

# Region Newsletter

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## Introduction and Welcome



Hello and welcome to the first CIHT North East and Cumbria newsletter of 2020.

I'm writing this in strange times when the majority of you reading this will have made the transition to working from home, switching your catch up with colleagues at the coffee point, to dialling into a virtual meeting from your dining table.

We're doing the same for our regional committee meetings and at our next virtual meeting our priority will be to discuss how we can help our local members and add value to your membership, whilst you are working from home.

We've had to put our usual event schedule on hold, including the Young Professional's Papers Evening which was due to take place at the Northern Stage, Newcastle at the end of March. This year our five shortlisted speakers are from Newcastle City Council, WSP, AECOM, Jacobs and Newcastle University and we hope all five can still compete at the event at a rearranged date later this year.

Our regional AGM is due to take place on 14th May and our current intention is to see if we can hold this online, rather than postpone the event. We will keep you posted on arrangements so that as many members as possible can join. If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee, please email the branch (contact details below) for further details and to submit your nomination in advance of the AGM.

In the meantime, if you have any suggestions about what we could be doing for local members working remotely, please email the region at [northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk](mailto:northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk). Also check out the CIHT website which has lots of online resources for members.

Hopefully see you (in person) at an event again soon.

Best wishes,  
Nicola  
Chair, North East & Cumbria CIHT Branch  
[Nicola.hill@arup.com](mailto:Nicola.hill@arup.com)

## Annual General Meeting – Get Involved!

On May 14<sup>th</sup> we intend to hold our Annual General Meeting for the upcoming year. This was planned to be held at the Royal Station Hotel and be supported by a technical seminar from Graham Grant, Newcastle City Council on Air Quality. However, due to current circumstances, this will be held remotely via a web-based conferencing platform, details of which should hopefully be announced soon. Rest assured we will be keeping our members informed of our intentions.

Every year at our Annual General Meeting, our committee for the previous year is dissolved, and nominations invited for members to stand for the following twelve months.

So who can join the North East & Cumbria committee? The simple answer is any member who's enthusiastic, has ideas and wants to get involved. We are always on the lookout for new members to keep the fresh. It is expected that several Committee positions will be available for the 2020/2021 year including:

- Vice Chair
- Roles within our Programme and Events Subgroup
- Roles within our regional subgroups including Teesside and Cumbria

Involvement in the committee counts towards your Continuing Professional Development and can lead, in the longer term, to participating in national CIHT activities. Please [email us](#) if interested.



*The 2019/20 Chair, Vice Chair and Immediate Past Chair ready for another year!*

### Contacts

General queries: [northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk](mailto:northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk)

Branch Website: [www.ciht.org.uk/neandc](http://www.ciht.org.uk/neandc)

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

Follow CIHT on Twitter: @CIHTUK

## Your CIHT: AGM 2019

*Region continues to deliver and welcomes new faces*  
**Jonathan Barlow**

May 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 not only marked the end of the calendar year for the NE&C but also the departure of two long standing members of the Committee from their positions.

Held at the rather grand Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle we had a strong turnout of over 35 members that were a mixture of new and old faces all of whom we were grateful to see turned out despite (depending on your local footballing allegiance!) an important playoff game kicking off later that evening.

Kicking off proceedings Metro Development Director Neil Blagburn gave a detailed, light-hearted and humorous presentation regarding the development and procurement of the new Metro Fleet.

Members clearly engaged with the topic and spent almost as long as the presentation itself asking Neil detailed questions about the project and its implication on both the current and potential rail networks within the North East.

Following a spot of lunch formal AGM proceedings commenced and included the final remarks of our outgoing Chairman Darran Kitchener. Reflecting on his tenure the Region has over the course of the last two years gone from strength to strength. In addition to maintaining a balanced budget over the two years the Region has gone above and beyond our standard program and delivered;

- A Future Transport Technologies event receiving praise from as far as Cornwall;
- 18 'Introduction to' Seminars- Accommodating over 250 participants;
- An increasing local membership- with 750 registered members;
- Established a presence at Northumbria University, and;
- Hosting two increasingly popular Annual Dinners.

