

Region Newsletter

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Introduction and Welcome



Welcome along to this packed edition of the CIHT NE&C Newsletter. This month we have a roundup of a very busy period of the year, with news from the "Introduction To..." series, our Annual Quiz and YPN Presentations Evening.

As I move into my second year as Chairman, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my Committee for all their support over the past 12 months. We have all been working hard setting up a number of new initiatives for our members, including the Professional Qualifications Workshop last week, which saw Sue Stevens, our Director of Education & Membership, join us from Britannia Walk at a very well attended session hosted by my Vice Chair, Nicola Hill, at Arup's offices in Newcastle.

On top of that, the Committee have held over fifteen CPD seminars on various topics under the "Introduction To..." banner across the Region, and there's a further three planned for the next couple of months!

Looking forward, we are well advanced in the plans for our Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony, to be held in October, and Phil Freestone and I are working on a very exciting full-day Conference and Exhibition, which we will be hosting in November.

Full details of our upcoming programme will be announced at our AGM on the 17th May in Newcastle, and I would encourage all members to come along to hear about our plans and consider joining the Committee in what is going to be a very exciting year!

To kick things off for the 2018-19 session, I will be pleased to welcome Peter Dickinson, Chair of CIHT's Urban Design Panel, to our AGM on Thursday, where he will present a the Institution's recently published "Creating better streets: inclusive and accessible places". The content of this new guidance document is sure to create some lively discussion, so please be sure to register your place via our Eventbrite pages (see page 6 for more details).

As always, more information about the Committee, upcoming events, news from the region and interesting articles and conversation is available through our website, social media channels or by emailing us direct. We are your Committee, working for you, our members, so please do not hesitate to contact us with any thoughts, views or ideas.

As we go into the summer months, I hope you all have been enjoying the weather, and that it holds for the holiday periods! I hope that you have had a great start to the year, and I look forward to meeting you all at one of our upcoming events.

All the very best,

Darran Kitchener
dkitchener@milestonetp.co.uk

Committee Update – Get Involved!

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 2018/2019 year, which includes;

- Programme and Events Coordinator
- Membership and Recruitment Officer

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, or join us at our AGM on 17th May (see page 6).

Contacts

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

Follow CIHT on Twitter: @CIHTUK



@CIHTUK

Your CIHT: News and Upcoming Events

Annual Quiz goes down a storm

Thursday 25th April was a busy day for the NE&C Region and in particular it's Chairman. Not only was an "Introduction To" Seminar held at North Tyneside during lunchtime but we also managed to deliver our Annual Quiz.

Despite being postponed as a result of the "Beast from the East" several weeks ago, a perfect combination of food, drinks and competition ensured the Quiz went down a storm. Run every year, the event is a firm favourite amongst members and continues to attract both new and veteran teams.

Hosted and officiated by Chair Darran Kitchener at our new venue The Bridge Hotel, the evening mixed team building with informal networking – all with the aim of becoming North East and Cumbria Quiz Champion 2019.

With over 40 attendees, competition was intense with no clear leader for much of the night. It was only after what participants described as a particularly brutal "True or False" round that Cundall edged into the lead, beating nearest rivals AECOM and North Tyneside Council by a whisker.

Once again we'd like to thank all participants for a great night's entertainment and Darran for hosting. Provided the weather is with us we'll be back next year in our usual slot of February to organise another night of curry and competition.

Participants are advised to start preparing early!

Position	Team	Total Score
1	Cundall	95
2	Aecom	91
3	NTC	90
4	Milestone	83
5	Nexus	73
6	Fore	66

"Introduction to..." continues to promote learning & skills

Over the last few months the Region has been progressing a programme of lunchtime Seminars designed to give local professionals the chance to broaden their knowledge base and keep abreast of national transportation developments

Since January we've had a significant level of interest both from within the Region and further afield to what we're doing. Devised and spearheaded by our Chairman Darran Kitchener, the programme has now been recognised nationally as a fantastic example of best practice which other Regions can also learn from and perhaps deliver in their own areas.

