

Chair's Report for 2021

As most of you will know I am a Past President of the Institution. What you may not be aware of is prior to that I was Chair of the Yorkshire and Humber Region of ICE and before that Chair of the Tyne and Humber Branch of CIWEM. This gave me a good insight into what members of a professional body think, why they belong to a such an organisation, and how they engage. Of course there is no one size fits all – different members have different aspirations and different needs. None more so than those who contact the ICE Benevolent Fund of which I am currently a trustee.

I was really pleased to be asked to become chair of the CEC, a role I have had since last October. During this time the work of the CEC has, like many things, been severely limited by Covid but I am glad to say that we are now getting back to normal. Today, in fact, is the first time that the committee has met face to face since I became chair. Most of you attending the AGM will know the work of CEC and the many benefits it offers. But I don't think this is true across the wider membership of ICE. Indeed I had limited knowledge myself before taking up the chair's role. From a personal and very limited survey of members CEC is seen as organising social activities for retired members with much of the activities only available in the South of England. Of course this is a very unfair and inaccurate perspective, but it illustrates I think that CEC operates rather at arms-length from ICE members. This is not by design but has perhaps become the case by default.

Whilst CEC offers many physical activities, from Bridge and Walks through to Golf, it is perhaps its social role that really reflects its intent. Giving ICE members an opportunity to make wider friendships through activities is a very important reason for its existence. Covid has demonstrated the mental health challenges caused by isolation. Clearly members who retire can face this and welcome the opportunity to continue to engage with fellow engineers through CEC activities. However the well-being aspects of CEC should not be limited to them. Members at all stages of their career can feel isolated, have difficulty in making friends or are simply lonely. I know from personal experience how challenging this can be. How might CEC help the well-being of the wider membership of ICE?

I am really encouraged, therefore, that the newest activity to come online is Bouldering. I'll leave you to Google this if it is something new to you. This has attracted a much younger group than perhaps might have been engaged in the past. This has developed entirely on the initiative of one of our many volunteers who organise CEC activities across the UK. We are indebted to them for the time and effort they put in to organise and manage the range of activities that CEC offers. CEC simply would not exist without their commitment and hard work.

So what of the future? I think we might want to ask what we could really achieve if we built on our current success but broadened the range and availability of our activities, enabling all ICE members to have access to a range of social engagement across the UK is something that can benefit the whole profession, both individually and collectively. What if we engaged far more with our Regions, through their committees and local membership. We already have a good example of this in Northern Island where success there is in part due to this closer connectivity. We have recently extended our reach into Hong Kong through similar links.

How might we be more visible to ICE members? Improving our presence on the ICE web site and in the New Civil Engineer might be a start. Of course, ICE is always striving to be more visible and engaged with its members itself, but this does not mean that its associated bodies should not do the same. There is a useful parallel with the Benevolent Fund where we can learn from how it has extended its activities and reach in recent years. A review of our constitution is certainly needed, not because it is necessarily wrong, but simply to ensure that it properly represents this new vision. We have yet to develop an action plan but I trust we will achieve both a review of our constitution and increase our connectivity with the Regions in the coming

year. This will then set in place the foundation for the future and I hope you will join me in supporting this important development of CEC.

In the meantime I trust that I will serve you well as chair over the coming year and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during that time.

David Balmforth
Chair

Secretary's report for 2021

Thanks are due to all the Committee members for their continuing loyal service to the Club during the pandemic, with committee meetings continuing to be held online. Our Chair Professor Balmforth has chaired the meetings expertly and made many useful contributions to them.

Despite the pandemic, membership numbers have increased from 328 in June 2021 to 351 in June 2022.

It is proposed by David Balmforth and seconded by Peter Richardson that the annual membership subscription for the Civil Engineers' Club should remain at £10 for the forthcoming year, 2023.

Peter Richardson
Contract Bridge Secretary

Bouldering report for 2021

A newly formed Bouldering Group had successful events at the Castle and the Vauxhall East Climbing Centre in the Autumn and more events are planned for 2022.

Tony Barber
Bouldering Secretary

Contract Bridge report for 2021

The report for last year is unfortunately the same as the previous year, when because of the Covid-19 pandemic Face-To-Face Contract Bridge was not possible. Therefore, the two Bridge competitions for the Brunel Teams and the James Jones trophy competitions could not be held.

However during last year it was possible to start online Bridge lessons for Club members with teaching by a qualified EBU (English Bridge Union) teacher.