Darran looked slightly relieved whilst handing over the chain of office to incoming chair Nicola Hill who plans to build upon his achievements and put her own mark on the Institute over the next two years. Despite ongoing issues with communications centrally, we will continue to keep members updated as best we can locally.

The AGM also marked the end of John Barrell's tenure as Secretary of the NE&C. In preparing for his departure some of the younger members of the Committee were surprised to hear he is only the third Secretary we've ever had! John has served diligently for 7 of the 76 years of the CIHT's existence in the area with a unique sense of humour and clear passion for the Institute which has been second to none during his involvement with us. We hope you enjoy your gifts as you celebrate your retirement from us!

Finally, on the cusp of what will prove to be another busy year, the Committee would once again like to thank everyone who has contributed to and attended our events during 2018/2019. We continue to plan for the future and always welcome your contributions no matter how small.



**Neil Blagburn (left) giving a candid and detailed seminar to a large AGM Audience whilst Nicola Hill (right) gives a gift to departing long standing Secretary John Barrell.**

## Your CIHT: Annual Dinner 2019

A huge thank you to all those who attended the region's Annual Dinner & Awards on the 17th October 2019 at the Crowne Plaza in Newcastle. The Dinner, sponsored by Capita, was hosted by BBC travel presenter Gilly Hope and we were joined at the event by the CIHT Vice President Deborah Sims, and local magician Andy Larmouth, who entertained guests before and during the event. It was tremendous to see the wealth of people who represent our industry in the North East & Cumbria, every day. We also raised a fantastic £1,050 on the evening, which was shared equally across our three nominated charities for this year: Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Lupus UK and the UK Sepsis Trust.

At the Dinner we announced the winners in our Annual Awards categories. A huge congratulations to each of our winners and to each of our sponsors. We look forward to hosting another successful event in the winter of 2020 celebrating another year of hard work and dedication within the industry.

	Sponsored by	Winner
Main Sponsor	<b>CAPITA</b>	-
Young Professional of the Year Award	<b>AECOM</b>	Deji Olaoye, Amey Consulting
Apprentice of the Year Award	<b>ARUP</b>	Sophie Dowson, Waterman Aspen
Project of the Year Award	<b>M M</b> MOTT MACDONALD	A1(M) J59-60 Concrete Barrier & Drainage scheme, Carnell Group & Amey Consulting
Innovation Project of the Year	<b>Tracsis</b> plc	OverheadSafe, Carnell Group
Sustainability Project of the Year Award	<b>pwlc</b> projects	Broadway roundabout to Brunton Lane Cycle Scheme, Newcastle City Council
Special Award for Outstanding Contribution to Highways and Transportation in the Region		A19-A1058 Coast Road Junction Improvement Scheme, John Sisk & Son Ltd



Members celebrating the successful conclusion of another year (left) and Sophie Dawson and colleagues from Waterman Aspen alongside our host, Gilly Hope, and CIHT VP Deborah Sims (right). Images by Gavin Forster.

## Your CIHT: News and Upcoming Events

### *Cooking up success at the Annual Qualifications Event*

On a blisteringly hot day in July 2019 the Region held its Annual Qualifications Event in Newcastle. An important part of the social calendar this event is designed to guide young Engineers and Transport Planners towards becoming either accredited or chartered in the coming years. Interestingly and in a remarkable turn of events at this year's event we had one candidate submit his EngTech application earlier that day!

The event itself is often an informal affair and this year was no different. Every candidate who attends is at a different stage of their professional careers. The advice and knowledge that they require is naturally tailored to their individual needs and it's a credit to the NE&C's volunteer Mentors that they take the time away from their families, and in the context of today their air conditioning units!

We're particularly thankful to Sue Stevens, CIHT Director of Education and Membership, who travelled up from Britannia Walk and we look forwards to seeing her and colleagues again at future events.

