

## Region Newsletter

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### Intro and Welcome



Its is a privilege to welcome you to the first newsletter of the new CHIT North East & Cumbria Region.

As many of you will be aware, on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015 the North East and Northern Branches officially merged, with the ratification of the new committee taking place at Newcastle Civic Centre.

We are now afforded the opportunity to build upon the traditions of the branches, and the committee will work tirelessly to move towards a stronger future as a single region. On a personal note, it is an honour and privilege to be elected as the first Chairperson of the North East & Cumbria region, following in the footsteps of an elite list of past Chairpersons from the respective North East and Northern branches.

Our footprint has expanded, with the region now covering Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, County Durham, and Tees Valley. Whilst this will bring challenges, we hope to create an inclusive region, through the formation of local liaison groups, who have been tasked with maximising the participation of members in their respective areas.

We have been extremely busy over the last 6 months and in this newsletter edition we have provided a summary of our activities so far, as well as highlighting some of the key events that are fast approaching.

In January we are delighted to invite Sue Stevens to the region to host a training event for those interested in becoming a Mentor to candidates preparing for their professional qualifications. We aim to create a list of mentors throughout the region across each of the TPP, CEng, IEng and EngTech routes, and host regular drop-in sessions for candidates preparing their portfolios.

Other upcoming events include the ever popular Annual Quiz on February 24<sup>th</sup>, and the Young Professionals Papers Evening on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. The Call for Papers is now open so I encourage our younger members to submit a paper.

We also have a number of upcoming joint technical events and socials so do take a look at our programme later in this newsletter.

*With best wishes,*

*Phil Freestone*

Email: [Phil.Freestone@pbworld.com](mailto:Phil.Freestone@pbworld.com)

### Region Updates

#### Liaison Groups

Following the creation of the North East & Cumbria Region in June 2015, two Liaison Groups were established to better serve our members in Teesside and Cumbria.

#### Teesside Liaison Group

Trevor Platt and Nicola Hill have been elected to represent Teesside member on the new Regional Committee.

Our Teesside Liaison Group are responsible for the Tees Transporter Bridge Anniversary Award in conjunction with Teesside University. There is also an upcoming joint event with the ICE scheduled 9<sup>th</sup> February at Teesside University.

Any Teesside-based member or person requiring advice or information about CIHT or membership within the county is invited to contact: [Trevor.Platt@Nicander.co.uk](mailto:Trevor.Platt@Nicander.co.uk) and [Nicola.Hill@Arup.com](mailto:Nicola.Hill@Arup.com)

#### Cumbria Liaison Group

The new Cumbria Liaison Group (CLG) is available to assist any Cumbria based or prospective members with CIHT related matters, working of course in close cooperation with, and under the direction of, the new North East & Cumbria Regional Committee.

Ian Robinson and Ernie Boardman have been elected to represent you on the new Regional Committee. Ian Robinson (The CLG Secretary) is your single local Cumbrian contact and is keen to hear from you and receive any suggestions for local events or meetings or better still for your greater involvement in CIHT affairs.

Any Cumbria based member or person requiring advice or information about CIHT or membership within the county is invited to contact: [office@clemmettgill.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:office@clemmettgill.fsnet.co.uk)

#### Contacts

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

Newsletter and Communications: [craig.waller@aecom.com](mailto:craig.waller@aecom.com)

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



@CIHTUK

## Your Committee 2015/16

The new Committee was ratified on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the inaugural meeting of the new CIHT North East & Cumbria Region:

### Executive Members

- Phil Freestone – Chairman
- Tony Robinson – Vice Chair & Regional Rep to Council
- John Barrell – Honorary Secretary
- Malcolm Smith – Honorary Treasurer
- Craig Waller – Communications Officer
- Vincent Muller – YPG Chair & Recruitment Officer
- Sally Herbert – Sponsorship Officer
- John Jeffrey – Regional Forum Rep and Dinner Secretary

### Committee Members

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| • Roger Bird       | Stuart Kay        |
| • Ernie Boardman   | Darran Kitchener  |
| • Rachel Broadbent | Stuart McNaughton |
| • Nick Bunn        | Trevor Platt      |
| • Vikki Edmondson  | Ian Robinson      |
| • Ken Heads        | Allan Short       |
| • Peter Henson     | Daniel Smith      |
| • Nicola Hill      | Tim Speed         |

### Ex-officio Members

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| • Roger Elphick | Neil Thorpe |
| • Vinny Holden  | Dave Wafer  |

### Co-opted Members

- Ray Simpson

Profiles of each of our committee members can be viewed on our Regional Web Pages.

