

# Autumn 2019 Newsletter

Cumbria Members Group

**IChemE** ADVANCING  
CHEMICAL  
ENGINEERING  
WORLDWIDE

*Welcome to the autumn 2019 edition of the Cumbria Members Group newsletter. Our aim is to support the professional development of Chemical Engineers in our area, for all ages and levels of experience.*

## Ennerdale Brewery Visit Review

In June, the Cumbria Members Group organised a visit to Ennerdale Brewery in Rowrah. The brewery opened in 2008 and is a small family run business that produces a variety of fine cask real ales and bottled beer.

The beers are brewed using only four ingredients; water, malt, hops and yeast. The water is soft and is taken from Ennerdale, which is only a couple of miles away. They use a long established English Ale Yeast and harvest some from each fermentation batch to get used in the next batch; this maintains Ennerdale's unique taste. The beers are fermented for one week and then transferred to a conditioning vessel for up to six days.

They had recently created a new honey flavoured beer, Honeycomb, which was a favourite amongst our members!



## Vertellus Tour Review

The Cumbria Members Group were invited to Vertellus Workington in October for a technical talk and plant tour.

Vertellus is a leading provider in the world of speciality chemicals, including Grignards, alkenyl succinic anhydrides and PIBSA's. These chemicals are used in the paper, fuel, lube, oil, metalworking, explosive and pharmaceutical markets.

Vertellus operate three manufacturing units on their Workington site, and primarily produce products under contract or toll manufacturing using batch processes. They have recently been re-graded to the highest tier of COMAH site. Their newest manufacturing unit produces Grignards and contains significantly more process automation than the older two units. Grignards are extremely reactive and are primarily used in organic synthesis for creating new carbon-carbon bonds.

The site tour consisted of a short technical presentation about Vertellus' history, products and markets. Members were then taken around the different manufacturing units in small groups, before coming back together for an in depth Q&A session. We would like to express our thanks to their knowledgeable scientists and engineers, and Vertellus' excellent hospitality!

## STEM Opportunities

We're looking for a couple of volunteers to support a local STEM event in west Cumbria.

We need help with setting up and running the IChemE stand at the Beyond 16 Careers Convention for Y11 students.

Time: 15:30 to 19:30, but any help is appreciated, even if it's for only an hour!

How: Contact our STEM Lead, Kim Williams at [kwilliams@React-Engineering.co.uk](mailto:kwilliams@React-Engineering.co.uk)

**Save the Date**

**WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER**

**WE WILL BE RUNNING OUR ANNUAL CAREERS CONVENTION FOR YEAR 11 STUDENTS!**

**BETWEEN 4PM AND 7.30PM**

**AT NATIONAL COLLEGE FOR NUCLEAR HALLWOOD RD, LILLYHALL BUSINESS PARK, WORKINGTON, CUMBRIA CA14 4JN**

Phone 01900 604674 for more info

**INSPIRA**  
inspiring you

## Cumbria Member Profile – Ross Harris



I have been a member of the IChemE Cumbria Members Group since November 2018 and am currently preparing to apply for chartered status.

Having graduated from the University of Leeds in 2015, I completed a two-year graduate development programme with National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) and have worked within NNL's Engineering Design team for just under four years. My role provides me with the opportunity to get involved with all parts of the design process, from concept design, to commissioning of processes and equipment in challenging nuclear environments.

Through the position of Visiting Teaching Fellow at the University of Leeds, I work with a small team to deliver lectures and tutorials on the design and HAZOP processes to third year chemical engineering students. I really enjoy being able to give something back to the chemical engineering community, which is partly what spurred me on to join the Cumbria Members Group Committee.

### Your Committee

Toby Cushion – Chair  
Emily Vincent – Secretary  
Phil Murphy – Treasurer  
Dan Pocock – Communications

Jenny Sykes – Events  
Kim Williams – STEM  
Lee Marquis – Mentor coordination

### Upcoming Events

Cumbria Members Group AGM  
21<sup>st</sup> November 2019  
*The Beacon Museum, Whitehaven*

Inter-institute Annual Quiz  
5<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
*Gin and Beer It, Whitehaven*