For those who are unable to attend this annual event and would like to have a small presentation to their colleagues in, for example, their offices, feel free to contact us and we'll see what we can do.

Alternatively, to request a Mentor or if you have detailed questions about individual applications feel free to contact [education@ciht.org.uk](mailto:education@ciht.org.uk) and they'll see what they can do.

### *Longstanding Mentor Stuart Kay giving sound advice to prospective candidates*



### *Gateshead Pub provides ideal place to retain a title*

February 2020 saw us undertake one of our favourite activities within the Calendar year- the Annual Quiz.

Our venue this year was south of the water at the well-connected and (if we're writing a Travel Plan) highly sustainable Station East. The decision was partly prompted by the great quiz food shortage of 2019 and the need to expand the ever growing numbers of teams from across the NE&C who take part every year.

It also gave us the perfect opportunity to see if the reigning champions Gateshead Council could still maintain their title on home soil. As it happened the decision to change the venue turned out to be a fantastic one - our hosts were frankly excellent with no job too small, the drinks were cracking and rather than a food shortage we ended up with Sausage Roll mountains at the end of the night. As you can imagine this catered for all of our packed lunches the following day.

Immediate Past Chair Darran Kitchener stepped up to the plate once again to be our resident quizmaster for the evening and despite making it particularly tricky for them this year Gateshead Council managed to retain their title for another year, albeit with a much reduced margin. Can their reign be topped next year?

As you can imagine with hospitality like this we've immediately rebooked the venue for similar dates/times next year and we'll be taking bookings for this much later in the year.

### **2020 Pub Quiz Results**

Position	Team Name	Total
1	Gateshead Council	68
2	Flex Success (Arup)	67
3	NTC	64
4=	Milestone Transport Planning	61
4=	Ae come here often (Aecom)	61
6	TR Hoes (Capita)	55
7	Mott MacDonald	53
8=	WSP	51
8=	HMRC Traffic (MHC Traffic)	51
10	Cream Crackered (Jacobs)	46

## Your CIHT: News and Upcoming Events

### ***Committee works hard to promote the Industry across the NE&C's Universities***

Throughout the CIHT's Calendar year many of our committee members continue to take time from their daily routines or extracurricular activities in order to promote the Industry and Institute to students across the University sector.

Most recently YPG members Dagmara and Erin assisted longstanding member of the Committee, Roger Elphick, at Newcastle University's ACCESS Event. Typically occurring in February, however rescheduled to October to coincide with the opening of the most recent academic year.

In addition to this, Committee members Jonathan Barlow and Paul McKenna attended Northumbria University's Engineering and Technology Careers Fair in November.

In addition to the 'standard' engineering and transportation graduates keen to understand what a role it is always particularly pleasing to chat to graduates from across the University spectrum who upon seeing what can be achieved in this sector they're keen to sign up for more information and potentially become undergraduate members of the CIHT.

These activities are both scheduled and ongoing across many of the Universities in the North East and Cumbria. If you fancy taking part we're always willing to take on another pair of hands!

### **New Tees Crossing Seminar, Teesside University, Middlesbrough**

Over 80 people attended our annual joint lecture with ICE and IStructE at Teesside University in January.

This year Andy Johnson from Arup outlined the challenges and lessons learnt in developing options for a new highway crossing of the River Tees to ease congestion on the existing A19 Tees Viaduct.

Andy gave an insight into the strategic and economic need for a New Tees Crossing and the early development work undertaken by Tees valley Combined Authority to assess the potential "long list" of options which have been considered.

He also outlined the development of the scheme as it advanced through Highways England's Project Control Framework Stages 1 & 2 to allow the project team to arrive at a preferred option. Andy outlined innovative methods used in the public consultation exercise which included a virtual consultation event that had over 5,000 hits.

Thanks to Andy for presenting, and to Teesside University for hosting the event. We look forward to hosting more events in the south of the region later this year.