A full description of each of the regional roles is provided in the Regional Officer's Handbook, available at [CIHT.org.uk](http://CIHT.org.uk).

## Council Update

**September and November Meetings,**  
*Tony Robinson (Regional Representative to Council)*

The CIHT Council is made up of elected ordinary members and Regional representatives. Its main aim is to act as the decision making bodies for the organisation and deliver the strategy, business plans and outputs on behalf of the membership as a whole.

It's my privilege to represent the North East & Cumbria Region on Council for the next three years, taking on the role most recently and capably held by Vinny Holden. My first meeting, in September, included an engaging presentation from Peter Molyneux, head of strategy at TfGM on the Northern Powerhouse (NP), a key driver for transport infrastructure delivery in our Region. In workshops we discussed how best CIHT can position itself to reap the benefits of the NP, from providing expert technical advice to growing the membership through addressing the ever-increasing skills gap.

Council in November was a forward planning meeting to discuss the next 5-year strategy, running from 2017-2021. Updated goals, values and plans were debated to ensure the new strategy and accompanying business plan met the needs of the industry and our membership going forward. The next step in the process is to consult with each Region before final approval and publication in 2016.

Each Council member also serves on a technical panel or board, of which I am part of the Membership & Skills Strategy Board. The meeting in September provided an update on current initiatives, including the launch of the Diversity Toolkit, a new set of education materials currently being developed, and the pilot 'Mentor Match Me' scheme, currently trialling in London and to be rolled out nationally during 2016.

Soapbox items are an opportunity for members to raise issues to CIHT directly, through their Regional representative at Council. Upon request, I have discussed concerns over regional governance, discounts for the Annual Luncheon and National Conference, and age limits for 'young' professionals

## Membership

Membership Grade	Members	%
Life Long Fellow	7	1%
Fellow	45	7%
Hon / Life Long Member	8	1%
Member	386	59%
Associate	14	2%
Graduate	6	1%
Apprentice	2	<1%
Student	185	28%
Total	653	100%

### CIHT Apprentice Grade

CIHT recently launched a new Apprentice Membership Grade.

An apprenticeship is a great way of learning new skills, gaining valuable work experience and getting qualified while earning.

Apprentices working in the Highways and Transportation sector can join CIHT as an Apprentice Member by completing the online form at [www.ciht.org.uk/Apprentice](http://www.ciht.org.uk/Apprentice). Apprentice membership is **FREE**.

## Reviews of Recent Events

In my opening speech at the AGM in May, I tasked the committee with the development of a strong events programme, featuring a variety of seminars, evening meetings and social events. We have made great strides so far this year and seen very high attendances at our events, each of which are reviewed later in this newsletter.

### The Role of NECA, May 2015

*Phil Freestone*

Mark Wilson, Head of Transport Policy for the North East Combined Authority (NECA) provided a very interesting and thorough discussion on the direction of NECA and transport investment in the region.

Mark provided an overview of the structure, responsibilities and objectives of the NECA body, and explained how it works with the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, and its role in the recently announced Transport for the North initiative.

The event was held immediately after the first meeting of the newly formed CIHT North East & Cumbria Committee and marked the beginning of the 2015/16 evening seminar programme.

### Tyne and Wear UTM, June 2015

*Phil Freestone*



The Tyne and Wear Urban Traffic Management Control (UTMC) facility is operated by Newcastle City Council on behalf of the Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan (LTP) Partners.

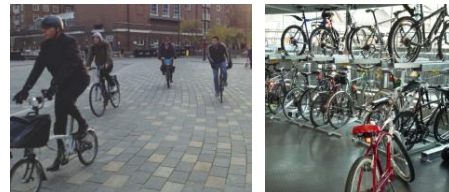
The overarching objective of the UTMC facility is to assist the LTP Partners in delivering their policy aims of supporting economic development and regeneration, addressing climate change, and supporting safe and sustainable communities.

Ray King, Manager of the UTMC facility, provided a fascinating discussion on the operations of the centre, explaining how data from disparate systems is read in to a common data platform where the data can be monitored and analysed in order to trigger real time traffic management interventions, and provide information to Traffic Managers, Partners, Stakeholders and the travelling public.

Attendees were then given an opportunity to view the control room and see the system in operation.

