

Region Newsletter

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Introduction and Welcome



Hello and welcome to the latest issue of the CIHT North East & Cumbria newsletter.

We've put this December issue together as a review of the year from the CIHT North East and Cumbria Region. And what a year it has been! Like everyone, our regional CIHT committee has adapted quickly to different working practices and it's been great that we've still been able to deliver some virtual events this year.

One of the first events to be postponed and moved online was our Young Professional's Papers Competition and all the candidates adapted well to presenting their research online. We've discussed what Transport Professionals can do in a Pandemic, and also visited the A19 Testos junction improvement project, virtually, twice!

One of the biggest benefits of working remotely is the ability to join in events from other regions. Some of our neighbouring regions have held some really insightful events this year and I would encourage you to use your membership to its full potential and join in with the wide range of events that are now available on the CIHT website.

We would usually have our Annual Dinner and Awards in October and one of my biggest disappointments as Chair this year is that I haven't had the fun (and stress!) of organising the event. As a committee we do however recognise the great work that has continued in the region and therefore we are going to highlight local successes at a virtual awards ceremony early in the new year. The Awards will be presented by CIHT President, Martin Tugwell, and will be awarded alongside a presentation from Transport North East. Please join in to hear about the North East Transport Plan and support your colleagues who have submitted an award entry.

Thank you to all our members for your input to CIHT this year and if there is anything you would like the committee to do for local members in 2021, please get in touch. The regional committee and I wish you all a very happy Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you at an event in 2021.

Best wishes,
Nicola
Nicola.hill@arup.com

North East & Cumbria Virtual Annual Awards



Every year, our Region has celebrated the very best of our people and Projects in the North East & Cumbria, with our winners traditionally announced at our Annual Dinner. Unfortunately, this year has been different.

We could have flipped over this year, dismissed it as an aberration and looked forward to better times. But that would have failed to acknowledge the tremendous challenges we have overcome to keep working through the Covid-19 pandemic and deliver outstanding projects for our region.

With this in mind, as one of our first events of 2021, we are launching our Virtual Annual Awards. Whilst we weren't able to host a ceremony in 2020, we do want to recognise the excellent work that has continued, so we are hosting a short virtual awards ceremony early next year to recognise local projects that have made a positive contribution to the industry during the pandemic. The awards will be presented by CIHT President, Martin Tugwell, and the event will be joined by representatives from Transport North East who will also talk about the soon to be released North East Transport Plan.

We have reduced the number of award categories this year:

- Apprentice Award – recognising the efforts of an apprentice who is a rising star within the Region. During their time in the industry they consistently go above and beyond their daily duties to assist their colleagues
- Young Professional Award – recognising the efforts of one keen individual, who in the first 10yrs of their career, have demonstrated a passion for the industry and a genuine commitment to developing themselves and helping others.
- Project of the Year 2020 – to be awarded to the project that can demonstrate a positive contribution to the Region. This could be by showing enterprise and ingenuity in the current Covid-19 pandemic, overcoming challenges to continue operation and/or implementation, and other wider benefits that stand it out as high-quality project.

We are accepting Expressions of Interest up until early January – simply email us: northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk, stating the category you'd like to enter. Full entries can then be submitted until mid-January. Further details on our [website](#).

Booking for the event, date to be confirmed, will be available on our website early in the new year.

Regional Events: Round Up

What do Transport Professionals do during a Pandemic?

The North East and Cumbria committee hosted a virtual event on 25th June 2020 under the title 'What can Transport Professionals Do During a Pandemic?'. The first part of the event included a presentation by Bill Freeman, who is the Chief Executive at the Community Transport Association (CTA), a UK based charity. Mr Freeman talked about CTA's work in bringing together other charities and community groups which work towards providing transport services for individuals and groups who may have restricted access to conventional transport provision.

Some of the impacts of Covid-19 on their organisation and its affiliates as well as the wider transport sector were briefly explored in his presentation. In the second part of the event, the audience took part in a lively discussion around what transport organisations do in response to concerns about travelling by public transport during the pandemic. This included how transport providers can bounce back to ensure that some of the benefits of lockdown, such as reduced car travel, can be maintained, in the post-Covid environment.

The presentation was recorded and can be accessed online in the Members area of the CIHT website [here](#).

A19 Testos Virtual Site Visit

Over the summer, two virtual sites visits were held at the A19 Testos junction improvement. Stuart Culley and the team at Costain outlined how working practices and the delivery programme has been adapted to mitigate against Covid-19 and protect the workforce on site. It was also great to see the progress achieved so far, particularly the latest aerial photography and drone footage of construction activity.

A major piece of highway infrastructure for the region, the scheme is due to be completed later in 2021. We hope to arrange another site visit (either virtually or on-site) soon.

Many thanks to Stuart for organising these virtual tours.



Young Professionals Papers Competition 2020

This year's event was moved from our usual venue of the Northern Stage in Newcastle to an online event. Over 50 attendees were joined by CIHT President Martin Tugwell to hear five engaging presentations on a variety of topics.

