

A month in the life

Judith Walker, IHIE Secretary, reviews a busy month in the life of IHIE.

“Two important roles of the CEO of the Institute are to keep IHIE’s flag flying in the wider world and to support members’ career development. Take May which started with a ‘Preparing for Review’ course in Taunton, included a shorter ‘IHIE Briefing’ in Denbigh for the North Wales Branch and saw me co-chair the Southern Branch Winchester Seminar. Meanwhile, in the South West, the Branch held its ever - popular AGM luncheon.

Back in London two of the Institute’s technical groups met in May to review and refresh the courses, conferences and professional certificates then manage in traffic signal control and traffic signs.

Cheryl Brown, Marketing & Events Manager, who supports these technical groups was also busy with two national annual conferences – Highway Maintenance and Development Control. Michelle DaCosta, Membership Manager, meanwhile travelled north to act as secretary to the JBM visit to the University of Derby on top of organising professional review work.

IHIE contributes to many external initiatives and two steering committees on which we are represented met in May. Transport for London’s training and assessment projects, STAR and PROSTATT (www.tflstar.org.uk), which are just finishing and the etb further education project which is seeking to embed knowledge about professional engineer registration in course work and is just starting (www.inspiredbyengineering.com)

Again at TfL, this time to discuss Alison Clark’s idea for a qualification for TMA permit managers.

Partnership initiatives progressed in May included the Joint Board of Moderators (JBM) further learning committee attended with Simon Bennett. The committee is seeking to tie together the four institution’s processes. IHIE was also invited to a Public Realm network lunch looking to engage DfT more in its training programme (www.publicrealm.info). On the same day, Teresa Frost represented IHIE at a cross-institution conference trying to improve the 14-19 Diploma in Construction.

Externally, I represented IHIE at the new Institution of Royal Engineers who were introducing their first EngTech soldiers. Major General Keith Cima, Resident Governor at the Tower of London, took the salute after a parade by the band of the Royal Engineers. The following Friday was the very special Centenary Dinner of the Institution of Structural Engineers and the next week saw the inauguration of the IChemE president speaking about efficiency and ethics

The culmination was a reception for the Dalai Lama at Oxford University.

IHIE Member Profiles

ADRIAN GRAY IEng FIHIE



Adrian is a Principal Engineer with Hampshire County Council and Head of Traffic Signals, with responsibility for the oversight of all related projects, such as signal controlled roundabouts, and the urban traffic control system. A team of 10 engineers reports to him, all of whom have their own particular expertise, and Adrian works to achieve consistency in the delivery of work, and in the processes used.

Adrian had a background in urban traffic control and was a senior engineer in the Team when he gained promotion to the Principal vacancy.

He is clear that his achieving registration as an IEng in 1996 was both a major step in opening up his career path, and a source of personal pride. The route to registration is necessarily challenging, and it is a self imposed challenge for all who go along it. In this context, when Adrian first decided to apply, he searched for useful information about what steps he should take. He says that he found "IHIE tremendously helpful, and other organizations less so" and thinks that reflects the fact that IHIE specialises in supporting specialist incorporated engineers.

Noting that IHIE now offers a route to CEng as well, Adrian is "thinking of going for it". He makes the point that CEng is a more generalist qualification, whereas IEng reflects detailed expertise across a narrower field, and that advertisements rarely ask for CEng only. IEng, in Adrian's opinion, is now rising steadily in value, not least as detailed technical competence is more and more necessary to meet the demands of legislation and civil society more generally.

In “encouraging anyone to think of becoming registered” he advises that it is essential to regard the process as a significant commitment of personal time and effort, and that to be successful it is helpful to have a personal plan, without which “you will never get going”.

Importantly, take time to identify your knowledge and skills gaps, draw up a timetable, and get these gaps filled, before pressing on too fast and far. Adrian says he was fortunate in having support and advice from a local mentor, and this is – by the way – sometimes possible to arrange through the network of IHIE members, quite a few of whom give their time to advising aspirant colleagues.

Adrian’s hobby is rock climbing, and he sees similarities between that and undertaking the steep road to IEng, the main difference being that he would suggest that it is realistic to think of the latter as needing at least a year of effort.

Industry News

- **Manual for Historic Streets** is a new EHTF publication extending the philosophy of Manual for Streets to include historic towns and tackling the risk debate.
www.ehtf.org.uk
- The Public Realm Network has a Master Class on 2 July in London looking at **LTN/01/08** Traffic Management and Streetscape. www.publicrealm.info
- 'Time to clear the air' is a free leaflet operatives explaining how dust from **cutting kerbs and paving blocks** can cause respiratory disease. Check out other initiatives on webcommunities.hse.gov.uk/inovem.ti/kerbcutting.community

Highways employee shortlisted for council worker of the year

Saving a colleague's life has helped propel Leicestershire County Council worker, Lee Fradsham, to the finals of a prestigious national award.

Lee, is the only 'highways' finalist in the 'Bravery' category of the Council Worker of the Year Awards. He courageously pushed a colleague out of the path of an oncoming lorry whilst painting white lines on the A47 near Billesden, Leicestershire and sustained life-threatening injuries.

Readers can show their support for Lee and give him the recognition he deserves by voting for him on www.localgovernmentchannel.com or text "LGATV 2 Lee" to 80093 (text costs are charged at standard network rate).

Tired of IEng?

The Engineering Council review of incorporated engineer registration, on which IHIE's Peter Dipper sits, is proposing some changes to improve recruitment and status.

One proposal, to change the title, was the subject of an IHIE poll.

Nearly half those participating still put IEng as first choice and it was the more popular second choice with a third of the votes in this category.

Just over 30% of first choices went to Associated Chartered Engineer which also garnered 28% of the second preferences. There was little interest in Registered Engineer and Engineering Practitioner. Chartered Certified Engineer had some support.

Supporters of IEng considered that the title was recognised and feared that a change might cause confusion and devaluation. They wanted stronger promotion. Proponents of ACEng considered that the word 'chartered' added strength and credibility.

The Engineering Council decision should be out for full consultation later in 2008.

IHIE Excellence Award for Employee Development

Enterprise Mouchel is sponsoring this new IHIE Award which will recognise innovative support or learning programmes to address skills shortages or staff development.

Enter if you believe that your organisation demonstrates the highest commitment to the training and development of your professional staff.

Entry deadline 30 June 2008

www.ihie.org.uk

Training and Development

Preparing for your Review

1 July, Sheffield Hallam University

1 October, London, WC1

In depth advice and support in going for CEng at these courses, plus IEng and EngTech

Road Death Investigation Manual

13 June 2008, Bath University

Learn how a partnership approach between the local authority, consultants and police can deliver a smooth service and contribute to improving road safety and maintenance targets. The Corporate Manslaughter Act will impinge on local authority working: be prepared

IHIE Annual Meeting 2008

Friday 13 June at University of Bath

AGM: 4.45pm

Discussion: Joy Jefferies, BANES, on Traffic in historic towns

Annual dinner and Ceilidh Band: Tickets £25.00

Coping with Growth

– can our rural highway network cope?

18 June 2008 Sturminster Newton, Dorset

A Dorset Design and Heritage Forum conference in association with IHIE and RTPi Networks.

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Improve your skills in Traffic Signing

9th September, Loughborough

The course for signs practitioners. Presented by DfT, Buchanan Computing, Atkins and Colin Buchanan.

Traffic Signs 2008

Annual Conference and Exhibition

10th September, Loughborough

Celebrating 50 years of our modern signing system. Latest product news, LTN 01/08, Chapter 3, innovative local projects.