

Monthly round-up of news from the Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers



IHIE

FOCUS

Expanding courses will 'make it happen' for more young engineers

The Engineering Training Board (ETB) has launched a four-year campaign to improve the supply of newly-skilled engineers available to industry.

The 'Engineers make it happen' campaign is running activities in London, Northern Ireland and Wales and, following a successful first year, the ETB now plans to expand the campaign into other parts of the UK.

Launching the campaign, Dr Martin Thomas,

engineering campaign UK director at the ETB said: 'There are not enough engineers coming through the education system at technician and apprentice level, and many courses suffer from significant drop out.'

'The ETB's campaign is a concerted effort to support students and lecturers on these courses, and to make more of those young people who do make it into a college classroom.'

The campaign aims to support and inspire

engineering students in further education (FE) to successfully complete their courses and pursue related careers.

FE plays an increasingly central role in the supply of engineers, training students on full-time courses, as part of apprenticeship schemes, and supporting the new 14-19 engineering diplomas.

Many good FE students are lost to the engineering profession. Some change or discontinue their courses, or experience difficulties with exams or appraisals, while others who successfully complete their courses sometimes go on to take up careers in non-engineering sectors.

'Engineers make it happen' is designed to help meet the demands of business and industry for skilled engineering technicians and apprentices.

☎: www.engineersmakeithappen.co.uk



Traffex
21-23 April 2009
The NEC, Birmingham
www.parkex.co.uk

Come and visit IHIE at Traffex 2009 on the Surveyor/TEC stand in the main hall.

And to learn more about Tackling Skills: Training for competence – a new approach attend the free IHIE seminar in the showcase theatre.

COUNCIL SNAPSHOTS: Caron Ballantyne IEng FIHIE

Caron Ballantyne is a seconded member of staff at Lincolnshire County Council, where she is now client services officer.

She took the secondment to Lincolnshire in 2000, and her wide-ranging and challenging work now entails liaising with councillors at county and district level, and taking an overview of progress in many projects.

She works on the Boston transport strategy, which is looking at a mix of different approaches to encourage cycling, walking, bus use, and car-sharing, as well as the more traditional road widening and traffic-management measures.

Utilising the strategy, the council opened up a bus service through the pedestrianised centre of the town. While there were initially local objections to this approach, Ballantyne engaged with these to reach a successful conclusion, and bus usage has subsequently almost trebled.

She is also involved in preliminary work on the Spalding western relief road, and on park-and-ride facilities in Lincoln – a rather awkwardly-configured city for this purpose.

All this came about because Ballantyne was good at technical drawing at school. On leaving, she joined a local engineering consultant, progressing on to Sheffield City Council's highways department and, in 1999, Jacobs, where she is now a principal engineer.

She says she now sees her career developing by achieving CEng registration through IHIE. She thinks it is an opportunity for people like her 'who are good at doing the work, rather than taking exams', and that CEng is the aspirational goal for people with ordinary and higher national certificates (ONC and HNC) rather than degrees.

Ballantyne has worked with Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) to further the profession, talking to schools – and to girls, in particular – about an engineering career. She is happy in her work, and tries to get across the real nature of a career today as an engineer. The perception is still very much of hammers, saws and shovels, but slowly, advances are being made, she says.

Now a member of the IHIE council, Ballantyne hopes her local branch can get back on its feet, and is interested to hear from members how other branches have done this successfully.



Search is on for mentors to advise students

A new mentoring programme created to support London students enrolled on the 14-19 diplomas in construction and the built environment (CBE) and engineering is proving such a draw that more mentors are needed already.

The mentoring programme, launched in January, has been developed in partnership with the Construction Industry Council, Newham Education Business Partnership and the London Borough of Newham 14-19 education team.

Its programme involves linking volunteer practitioners from built environment disciplines with Newham young people, giving the volunteer an invaluable opportunity to support and encourage potential future practitioners.

This mentoring approach aims to raise students' aspirations and self-esteem, support improvement in their academic

performance, develop key functional skills and support informed career choices.

This approach is already proving a great success. 'Owing to demand, we are in need of more mentors from all disciplines within the engineering sector,' said Dana Walker, CIC project manager.

Mentors will have regular meetings at the student's school or college where they will share knowledge and information in order to enhance the student's work-based learning, and further develop their practical and academic understanding of their chosen career or interest. Walker added: 'If you are a professional working within this field, and would like to be a mentor, please contact me as soon as possible.'

