

Winter 2023-24 Newsletter

Cumbria Members Group



Welcome to the winter 2023-24 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.

'Get Chartered' Talk and Q&A

October saw the Cumbria Member Group host a "Get Chartered" talk at The Beacon presented by **John Smallman**. The talk was well attended with 15 members in the early stages of their career using their Tuesday night to learn how to better prepare for becoming a chartered chemical engineer.

John went through the educational, initial professional development (IPD) and professional review stages of the chartership process. This presentation was followed by a questions and networking session.

The Cumbria Member Group will be hosting a chartership workshop early in the new year where experienced mentors will be available to support chartership preparation. If any members require mentoring support, then the Cumbria Member Group committee can be contacted to arrange this assistance.

For more information on IChemE chartership the institution website has a library of material available.



Cumbria Member Group AGM

The IChemE Cumbria Member Group Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday 28th November.

The evening began with a remote presentation by Craig Wright, who is based in Glasgow and works for the IChemE Safety Centre. Craig took the group through a case study which simulated the decision making at various points of the Bhopal pesticide plant, leading up to the tragedy in 1984. Feedback from the attendees agreed that the case study was thought-provoking and made it clearer how various operational decisions which seemingly have individually low consequences can end up leading to an unforeseen event.

Following the ISC talk, IChemE CMG statistics for 2023 were shared with the group and a summary of achievements – events run and STEM events supported – were shared. The evening concluded with new volunteers being confirmed in post in the STEM and the Communications roles, alongside 3 new General Members who will assist with organising and running events throughout the 2024 calendar.

Huge thanks to all of the volunteers new and old for giving up their time to support the organisation of CMG activities!

Annual inter-institute Quiz

In December the annual inter-institute quiz was held at the **Vagabond Pub** in Whitehaven, jointly funded by IChemE and IET. Many thanks to those that made it and apologies to those that didn't make the cut-off - the free pizza on offer was too tempting leading to the event being over-subscribed for the first time! It was brilliant to see representation from so many institutes all in one place, and we hope to carry this momentum forward with an even bigger event next year.

Congratulations to the winning team, Craic Propagators, which was the team with the most institutes represented once again proving that diverse minds often triumph! They left with a lovely gift basket from **Richardson's** in Whitehaven, while runners up had their pick of chocolates. "Fluidise my Bed" won best team name, clearly a group who know how to play to their audience!

The quiz was an example of member groups of different institutes in STEM within Cumbria aligning to put on a fantastic event!

Thank you again to the IET who joint-funded the event, and Stephen and Harry for organising.



Summary of Upcoming Events

Professional Engineers (South Cumbria)
Technical Talk – Living on the moon, off the moon, is being organised in February 2024. This is a fantastic opportunity for the IChemE Cumbria Member's Group to engage with professional chemical engineers in the South Cumbria area.



A 'Get Chartered' Workshop is in the works for March. This event aims to assist Chemical Engineers in early careers with Chartership applications. Experienced Chartered Chemical Engineers will lend their experience concerning the chartership application process and nuances to Chemical Engineers at the early stages of their careers. This is a fantastic opportunity for early careers engineers to receive bespoke advice and support at a pivotal time in their development.



Your Committee

Charlotte Ransom – Chair

Sarah McKay – Secretary/Events

Paul Sutton – Treasurer

Oli Richards – Communications

Milly Szymborska – STEM

Harry Brook – Mentor

Coordination

Upcoming Events

Professional Engineers Talk
(Living on the Moon, off the Moon)
07/02/2024, Barrow-in-Furness