Of course all of these events could not have been delivered without the generosity of the professionals who've given up their time to deliver a range of interesting and sometimes challenging seminars, which we have all enjoyed:

- Barry Ogden (ACO)
- Devrim Kara (PTV Group)
- Jonathan Spruce (Transport for the North)
- Kamran Hyder (Ward Hadaway)
- Nick Bryan (North Tyneside Council)
- Nicola Hill (Arup)
- Neil Thorpe (Newcastle University)
- Matthew Payne (Waterman Aspen)
- Paul Jackson (Tracsis)
- Stuart Kay (Sweco)
- Tim Beech (Jacobs)
- Trevor Platt (Nicander)
- Chandra Vermury (Vemury Structural Consultancy Ltd.)

Over the next few months we can look forward to further "Introduction To" events – from lunchtime seminars to site visits – and seeing what companies and organisations are delivering for their clients. For more information, we recommend reviewing our regular mailshots, [Website](#) or [Eventbrite](#). Similarly, if you feel that there's something missing, and would like to present as part of this rolling programme, please let us know and we'll look to book you in!



Team Cundall well stocked with an evening's provisions



A recent "Introduction to..." event at Ward Hadaway

CIHT Bulletin: Reviews of Recent Events

CIHT returns to Newcastle University to inspire the next generation, February 2018

On the 8th February members of the Regional Executive Committee visited Newcastle University once again for their Annual ACCESS Event.

Hosted this year in the Great North Museum: Hancock, the same venue as the Presentation Event in March, CIHT members in the NE&C Region were available to promote the Institution, what it does locally and fundamentally how it can benefit students when they begin to search for their first Graduate level placement.

This event is run on an annual basis by the University and is designed to give students insight into their chosen careers and to prospective employers. The CIHT was one of several professional institutions who also attended, partly to encourage new student members but also to encourage further learning and personal development or learning outside of the lecture theatre.

Through the efforts of the volunteers who attended, the Region managed to gain additional student members and gave the CIHT more recognition by current undergraduates. Over a dozen have since signed up for further information and there was also great interest in the ["Introduction To"](#) seminar and site visits in the coming months.

One of our volunteers, and 'veteran' Committee Member, Roger Elphick, commented on the calibre, focus and genuine interest of the students attending (read his thoughts on this below). It is reassuring to know that when they graduate, this new generation of engineers, planners and project managers will undoubtedly add value to their future employers and chosen professional institution, which we hope will be CIHT!

Once again in order to staff these events, the Committee are particularly thankful to the volunteers who donated their time outside of office hours to assist with this event. We are also grateful to Newcastle University for the invitation and look forward to returning again in 2019.



CIHT members Rachel Broadbent and Dagmara Stachelek answering questions from prospective members.

Promoting High Quality Engineering in Highways and Transportation Roger Elphick OBE

CIHT was again represented at the ACCESS 2018 event for second year civil engineering undergraduates at Newcastle University. This introduces students to the varied opportunities available in the industry through one-to-one meetings with over 30 consultants, contractors and public sector representatives. The event is invaluable as the delegates are generally unaware of the broad range of opportunities available within the profession, including in highways and transportation. A high proportion of the students attended the event, possibly encouraged by the provision of a buffet and wine!

The current strong and very welcome emphasis by the Government on the need for new and improved infrastructure has increased the demand for high quality civil engineering and transportation graduates. This has also highlighted the worrying current skill shortages and the need to develop more flexible routes to qualification, ranging from full-time degree courses to a long overdue re-introduction of more innovative 'sandwich' type apprenticeships. These initiatives require the support of industry, the Institutions and the universities in developing alternative academic and funding arrangements.