This year's presenters and their topics were:

Alistair Baldwin (Newcastle City Council) – Does climate change have professional implications for transport planners?

Weija Chen (AECOM) – Traffic modelling and appraisal of the North East Clean Air Zone

Kalina Petrova (WSP) – DfT's Active Modes Appraisal Toolkit – Developing guidance

Emma Scott (Jacobs) – Impacts of autonomous vehicles on marginalised groups

Fynn Wang (Newcastle University) – Barriers to electric vehicle uptake

All five presenters delivered highly engaging topics and their enthusiasm for their subject shone through. Following a lively Q&A session for each presenter and some difficult choices for the judging panel, Alistair Baldwin from Newcastle City Council, was judged as the standout presentation this year and awarded his prize, virtually, by Martin on the evening.

Thank you to all our presenters for taking part and please look out for details of next year's competition early in the new year.

North East & Cumbria at Young Professionals Festival

Opportunities from young NE&C CIHT members to explore critical issues affecting the sector, learn new skills and explore fresh ideas through knowledge exchange were key features of CIHT's recent Young Professionals Festival of Learning.

Addressing a webinar at the second day of the event, which focussed on the future of design and planning, were Erin Ruddy of Arup, Dagmara Stachelek of AECOM, Emma Scott of Jacobs and Ben Pollard of Milestone Transport Planning. They looked at the potential for delivering further 'Dutch style' roundabouts across the UK, following the introduction of the first in Cambridge earlier this year.

Dutch style roundabouts feature an outer orbital path separating the cyclists from traffic, with crossing for vulnerable users on each arm of the junction. The design aims to reduce collision risk for cyclists, but the concept is still new to road users who may not understand that those on two wheels have priority over cars.

"To introduce these roundabouts successfully, changes in behaviour will need to be achieved", said Emma Scott, during their presentation.

Content from the YP Festival can be accessed from the members area of the CIHT website.

Your CIHT: News Round Up

Region submits its Business Plan for the year ahead

The North East & Cumbria Region has submitted its annual business plan, as part of our regional working arrangements with CIHT. This ensures that our events and activities stay aligned to the priorities set out in the CIHT Strategic Plan.

Moving into 2021 our business and delivery plan ensures we will continue to deliver relevant content and activities for our regional membership and maintain excellent governance, based around the four key themes of:

1. Promoting professionalism and encouraging learning – ensuring members have the skills, training and qualifications to be the workforce that society and the economy needs
2. Influencing the future – working with members, regions and stakeholders to demonstrate the value of efficient transport infrastructure. Continually seek to improve all networks so they are safe, sustainable, effective and meet the changing needs of society.
3. Develop our membership by providing services that benefit our members and society – building a reputation for excellence, offering compelling services that enable us to grow and retain our membership
4. Enabling achievement of CIHT regional operations – taking action to enable financial management and good governance of the Region

Whilst the pandemic has disrupted many of our normal activities during a typical year, our business plan ensures that we will stay focussed on delivering for our membership.

Get involved in your Regional Committee

Delivering our regional events and activities takes a dedicated team of volunteers who form the bulk of the North East & Cumbria regional committee.

We are always looking for members who are interested in joining our committee, bring in fresh ideas and help shape the future direction of the region. You could also get involved with organising events, including our annual awards and Dinner, help with mentoring and STEM activities, and coordinate regional communications, amongst many other roles.

Email us: northeastandcumbria@ciht.orh.uk to find out more.



Membership Update

North East & Cumbria membership totalled 724, as of the end of October, the most recently available data. Of this, the Member grade (MCIHT) accounts for just over half that number (52%) with the student body making up 33%, reflecting our strong ties with local universities across the region. Our Fellow grade (FCIHT) – CIHT's highest level of membership – accounts for 6% of regional members.

Total membership has remained remarkably consistent over the last three years, with month-by-month figures rarely straying outside of the 700-750 mark. Whilst this may genuinely reflect the numbers working directly in highways and transportation in the region, opportunities remain to encourage others working in the industry to join and help grow our regional membership further.

As always, please encourage your colleagues and new starters to register for CIHT membership. This could include those whose membership has lapsed (and which can be reinstated for free) or others who have not previously considered CIHT for their professional needs.

Information about the various membership grades, how to promote your grade (often this can be done as a free upgrade) and the benefits of membership can be found [here](#).

National Council Update

CIHT's national Council, which has representatives from all regional branches within the UK, continued to meet virtually despite the widespread disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. As has now become customary, the current President, Martin Tugwell chaired most the recent Council meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, 18th November 2020.

Council members were invited to engage in a reflective process that considered the institution's performance against its Strategic Plan. The Council, informed by the contributions from various regional representatives, has embarked upon a conversation on the institution's plans for the next five-year cycle (2021-2025).

