

# RIVERS & COASTS

Newsletter of CIWEM's Rivers and Coastal Group No. 44 – June 2009



## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I think it is quite an achievement that this year we are celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It could not have come during a more interesting and challenging time.

The flood and coastal erosion risk management profession is facing significant challenges. The Government is considering new legislation to provide us with a basis to meet these challenges. The Rivers and Coastal Group and CIWEM are actively engaged in helping to shape this legislation. I am sure that when our group was founded the members would have hoped that it would actively participate in such events but perhaps did not imagine that we would be doing so 60 years on? It therefore seems right that in my first 'Chairman's Chat' I should simply say 'thank you' to those who had the vision to start this group and to all those who have worked on the committee and supported the Group over these past years.

The Group is in very good shape. Our membership currently stands at around 940 people. Over 50 people have joined us in the last 5 months alone and so I am hopeful that our membership can exceed 1000 in our anniversary year - in fact this is the first of my aims as chairman this year. Whilst numbers are an important indicator of the group's success it is also essential that our membership is representative of the profession and the environment we operate in. This brings me to the Group's second aim which is to continue to broaden the range of skills and sectors of employment amongst our membership. In particular we would like to increase the number of members from local government organisations and also construction professionals.

We have already made a start this year in broadening our membership having been joined on the committee by Gavin Holder of Chichester District Council. We also welcomed Rob Hall from the Environment Agency and Kathryn Herd from PBA. Liam Foster and Phil Mccloughlin also join the committee as ordinary members having already served for a number of years as co-opted members. Other changes include the appointment of Martin Whiting to Junior Vice-Chair and Hannah O'Callaghan as Secretary. I am sure you will join me in wishing them 'all the best'. We have also had to say farewell to Jackie Banks and Ronnie Falconer this year who have served their full term. We owe them both a great debt of gratitude for their contributions and are assured that they are not too far away should we need them! Finally, I would like to thank my predecessor, Andy Gilham for his leadership over the past year. I know he will continue to be a source of sound advice over the coming year.

CIWEM recently welcomed the Waste Water Planning Users Group (WaPUG) into membership as a specialist group. This is very timely given the moves in our industry to improve the integration of flood water management from all sources. The RCG and WaPUG are keen to work together to identify how we can combine our complimentary interests and skills and this forms our third aim this year.

This opportunity, along with the other changes in our industry, has prompted the committee to think about our overall vision, aims and objectives. Our fourth aim for this year is to establish our vision for the near future and to confirm our overall aims and objectives. We are interested in your views and you can email me directly.

Our fifth and final aim for this year is to build on our work with our CIWEM policy colleagues in engaging in consultation on policy issues and generally raising the profile of CIWEM. We have had a successful recent past in this regard but we can do more. Recent feedback from Nick Reeves suggested that in general our politicians are hungry for information on 'the environment' and access to professionals who can advise them.

Please be assured that the above stated aims are those particular to the coming year and will be additional to our ongoing effort to provide events and support that remains relevant to your needs. We are always interested in your views and would invite you to contact our committee members at any time.

This leads me to my final point which is to commend to you our programme of activities which are described in this newsletter. Not least of these is our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in London on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September. This will include a very interesting boat trip on the Thames followed by an opportunity to have exclusive access to the Museum of London Docklands exhibits and to catch up with friends and enjoy good food and drink. We have some guest speakers and we will be handing out complimentary copies of a special Anniversary Publication. It is going to be great!

Best wishes

Terry Fuller

## CIWEM RCG SPRING MEETING AND AGM

This year the spring meeting was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009 and was on the theme of 2 years on from the 2007 floods what has changed?

Following the River and Coastal AGM the spring meeting opened with an address by Alistair Mosley, the CIWEM President followed by a key note speech by Peter Ryder, Chair of Thames RFDC who reviewed the major features of the 2007 floods and the principal actions that have followed, including the Pitt Review, the draft Flood and Water Bill and oversight and delivery of response.

After a short break for a coffee and some networking Mary Dhonau Chief Executive of the National Flood Forum reviewed the work of the National Flood Forum and reemphasised a number of issues previously raised by Peter Ryder. Russell Turner of the Flood Forecasting Centre gave a presentation of the Flood Forecasting Centre looking into its background, the services it has provided since going 'live' on 1 April 2009, the lessons learnt to date and the centre's plans going forward. Keith Lead of the Environment Agency then gave a paper on Community Self Help Groups - The East Hanney Example showing how a community has worked together with the local council and the Environment Agency to undertake local improvement works to reduce the flood risk to their community. The session was concluded by the award of the CIWEM R&C Group Chairman's prize to the National Flood Forum for their valuable work in supporting those flooded or at risk of flooding.