I know from my experience how highway and transportation work can offer rewarding and exciting career opportunities involving a wide range of civil engineering disciplines. However, the apparent lack of understanding by students highlights the importance of the initiatives taken by the Institutions to promote the profession, including work with schools, and stressing the importance of STEM subjects. CIHT is also represented on the Civil Engineering Industrial Liaison Panel at Newcastle University, which increases the profile of the Institution for undergraduates and encourages their involvement with the profession.

Regional Presentations Evening 2018 – supported by AECOM and Arup

Young Professionals recognised in a 'night at the museum'

CIHT North East & Cumbria celebrated the work of aspiring younger professionals at the annual Regional Presentations Competition during March.

A popular event in our calendar, you could have been forgiven for mistaking this as an early spring event, given the horrendous weather that evening. Nevertheless a good turnout was welcomed to our change of venue at the Great North Museum: Hancock (Sting having booked out Northern Stage in its entirety for *The Last Ship!*).



Presentations Winner Ryan Curry with NE&C Committee Member and host Dr Neil Thorpe

Kindly sponsored by AECOM and Arup, the evening showcased five presenters, students and early career professionals, keen to present their topics with the flair and passion that the Region is proud to boast year upon year. Hosted by former Chair Dr Neil Thorpe, expertly sitting in for current Chair Darran Kitchener, competition was light hearted but robust, with each candidate clearly demonstrating why they were shortlisted. Questions from the audience were also engaging and allowed the judges to see how each candidate responded.

Following the presentations and some welcome refreshments, the judging panel chose the overall winner – Ryan Curry, from Arup, who confidently gave a talk on 'Choosing Modelled Time Periods'.

CIHT Committee member and judge for the evening John Barrell declared *"This is one of my favourite events in the CIHT calendar and I'm consistently surprised by the quality and capabilities of our younger professionals in the North East and Cumbria. I've come away tonight, having learned more about each topic and it's my sincere hope that all those who attended had an enjoyable evening."*

The Region thanks sponsors AECOM and Arup, all who attended and, of course, those who submitted an entry, whether or not they were successful to make the shortlist. A special mention also to our runners up presenters, who made the Presentations Competition a memorable evening once again:

- Benjamin Pollard, TORG – UK car clubs
- Isabel Walker, TORG – Silverlink roundabout upgrade
- Jordan Gibbon, Jacobs – Strategic road networks – an economic approach
- Vibhor Tiwari, TORG – Public attitudes to electric vehicles

We look forward to running this successful event again early next year. Keep in touch with our website and mailshots for the latest updates.



Members and guests enjoying the evening (left); Presenters with host Dr Neil Thorpe (right)

CIHT Bulletin: Regional Sub Group Updates

Northumbria

The subgroup centred around Tyneside is continuing to push ahead and deliver the majority of events within the Region. The “Introduction to...” events are going from strength to strength with increasing numbers of members attending the evening and lunchtime seminars. We’re also seeing new faces at these events which is positive news. Further social events which have proved extremely popular this period include the Quiz and Presentations Competition. The group is now working towards promoting and delivering the AGM in May.



NE&C Members at a recent site visit

Teesside

There have been a few changes of roles within the Region which have made sourcing meeting spaces a little challenging. Despite this, the subgroup are keen to promote the Institute over the remainder of the year, either with evening or lunchtime seminars, and will also look to roll out national CIHT initiatives in the Teesside area.

We would be pleased to hear from CIHT members able to host meetings and events in Teesside. Please contact Nicola Hill at: nicola.hill@arup.co.uk

Young Persons Network

The YPN subgroup provides nearly half of the Region’s overall membership, which reflects our robust academic connections and diverse range of employers. We need to ensure that Graduates and Young Professionals continue to have access to services and events in the Region, including participating at careers, skills and qualifications events, becoming a STEM ambassador, or helping out with networking and mentoring. Our YPN Chair Vincent Muller is looking to develop a programme for 2018/19, including the inaugural YPN national conference, to be held in Leeds in the autumn, but also more local activities.

