

# Winter 2022-23 Newsletter

Cumbria Members Group



*Welcome to the winter 2022-23 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. In this issue we review our annual meeting and previous events.*

## AM – Engineering Ethics Review

At the end of November, we held our annual meeting on MS Teams. We were lucky to be joined by Professor David Bogle, IChemE President who presented on the topic of 'Engineering Ethics'.

David's presentation described how the topic of 'Ethics' is becoming more relevant in the chemical engineering profession, especially with recent high-profile engineering events like the Grenfell disaster, Boeing 737 MAX grounding, and Volkswagen emissions scandal. An Ipsos/MORI poll showed that 87% of the public see engineers and trustworthy, so it's important for the profession to lead otherwise solutions could be imposed.

David argued about the shortcomings of codes "if it is not specifically written it must be allowed...", which is further supported by recent Engineering Council UK guidance imploring engineers to do more than just comply with legislation and codes, and to be prepared to seek further improvements.

David explained that to promote ethics in the chemical engineering profession, IChemE is planning to embed ethics training in university courses, just like how safety training has slowly become more widespread over the past few decades.

We would like to thank David for taking the time out to 'virtually' visit us; some worthwhile further reading can be found in [The Chemical Engineer](#) and a recent [report by the Royal Academy of Engineering and Engineering Council](#).

## Lakes Distillery Tour Review

It's not often in West Cumbria that we get to taste the produce from one of our process plants, but Oliver Richards, a new Plant Engineering graduate gives the lowdown on our latest plant tour and his first event with IChemE Cumbria Members Group...

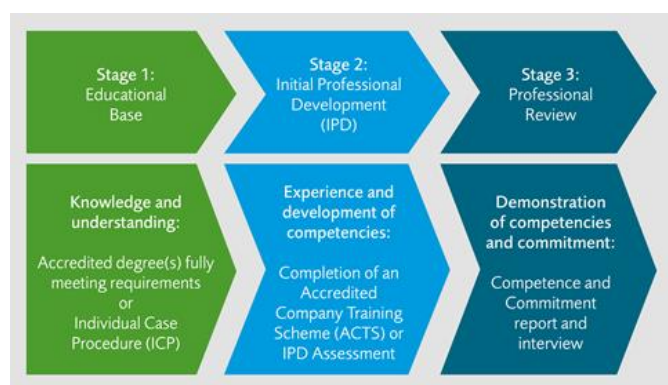
"When first starting my graduate scheme, my line manager, who is most of her way through attaining her chartership made me aware of the broader IChemE local member groups and regular events that may interest me as a process engineer and expand my network. I had some experience around brewing from university and knew that the Lakes Distillery tour would be something that would be fascinating to me.

When I arrived at the event, I met with a member of my team and I quickly became engaged in conversations with members of the IChemE from different professions and organisations that I was previously unfamiliar with. The tour encouraged us to converse and was interesting from both a chemical engineering and general perspective. With a lot of information surrounding the local area as well as the brewing process. Particularly interesting was viewing process equipment, such as condensers, used in drastically different applications to those I am familiar with in a work context. I found the tour a very relaxed way to meet other members of the IChemE and build existing relationships as well as meet people in the discipline, and look forward to the next event. "

## Get Chartered Review

As an engineer at the start of my career, chartership is constantly mentioned as something to aspire towards.

At the Cumbria Members Group 'Get Chartered Event' Chris Bone, Accredited Company Training Scheme (ACTS) Co-ordinator provided a detailed overview of the chartership process. This featured a breakdown of the 3 qualification stages (Educational Base, Initial Professional Development [IPD] and Professional Review) and how they incorporate the chemical engineering skills and relevant competencies.



Chris noted that when writing your IPD assessment report and competence and commitment (C&C) report, that you should avoid ambiguous words like "responsible for" and "involved in" and ensure it's clear which part of the task you did – i.e. did you perform the task, check others' work or supervise?

For sections A & B in the C&C report, you should ask yourself "Did I need a chemical engineering degree to do this?", "What knowledge have I demonstrated here?", and "Is this the best example I can offer to showcase my chemical engineering knowledge?". Chris explained that section A was about demonstrating depth of experience, but section B was about demonstrating breadth of experience.

Charlotte Ransom then spoke about her own experiences of the Chartership process having recently achieved Chartered Member status. Charlotte stressed that the assessors and interviewers can come from any background so ensure you give the appropriate context, and to be careful when mentioning specific industry terms whilst writing your C&C report and in your interview.

Charlotte suggested to give yourself plenty of time for the application as verifiers/referees need plenty of notice, and IPD forms are required before you can formally apply to start the chartership process.

Recently, the chartership application process has moved to a fixed 3 month process which provides structure to both applicants and assessors. An example of timings is shown below:

Week	Action
1	Submit completed application (including completed referees and verified report) to IChemE
2-3	Professional Reviewers assess Competence and Commitment Report
4-5	Where requested, candidate makes amendments to the Competence and Commitment report based upon Professional Reviewer comments and resubmits
6-7	Professional Reviewers reassess the Competence and Commitment Report where required
8-9	Professional Review Interview held
10-12	Panels
12	PFF VEP decision communicated

At the end of Chris' presentation, other chartered chemical engineers were on hand for 1 to 1 discussions about which routes to chartership they'd taken; this surprised me as to the number of different choices available.

*James Harling, Reliability Engineer Industrial Placement Student*

### Your Committee

Charlotte Ransom – Chair

Sarah McKay – Secretary/Events

Paul Sutton – Treasurer

Dan Pocock – Communications

Sophie Watson – STEM

John Smallman – Mentor coordination

### Upcoming Events

Inter-Institute Quiz

8<sup>th</sup> December, 1800-2100

*The Vagabond, Whitehaven*