After lunch, Neil Thurston of Entec gave a presentation on a Defra funded research report on the Economic Benefits of Flood Resistance and Resilience (FD2607/TR1). After Neil, Duncan Reed stepped in at the last minute, as the scheduled presenter could not present due to illness, and gave a presentation on Save Flood Risk Estimation by 3D thinking. Duncan identified the use of depiction and delineation techniques whilst respecting the data and thinking about the frequency element of flood risk estimation. The last paper of the day was by Peter Down of Mott MacDonald who presented Lessons Learnt from Reservoir Incidents which summarised the reservoir safety approach under current legislation and identifies the changes proposed in the draft Flood and Water Management bill. Andrew Gilham summarised the day's event which showed that significant progress had been made in flood risk management since 2007.

Andrew Gilham then handed over the position of Chair of the group to Terry Fuller, through an ancient and ritualistic ceremony that including a bottle of Fuller's ale and a toast. Overall, the day had been most interesting, greatly aided by all the speakers who were prepared to think on their feet and modify their presentations to complement what had gone before.



We will be returning to Austin Court next year for the AGM and Spring meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010 with a provision subject of "modelling and visualisation of flood risk". Austin Court is a friendly and comfortable venue, easily accessible by public transport (and even by car). So why not put that date in your diary now? If you are interested in presenting on this subject please do contact Phillip Mcloughlin ([phil.mcloughlin@aecom.com](mailto:phil.mcloughlin@aecom.com)).

## CIWEM RCG CONSULTATIONS

Recent and current consultations include:

- Defra consultation on a National Flood Emergency Framework CLG Advisory group for planning guidance on water

Ongoing

- Defra consultation on the Floods and Water Management Bill - Please may I have feedback from the committee, giving me insight as to your particular areas of interest in relation to the Bill and an indication of any input you wish to make before 19th June.

## RCG STUDY WEEKEND

The annual Study Weekend was held this year at the University of Southampton on the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> April. The theme for the weekend was "Sustaining Communities in Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Areas?" driven by recent flood events, which have highlighted the risk and led to flooding rising on the political agenda with the forthcoming Flood and Water Management Bill, and the risk of coastal erosion, predominantly on the east and south coast of the UK.

The Saturday session was opened by the RCG Chairman Andrew Gilham with an introduction to CIWEM, including routes to membership and a presentation on the central theme of the weekend. This was followed by a series of

lectures looking at both policy and practical examples. This included a look at the high level Shoreline Management Plans which inform policy at a strategic level and at a more technical level with the Pagham to East Head Coastal Risk Management Strategy. There was an interesting and informative talk from Southampton University on sea level rise.



The RCG Competition finalists then gave their presentations on 'An integrated approach to managing flood risk in areas with multiple sources of flooding', judged by David Rooke (Environment Agency), David Ramsbottom (HR Wallingford) and Andrew Gilham, alongside the delegates themselves. Charlotte Nunns from Atkins was announced the winner, followed by Nicola Bailey (Hyder Consulting) and then Joshua Arnold (Ecologic).

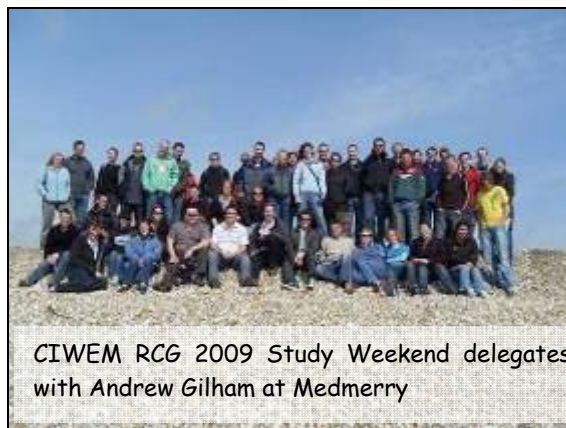
After lunch, there was a talk on the issues of development in flood plains with examples from the town of Lewes. Following this, the RCG Committee and study weekend organisers provided an interactive flood risk management workshop looking at the various issues surrounding the Pagham to East Head Coastal Risk Management Strategy. This was well received by the delegates and enabled them to apply the lecture material to a practical scenario.

On the Saturday evening there was a boat cruise, buffet and disco on the Solent, which gave the delegates an informal networking opportunity.

The Sunday session involved site visits to Portsmouth and Selsey. The site visit to Portsmouth focussed on the current flooding issues facing Portsmouth and included a walk around Portsmouth's old town and a trip up the Spinnaker Tower to look at the current flood and erosion risks and the management practices in place to mitigate them. Selsey is one of the major towns within the Pagham to East Head Coastal Risk Management Strategy. The site visit here enabled delegates to see at first hand the issues mentioned in the Saturday session lectures and workshop.

The Study Weekend was undoubtedly a success and provided delegates with some rewarding and practical CPD. Thanks go to the volunteer organisers Nick Grey (Environment Agency), Gavin Holder (Chichester District Council) and Alex Cargo (Royal Haskoning) for all their hard work over the previous year in pulling the weekend together.