For more information, or to get involved with the YPN, please contact Vincent at Vincent.Muller@Jacobs.com

Cumbria

The Cumbria subgroup is currently working on establishing itself more fully within the west of the Region. Good contacts have been established to date and it’s now a case of developing these and promoting the services that CIHT can offer. We will be working with CIHT HQ to gain further support to encourage individuals working throughout Cumbria in both the public and private sectors to get involved.

Should local members in Cumbria wish to know more, please feel free to [contact us](#).



Guest Speaker Paul Jackson at Newcastle University

Education & Research

Newcastle University once again held their Undergraduate ACCESS event which the Region played an important part promoting skills and non academic experience to prospective members. The University also encouraged postgraduate students to submit topics to the Presentations Competition in March, with the best shortlisted. See Page 4 for our review.

The TORG lunchtime Seminar Series for Newcastle, which occurs on Wednesdays, continues to be popular with all those who attend and academic staff are still developing workplace scenarios. If anyone wishes to submit a scenario for consideration please contact roger.bird@newcastle.ac.uk.

Your CIHT: AGM and Upcoming Events

Creating Better Streets and AGM

Join us at the County Hotel (opposite Newcastle Central Station), where Peter Dickinson, Chair of CIHT's Urban Design Panel, will present a seminar on the Institution's recently published "*Creating better streets: inclusive and accessible places*". This is an important, and timely review of best practice in the consideration and design of shared spaces and is bound to generate much opinion and debate.

The review forms part of the ongoing project to update CIHT's *Streets and Transport in the Urban Environment*, for which you can [click here](#) to view all published documents.

Prior to the talk, CIHT North East & Cumbria will hold its Annual General Meeting. This is an important event in the Region's calendar where we review the past year's events and activities, as well as set out the themes and programme of events planned for the 2018/19 session. Along with confirming key committee roles, it is also a chance for the local membership to scrutinise and have their say on how the Region is being run.

Attendance is free and includes drinks, a buffet supper and the chance to network with colleagues and other members. Further details are [available here](#), or contact us at northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk.



2017's AGM with outgoing Chair Anthony Robinson

Annual Golf Day 2018 and Locan Cup Call for Participants

Dust off your clubs and join us again at Prudhoe Golf Club on 29th June for our annual golf competition. Tee off time is 2pm with a £15 green fee payable on the day. The competition is open to CIHT members and there is a separate competition for non-members.

All abilities are welcome and sponsors are gratefully sought who would like to provide some golf balls as prizes! If you would like to play please email Nick Clennett at nick.clennett@ntlworld.com.

The Region is also looking for keen golfers to participate in the CIHT national competition, the Locan Cup. Held last year at the home of English golf – Woodhall Spa – Nick attended as the sole North East & Cumbria player, joining the North Wales team and coming third. This year's competition is being held at the St Pierre Marriott Hotel & Country Club, Chepstow, South Wales on the 16th and 17th September 2018.

More details will appear on the [Locan Cup](#) page in due course, or please email Nick for further information.



Members enjoying a round at 2017's Golf Tournament

A Day in the Life of...

Name

Jonathan Barlow

Title

Transport Analyst at
South Tyneside Council



Terms of Reference

I'm an experienced Transport Planner with nearly six years public and private experience within industry. In that time I've experienced and delivered a range of studies and schemes ranging from large highways infrastructure to LSTF delivery and the occasional CSR day with a local community group.

Suitability for the job

I've an MSc in Transport Planning from Newcastle University and BA in Geography from Northumbria University. Following my degrees I've continued to work within the public and private sectors. I've also done a bit of work with the CIHT locally and currently pushing towards achieving TPP. You'll also see me in the newsletter "Geography Matters" in a few months too.

Where based

I'm based in Town Hall in South Shields. It's a fantastic Edwardian building only a few minutes' walk from the coast which is ideal for lunchtime.

Transport to work

Unusually I only bought my first car last year, a little 1.2litre runabout. I also use public transport frequently – there's always a Brompton in my boot- just in case.