The national economic outlook and the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the various facets of the highways and transportation sector formed a significant part of the discussions at the meeting.

NE&C Future Transport Technologies Conference

As with many other planned conferences this year, we have been forced to postpone our second Future Transport Technologies Conference until next summer.

The event will now be hosted online, and we have already secured a fantastic line up of speakers, including from Transport North East, Nexus, WSP, and Mott MacDonald. Other slots remain, [contact us](#) if you would like to present.

We will announce the new date for the conference shortly.

A Day in the Life of...

Name

Emma Scott



Title

Graduate Transport Planner at Jacobs.

Terms of Reference

I have been at Jacobs just over a year now and over this time, I have been involved with a wide range of projects from developing business cases, transport modelling, data analysis and GIS. I am the current office lead for BeyondZero (our culture of caring initiative) and I am also involved in promoting STEM to local schools.

Suitability for the job

I have two degrees from Newcastle University - a MSc in Transport Planning and Engineering as well as a BA in Geography. I specialised in social, cultural and political geographies during my undergraduate degree which helps me to understand the wider issues that influence transport.

Where based

Normally, I'm based in the Newcastle office which is located in Rotterdam House, next to the Millennium Bridge on the quayside. It's a great location to get some fresh air at lunchtime. However, like most people at the moment I am working from home.

Transport to work

Currently I'm working from home so once I'm ready in the morning, I have a very short commute from my kitchen to my make-shift office!

Top of in tray

At the moment, I'm part of a team putting together a strategic outline business case for the A34 improvements project with Highways England so that is my main priority. I am also assisting a local school with a STEM project so that occupies some of my time later on in the day.

Best aspects of the job

My favourite aspect of the job is the people that I get to work with on a daily basis. Everyone in the team has a different skill to offer which makes for a great learning environment. I'm also really passionate about our company's culture of caring which has been particularly evident during the pandemic this year.

Worst aspects of the job

This year, the worst aspect of the job has been finding the separation between work and life given that I am working from home. I'm combating this with setting specific hours aside to work and a specific time to log off.

Most pressing issue

The most pressing issue for me is ensuring the work I do is accurate. I do a lot of work with large datasets and spreadsheets so it's very important that I systematically check everything that goes into them and make sure my formulas are correct!

How do you relax?

True to my geography roots, my favourite thing to do in spare time is travel however this year I have spent more time adding to my ever growing list of locations I want to travel to. I'm a huge fan of electronic dance music so I spend a lot of time listening to different radio podcasts and travelling to different festivals (hopefully next year!) At the weekends I love watching sport, especially golf, rugby and F1.

Ambition

I am half way through my graduate development programme so my priority over the next year is to continue acquiring knowledge across different areas of the business which I can feed into my review sessions.

Professional Qualifications and Mentoring

Achieving professional qualifications is undoubtedly for many a career milestone. Studies have also recognised that good mentoring is important to achieving the best outcomes in gaining qualifications, especially so this year when many of us have been working remotely, away from our colleagues.

As a region we hold regular surgeries to provide overviews and tailored advice to those progressing through CEng, IEng, EngTech and TPP, including finding the right mentor. Whilst we hope to do this again in 2021, support and advice is available on the CIHT website [here](#), including access to mentor matching resources.

Please also consult the CIHT website if you are interested in becoming an accredited mentor or reviewer for all CIHT professional qualifications.



Events Programme for 2021

We have a lot to look forward to in 2021, with the committee working on delivering a range of local events. In addition to our Virtual Annual Awards, we expect to bring you our annual pub quiz, a road safety event, our Young Professionals Papers Competition, and professional qualifications surgeries. Later in the year we hope to run our second Future Transport Technologies Conference online. Keep an eye on our website and LinkedIn page for further details.

Some of our scheduled and in-planning events are listed below. Given the current Covid-19 situation, these are subject to change and more will be added as plans develop. Whilst we hope to revert to face-to-face events at some point in 2021, we acknowledge most are likely to be conducted virtually for the foreseeable future. Please check our [Events Page](#) for regular updates.

Scheduled Events

Event	Date
Virtual Annual Awards Ceremony + Guest Speaker	Early 2021
NE&C Annual Quiz (online!)	February 2021
Young Professionals Papers Competition 2021	Spring 2021
AGM + Guest Speaker	May 2021
Routes to Professional Qualifications	Summer 2021
Future Transport Technologies Online Conference	Summer 2021

Events in Planning

Event	Type
Active Travel in Tees Valley	Seminar
Impacts of the Treasury Green Book Review	Seminar
Road Safety Event	Learning
Celebrating 200 years of the Union Chain Bridge, Berwick	Seminar/visit
Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor	Seminar/visit
Further lunchtime and evening events throughout 2021	Seminar
Young Professionals Network events	Seminar/social

Contact or Follow us

General queries: northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk

Regional Website: www.ciht.org.uk/ne

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

Follow CIHT on Twitter: @CIHTUK



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