For more information on the study weekend and Young Members Competition for 2010, please check the RCG website.



CIWEM RCG 2009 Study Weekend delegates with Andrew Gilham at Medmerry

## RCG BIOGRAPHY – NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Mr Rob Hall, MRICS, MCIWEM**

My name is Rob Hall and I feel very privileged to have recently been elected to the Rivers and Coastal Group Committee. I am proud to work for the National Capital Programme Management Service (ncpms) of the Environment Agency where I am presently the Thames Regional Delivery Manager. In my current role I am very much at the forefront of delivering improved flood protection and reducing flood risk to thousands of people in greater London and throughout the Thames Valley.



I am a hydrographic surveyor by profession and am also a Member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (MRICS). Before joining the Environment Agency five years ago I worked for an offshore marine survey and environmental company, which took me to a number of interesting overseas locations.

Before applying myself to the environment industry I served as a commissioned officer in the Royal New Zealand Navy for twelve years. Whilst in the navy I worked predominantly at sea as a hydrographic surveyor where I was involved in updating nautical charts and gathering oceanographic data in the South Pacific. A highlight of my career was being part of a multinational team surveying in Antarctica to improve our knowledge of the region and climate change.

My name is Gavin Holder and I am very excited about being given the opportunity to participate on the Rivers and Coastal Group Committee with the ability to influence the activities of the group over the coming three years.

I work at Chichester District Council as an Assistant Engineer where my key activities are coastal management and land drainage. My job is highly varied, and I get involved with general coastal defence maintenance, major capital coastal defence schemes, production of Shoreline Management Plans and Coastal Defence Strategies, completion of land drainage parish surveys and helping ensure landowners action their riparian responsibilities. I also get involved with commenting on planning applications in regards of flood and erosion risk and have undertaken training on emergency planning and responding to maritime oil spills, which could have a significant impact on the Chichester frontage.



Prior to my current career I completed a Masters course in Coastal and Marine Resource Management and a degree in Geographical Science, both at the University of Portsmouth. I still have links to the University.

My first major involvement with the Rivers and Coastal Group was as an organiser of the CIWEM Rivers and Coastal Group Study Weekend 2009. Having attended the study weekend in 2008, I thought it was such a successful event that I wanted to help in 2009. It turned out to be a great weekend, and delegates genuinely enjoyed themselves, networked and learnt a lot. During both weekends there has been a lack of attendance from local authorities. This is sad, as local authorities play a huge role in coastal management and land drainage and should be a key player within the Rivers and Coastal group.

My name is Katherine Waters and I feel honoured to have recently been elected to the Rivers and Coastal Group Committee.

I am currently an assistant engineer at Peter Brett Associates LLP (PBA) working within the Water Management Team based in Reading. My main area of work is dealing with the management of flood risk in proposed and existing developments and ensuring that developments comply with the current legislation and best practice.

Before joining PBA I worked for the Environment Agency within the Development Control team, which gave me the opportunity to develop and expand my knowledge on existing legislation and guidance within England. Within my time at PBA I have enjoyed developing this knowledge in relation to the UK and Europe.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 2009

Please check [www.ciwem.org/groups/rivers/events](http://www.ciwem.org/groups/rivers/events) for further information.

### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

The year 2009/2010 is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rivers and Coastal Group and a number of events will be organized to celebrate this including the following:

#### 22nd-24th July 2009

Overseas Technical Visit: Ireland 2009

Location: Cork to Dublin

Contact: Liam Foster ([liam.foster@hyderconsulting.com](mailto:liam.foster@hyderconsulting.com))

A few places are still available on our overseas visit to Ireland. It will be a fascinating technical visit exploring all forms of flooding.

#### 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009

A boat trip on the River Thames & Evening Buffet Reception at the Museum of London Docklands to celebrate 60 years of participation, leadership and knowledge sharing across the industry.

Contact: Terry Fuller ([terry.fuller@jacobs.com](mailto:terry.fuller@jacobs.com))

#### Winter 2009/2010

New member's competition

More information to follow

Contact: Hannah ([Hannah.ocallaghan@jbaconsulting.co.uk](mailto:Hannah.ocallaghan@jbaconsulting.co.uk))

#### Spring 2010

Study Weekend

More information to follow

Contact: Hannah ([Hannah.ocallaghan@jbaconsulting.co.uk](mailto:Hannah.ocallaghan@jbaconsulting.co.uk))

#### 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010

2010 Spring/AGM meeting

Location: Austen Court, Birmingham

More information to follow.

Contact Fola Ogunyoye ([f.ogunyoye@royalhaskoning.com](mailto:f.ogunyoye@royalhaskoning.com))

#### Summer 2010

TE2100 and Thames Barrier: Technical visit including guided boat trip on Thames from the barrier to Westminster pier

Location: London

Contact: Jamie Fielding ([Jamie.fielding@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Jamie.fielding@environment-agency.gov.uk))

**THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS NEWSLETTER.**