Top of in tray

I'm currently assessing the transport impacts of planning applications within the Borough and writing several bid documents for external funding. South Tyneside Council has an ambitious growth agenda and continues to punch above its weight. I'm happy doing my bit to ensure that this continues.

Best aspects of the job

For me it's about having a varied and challenging workload; no two days are ever quite the same in transportation and I enjoy learning and delivering worthwhile projects or schemes within a Local Authority.

Worst aspects of the job

Competing or short deadlines can be challenging, particularly during busy months. Using an electronic calendar with reminders helps to manage the time.

Most pressing issue

For me it's a case of ensuring "growth" is managed and road networks, both strategic and local, are not adversely affected by housing and population increases – integration and good land use planning is key; additional factors also relates to maintaining a resilient highway network in the face of increasing financial pressures and providing effective alternatives to the car, in the form of public transport, cycling and walking routes, for work, education and leisure.

How do you relax?

When not at work or volunteering with the CIHT, I work with a local ATC (air cadet) Squadron in my home town. It's great to be back up north and generally doing my bit both for the local community and a great organisation.

Ambition

In the short term its achieving TPP, after this I want to keep delivering.

Membership Update

Our membership fluctuates throughout the year, but 720 members is a healthy number for the North East & Cumbria Region as we head into the 2018/19 programme. The Member grade accounts for half the total membership, with students comprising 36%, 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, noted by the slight increases in these grades since December 2017.

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](#).

CIHT Council Update

Anthony Robinson, NE&C Council Representative

CIHT Council is the governing body that sets out the forward direction of the Institution and ensures that the day-to-day activities undertaken by CIHT are aligned to the objectives and values in the CIHT Strategic Plan. It is comprised of representatives from each CIHT Region, elected Ordinary Members, and other co-opted members.

At the March 2018 meeting, updates were received from CIHT President Andreas Markides, as well as progress on Certificates of Merit, Honorary Fellowships and the Young Professionals Award. The debate, *A Review of Shared Streets*, was curated by Phil Jones, member of the CIHT Shared Streets Working Group, who gave an overview of the recently published policy guidance on this subject. The document reviews projects delivered over recent years, and sets out current thinking about how shared spaces should be planned and designed in the future. You can hear more about this from our guest speaker at the AGM on 17th May (see page 6).

Events Programme for 2018

Events planned through summer 2018 are listed below, along with some in the planning stages. As always these are subject to change at short notice, so please check our [Events Page](#) for regular updates, and for further events throughout the rest of 2018, as they are confirmed. There's no better time to get involved!

Annual Dinner & Awards

18th October – Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne

Full Programme of Events

All dates are subject to change and will be promoted through the CIHT website and regional mailshots and other media.

- 10th May** – CIHT Qualifications Drop-in, Arup, Forth Street, Newcastle
- 17th May** – Creating Better Streets, with Peter Dickinson, plus Region AGM
- 7, 23, 24th June** – ICE Stephenson Walks - A Guided Tour around Newcastle and the life of Robert Stephenson
- 21st June** – *An Introduction to Designing Public Transport Interchanges*, hosted by Arup, Forth Street, Newcastle
- 26th June** – *An Introduction to Travel Planning*, hosted by WSP, William Armstrong Drive, Newcastle
- 11th July** – *An Introduction to Managing Transport Systems*, hosted by Nexus, Westgate Road, Newcastle

Events in Planning

Qualifications – University Recruitment Events
YPN – Spring Social Event
Seminar – Joint IAT / CIHT Seminar, Cumbria
Seminar – Joint TPS / CIHT Seminar, Teesside
Conference – The future of Transport, Newcastle

Visit – Nexus Shields Ferry, South Shields
Visit – The Victoria Tunnels, Newcastle
Visit – North East Land, Sea and Air Museum, Sunderland
Seminar – Legal Implications of Road Safety Audits, SoRSA