



## President's Message

'President of The Mining Institute of Scotland'. I did not expect to be bestowed this honour when I graduated from Strathclyde University 25 years ago. It really is a privilege to hold this prestigious title as I read the names of the past presidents, and the status they held within the industry.

I would like to thank the outgoing president Alex Crossland for all his hard work and the efficient manner in which he conducted the MIS activities during 2013/2014. Much gratitude is also due to David Seath and Allan Thomson whose continued support and enthusiasm for The Mining Institute of Scotland keep the membership buoyant. I appreciate the sustained effort of the Oil & Gas Division who have provided fresh impetus in driving the MIS forward and enabling a reversal of a potentially disastrous decline in members in a time when the mining industry was contracting.

I joined the coal industry in 1989, working for various contractors in the UK as an engineer in the opencast coal industry. Several posts in site management with Scottish Coal followed, until being offered a chance to move into the field of geotechnical engineering. An MSc in conjunction with Heriot Watt and Glasgow Universities was completed with much appreciated funding from The Mining Institute of Scotland Trust. After the well publicised collapse of the Scottish coal industry in 2013, I now enjoy employment with Hargreaves Production Surface Mining, who revived the business and is the largest contractor in the coal industry in Scotland.

This coming year we have a varied and interesting selection of technical evenings in several locations across Scotland. Joint meetings with other societies are a feature this year with The Institute of Mechanical Engineers, The Institute of Quarrying and The Edinburgh Geological Society all holding joint presentations. The Mining Institute of Scotland is hosting the R W Thomson Lecture at Dunfermline in April 2015, when the much respected Professor Paul Younger will give a presentation entitled 'Energy: Can we really have it all - secure, low-carbon and cheap?'

[Cont'd on page 2](#)

## St Andrews Seminar

A student seminar was held on 2 October 2014 at the University of St Andrews. Students and staff from St Andrews were joined by students and staff from Glasgow University to listen to a series of short presentations. Student speakers included Stefan Farsang, Neel Patel, Tanya Patel, Matthew English, Alex Russell and Thomas Baker. All these students had their projects supported by IOM3. Mike Robinson, Technical Director, Adrock Engineering Limited spoke on ground penetrating abilities of a new imaging spectrometer. Ian Merchant, Principal Materials Engineer, Technip UK Limited gave an informative talk on the IOM3 and what it had to offer the University and the students.

Dr Alan Owen, University of Glasgow proposed a vote of thanks.



Audience at the seminar



Student presenters and Mike Robinson (right) after the seminar

## President's Message **Cont'd**

My presidential address focused on the future of the UK coal industry. From the heady heights of Vesting Day in 1947, when coal production stood at around 200 million tonnes from almost 1,000 mines, to 2013 when the UK produced less than 13 million tonnes, the majority from opencast sites. The total market for coal in the UK during 2013 was 62 million tonnes, 50 million of which was burned in electricity generation. Coal imports from the USA, Russia and Columbia made up the bulk of the shortfall. It is galling that the electricity generators cannot rely on sufficient indigenous supplies at the correct price and quality to meet the market needs. The UK coal market, however, is contracting due to tightening EU emission regulations, which favours renewable sources of energy. Burning of fossil fuels (especially coal) is being reduced by the closure of power stations who cannot meet emissions targets. Surely investment is needed in Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS) technology, so that fossil fuels can continue to be burned, but in an environmentally acceptable way? Successful CCS compliant power stations might also revive the flagging UK coal industry if future coal sales can be guaranteed without the threat of further power station closures. Last year almost 37% of the electricity produced in the UK was from firing coal. The government is investing heavily in renewables (at the expense of fossil fuels) and there is also a revival in the nuclear industry but there is a time lag between the closure of coal fired power stations and something else taking their place. The problem is peak demand during those cold, calm, frosty winter evenings, when the wind turbines are producing very little power and instant power is required. I just hope the final of Strictly Come Dancing doesn't cause the National Grid to overload. I'm going to ask my wife nicely if she wouldn't mind switching off the television that evening to save power and prevent a potential blackout. Wish me luck!

Mark Friel

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Mark Friel (right) presents Alex Crossland with a Past President's Medal at the AGM on 8 October 2014

## YPLC 2015

It's time again to get your application in for the Scottish Heats of the IOM3 Young Persons' Lecture Competition, at least if you are under 28 on 1 June 2015. If you don't qualify, then why not encourage a younger colleague to enter with a chance to win £250, and represent Scotland in the UK final at the Armourers Hall, London. In addition to the winner's prize, 2<sup>nd</sup> will receive £150, and 3<sup>rd</sup> will receive £100. As an added incentive, the UK winner will go on to the Young Persons' World Lecture Competition, which is expected to be held in Ireland.