***Paul McKenna engaging with potential future Highways and Transport Professionals***

***A packed lecture hall at Teesside University - one of many as part of our joint seminar program***

## Your CIHT: News and Upcoming Events

### *NE&C Football League goes from strength to strength*

The inaugural CIHT football league has been a great success over the last few months, thanks mainly to the respective team captains who have organised games in amongst their busy workloads. As you can see from the league table, Stantec are the early front runners hoping to go the entire season unbeaten. Capita are hot on their heels and only recently ended their winning streak following a narrow loss to South Tyneside Council. After a slow start, Northumberland County Council recently found their groove against a mighty Mott MacDonald (a welcome recent arrival to the league). The likes of Wardell Armstrong, AECOM and Fairhurst are proving plucky opponents, so they just need to put a run together to climb that table. As for Waterman Aspen, with Andrew Bruce at the helm, they could give those in the top echelons a run for their money.

Keep an eye out for the end of season tournament which will be announced soon with prizes including 'player of the tournament', 'tournament winner' and 'league winners' followed by some well earned drinks in town. If you'd like to join the tournament or the league format contact Paul McKenna on [paul.mckenna@capita.com](mailto:paul.mckenna@capita.com)

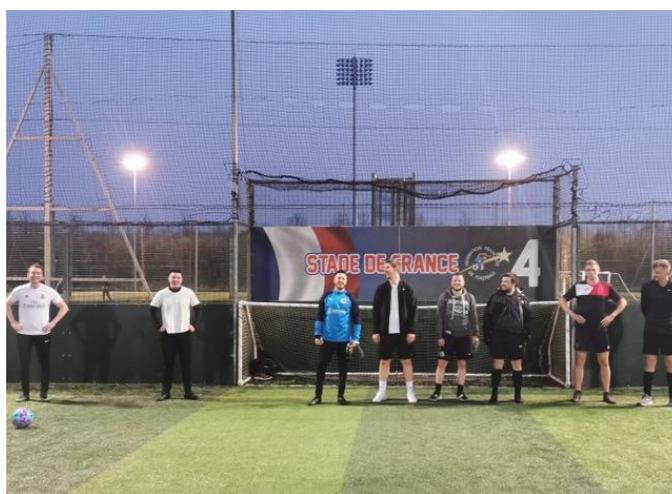


Table	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
STANTEC	6	6	0	0	70	20	50	18
CAPITA DESIGN	5	4	0	1	69	28	41	12
SOUTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL	3	2	0	1	27	25	2	6
WATERMAN ASPEN	2	1	0	1	20	17	3	3
NCC	3	1	0	2	26	48	-22	3
HIGHWAYS ENGLAND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MOTT MACDONALD	1	0	0	1	11	12	-1	0
JBA CONSULTING	1	0	0	1	3	10	-7	0
AECOM	2	0	0	2	10	19	-9	0
CAPITA CONSTRUCTION	1	0	0	1	3	12	-9	0
WARDELL ARMSTRONG	2	0	0	2	5	28	-23	0
FAIRHURST	2	0	0	2	6	31	-25	0

*Top Right, the Final Game before the seasons temporary postponement – Northumberland County Council versus Mott Macdonald and above the most recent League table.*

## A Day in the Life of...

### Name

Benjamin Pollard

### Title

Graduate Transport Planner at Milestone Transport Planning.

### Terms of Reference

I have just over a years' experience working as a Transport Planner. In that time, I have worked on a wide variety of schemes, from large strategic residential developments, to a new seaport facility, quarries and school extensions.

### Suitability for the job

I have a MSc in Transport Planning from Newcastle University and a BA in Geography from Northumbria University. Following my degrees, I began working as a Graduate Transport Planner at Milestone Transport Planning.

### Where based

I'm based at Gateshead International Business Centre, close to the Hilton Hotel which is ideal when I need to head across the river into Newcastle.

### Transport to work

Most of the time I get the metro, although sometimes I do walk if the weather is good!



