

2009 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Since the last AGM we have had another busy year, holding a total of **10 events** that attracted over **430 delegates and guests** with the following events being held:-

24 JULY 2008 – A3 HINDHEAD IMPROVEMENTS VISIT

An excellent afternoon's site visit, in good weather, for the maximum number of permitted delegates -25 – who were given a detailed tour of the site including a 'close up' view of work on the tunnel bores. Regrettably not permitted inside for H&S reasons.

Thanks go to the HA and Balfour Beatty for entertaining us.

9 SEPTEMBER 2008 - iRAP

An interesting input by Dr Suzy Charman of iRAP into the work of this organisation, in conjunction and as an addition to more well known groups (Eurorap etc.). Suzy explained the criteria and action plans for various countries, primarily in South America as a case study.

Various publications and CDs were distributed to the 31 delegates in attendance.

28 OCTOBER 2008 – Who is that Blind Person? – DDA Presentation

Bill Pitcher of Gifford Consultants made a presentation along with a former Highway Engineer, Paul Winchcombe who lost his sight about 8 years ago. Though concentrating on the needs of the visually impaired, together Bill and Paul highlighted the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, both with 'visual aids' and, from Paul, personal experiences of a blind person trying to negotiate the modern network.

28 NOVEMBER 2008 – Career Development 'mini' – Seminar – West Sussex CC

This was the third event that was held by the Branch (others earlier in the years in conjunction with Surrey CC) to develop interest by potential engineers, especially those in West Sussex.

A total of 18 delegates received presentations from Judith Walker from HQ and our own Branch Secretary, outlining the benefits of 'Southern' membership. Both were assisted by Helen Currie, a recently qualified IEng. who related her experience in achieving this distinction despite being a working Mother. After the main event and excellent Buffet Lunch, delegates were able to have a one to one discussion with Judith on the way forward to develop their career.

The Branch is grateful to West Sussex CC for kindly hosting this event in plush accommodation in Chichester

28 NOVEMBER 2008 – Wine & Wisdom

A regular event on Southern's events. Another noisy but competitive evening with a full house of 14 participating teams (total 112 'delegates'/competitors realised a total of £1000.00 being raised for the benefit of The White Lodge Centre, Chertsey. A unique specialist unit caring for children and their carers who are affected by Cerebral Palsy.

A valuable opportunity for members and their friends to meet on a more social setting raising much needed funds and demonstrating the generosity of the Institute's membership

4 DECEMBER 2008 – Highways Agency Outreach Presentation

A slightly more than 'full house' of 30 delegates attended the NMIC, Surrey to hear a joint presentation by the Highways Agency and their Partners, SERCO on the Agency's latest developments in making traffic information more readily and comprehensively available both to the business community and travelling public.

Complete with a free buffet and 'goodies' bag of Agency materials this was a well received event that we hope to repeat.

19 MARCH 2009 - Work of the Forensic Science Service

Another excellent presentation arranged by the Branch and made by Peter Watts of the Met Police Forensic Science College Faculty describing the history and work of the photographic branch of investigative work for incidents across the entire spectrum of modern policing, from public order, road collision investigation to victim identification both in the UK and elsewhere in the world.

31 MARCH 2009 – Chapter 8, Traffic Signs Manual – 2009 update

Just over 50 delegates attended this input by Grahame Coe, Senior Researcher at TRL who spoke on the history and development of Chapter 8 up to the most recent changes that were to become effective from the following day (1 April).

29 APRIL 2009 – WEY & ARUN CANAL – LOXWOOD CROSSING

A trip back to times gone by as Eric Walker MBE of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust explained to the 18 delegates the work of the trust in restoring this historic link so as to enable a waterway transport from London to the Sussex coast.

The primary obstacle to overcome was to re-establish the link that was severed years ago (about 100) by the B2133 road in Loxwood. At a cost of £1.8 million the canal level was lowered through two new locks and an entirely new road bridge was installed in 2008.

After the presentation, Eric took members on a guided tour of the site and visitor centre.

13 MAY 2009 – ANNUAL SEMINAR – WINCHESTER

'Bottoms up to the Highway Engineer' was the aptly named title of this event that attracted over 115 delegates in the impressive setting of the Winchester Guildhall. Describing construction of the highway (road) from base (bottom) to surfacing (up to top) a series of eminent presenters both informed and amused delegates.

Positive delegate feedback demonstrated that at an exceptionally low price of £70 per delegate we feel we provided the right topic at a value for money price that helped to make this one of the most successful events we have held over our 18 year history of arranging annual seminars.

Regrettably some events had to be cancelled or postponed for the ensuing year. Evidence of the difficulty we have in trying to get speakers/venues to suit everyone.

We have more events planned for 2009/10 but suggestions welcome for any events. All attract a CPD and are, usually, free of charge.