

# RIVERS & COASTS

Newsletter of CIWEM's Rivers and Coastal Group No. 45 – Dec 2009



## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Since our last newsletter there have been several flood events around the globe that have led to significant disruption to people's lives and also loss of life. This is a sombre start to my chat this month but it serves to remind us of the importance of the work that many of our members are engaged in.

Whilst the recent event in the North West demonstrates the amount of work we have left to do, it also shows signs of real progress in managing flood risk. The nearly-completed defences at Carlisle saved a considerable number of people from flood impacts. We have also seen the very positive results of the dedication and organisation of those involved in the recovery effort. Undoubtedly there are lessons that we can draw from this experience and so we have decided that some time should be given over to this in our Winter meeting in January 2010. This was always going to be a great meeting and it now gives attendees their first opportunity to share in this experience.

Our anniversary year is going well thanks to your support and the work of our committee. In July we enjoyed our study tour of The Republic of Ireland and in September we celebrated our 60th year in London. At this event we launched our anniversary booklet. The production of this involved contributions from several of our members but I would like, in particular, to thank Emily Doyle from CIWEM HQ for her work on the layout and final production. A copy of this is being sent to our members, we hope you enjoy reading and keeping this.

We are also making good progress with the objectives that we established for this year. Our membership continues to grow and we are now very close to welcoming our 1000th member. We are also developing our relationship with WaPUG with the support of our colleagues in head office. It will take us time to work out how we can make the best of the skills that our combined groups represent. One way that we will start to explore this is through collaboration at future events.

We also undertook to look at the vision and aims of our group and many of our members have provided views on this. You can find our current position described in our anniversary booklet.

We still have work to do in broadening the sectoral and geographical representation of our membership and we would like your help with this. Please continue to promote the work of CIWEM and the RCG with people that you come into contact with. The broader our membership is, the richer our events and activities will be.

Our final aim was to continue to work with other CIWEM colleagues in influencing policy. We have actively contributed to the consultation on the Floods and Water Bill and we are now providing views on what should happen next. Your views on consultations are always welcome and can be sent to Katherine Pygott or any committee member. You can find our consultation responses and position statements on the CIWEM website. Recent efforts have really helped to develop CIWEM as an influencing body and raise political awareness of our work. This is nicely illustrated by the fact that this year's Downing Street Christmas card features an image from CIWEM's photographic competition.

To close I would like to thank you once again for your continuing support. We have had a very successful 2009 and 2010 is going to be even better. Please take time to look through our forthcoming events. We have worked hard to offer you a broad range of interests and geographical coverage.

On behalf of the committee I extend best wishes to you for the Christmas period and the New Year.

Best wishes

Terry Fuller

## CIWEM RCG SPRING MEETING AND AGM

*The following write up of the RCG Ireland Visit was written by Emma Davies of the Environment Agency.*

The Ireland visit started with the Office of Public Works (OPW) giving an overview of 'Flood risk management - Irish style!' and the strategy for the River Lee catchment in southern Ireland. It was interesting to compare this with flood risk management in England.

After lunch, we all boarded the coach to visit various sites on the River Lee, starting near the bottom with the Cork Docklands strategy.

Next, we went up to the Inniscarra dam. This is one of two dams that generate power on the River Lee. The workings of the generators and the incredible feat of building such a structure was fascinating. The dam has minimised flooding downstream, and the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) issues flood warnings to people at risk - this is a little closer to my day job.

Aside from the benefits of generating power and reducing flood risk, the dams have created huge lakes upstream which provide recreational and environmental benefits. The

lake furthest upstream contains an area known as the Gearagh - the only known alluvial forest in Western Europe. This is a haven for wildlife and provided one of the highlights of the trip - walking barefoot across the flooded causeway so as not to soak our only pair of shoes. Next time I'll bring my wellies!



On Wednesday evening, once our feet were dry, we had a chance to socialise and further explore Cork. The group consisted of Environment Agency staff and consultants from across the UK and Ireland, so we all had different stories to tell and opinions to share.

The next day was a full one as we began our road trip to Dublin. Along the way we stopped at Mallow flood alleviation scheme which comprises both permanent and demountable defences (similar to several schemes in the area I work). It was interesting to see the options that were considered for Mallow.

