

Spring 2017 Newsletter

Asking the right questions and meeting the painters!

"If you don't ask the right questions, you don't get the right answers. A question asked in the right way often points to its own answer"

Edward Hodnett, The Art of Problem Solving

Welcome to the Spring 2017 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. Please get in touch with any ideas on how we can help you more.

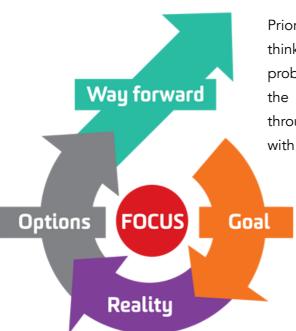
Asking the right questions

Asking the right question sits at the heart of communication and problem solving. Too often, we can fall into the trap of asking closed questions, missing the opportunity to benefit from the wider experience that the other person may have. This is particularly important for trainees when they meet with their IChemE mentors.

To help our younger engineers, we organised an interactive session, facilitated by Lisa Griffin who works as a leadership coach for the NHS Cumbria Partnership Foundation Trust.

Prior to the session, attendees were asked to prepare by thinking of a particular career or professional development problem that they currently have. Once we covered some of the theory from Lisa, we split up into groups to work through our problems, coached by other attendees armed with their new knowledge.

Lisa explained a simple model for us all to use when working through problems like this - GROW





Goal (where do you want to be?)

• what would you like to achieve from this discussion

Reality (what, when, where, how, who?)

- what is happening now?
- what has triggered the need to change?

Options (route between now and future)

what could you do?

Way Forward (with commitment)

• How will you make this happen?

We were pleased with feedback - attendees found it stimulating and useful for their development. The handout from the session can be found <u>here</u>.

Meeting the painters at Florence Mine, Egremont

We enjoyed listening to engineers, scientists, miners and the artists who use the ores in their work. It was a fascinating insight into how a former industrial site had changed purpose into an arts centre, how ores can now be made into oils and watercolour paints, pastels and pencils and how particle science links all this together. Feedback was very positive and thanks to Donna McKendrick and her colleagues at NNL who made the evening.

Future events



Robots - a modern application to legacy problems. A technical talk and practical demonstration of how robots can carry out complex activities in high-hazard environments. **24th May 2017** at NNL Workington. More details soon.

The science of coffee - June in Cockermouth.

Inter-institutional social event later in summer. Outdoors! Maybe.

Your Committee

Chair - Toby Cushion (cumbria-chair@ichememember.org)

Vice-Chair - Phil Murphy

Treasurer - Graciela Pieruz (cumbria-treasurer@ichememember.org)

Secretary and STEM - Emily-Jayne Brown (cumbria-secretary@ichememember.org)

Communications - David Oakley (<u>cumbriamgecm@ichememember.org</u>)

Events – Jas Sahota (cumbria-events@ichememember.org)

Diversity and Mentoring - Nik Muchatuta

Committee members - Donna McKendrick, Tom McMillan, Chris Horridge, Simon Candy