### Top of in tray

I currently have a few projects that I'm working which vary by type, scale and input required. This includes preparing a Transport Assessment, Travel Plan and an Environmental Statement to accompany forthcoming planning applications. I am also fulfilling some tasks required as part of my role as a Travel Plan Coordinator for a residential development.

### Best aspects of the job

I like the variety of the work I'm involved in which means every day and project I'm involved with is different. Its also great to see developments built out which I have worked on.

### Worst aspects of the job

When deadlines are short, it can be challenging. But this can be overcome with a cup of coffee!

### Most pressing issue

The most pressing issue for me is to ensure that I provide a high-quality service to our clientele.

### How do you relax?

When I'm not at work or volunteering with the CIHT I like to travel, a lot! I mainly like to do city breaks in Europe, but you can also find me hiking in the Lake District.

### Ambition

At the moment, my ambition includes developing my skills as a Transport Planner and working towards the CTPP qualification.

## Membership Update

Our membership fluctuates throughout the year, but 695 members is a healthy number for the North East and Cumbria Region as we head into the 2020/2021 programme. The Member grade accounts for half the total membership, with students comprising 34%, reflecting our strong relationships that we have with STEM links and universities across the region. We have also made progress on encouraging young professionals and apprentices to join CIHT. In addition, our members are concentrated around Newcastle Upon Tyne with the second highest concentration within Teesside and Carlisle. This reflects generally the higher levels of population and concentration of key local public and private sector employers within the North East and Cumbria Region.

As always, please encourage your colleagues and new starters to register for CIHT membership and, where necessary, to promote their grades. Information about the various membership grades, and the benefits of membership can be found [here](#).

Membership Grade	No of Members 2018	No. Of members 2020	Percentage	Percentage Change
Fellow	39	69	10%	77%
Member	364	371	53%	2%
Associate	8	2	0%	-75%
Graduate	11	11	2%	0%
Apprentice	18	3	0%	-83%
Student	260	239	34%	-8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-1%</b>

Area	Total
Carlisle	64
County Durham	50
Darlington	28
Lancaster	26
New castle upon Tyne	411
Sunderland	26
Teesside	78
None	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>695</b>

## Events Programme for 2020/2021

Events planned through summer 2020 are listed below, along with some in the planning stages. As always, these are subject to change at short notice, especially due to the nature of the Covid-19 pandemic, so please check our [Events Page](#) for regular updates.

### Full Programme of Events

Topic	Event type	Venue	Date
AGM / Speaker	AGM	AGM will be held remotely, via an online platform	14/05/2020
Project Management to Avoid or Resolve Disputes	Breakfast seminar	Durham County Cricket Club	19/05/2020
Letters of Intent - The Pitfalls	Breakfast seminar	Durham County Cricket Club	16/06/2020
FTT Event	Conference	Hilton, Gateshead	25/06/2020
Testos Site Visit	Site Visit	Testos	23/07/2020
Presidential Visit - topic/site visit TBC	Lunchtime seminar	Arup Newcastle	15/10/2020
Annual Dinner & Awards	Awards	Crown Plaza, Newcastle	15/10/2020
Quiz	Networking	Station East, Gateshead	24/02/2021

### Events in Planning

Topic	Event type	Date	Status
Transport modelling	Lunchtime seminar	Summer 2020	Pending
Data Collection Techniques / Surveys	Lunchtime seminar	Summer 2020	Pending
Road Safety	Lunchtime seminar	TBC	Pending
VR Young Professionals seminar	Evening seminar	Postponed	Pending
Electric Vehicle Charging Networks; A LA Perspective	Evening seminar	Autumn 2020	Pending
Impact of Air Quality Interventions in AQMAs	Evening seminar	Spring 2021	Pending

As the CIHT NE&C Committee is ran wholly by volunteers we are reliant on what can be provided and is entirely subject to projects that individuals are aware of. If members have any ideas on events they would like to see in the programme, or would like to host an event, please contact us and we'll look to include you as future programs.

**In addition to this, and during the current pandemic, we are looking into how we can offer further online content and virtual events. Stay tuned to our social media channels to find out more in due course!**