as a whole, continue to grow. We have an ambitious plan to double our staff numbers by the end of 2016, which we are well on course for at the moment – just need to keep those projects coming in now.