Now that UK has seemed to be leaving the worst aspects of the pandemic behind, we will be running the usual competitions in 2022. That is something to look forward to.

Peter Richardson
Contract Bridge Secretary

Golf report for 2021- Thomas Telford Trophy

ICE London Region had the privilege of hosting the 35th Thomas Telford Trophy at West Hill Golf Club on 5th and 6th September 2021. It was a particular pleasure to welcome the players to West Hill after the enforced cancellation in 2020 due to Covid-19.

West Hill is one of the well-known courses clustered around Woking built in outstanding Surrey golfing country and happily endowed by nature with sandy soil which makes it a pleasure to play all year round. The course may not be long by modern standards but hazards

abound in the form of heather to be carried from the tees and bordering the fairways, strategically placed bunkers, numerous trees and a stream. An outstanding feature is the testing quality of the second shots to subtly contoured greens. It is currently rated 73 in the Golf Monthly Top 100 Courses. The major event of the year at West Hill is the "Father and Son" Matchplay Foursomes tournament held there since it was inaugurated in 1931 and this year played just a few weeks before our visit. The course was in truly excellent condition and we were blessed with glorious weather to match.

The team from Northern Ireland (Stuart McQueen, Edward Bill, Jonny McIlwaine and Ben Adair) rose to the challenge of West Hill with excellent scores in each round and won the Thomas Telford Trophy with a total of 226 points. Second were London North (Dino Nicola, Roger North, Peter Stevenson and Norman Schunter) with 213 and third were West Midlands (Steve Brookbanks, Peter Watson, Chris Uren and Richard Green) with 210 points.

In the St Andrews Foursomes Edward Bill and Jonny McIlwaine (Northern Ireland) won with 43 points from Steve Miles and Russell Calderwood (South East) on 42 and Peter Stevenson and Norman Schunter (London North) in 3rd on 41 points. In the Singles competition Ben Adair (Northern Ireland) prevailed with 40 points from Jonny McIlwaine (also Northern Ireland) on 37, winning on count back from Neil Williams. The Scott Quaiach for lowest gross score was won by Debbie Hay-Smith with 28 points playing off a handicap of 6. The Veterans' Chilterns Salver returned to Northern Ireland, being won by Jack McFarland, 28 points, on countback from David Thomas and Stewart Dunmore.

The West Hill Golf Club were represented by Ken Marchant, a Past Captain of the Club and a player in the first ten Thomas Telford Trophies when he was a Director of the Institution. He spoke about the welcome received from Club members when he first joined WHGC and gave us an equally warm welcome.

The Institution was represented by David Balmforth, Past President and recently elected as Chair of The Civil Engineers' Club. He thanked Ken for his welcome and encouraged us to support CEC activities and promote the Thomas Telford Trophy, before later presenting the main trophies. Also in attendance was Yan Zhou, the London Region Representative on ICE Council. The London ICE organising committee included Dino Nicola, Neil Farmer, Peter Stevenson, Norman Schunter, Ian Purser, and Martyn Taylor. They were ably assisted on the day by Andy Salmon, Anne and Ken Duguid and Paul Musgrave who helped everything run smoothly. Main event sponsorship was very generously provided by Bechtel, Tony Gee and Partners, BAM Nuttall and CEC with further support from Mott MacDonald, Canham Consulting and Jubb.

Next year West of Scotland Region will host the 36th Thomas Telford Trophy at Glasgow Gailes Golf Club on Monday 5th September 2022.

Martyn Taylor
Golf Secretary

Northern Ireland Region report for 2021

Planned Visits

Our main activity consisted in arranging on-site visits to places of technical and cultural interest across Northern Ireland. Unfortunately, lockdown continued to make these onsite visits too risky and were considered to be 'off limit.'

Virtual Presentations

I was able to keep the CEC membership in touch and in contact with each other. The Immediate past chair to the ICE NI Committee who is my link continued his sterling work using his own ZOOM to continue (as in the latter part of 2020 when we had two presentations) to arrange

virtual presentations on various topics. Sam Phillips proved to be very enthusiastic in this respect.

Sam again invited his past NI ICE chair colleagues to join these meetings.

We had a total of three such meetings during 2021.