### Cycle City Active City Conference, June 2015

*Phil Freestone*



Newcastle Civic Centre hosted the third edition of the annual Cycle City Active City (CCAC) conference. The event was opened by Nick Forbes, Leader of Newcastle Council, followed by a keynote address, delivered by Robert Goodwin, Minister for Transport.

The two-day conference, supported by CIHT, featured a large array of interactive workshops and seminars discussing a range of topics, including policy and strategy, best practice from the UK and abroad, innovations in active travel provision and creating inclusive active communities.

### Mobile Phone Data Applications for Transport Models, July 2015

*Phil Freestone*

Tim Beech (Technical Director) – explained how Jacobs are leading the way in the use of mobile phone data to support and enhance transport model development.

Tim provided an overview of Jacobs' Transport Data Integration & Fusion process that integrates multiple data sources to show current/predicted traffic patterns, can provide a continuously updated area wide multi-modal transport model and can deliver cost savings through reduced investment in traditional data collection methods.

The seminar reflected the growing interest in developments in this area of work with attendees travelling from Yorkshire and Edinburgh.

### Metro Modernisation, September 2015

*Tony Robinson*



Hosted by Gordon Harrison from Nexus, this talk gave an excellent insight into the benefits already delivered at the half-way point of the ten-year Metro modernisation programme. It looked at some of the challenges encountered and what the priorities are for the next five years, and beyond, to secure and expand the system across the region.

## Reviews of Recent Events (continued)

### Politics of Transport Policy, October 2015 *Phil Freestone*

The Transport Operations Research Group (TORG) at Newcastle University began its 2015/16 lunchtime seminar series with very special guest Lord John Shipley providing a discussion on the Politics of Transport Policy.

Lord Shipley delivered a very insightful look into the political background to decisions on infrastructure investment in major transport projects, focussing on three projects - HS2 (and related HS3 proposals), proposals for a third runway at Heathrow Airport and the potential for expansion of the Tyne and Wear Metro. The event was very well attended by students and transport professionals alike.

For more information on TORG's lunchtime seminar series, please visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/ceg/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ceg/)

### Crowd Modelling, October 2015 *Tony Robinson*



Andy Leeson from AECOM provided a thorough overview of crowd modelling at this well attended evening seminar. Its importance in an increasingly urbanised environment was made apparent, showing how modelling large volumes of people on the move can influence every aspect of infrastructure design, from interactions with motorised traffic to emergency evacuations at sports stadia.

### Warm Asphalt Technologies, November, November 2015 *Ian Robinson, CIHT Cumbria Liaison Group.*

A very welcome joint meeting with the Institute of Asphalt Technology North East held in Penrith, some 16 delegates including 6 Cumbria based CIHT members demonstrated an excellent example of the synergy between our new North East & Cumbria Region and other kindred northern organisations.

Following a welcome by IAT Chairman Jim Beecham, members enjoyed a very splendid buffet prior to a most interesting illustrated presentation by Jonathan Tinsley of Total Bitumen on the advantages and potential cost / energy / environmental savings available through the adoption of warm asphalt technology as an alternative to traditional hot mixes. We thank Jonathan for his input.

## Annual Awards Dinner 2015

### Annual Dinner & Awards Evening, October 2015

The inaugural North East & Cumbria Region Annual Dinner and Awards Evening took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October at the County Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Sponsored by Northumbrian Roads, 135 guests enjoyed a four-course dinner and speeches from Steve Rowsell, the senior Vice President of CIHT and guest speaker Mike Clayton. Awards were presented for Project of the Year, Sustainable Project of the Year, and Young Professional, with nominees and winners (in bold) shown below.

#### **Young Professional Award (Sponsored by AECOM)**

- *Graham Brown (Sunderland City Council)*
- *Nick Webster (AECOM)*
- **Claire Whitfield (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff)**

#### **Sustainability Project of the Year Award (Sponsored by Waterman Aspen)**

- *Go Smarter (All Regional Local Authorities)*
- *Compass 4D (Newcastle City Council, Siemens, Newcastle University)*
- **The Tyne and Wear Better Bus Project (Tyne and Wear Local Authorities and bus operators)**

#### **Project of the Year Award (Sponsored by CAPITA)**

- *Whitburn Road (Sunderland City Council)*
- **Central Gateway (Newcastle City Council)**
- *Gosforth - Innovative Junction Design (Newcastle City Council)*



## Young Professionals' Group

The Region's Young Professionals Group (YPG) recently held the latest edition of their annual bowling competition, which was hosted on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October at Lane 7 in Newcastle. Congratulations to James Macpherson who won the competition this year and received an Eldon Square voucher from YPG chairman Vincent Muller as a prize.



## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time and Venue
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	The Role of Public Transport in Sustainable Planning - a PTE perspective. Speaker: Gordon Harrison, Nexus	13:00-15:00, Room 2.32, Cassie Building, Newcastle University.
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Joint CIHT / ICE / IStructE Seminar, Queensferry Crossing	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Professional Qualification Mentor Training	Cassie Building, Newcastle University
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	North East Institutional Great Debate – Northern Powerhouse or Northern Power Cut	Sutherland Building, Northumbria Uni
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Joint CIHT / ICE Seminar, Maintaining Highway Structures	Teesside University, Middlesbrough
February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Quiz	Tyneside Irish Centre, Newcastle
February – Date TBC	Preparing For Your Professional Qualifications – Drop-in Session	Venue TBC, Newcastle
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Young Professionals Papers Evening	Northern Stage, Newcastle
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Transport Careers Event	Cassie Building, Newcastle University
April – Date TBC	YPG Spring Social – Stand Comedy Club	Stand Comedy Club
May – Date TBC	CIHT North East & Cumbria Region AGM	Venue TBC

## Young Professional Papers Evening – Call for Papers

**Date: Wednesday 9th March 2016**

**Venue: Northern Stage, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RH**

The CIHT North East & Cumbria Papers Competition is an annual event that gives our younger members and students a chance to present on a Highways and Transportation topic of their choice in front of an audience of fellow transport professionals.

The evening provides an opportunity for young people to put together a presentation on an industry related topic of their choice and to present it to friends, current employers, and potential employers from the profession. It is a fantastic opportunity to **get yourself noticed in the transport community**, and it offers valuable experience in important presentation and communication skills.

Papers will be judged by a panel of CIHT members on the evening and the best presenters will be awarded with a cash prize.

Submissions are now open and at this stage we only require an abstract. To take part, please e-mail [northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk](mailto:northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk) with:

- Your Name
- Occupation (including Students)
- An abstract of your chosen topic (250 word maximum)

All submissions must be entered before **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February**. Successful entrants will be notified on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February** and invited to present their topic at the evening on Wednesday 9th March. Presentations should last 15 minutes maximum and include time for questions.

The Papers Competition will be held on Wednesday 9th March at the Northern Stage in Newcastle. Entrants should be 35 or younger at the time of presentation.



## Forth Replacement Crossing : Design, Planning and Construction

**Date:** Tuesday 12th January 2016  
**Time:** 5.45pm for 6.15pm  
**Venue:** Crowne Plaza Hotel, Forth Street, Newcastle, NE1 3SA

Joint ICE / CIHT / IStructE evening meeting.

Following the discovery of corrosion in the cables of the Forth Road Bridge in 2005, work has rapidly progressed to procure and construct a new crossing.



The new cable-stayed Queensferry Crossing bridge will have three slender single column towers and will be 2.7km long, including approach viaducts. Over 30,000 tonnes of steel will be used in this project to build the longest three tower Cable-stayed bridge in the world.

The bridge deck will carry two general lanes of traffic in each direction and hard shoulders to ensure that breakdowns, incidents and any maintenance works do not cause the severe congestion which is currently experienced on the Forth Road Bridge.

Opening is scheduled for late 2016 and this free evening seminar, by Project Manager Lawrence Shackman of Transport Scotland, will provide background to the project and describe current progress with the construction of the bridge and its connecting roads.

To book your place, please visit the ICE Website at <https://www.ice.org.uk/events/forth-replacement-crossing-newcastle>

## CIHT Professional Qualification Mentor Training

**Date:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2015  
**Time:** 4:00pm for a 4:30pm start, until 7:00pm  
**Venue:** Room 2.32, Cassie Building, Newcastle University, NE1 7RU

This event offers a training opportunity for those who are interested in becoming a Mentor to support CIHT candidates working towards:

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



The training workshop will be undertaken by Sue Stevens, CIHT's Director for Education and Membership.

The session will cover the following:

- Role of the Mentor;
- Characteristics of an effective Mentor;
- Effective communication between Mentor and candidate; and
- Ongoing Mentor Support.