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Showcase offers an all-year opportunity

Construction Showcase is a fresh approach to National Construction Week, offering a year-round replacement for the successful event promoted by ConstructionSkills.

This industry-wide scheme will provide construction employers, schools and colleges with the opportunity to showcase their careers, opportunities and promote their business all year.

Also launched at the same time was ConstructionSkills' London strategy, which sets out ambitious plans to ensure the skills and employment needs in the capital are met, including targets for work placements, apprenticeships and qualification attainment.

Employers which get involved in Construction Showcase will be encouraged to use the Showcase's 'quality mark' and promote their events on its website ☎: www.constructionshowcase.co.uk

They will also be able to tap into ConstructionSkills' online campaigns for young people, which run on Bebo and ☎: www.bconstructive.co.uk

Obituary

HS 'Bill' Taylor, who died last month at the age of 95, founded the IHIE and nurtured it as chairman for its first seven years.

Taylor started in civil engineering in 1931, articulated to the county surveyor of Nottinghamshire, JC Haller. In a career which spanned 46 years in local government, he served in various east of England authorities following his war service, settling in the Isle of Ely, the smallest English county, where he became its chief officer in 1957.

A strong institution man, Taylor was instrumental in setting up the then Institution of Highway Engineers – now the Institution of Highways & Transportation – East Midlands branch, hosting the inaugural meeting in Huntingdon in 1960. But it was in 1962 that Taylor first proposed to the IHE that technicians should have their own organisation.

Run by a board of trustees, the 'AHT' came into being in January 1965, later reincarnated as 'HTTA', a change also overseen by Taylor, who continued as chairman until 1972.

At this time, Taylor was assistant county surveyor of Cambridgeshire, a post he had occupied since the 1965 local government reorganisation had reclassified Isle of Ely. While at Cambridgeshire County Council, his most significant commitment was to developing the highways training centre, which he continued to support long after his retirement in 1977.

'IHIE has a lot to thank Bill Taylor for,' said Judith Walker, IHIE secretary and chief executive officer. 'He championed "the technicians" throughout his career, always aware of his own progression through the ranks as an articulated engineer.'

'We last spoke when IHIE celebrated its 40th anniversary, and he said then how pleased he was with our achievements.'



Branch news

• **East Midlands rises:** The inaugural meeting of *IHIE East Midlands* will take place on 24 March in Lincoln, with a talk by Dennis Parkinson, entitled 'Are you part of the scandal of complacency about road casualties?', and refreshments sponsored by Ringway Infrastructure Services.

Future meetings will feature: Steve Blackburn, managing director RIS; Steve Betteridge, materials engineer, Lincolnshire Laboratory; Chris Bean, Gates Macbain Associates.

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• **Southern branch:** On 19 March, Peter Watt, head

of the forensic faculty of the Metropolitan Police College, will outline the recording of forensic material arising from serious or fatal road collisions in compliance with the police *Road death investigation manual*.

Also planned on 31 March is a talk by Graham Coe of TRL on Chapter 8 of the *Traffic signs manual*, and on 13 May, the Winchester seminar is 'Bottoms up to the highway engineer' (see events).

• **South Western branch:** The annual general meeting is on 15 May.

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training & development

● Traffic signal control: Implementing the design

6-9 April, Nottingham

IHIE's annual course on implementation and maintenance for signal engineers.

Fee: £895 residential

● Preparing for your review

31 March, London

19 May, Taunton

In-depth advice and support in going for CEng, IEng and EngTech

● Introduction to development control

28 April, Bristol

For newcomers to development control. An overview of planning law and policy, and the role of highway development control staff.

● Improve your skills in traffic signs

7 May, London

Course to maintain expertise in direction and warning signing. Supported by the Department for Transport

● Durable surfaces

Date to be arranged

A third course delivered by Jeff Farrington. Those interested should e-mail. @: deputy@ihie.org.uk

● Highway maintenance

20 May, Northampton

Annual IHIE/Highways conference and exhibition on innovation and sustainability. Speakers on: site waste management; drainage; surfaces for a wetter climate; and EU driver regulations.

● Development control

3 June, Birmingham

Annual conference at a new venue.

● Bottoms up to the highway engineer

13 May, Winchester

IHIE Southern branch seminar on the latest in road construction from excavation to surfacing. Cost £70.

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