18-Feb-21	Living with Water Programme – Belfast	Paddy Brow
29-Apr-21	Celebrating 125 years of the National Trust	Richard Nicholl
28-Oct-21	Rother Valley Railway - Past, Present and Future	Gardner Crawley

Presentation on 18th February 2021

We had a very successful and professional talk by **Paddy Brow of NI Water** on the ‘**Living with Water Programme**’ for the greater Belfast area. This was to bring together all of the five stakeholder bodies involved to provide the NI Executive with a factual report on the problems faced regarding: -

- Water resources
- Waste water capacity
- Floodwater impact on development and
- Reducing river pollution.

The meeting, with questions and contributions from the ‘floor’ lasted about one hour.

Presentation on 29th April 2021

Early in 2021 the National Trust announced a new professional post with the appointment of **Richard Nicholl** who is a Civil and Structural Engineer. Richard is from Northern Ireland and was recently appointed to be the Trust’s Chief Civil and Structural Engineer for the Mainland as well as NI.

In their announcement the Trust indicated that Richard – *‘has exchanged his company saloon and brogues for a 4x4 and walking boots as the National Trust’s first full-time Civil and Structural Engineer. At a time when city dwellers are crying out for a sight of nature in the Covid-19 shutdown, his job will involve helping the Trust roll out its plans for new urban green space.’*

The meeting was held on Thursday 29 April 2021 when Richard introduced us to ‘**Celebrating 125 years of the National Trust**’. It was well received by those who attended.

Presentation on 28th October 2021

This was our first meeting with a speaker from mainland UK. **Gardner Crawley** charted with well-illustrated power point presentation on the **Rother Valley Railway - Past, Present and Future**.

Gardner is Chairman of the Rother Valley Railway Heritage Trust and is a fellow of ICE, a Freeman of the City of London, and Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Engineers. Gardner and I met while studying Civil Engineering at London University 1962 to 1965. Gardner has been a Director of Rother Valley Railway Limited for 30 years and has been Chairman of the Rother Valley Railway Heritage Trust for 20 years. So, he was well placed to

chart the history, progress and challenges posed in reopening a line closed by Beeching in 1965. There is one mile of the 2.2-mile line which is still missing.

The 'Missing Link' seems to be a common feature of restoration projects for various reasons. Earlier this year I had the pleasure of visiting the Stroud canal 'Missing Mile' on a visit organised by the President of IESF.

This was a very interesting and informative talk by Gardner as the rousing Q&A session proved. 22 attended the presentation, which was represented by CEC NI Members, ICE NI Past Chairs, London University Graduates (1962-1965) including Ong Choo Eng. who was CEO at hwa hong corp. ltd Singapore.

Issue addressed at a number of committee meetings in 2021

This was the continuing problem associated with an ICE member when **first** seeking to join the club through the ICE Website.

This still presents a big barrier to members of ICE who wanted to **JOIN** the club. Once an individual has joined the annual subscription for the CEC then it automatically appears in the renewal request.

Jim Workman,
Northern Ireland Representative for the Civil Engineers' Club

Sailing report for 2021

The sailing season commenced with the Round Island Race on Saturday 26th June. The Island in question being the Isle of Wight.

The CEC offer two trophies for this race, the Telford Goblet for boats entered under IRC rules and the Smeaton for non IRC entrants. This year there were 6 entrants for Telford and the winner was David Greenhalgh on his boat J'ronimo, a J/92 design (which clearly influenced the name).

There were no entrants for Smeaton this year.

The next event on the calendar was the Little Britain Challenge Cup which took place at Cowes over the weekend 10/11th September. There were 5 entrants for the CEC Sir John Coode Trophy and the winner was Jamie Chalmers on board the boat Knightbuild.

And the final trophy for 2021 was the Elvera Cup, awarded for the most entertaining 'log' of a voyage or voyages undertaken in the year. This was won for the third time by Chris Jones, for his very interesting and harrowing account of voyages over the season on board White Knight in the waters of Scotland and North Wales. Chris is also a member of CEC and received a cash prize of £50.

David Hardcastle

Singing report for 2021

The joint CEC/RICS Carol service was held at St Margaret's Westminster on Monday 6th December and the singing was led by the joint choir conducted by Bill Gloyne who is retiring.

The planned carol service at St Lawrence Jewry was cancelled because of building work.

Tony Barber
Singing Secretary

Walking report for 2021

We managed to have four out of five planned walks and also an extra walk which was a joint event with BTTYM. Unfortunately, we had to postpone the planned Walking Weekend again.