The North East and Cumbria region has launched a mentor service for local members preparing for professional review. On completion of the training course attendees will be added to the CIHT North East and Cumbria Approved Mentors List, where they can pass on their knowledge, advice, encouragement and support to others in the process of becoming professionally qualified.

We are also keen to identify potential Assessors and Reviewers for each of the professional qualification routes listed above.

**Spaces are limited, so please register your interest by emailing [northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk](mailto:northeastandcumbria@ciht.org.uk)**

## A Day in the Life of...

### Trevor Platt



**Job title:** Business Development Manager, Nicander

**Role on Committee:** Finance Assistant, NE&C

**Terms of reference:** I am responsible for the development of new business growth in selected parts of the World. Nicander is a specialist UK-based software systems company that works with authorities and prime contractors around the world delivering a range of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) solutions from desktop applications for mobile phones, variable message signing, asset and fault management systems through to complex IT systems for national transport information, management and control.

**Suitability for the job:** With a background in Finance and Systems Analysis, I have been involved in the business development and programme management of ITS solutions for over 25 years. This includes projects in Europe, Asia Pacific, Middle East and North America.

**Where based:** Working on the Tees, living on the Wear, supporting a team on the Tyne. Given the recent changes within CIHT, liaison within a region is key. The Liaison Group within NE&C is helping to forget about the traditional football rivalry between Tyne, Wear and Tees, as well as the lakes and rivers of Cumbria. I have been pleased to present the CIHT Award for Innovation at Teesside University this year in front of the Transporter Bridge, an award that is now a regular on the calendar.

**Transport to work:** Straight down the A19 in my car, a reasonably fuel efficient diesel and hopefully low emissions. It's German, but made in Stuttgart rather than Wolfsburg.

**Top of in-tray:** Securing a new contract for the implementation of an integrated Asset, Fault and Service Information management system for a new bridge being built in the North West.

**Best aspects of job:** The best part of the job is securing new contract. Establishing a detailed business growth strategy, working with clients to understand their challenges, provide feedback on issues, creating bid teams and partnerships, prequalifying and tendering, and the final dialogue when down to the last few can take several years.

Once the contract is secured, ensuring effective transition and mobilisation and handover to the project delivery team is key. But that's only the start of another chapter, seeing the project team deliver the project and be able to demonstrate the system at the next conference or exhibition, hoping to find the next key opportunity. The chase is on again.

**Worst aspect:** You don't get anything for coming second, only a large bid cost charge that needs to be funded. Because we are a small-medium enterprise we need to ensure that we really focus on the key opportunities that fit with our strategy. Fortunately, we don't come second too often, but it's not good when it does happen.

**What is the most important transport issue today?:** I believe we need to think about what we need to do today to solve the critical issues that will happen in a number of years' time. Congestion and Carbon issues will dominate our thoughts in the future unless we do something about it today. The prediction on the number of cars on our roads in 15 years will mean that we will largely be sitting in traffic jams. The Government's legal obligations to reduce carbon emissions in 25 years will mean that at that time all cars will need to be zero emitting, and given the rate of car turnover, will mean that a significant proportion of new cars sold in 5 to 10 years' time will need to be zero emitting. We have seen the pressure on the automotive industry to be more like Lance Armstrong recently. We need to make sure that the whole industry is more collaborative in its research, with civils, technology and automotive businesses all working closely together with common goals and complementary strategies. We are still too disjointed in our approach and need to make sure that by sharing resources and ideas more effectively we can introduce innovation more quickly. Acting individually like Mr Armstrong may help you win the race today, but you are just masking the real issues - just think of the power of a real peloton.

**How do you relax?:** Talking of cycling.....due to various old football injuries, I can't run anymore, but have got into cycling and it's 100 times more enjoyable than running. You get to see so much more and you don't get all those niggling injuries. I prefer to cycle off-road and my thanks to the funds that have gone into creating an inter-connected cycle network that provides green space, variety and challenge. On a typical weekend 50 mile ride it provides lots of thinking time – and certainly no headphones. We have a box at St James' Park, so not sure whether you can say this is how I relax, but it provides a great contrast to the peace and quiet of the Lanchester Way; a nice glass of red helps. Finally, I also try and fit in the odd 19 holes of golf when I can.

**Ambition:** See the company grow by 50% (staff and turnover) over the next 4 years. We moved to larger premises last year with much room to grow, now just a case of doing my job right.