We moved to Kilkenny for lunch and to see a recently completed scheme. Unfortunately it was a bit difficult to hear our guide over the heavy rain and thunder, but the storm soon cleared away giving us a chance to view the famous Kilkenny Castle.



After this we headed for Dublin, looking forward to the evening's dinner and entertainment. We weren't disappointed. We enjoyed a three course meal and live Irish music in the Oliver St John Gogarty. Some also enjoyed a reasonable amount of wine!

Breakfast on the final morning was spent sharing tales of the night before, but it wasn't long before we were back in the classroom to hear about Dublin's approach to flood risk management and their coastal flood warning system

"Triton". We also learned about the city's part in FloodResilientCity. This is an EU-funded project aiming to balance the demand for housing with the need for better flood risk management in eight North-West European countries. Bradford in the UK is also one of these cities.

The tour was completed with various site visits around Dublin, including flood alleviation works on the lower Dodder, and Spencer Dock. Then all I had to look forward to was the long trip home.

I recently started a role in Flood Incident Management at the Environment Agency. Prior to this, I spent two years training with the EA and studying for a foundation degree in River and Coastal Engineering. This visit to Ireland was a welcome reward at the end of my studies, and I had the chance to meet other professionals from a river and coastal background.

The trip was a fantastic opportunity to see how another country tackles the flooding problems it faces, and I got to appreciate the similarities and differences with my job.

Oh, and of course I got spend a few days travelling around a beautiful country, making it well worth the exhausting journey, and one I would definitely recommend.

## CIWEM 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In September the group celebrated its 60th anniversary in style. The evening began with a boat trip along the River Thames which was accompanied by a narration provided by Rachael Hill of the Environment Agency. Rachael has a wonderful depth and breadth of knowledge of the history and planned future of the river and we are grateful to her for sharing this with us. We also enjoyed some good weather and a glass of wine. To my relief I counted the same number off the boat as on and we then proceeded to walk to our main venue for the evening. Those that know me best will testify that a 'sense of direction' is not one of my strengths. Under my leadership our party was treated to a tour of London Docklands but at least they had a healthy appetite when we did reach our destination.



Delegates enjoying the boat trip

The remainder of the evening was spent in the Museum of London Docklands. This was a very relaxed affair in which we had opportunity to browse the exhibits and to catch up with old friends and meet some new people. On arrival our guests were presented with a booklet that celebrates our

60 years and provides a vision of how we might go forward. A copy of this will be sent to all of our members.

We were delighted and honoured to be joined by our CIWEM President Ken Shapland and David Rooke who is a past president of CIWEM, past chair of the RCG and continuing supporter of our group. David provided us with some reflections on the great work that the group has done, as well as assurance of how relevant this is for the future. Ken presented his aims for his presidential year and described how important the work of our group is as part of CIWEM.



Terry, Ken and David

I was very encouraged by the range of ages and backgrounds of the people that attended. The wealth of experience in our group was clear as well as the desire to share this experience. It was also notable how some of the members' partners knew each other and had developed a friendship of their own through meeting at CIWEM events and visits. A reminder, if we needed it, of how fortunate we are to work in a profession that stimulates such wide interest. Terry Fuller

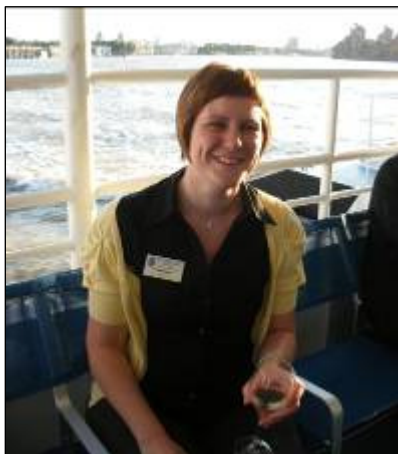
## RCG BIOGRAPHY

### Kathryn Bell MCIWEM

Kathryn is a senior coastal and river scientist based in Arup in Leeds. Kathryn has previously worked for Royal Haskoning

(Haywards Heath and Dublin) and EnviroCentre (Glasgow) and has developed technical and management skills in a range of projects for public and private clients. Kathryn specialises in sustainable flood and coastal erosion risk management with particular

focus on river and coastal engineering, coastal geology, processes and geomorphology, options appraisal, flood risk assessment and catchment management. Kathryn is currently project manager for a number of coastal, flood



risk and habitat creation projects for the Environment Agency under the National Environmental and Engineering Consultancy Framework (NEECA2).

