

# CIHT Northern Ireland 2020 Newsletter

## Message from CIHT NI Chairman

Welcome to the December 2020 edition of our newsletter.

It is a huge honour to be your Chairman during these exciting (albeit perilous) times.

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has had a massive impact on our industry, along with almost every other. But unlike some others, our industry has an integral part to play in rebuilding the economy, addressing regional inequalities and achieving the net zero greenhouse gas emissions target.



Dr Kaine Lynch FCIHT – CIHT NI Chairman

We are confronting a period that has sent shockwaves through how we navigate our

lives, and instinctively we question whether these changes will endure after the crisis.

Whilst some changes may endure, it is unlikely that the current circumstances will end our desire or need to travel within and between urban areas. The data also shows that vehicle journeys are already well on their way to a return to pre-coronavirus levels. We must therefore invest in enhancements to our key strategic networks.

The pandemic has, however, provided a glimpse of what a cleaner, greener and more sustainable transport future could look like. Road transport accounts for a fifth of UK's greenhouse gas emission and significant investment is required in active travel as well as in new technology and additional charging infrastructure in order to shift this curve. Population growth and an aging population will also place greater demands on our existing networks in terms of capacity and accessibility.

It is therefore clear that now, more than ever, we need your talents and innovative minds to overcome some of society's biggest challenges. Our Institution is perfectly placed to influence the form of the solutions and I look forward to working with you all in seizing the opportunity amongst this uncertainty.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter and will be able to join us at some of our exciting events planned for 2021.

Have a very merry Christmas.

Dr Kaine Lynch FCIHT

## Young Professionals Group

Within CIHT NI we have a Young Professionals Group (YPG) who are an integral part of our committee and who represent our young professionals who have less than 10 years' industry experience. Each year, the YPG organises a number of social events including a visit to a local highways and transportation project.

If you are interested in getting involved in the YPG, please get in touch with Kris Campbell at [regions@CIHT.org.uk](mailto:regions@CIHT.org.uk).

## YPG - Apprentices

CIHT NI supports members at all grades throughout their career, Jack Scott provides some insight to his experience as he begins his career as an apprentice for WSP.

*"I'm Jack Scott and I am an apprentice at WSP within the highways team in Belfast, I am currently studying for my foundation degree at South West College on their Higher Level Apprenticeship course. This is a two year course after which I hope to progress to a Bachelors degree and has a range of modules such as soils, surveying and highways infrastructure.*

*Throughout my A Levels I had always believed an apprenticeship in Engineering was the perfect choice for myself as I would have the opportunity to gain essential relevant experience whilst studying for my degree. I have found my work as an apprentice to be incredibly enjoyable as I am able to work on a wide range of projects from small to large scale along with a mixture of design and site based work. My apprenticeship has also enabled me to become skilled on a wide range of software used in the engineering industry which wouldn't be possible with a*

*conventional degree. As an apprentice at WSP I feel valued as suggestions I have had are now put in place and used throughout the team. Another advantage my apprenticeship has provided me with is great experience in working with others and being a part of a team to get results.*



Jack Scott

*I have recently progressed to the final stage of the Apprentice of the Year competition, organised by CIHT. This was a great experience and I would encourage all apprentices to get involved. The competition began with a short submission which was then followed by an online interview. I was initially daunted by this process however with the support of my team in WSP I was able to gain lots of feedback which contributed to the quality of my presentation. This was also a great opportunity to showcase what I have learnt so far within my apprenticeship and reflect on my experiences whilst further building my interview and communication skills."*

Jack Scott - WSP

## CIHT Apprentice of the Year 2019

CIHT NI was thrilled to announce that Jack Smith, an apprentice engineer from Arup in Belfast won the CIHT Apprentice of the Year in 2019. Jack shares his experience below,

*“My name is Jack Smith and I am an apprentice engineer within the rail team in Belfast Arup. I joined Arup in August 2018 after completing my A-Levels at Regent House School in Newtownards. I always had a fascination with Civil Engineering and the construction of large structures. I have always preferred learning by doing and that is what appealed to me most about an apprenticeship. I loved the idea of being able to gain experience by learning it on the job, no university fees and earning a salary at the same time. What’s not to love about it?”*

*I started my career off with geotechnics where I spent a year gaining both office and site experience. I worked on a variety of interesting projects such as Giants Park, Bruce Street redevelopment and Bombardier C-Series expansion. After a year, I then furthered my experience and learning by moving to the rail team. I have since spent my time working on a range of different projects for Translink and Network Rail. During this time I was also completing my Level 3 in Construction and the Built Environment, which I have since passed and moved on to the HLA in Civil Engineering with Belfast Met.*

*In 2019 I submitted my application for CIHT Apprentice of the Year with my success in both geotechnics and railway projects and displayed the knowledge and experience I had gained in just a year of being an apprentice. I was successful in my presentation and became the winner of the CIHT Apprentice of the Year 2019 which has been a massive honour and achievement for myself as I was up against a series of fantastic candidates across a variety of sectors.*



Jack Smith – 2019 CIHT Apprentice of the Year

*I aim to continue on the engineering route, working towards my Masters degree in Civil Engineer and hoping on achieving my Chartership in the future.”*

*Jack Smith - Arup*

### **Are you thinking about getting professionally qualified?**

Within CIHT NI, we are very supportive of our members becoming professionally qualified at all levels within their career. We have a number of local Professional Reviewers and Mentors who can provide advice and guidance locally. Each year, we run a lunchtime seminar on professional qualifications which is attended by the CIHT Training Manager.