Our local heat will be held on **4 March 2015** in the Irvine Lecture Theatre, University of St Andrews. Entry Forms and further details are available from the Secretary ([D.Seath@btinternet.com](mailto:D.Seath@btinternet.com)).

The aim of the Young Persons' Lecture Competition is to provide an atmosphere of friendly competition for young Materials, Minerals, Mining, Packaging, Clay Technology and Wood Science Scientists and Engineers so that their presentation skills will improve whilst addressing an informed audience.

The Competition, sponsored by IOM3 with support from the Worshipful Company of Armourers & Braziers, consists of a number of lecture competitions organised by the local societies, from which six entrants, one from each region, will be selected to compete in the National Final. The competition is open to anyone who is following, or has followed, a course in any aspect of Materials, Minerals, Mining, Packaging, Clay Technology and Wood Science, Science and Engineering. However, students and graduates from industry or academia must be age 28 or under on 1 June 2015.

Each entrant will give a presentation lasting not more than 15 minutes on a subject of their choice about any aspect of Materials, Minerals, Mining, Packaging, Clay Technology and Wood Science & Engineering. Marks will be awarded for (a) structure of the lecture, clarity of explanation and argument; (b) standard of presentation, clarity of diction, personal enthusiasm for the subject, ability to deliver lecture spontaneously; (c) clarity and relevance of any visual aids used; (d) calmness and competence in handling judges' questions; (e) technical content of the presentation; (f) ability to deliver a concise meaningful summary at the end of main points; and (g) clarity and relevance of the entrant's abstract. Marks will be deducted for over-running of lecture time. Travelling expenses will be paid for by MIS.

Should you wish to enter, please note that the Entry Form has to be returned to the Secretary by **16 February 2015**. For this local event it has been decided to use the Abstract for selection of the final six (6) candidates going forward to make their presentation on 4 March. As more than six entries are anticipated, candidates must give careful thought to the content of the 150 word maximum Abstract.

## EIG one-day Meeting

As in 2013, the EIG is holding a one-day meeting on 17 June 2015 covering live topics in an important area of the extractive industry; this time the topic is 'Surface water, groundwater and flooding in quarries and mines'. A range of experienced speakers from across the industry will be covering latest developments, case histories and regulatory issues.

For further details about EIG please visit the recently updated website <http://www.eigconferences.com>

**AN INSTITUTE EVENT IS THE PLACE TO MEET FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES BOTH OLD AND NEW, WHY NOT JOIN WITH US?**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### TECHNICAL MEETINGS

7 JANUARY 2015 – 5PM FOR 5.30PM AT BP, ABERDEEN WITH VIDEO LINK TO BP, HW-U, EDINBURGH & UWS, PAISLEY

**Pressure core analysis: historical use in gas hydrate investigations and its applicability for other unconventional oil and gas resources**

Speaker: Peter Schultheiss, GEOTEK

25 FEBRUARY 2015 – 7PM FOR 7.30PM AT THE BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WEST MAINS ROAD, EDINBURGH WITH VIDEO LINK TO BP, ABERDEEN & UWS, PAISLEY

**Making better use of the ground beneath our cities; the Glasgow experience is that it helps to ASK...**

Speaker: Dr. Diarmad Campbell, BGS

10 MARCH 2015 – 6.30PM FOR 7.30PM AT MANAGEMENT CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

**The construction of wind turbines in adverse ground conditions**

Speaker: Alan Bowey & Mike Tavern, Grontmij

1 APRIL 2015 – 6PM FOR 6.30PM AT THE GARVOCK HOUSE HOTEL, DUNFERMLINE

#### R W THOMSON LECTURE

**Energy: Can we really have it all – secure, low-carbon and cheap?**

Speaker: Professor Paul Younger, Glasgow University

Members are reminded that attendance at BP **must** be registered in advance ([margaret.copland@uk.bp.uk](mailto:margaret.copland@uk.bp.uk)) at least 48 hours before the meeting. Otherwise, entry to BP offices cannot be guaranteed.

#### OTHER EVENTS

4 MARCH 2015 – 1.30PM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS  
**Young Persons' Lecture Competition 2015**

#### SOCIAL EVENT

5 MAY 2014 – 12 NOON AT THE LOCHSIDE HOUSE HOTEL, NEW CUMNOCK, AYRSHIRE

**Retired Members' Lunch (Ayrshire)**

## Younger Members

Forty-three students from the Fife College Student Forum accompanied by their teaching staff visited the annual ICoTA (International Coiled Tubing Association) European well intervention conference in Aberdeen. The students received a seminar on well intervention techniques to complement their studies and were able to visit both the trade exhibition and the technical presentation programme. Steve Bedford gave the students a talk on the benefits of IOM3 membership and received completed membership application forms from twenty-two students. Steve discussed progress with the Forum with the students, the current chair (Jade Roe) and the teaching staff. Students and staff both see significant value in the Forum and are keen to build on what has already been created. There was a lot of praise for the work that Allan Thomson has put in to get the Forum up and running. Going forward the staff and students would like to continue with the annual visit to the European well intervention conference and the associated well intervention seminar and Institute benefits briefing – these activities are seen to fit extremely well with the course syllabus. New activities that have been suggested are as follows:

- Industrial visits
- Opportunities for new staff
- Additional educational presentations
- A clinic on interview techniques and CVs
- Exhibits to complement course delivery
- Connecting up the leads of the Oil and Gas Division student groups.

