

June Celebrations

The Institute's annual meeting was held in the graceful surrounds of the University of Bath: the "ceiladh" after dinner however was rather less gracious!

After the seminar on the Road Death Investigation Manual, the AGM saw Susan Broadway hand over the Presidential reins to Tony Sharp for the next two years. Joy Jefferys outlined the exciting sustainable transport initiatives coming under the £54m Bath Package to cope with the city's tourist and commuters in what is a world heritage site. The measures which are designed to avoid building new roads and to reduce pollution include ten showcase bus routes, a 1.4km dedicated bus rapid transit route and other measures.

Colin Rees followed on to announce that he had received confirmation that day of nearly Euro 4m under the EU Civitas initiative covering 26 cities or five demonstration projects. Bath will investigate personal rapid transit and demand management introduce way finding cycle here (including powered bikes for Bath's hills), a freight transshipment depot and bus location information using Galileo Satellite.

Few members have given as much service to the Institute as this year's recipients of IHIE awards. Stephen Chandler, who is retiring from office, received Honorary Fellowship in recognition of over 34 years service on Council. He was a member of the first 'HTTA' Council after its incorporation, was elected Association Chairman in 1978 and then as Honorary Treasurer in 1982, proposed by John Harris.

Alongside his Council work, Stephen has been a strong supporter of high entry standards, and he conducted HTTA's first independent Professional Review in 1986. Rob Beattie, then with Worcestershire, was the successful candidate. Wise counsel has long been Stephen's contribution and he will be much missed.

The second award for services to IHIE recognised Peter Dipper's contribution not just within IHIE but also his work on behalf of Incorporated Engineers and technicians in the Engineering Council.

Peter came later onto Council joining at the 1986 AGM in Paisley and serving as President in 1994-1996. Elected to the Senate of the new Engineering Council, "Senator Dipper" served throughout its six year life. When the Council was reconstituted in 2002 as ECuk Peter was gain elected by the nine medium sized institutions as one of our two representatives on the EC Board.

As one of only 2 or 3 Incorporated Engineers on the Engineering Council, Peter has played a significant role in policy matters. He chaired the UK SPEC Technician Group and currently sits on the IEng Review Group.

In the Industry, Peter is a well known trainer and has been engaged in several NVQ and Sector Scheme developments becoming an External Verifier for LANTRA and OUAB.

Richard Hayes: new IHIE Vice President

Richard was elected as the new IHIE Vice President at the AGM in June 2008.

Richard is Head of Construction and Engineering in the Highways and Transportation division of the Community and Environmental Services Department in the Network Management branch of the Environmental Department of Northumberland County Council- no lack of hierarchy there then!. His current principal responsibility is the delivery of the Council's capital programme currently valued around £19 m per annum.

He has been in his present role since April 2005, prior to which he was the County's Area Manager based at the Alnwick Depot. Before moving to Northumberland, he worked for Stockton on Tees Borough Council for 25 years in Highways maintenance.

A relative newcomer to IHIE Council, Richard joined in 2004, initially as one of the first Graduate and Student representatives, before being elected a full member in 2007.

He represents the IHIE on the Construction Industry Council's Health and Safety Committee and the CSS Safety, Standards and Training Group. As Chair of the North East Highways Training Centre, Richard is also contributing to the Institute's work on Highway Inspector and Maintenance training.

Married to Jackie and with three children, Richard also enjoys travelling, World War I and II history and watching sport.

When the wind blows

Simon Morgan has revised with co-editors Jim Gallagher, Highways Agency and Kirsten, Mott MacDonald the IHIE Sign Structures Guide. The May 2008 guide explains the new method for determining wind loads and designing sign structures to the Eurocodes BS EN 12899 and BS EN 1991 and has been fully updated for the 2007 British Standard change.

Download a pdf from www.ihie.org.uk or send GBP1.50 to cover p&p.

Traffic Signs (50th logo)

IHIE's well known traffic signs conference and exhibition in Loughborough features celebrations of the 50 years of UK motorways. Phil Baines, Professor of Typography and Roger MacIntosh will review the history of our signage and Margaret Calvert co-originator of the UK signs has been invited.

If not all historic – the conference will also focus on current technologies, we have speakers from HA, DfT, VMS, Rennicks and ASD covering non-aluminium substrates (Dibond) specifying microprismatic materials, LTN 1/08, safer roadsides, and controlling traffic on motorways. Matt Smith, Surrey's safety auditor will give the user view. For an updated programme, keep checking on the website.

The 2008 diary date is 10 September. The conference is preceded by the course "Improving your skills in Traffic Sign" for practitioners who need an update with a discount if you attend both.

www.ihie.org.uk/events/conferences

Professional titles should be recognised

Andrew Ramsay, Chief Executive Officer of the Engineering Council UK (EC UK), has called on the government to introduce statutory recognition for Chartered Engineer (CEng), Incorporated Engineer (IEng) and Engineering Technician (EngTech) status.

EC UK regulates the UK's engineering profession, setting and maintaining standards of competence for engineers and engineering technicians. It operates through 36 engineering institutions, of which IHIE is one, which are licensed to assess members for professional registration.

The calls were made whilst he was giving evidence to a major inquiry into engineering held by the House of Commons Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee. Commenting on the significant proportion of new engineering graduates who choose non-engineering careers, Andrew Ramsay said that protection of the titles would demonstrate greater support for qualified and experienced engineers and technicians. It would also make it much easier to deter misuse of title.

The inquiry is the first into engineering for many years and comes at a time of concern over shortages of skilled, homegrown engineers and technicians.

Turning to the role of engineers in UK society, EC UK suggests that their contribution is generally less appreciated than the work done by scientists. Underlining the unfairness of this situation, it points to the greater range of skills usually required in engineering – such as the ability to communicate ideas to a wide spectrum of individuals, including product developers, marketing personnel and customers. In consequence, they also need a broader education.

Finally, EC UK expressed concern that young learners are being taught by those with limited engagement with the engineering profession – a situation it is trying to help rectify by encouraging academics in both further and higher education to become professionally qualified.

Training and Development

Preparing for your Review

1 October, London, WC1

In depth advice and support in going for CEng at this course, plus IEng and EngTech.

4 November, Birmingham

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.

In association with DfT, Buchanan Computing, Atkins

Improving your skills in traffic signing

9 September 2008, Loughborough

DfT- led course to extend your knowledge of direction and warning signing and signing strategies

Traffic Signals Control: implementing the design

6-9 April 2009, Nottingham

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

Fully residential.

Introduction to Development Control

21 October, Manchester

Start here for newcomers to DC: An overview of planning law and policy and the role of highway development control staff.

Foundation Training in Highway Development 2009

The only UK assessed training course leading to a qualification in development management.

There will be 2 courses delivered by TMS for IHIE and SEDCE in 2009. Details available in November

c.£1,550, fully residential