Kathryn is one of the longest serving current committee members and has been on the committee since 2002/2003. Kathryn has been the publicity contact on the committee for four years. In this role she updates the website, writes the RCG newsletters and liaises with CIWEM HQ and WEM magazine to ensure that RCG information is disseminated. Kathryn has organized the Study Weekend 2001 and 2002, the Kilmarnock FAS technical visit (2005), the new members competition (2005), the Humber Strategy Technical Visit (2008), and the Integrated Urban Drainage Technical Visit (2008) as well as numerous evening meetings.

### Phillip McLoughlin MCIWEM



Phillip McLoughlin has been a member of the Rivers and Coastal Group Committee since 2007. Principally Phil has been involved in organising the

group's spring meetings and the 2008 young person's paper competition. In his day job Phil is a Regional Director for AECOM responsible for the company's Peterborough office. Phil is a chartered civil engineer by profession, specialising in flood risk management since graduating from Loughborough University in 1994. Phil's experience includes delivery of high level catchment flood management plans through strategic appraisals, feasibility studies, detailed design, site supervision and commissioning of completed works. He is motivated by the variety and the importance of flood risk management work, especially in the fens, working within an excellent team and helping those unfortunate to be affected by flooding. Phil has been lucky to have completed a number of significant flood alleviation schemes and in 2006 completed a major wetland creation scheme on Wallasea Island involving the creation of one of Europe's largest man made wetlands at that time.

### Graham Piper FCIWEM



Graham is currently working with the Environment Agency, Thames Region, where he currently acts as both project manager and project executive on various flood risk management appraisal and delivery projects. Graham started his career in Shell as a refinery technologist, having graduated in chemical engineering. After completing a masters in soil and water engineering at Cranfield

University, Graham went to Uganda with his family, where he directed a series of self help community water supply projects for the Church of Uganda, for nearly seven years. On returning to the UK he worked for the National Rivers Authority for a short time before joining Halcrow. Graham subsequently spent a number of years working as an independent consultant working on flooding and river engineering schemes before recently joining the Environment Agency.

Graham joined the RCG Committee in 2007 and was involved in the 2009 Study Weekend and in the organisation of the 2009 Spring Meeting. He is both a chartered chemical engineer and chartered civil engineer and is also a CIWEM Reviewer.

## CAPTION COMPETITION

We will give a £10 prize to the person who gives us the most witty caption to this photograph taken on our Ireland trip. Send your entries by e-mail to the Chairman [terry.fuller@jacobs.com](mailto:terry.fuller@jacobs.com)



## CIWEM RCG CONSULTATIONS

RCG respond to relevant consultations. Recent consultations include:

- CLG Advisory group for planning guidance on water
- Defra consultation on the Floods and Water Management Bill
- Defra: Consultation on Coastal Change Policy
- CLG: Consultation paper on a new planning policy on Development and coastal change
- CIWEM Manifesto
- RICS Water Resources Paper

Anyone interested in contributing to these or other RCG consultation responses should please contact Katherine Pygott at [pygottk@halcrow.com](mailto:pygottk@halcrow.com)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

We like to ensure our meetings and technical visits are meeting the needs of their target audience. We would therefore be grateful if you could complete the questionnaire on the following pages and return to the Martin Whiting.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 2010

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

#### Winter 2010: New member's competition

The CIWEM Rivers and Coastal Group New Members Competition is an exciting opportunity for those new to the industry to develop professionally. This year the committee are interested in the views of newer members on how we can effectively spread the flood risk message to the general public and other practitioners who need to understand the concepts of flood risk to help manage it to a lower level. First prize is £500 plus a winner's trophy. The first round closes on the 22nd of January 2010

More information on the website

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

#### 27th January 2010

**CIWEM RCG Winter Meeting: Managing our changing flood and coastal risk: emerging good practices**

Location: London

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

#### March 2010

Technical visit to the Dymchurch Sea Defences Construction project, Kent.

