

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

### Anniversary year prompts industry to WISE up about women

As Women Into Science and Engineering (WISE) celebrates its 25th anniversary, it has called on the industry to adopt creative measures in order to extend its reach further.

'The easy wins have been won', said Terry Marsh, executive director of WISE, commenting recently on her strategy for the future.

'Although we have doubled the number of women engineering students at university, this happened more than five years ago, and numbers have now stopped increasing.

'We must now change our approach and adopt new creative measures to reach even more girls'.

It was in 1984 that the equal opportunities commission, under the chairmanship of Baroness Platt, wrote: 'The engineering industry can no longer afford to neglect the talent and ability which women have to offer.'

It led Lady Platt to collaborate with the Engineering Council to create WISE '84 - the year of women into science and engineering.

Those 12 months turned into an ongoing national campaign, and a quarter of a century later, the WISE campaign is still going strong. Together with its regional committee network active in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, WISE continues to tackle the challenges facing girls interested in careers in science and engineering - and now construction - today.

One example of the fresh approach Ms

Marsh advocates can be seen in the graphic novel pilot episode printed in *Young Engineers* magazine.

The project showcases apprenticeship opportunities in construction using the 'manga' comic style.

It has proved to be a hit with the target audience, capturing young girls' imaginations by reframing engineering and con-

struction apprenticeships as attractive - and relevant.

Likewise, the WISE 'mind maps' also communicate in a new way to girls, visually exploring the wealth of career opportunities in engineering using a riot of colour in hand-drawn diagrams. A series of maps can already be seen online.

☎: [www.wisecampaign.org.uk/](http://www.wisecampaign.org.uk/)

### Welsh 'road clutter' campaign gets under way

The Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW) has launched a campaign to reduce 'road clutter' in rural areas of Wales.

The campaign group is urging communities to investigate their local area, and report duplicate or redundant signs to the local highways authority, in a bid to get them removed.

Peter Ogden CPRW director, said: 'Signs should not be banned, but instead, placed with sensitivity and tact. The diversity which once characterised all of Wales is fast disappearing, and is being replaced by blandness and the increasing uniformity of a "catalogue countryside".'



## MEMBER PROFILE: Simon Morgan CEng MICE HonFIHE

The institute's first honorary fellow under its new title, Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE), is already well known to those working in traffic engineering.

Simon Morgan is one of the UK's foremost experts on all aspects of UK traffic signing. He has been a member of the Department for Transport's traffic sign structures technical working party for more than 15 years, and sits on several BSI committees.

For the IHE, he chairs the traffic signs group, in charge of the signs courses and conferences, and was editor and principal author of the *IHE signs structures guide* - the definitive guide to wind loading.

Not surprisingly, he is one of only two holders of the IHE professional certificate in traffic sign design at expert level, and is now an assessor for the qualification.

More broadly, after a career in London local government, Mr Morgan planned and executed the formation of Buchanan Computing in 1998, in order to drive the software development side of the parent company. He was sole executive director for the first 12 years, pushing the company up to a £1.3m turnover with 15 staff.

Buchanan Computing supplies software to many major UK highway authorities. Products include SignPlot, ParkMap for managing traffic regulation orders and AccsMap for analysing road-accidents.

Mr Morgan has a particular interest in GIS, and led on the IT aspects of Transport for London's London speed map - collecting data in order to analyse and map speed limits across the capital.

In proposing Mr Morgan for a honorary fellowship, IHE president



Institute secretary, Judith Walker, presents the professional certificate to Mr Morgan at IHE's annual signs conference in September

Tony Sharp cited his outstanding contribution to UK sign policy and design. He said: 'The institute is privileged to be able to draw on Simon's expertise to further the improvement of UK sign design. His knowledge is encyclopaedic and his dedication to the profession is exemplary.'

### Channelling flood risks

'The approach to flood risk management should shift to a holistic management of risk, combining defence and alleviation', says a joint policy statement on managing urban flood risk published by CIWEM with the Institution of Civil Engineers, Royal Town Planning Institute, and others.

Designed to inform and guide their members and the wider industry, it also notes: 'Urban areas should be designed to provide adequate surface pathways. During extreme events, this includes enabling roads, open space and pathways to act as channels.'

It adds: 'The risk of flooding should be a key constraint to development.'

☎: [www.ciwem.org.uk](http://www.ciwem.org.uk)

### Ringway's Neet reward

IHE's employer of the year award has been won by Ringway Infrastructure Services for its Neets training scheme.

Ringway's trainee highway worker scheme specifically targets young people who would be unlikely to enter the construction industry. It targets young people between the ages of 16 and 24, not in employment, education or training (NEET), and puts them through a nine-month programme. They spend three days a week at Lincoln College and undertake practical work as they aim for a level 1 construction diploma. The scheme was launched in 2005 with Chris Bean, then at Lincoln College and now a partner in Gatesmacbain. Since then, Ringway has appointed a dedicated trainer who, along with six team leaders, delivers the practical skills part of the programme.