16th January

The planned walk for January was cancelled as a result of Covid restrictions.

17th April

The walk started from Chipstead Station in magnificent weather and took a track across the railway to a path which overlooked the valley and went by Shabden Park, an area of farmland which is being returned to natural vegetation. We ultimately arrived at Chiphouse Wood which is owned by the Woodland Trust and contains a quarter acre woodland plot dedicated to Patrick Lewis Maloy, a long-time Member of the Walking Group who died in 2013 and to a Seat dedicated to Patrick's wife, Jean Dorothy Maloy who died in 1998. See photo.

We returned to Chipstead via Banstead Wood where we saw the CS Lewis inspired tree sculptures of the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

The length of the walk was approximately 8 miles and 9 walkers took part.

Thanks to John Baron and Ray Sterry for leading the walk and providing interesting commentaries.

15th May

The walk started from the Darent Car park just east of Westerham and followed a path through the graveyard of St Mary's Church and the village green with its statues of past residents Churchill and General Wolfe. After crossing the High Street, we went through an open area with views of Westerham and the surrounding countryside, passing the site of an Iron age fort before entering Crockhamhill Common Wood.

Upon entering the National Trust grounds, we had a good view from the path of Chartwell, Churchill's home before descending to the cafe for lunch.

The length of the walk was approximately 6½ miles and 13 walkers took part.

Thanks to Haydn Davies for leading the walk and providing an interesting commentary.

25th September

The walk started from the south bank of the River Thames under Hungerford Bridge by the Royal Festival Hall and followed the Thames Towpath to Greenwich finishing alongside the Cutty Sark. The route passed many points of interest which included several Tideway Construction Sites, Blackfriars Bridge and the station, Tate Modern, Millennium Bridge, Globe Theatre, Golden Hinde, Shard, London Bridge Station, Hays Galleria, HMS Belfast, City Hall, Tower Bridge which was raised for a sailing barge as we approached.

Downstream of Tower Bridge we saw the Tideway Chamber's Wharf site and the gantry used for handling the tunnel boring machines. We passed the Mayflower pub from where the Pilgrim Fathers had sailed to America in 1620 and stopped briefly at the Brunel Museum, where Guide Tom Collins gave us a short talk about the museum and its history.

After lunch at the Ship and Whale we continued along the path to Greenwich by way of Deptford Naval dockyards and Deptford Strand.

The length of the walk was approximately 8 miles and 27 walkers took part.

Thanks to Mike Packer for leading the walk, organising the pub for lunch and providing an interesting commentary.

13th November

The walk started from the car park in Upper Green Road opposite The Chaser Inn in Shipbourne, and followed a route across Shipbourne Common, along the Greensands Way, through Fairlawn Home Farm and on to the Kentish Rifleman at Dunk's Green. We then continued to Old Soar Manor, a thirteenth century medieval knights house, run by English Heritage and the National Trust where we were able to look round. We returned to Shipbourne via Plaxtol; with a brief visit into the church, Fairlawne House and Park to The Chaser Inn by The Common for lunch.

The length of the walk was approximately 6½ miles and 20 walkers took part.

Thanks to John Coplestone for leading the walk, organising to have Old Soar Manor opened for us by Robin James of National Trust and booking the meal at the Chaser.

Joint CEC/BTSYM Walk 4th December

We met in the piazza outside the Royal Exchange, by Bank Station and went along King William St to the Monument, for a brief stop, where we could gain a view of the Bank Station Capacity Upgrade site before heading East to St Dunstan's visiting the garden in the ruins of the church. Our next stop was at the shaft of the Tower Subway by Thames Street. The shaft was for the tunnel beneath the River Thames, opened in 1869 as a cable operated passenger subway but now a utility tunnel for hydraulic and water mains.

We proceeded along the Thames Path, with views of the Thames Tideway Chambers Wharf construction site across the river, towards St Katherine's Dock before continuing to the Captain Kydd for a break and to quench our thirst.

After the break, we continued along the Thames Path with a stop to view the Thames Tideway King Edward Memorial Park Foreshore Site, where a shaft is being constructed, before heading to Limehouse Basin to finish the walk at Commercial Road.

The length of the walk was approximately 3½ miles and 11 walkers took part.

Thanks to Divik Bandopadhyaya for leading the walk and giving such an interesting commentary about the Thames Tideway project and places of note along the route.

Thanks to everyone who joined us during the year.

Tony Barber
Walking Secretary