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

#### 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010

**Study Weekend: Flood Risk Management techniques and their practical application**

Location: University of East Anglia, Norwich

More information to follow

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

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

**2010 Spring/AGM meeting: Modelling and visualisation to effectively communicate flood risk**

Location: Austen Court, Birmingham

More information to follow.

Contact Phil ([phil.mcloughlin@fabermaunsell.com](mailto:phil.mcloughlin@fabermaunsell.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 ([Jamie.fielding@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Jamie.fielding@environment-agency.gov.uk))

#### Summer 2010

Wales Technical Visit

More information to follow

Contact: Graham ([graham.piper@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:graham.piper@blueyonder.co.uk))

#### Autumn 2010

Technical visit to Moray, Scotland

Contact: Martin ([m.whiting@royalhaskoning.com](mailto:m.whiting@royalhaskoning.com))

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

## CIWEM RIVERS & COASTAL GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE ABOUT MEETINGS

Your Committee arranges two regular meetings each year, traditionally in the Winter and in the Spring. These are separate and additional to the technical visits which take place. Over recent years the Winter meeting has been held in London and the Spring meeting in Birmingham. The two regular meetings have routinely attracted less than 10% of our membership and we are keen to see an increase in attendance, both of our membership and of non-members.

Over the past two years, our Winter meeting has been run as part of the wider CIWEM national conferences. This has enhanced the organisation, breadth of attendance and networking opportunities as well as the cost of attendance. The Spring meeting has remained as a Group Committee run meeting.

To help us raise the historically high standards of your Group and make our meetings more relevant to your requirements we invite you to complete and return this questionnaire by **11<sup>th</sup> January 2011**.

### Spring Meeting (Birmingham)

	2007	2008	2009	
Did you attend (delete as appropriate)	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	
If Yes, how did you rate the last meeting you attended	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>ADVANCE NOTICE</b> (sufficient)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VENUE</b>				
Location	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TRANSPORT/PARKING</b>				
How did you arrive?	Car*	Public Transport*	Other*	
(*delete as appropriate)				
Instructions on getting here	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TECHNICAL CONTENT</b>				
Quality of presentations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical interest of subject	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall assessment of meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### If You did not attend any event (you answered all No)

Was this because:	Yes	No
The <b>Notice</b> was too short	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The <b>Booking</b> was too complex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The <b>Venue</b> was inconvenient	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(where else would you suggest as a <b>Venue</b> )	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
The <b>Technical Content</b> was not relevant to you	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What <b>Topic</b> would encourage your attendance	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
The <b>Cost</b> was a factor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(the 2009 fee was £78.25 + VAT)		
What do you consider to be a <b>Value For Money</b> figure	£ <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	

Please see next page -

## Winter Meeting (London)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Did you attend/book	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
If Yes, how did you rate the last meeting you attended	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>ADVANCE NOTICE</b> (sufficient)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VENUE</b>				
Location	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TRANSPORT/PARKING</b>				
How did you arrive?	Car*	Public Transport*	Other*	
(*delete as appropriate)				
Instructions on getting here	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TECHNICAL CONTENT</b>				
Quality of presentations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical interest of subject	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall assessment of meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### If You did not attend any event (you answered all No)

Was this because:	Yes	No
The <b>Notice</b> was too short	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The <b>Booking</b> was too complex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The <b>Venue</b> was inconvenient	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(where else would you suggest as a <b>Venue</b> )	<input type="text"/>	
The <b>Technical Content</b> was not relevant to you	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What <b>Topic</b> would encourage your attendance	<input type="text"/>	
The <b>Cost</b> was a factor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(the 2010 fee is £160 + VAT)		
What do you consider to be a <b>Value For Money</b> figure	<input type="text" value="£"/>	

Thank you for your time, if you do have any other comments for your Committee as to how we can provide a more attractive, relevant programme please record below:

Please return to Martin Whiting, Junior Vice Chairman

[martin.whiting@talk21.com](mailto:martin.whiting@talk21.com)

c/o Royal Haskoning, 4 Dean's Yard, Westminster, London SW1P 3NL