Sponsored by enterprisemouchel, the IHE employer of the year award recognises companies with the highest commitment to developing their staff, and is part of the annual Excellence awards.

### Health and safety update

The Donaghy report into fatal accidents in the UK construction industry was published by the Department of Work and Pensions in July. *One death is too many* recommends:

- the Government should appoint a full-time construction minister to help drive improvements in health and safety;
- gangmasters' licensing regulations should be extended to cover construction;
- there should be a statutory duty on directors to ensure good health and safety management;
- building regulations should be changed to cover health and safety;
- health and safety teaching in construction courses should be reviewed;
- introduce mandatory common minimum standards for publicly-funded construction projects;
- more focus on second-hand equipment and machinery by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE);
- HSE should undertake a pilot study to assess impact of non-accident prosecutions.

Rita Donaghy also found that the HSE did not have the resources to manage its current workload and would need to use its resources more effectively.

☎: [www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/one-death-is-too-many.pdf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/one-death-is-too-many.pdf)

The HSE's public register of prosecutions is also online:

☎: [www.hse.gov.uk/prosecutions/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/prosecutions/)

### Welcome to IHE

A reception to celebrate IHE becoming the Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE) will take place on Thursday 10 December at Westminster Abbey, London.

The reception is to be followed by evensong in the abbey. E-mail for an invitation @: [deputy@ihie.org.uk](mailto:deputy@ihie.org.uk).

### Improving the public realm

● IHE took part in an invitation-only street design workshop organised by the Prince Charles' Foundation for the Built Environment and the Department for Transport (DfT) in October. Co-host Richard Buckley, traffic management divisional manager at the DfT, emphasised the importance of the *World class places* report published in May in setting out the department's agenda for streets.

● The second IHE debate on *Manual for streets (MfS)* and the *Design manual for roads and bridges (DMRB) - MfS vs DMRB* - took place on 20 October. It featured Stuart Reid, MVA director of sustainability, and Phil Cook, of TMS, with Richard Fitter of entran in the chair. Organised with Leeds City Council's Mike Darwin, the debate attracted a capacity crowd and the discussion, more so than in London, focused on technical issues. Copies of the presentations are on the development control section of the IHE website. ☎: [www.ihie.org.uk](http://www.ihie.org.uk)

● Parking in residential developments is the topic for the third IHE debate. Bob White of Kent CC and a representative of Essex CC will introduce the discussion in London on 28 January from 3pm-6pm. Suggested questions to think about are: Predict and provide? Keep a cap on parking to curb car use? Size and supply of garages.

● 'Building walkability into LTP3' is the title of a workshop organised by Living Streets. Scheduled for November, it will run in Sheffield and London. ☎: [www.livingstreets.org.uk](http://www.livingstreets.org.uk)

● The Institution of Highways & Transportation is looking at 'Urban street design - addressing fundamental issues' for its conferences on 24 November and 1 December. Speakers will use the projects in Ashford, Edge Hill and Walworth Road as examples.

● *Manual for streets II* is on course for publication next autumn. Design guidelines for shared space, in a project led by MVA, will take another six to 12 months.

### IHE in action

● IHE Mercia hosts a repeat of the successful South Western Branch seminar on 'Road safety: Making a difference' on 20 January in Birmingham. Delegate prices start at £125 for early bird IHE members.

Programme includes: MAST: Targeting interventions using socio-demographic profiles linked to STATS19; Devon north link: An integrated project using all 3Es driven by data analysis and evaluation; TRL: Progressing route safety by measured outcomes; TMS: Using RSA to improve practice; and EuroRAP: Targeting A-road accident sites.

☎: [www.ihie.org.uk](http://www.ihie.org.uk)

● Member moves: Dilip Datta (F), previously with Transport for London, has moved to the New Zealand Transport Agency. Becky Sprunt CEng is now delivering IHE's membership services as Michelle Maguire is on maternity leave.

### training & development

#### ● Highway law

3 December, London WC1

A course for road design, maintenance and development engineers delivered by barristers from 4-5 Gray's Inn.

#### ● Road safety: Making a difference

20 January, Birmingham

Adopting an evidence-based approach to target and improve interventions. No more naive before and after studies.

Cost: £125-£170.

#### ● Parking standards

28 January, London

A free IHE debate to discuss the options for new developments with Bob White, Kent CC and a representative of Essex CC.

#### ● Highway asset management - introduction course

8 February, Leicestershire

#### ● Highway asset management - practitioner training

9-11 February, Leicestershire (six days residential)

In-depth training delivered by expert consulting. Includes an assessment and can lead to an IHE professional certificate. Courses are available in-house or for local consortia at reduced rates.

#### ● Traffic signal control

26-28 April, Nottingham (residential)

IHE's annual course for signal engineers, covering traffic signal implementation and maintenance. Cost: £895 before 30 January (invoices can be dated post April 2010).