Did you know that we offer routes to the following professional qualifications:

- Chartered Engineer (CEng)
- Transport Planning Professional (TPP)
- Incorporated Engineer (IEng)
- Engineering Technician (EngTech)
- Certificate of Competency (Society of Road Safety Auditors)



Sometimes the hardest thing is getting started so get in touch if you are thinking about it. If we have enough candidates at professional review, we can quite often hold the reviews in Northern Ireland so that they are convenient and easy for you to get to.

### **Would you support CIHT members as a Mentor or Professional Reviewer?**

Are you already professionally qualified and advanced in your career? Would you be interested in becoming a local Mentor or a Professional Reviewer for CIHT? Please get in touch at any time if you would like any further details on how to do this.

### **CIHT advises on Ministerial Advisory Panel**

In late August, CIHT NI Region was invited by the Minister of Infrastructure, Ms Nicola Mallon, to provide a representative for the Ministerial Advisory Panel on Infrastructure.

The Minister set up the Panel with the purpose of considering how an Infrastructure Commission for Northern Ireland might support more effectively the long term planning and development of Infrastructure here in NI.

The Panel were also asked to develop a proposal on the specific role and value of a Commission, and how it might be established and operate. Freddie Patterson agreed to be the CIHT representative on the Panel which, over an intense 6 week period, consulted widely and engaged with a large number of organisations and individuals in Northern Ireland, GB, the ROI and Internationally to look at best practice and what model of Commission would be most suitable and effective for Northern Ireland.

The report was issued to the Minister on 2 October 2020 and can be viewed [here](#).

Freddie was delighted to represent the CIHT on such a prestigious and important piece of work which could have a major impact on the future provision of infrastructure throughout the NI region.

## Congratulations Bert Bailie BEM

Bert Bailie, a past Chair of NI Region and currently our NI our Delegate to Council, was recently awarded BEM at the 2020 Queen's birthday Honours for services to people with disabilities and older people in Northern Ireland.



Bert Bailie BEM FCIHT

Shortly after retiring from Roads Service in 2007, Bert became involved with the work of [Imtac](#) (the Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee) whose role is to advise Government and others in Northern Ireland on issues that affect the mobility of older people and disabled people.

Bert was recently appointed Chair of Imtac and also volunteers with Parkinson's UK and fundraises for Marie Curie.

## Recruitment

CIHT has around 14,000 members working worldwide in the highways and transportation sector.

In Northern Ireland we have approximately 490 members and we are looking to grow even further. As a member of CIHT you will have access to many benefits including networking and social events, CPD opportunities and access to professional qualifications.

We have many grades of membership including apprentice, graduate, associate, member and fellow – further details are found on our membership pages of the CIHT website.

If you are an existing member – have you thought about upgrading your membership grade to reflect your career aspirations?

## Condolences



Tony Rice MCIHT

Tony Rice MCIHT, passed away on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at the age of 82, just one year after the passing of his dear wife Ursula.

Following a time spent in Canada, Tony had spent almost all his career in Northern Ireland working with John McQuillan (Contracts) Limited.

A long-standing member of CIHT NI Region, Tony continued to faithfully attend regional events and was a regular participant on the annual study trips, with his last study trip to Venice in 2017. Younger professionals appreciated the importance of the study trip and the Institution after meeting and listening to Tony.

Tony brought a new level of professionalism to the company as it developed from its origins with a history as a Quarrying and Surfacing company. He strived to achieve the best engineering standards and was proud to receive Concrete Society Awards for the construction of various animal enclosures at Belfast Zoo in the 1970s and 1980s.

He will be remembered by his friends, colleagues and Institution members who knew him as a true gentleman. Tony is survived by his sons Gareth, Jonathan and his daughter Caireen.

## Forthcoming Events

Details of all our upcoming events can be found on our webpage [www.ciht.org.uk/ni](http://www.ciht.org.uk/ni) and on social media sites.

Given the current social distancing measures, all of our current events are webinars, many of them held over lunchtimes.

We update the sites regularly with details of events so make sure to follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn to get the latest information.

## CIHT NI Committee 2020/21

The Committee for 2020/21 was elected in September 2020. Details of our current committee can be found at the “Who’s Who” section of the Northern Ireland pages on [www.ciht.org.uk/ni](http://www.ciht.org.uk/ni).

We are always on the lookout for new members to keep us fresh, focused and relevant to our membership. We look to include a broad representation from across the relevant sectors – central and local government, private sector consultancy and contractors and academia.

If you are interested in giving some of your time to further CIHT in Northern Ireland, have ideas on topics you would like covered in future events or would like to give feedback on what CIHT NI are doing, please do get in touch.

## Contacts

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

Region website: [www.ciht.org.uk/ni](http://www.ciht.org.uk/ni)

**LinkedIn**: CIHT Northern Ireland

Follow CIHT on Twitter : @CIHT\_NI