## Hidden Riches

After three years and many hours of dedicated research, writing and editing, *Hidden Riches*, the definitive history of The Mining Institute of Scotland is now available. The MIS Trust has generously made a donation towards the printing costs and as a result we are able to offer a complimentary copy to every current MIS member. All you have to do is come along to one of the technical meetings or retired members' lunches in 2015, whether that be Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, New Cumnock or Newtongrange to collect your copy. Those members wishing to purchase additional copies of this beautifully illustrated 134 page colour book for family or friends may do so at a cost of £9.99 per copy. *Hidden Riches* has been a significant financial commitment and in order to keep postage & bank charges to a minimum, Council encourages members to collect in person. However, those members unable to do so should contact the Secretary in the first instance to see if alternative arrangements can be made.

## COUNCIL 2014/15

**PRESIDENT: MARK FRIEL\***

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT: JON LATIMER\***

**JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT: VACANT**

**SECRETARY: DAVID SEATH**

**TREASURER: IAN PURDIE\***

**BENEVOLENT FUND: JIM WISHART**

**YOUNGER MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE: BERAN TANILIR**

**STEVE BEDFORD (OIL & GAS DIVISION BOARD)**

**GORDON BEETHAM (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**SIMON BRASSEY (INDUSTRY LIAISON)**

**MARGARET COPLAND (OIL & GAS DIVISION BOARD)**

**RICHARD CROCKETT (ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS)**

**ALEX CROSSLAND (OIL & GAS DIVISION BOARD)\***

**MARTIN DOWNING (INDUSTRY LIAISON)**

**CRAIG DURHAM\* (OIL & GAS DIVISION BOARD)**

**JOE HEFFERNAN (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)**

**KEN MACKIE MBE (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**BABS OYENEYIN\* (OIL & GAS DIVISION BOARD)**

**GRAHAM SMITH (CONFERENCE ORGANISER)**

**JIM SOMERVILLE (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)**

**ALLAN THOMSON (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**VACANCIES (5)**

**\* DIRECTOR OF THE MINING INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND**

**SPECIFIC ROLES OF INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE GIVEN IN BRACKETS. ALTHOUGH ALL THE ABOVE COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED THERE ARE VACANCIES THAT WOULD ENABLE OTHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AFFAIRS OF YOUR LOCAL SOCIETY. PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE ABOVE LISTED IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US.**

### SECRETARY'S ADDRESS

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Dunfermline  
KY12 8YG  
Tel/Fax: 01383 432856  
Email: [D.Seath@btinternet.com](mailto:D.Seath@btinternet.com)

Members can receive all correspondence by email. Please contact the Secretary if you currently don't.

## Oil & Gas Division Update

2014 has been another busy year for the Division and the membership has continued to grow with a 9% increase in the year to over 1,250 members at the year end. I am very pleased to advise that over two hundred and fifty students attended the seminars held at the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen University, St. Andrews University and the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre. Feedback from both the students and the academic staff was very positive and over a hundred students joined IOM3. As always thanks go to the members who gave their time to give the presentations, they all commented that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It is always a pleasure to meet and help young people starting out on their Engineering careers. Materials, Welding and Corrosion Engineering are very important in the Oil and Gas Industry, particularly in the mature North Sea fields. The Institute of Corrosion (ICorr) has an active Branch in Aberdeen and many ICorr members are also members of IOM3 and the Division. Ian Merchant and Muhammad Ejaz represent these members on the Division Board and they recently held a joint IOM3 and ICorr meeting in Aberdeen to further promote the benefits of IOM3 membership.

The Technical Report Route to Chartered Engineer (CEng) exists for experienced Engineers who do not have an Engineering Degree. The Division has been encouraging relevant individuals to obtain CEng through this route. I am very pleased to note that Colin Inglis (a well site leader with BP) recently obtained CEng through the Technical Report Route – well done Colin. The Shell Wells and Material Engineering graduate development programmes have been accredited by IOM3 and I am pleased to see a significant number of Shell Engineers now obtaining their CEng. In particular, five Engineers from the Shell office in Bangalore gained CEng recently and another two candidates are going through the assessment. The Division Board met last month in London and Aberdeen and agreed a plan for the coming year to continue to build on the momentum that has been created. We are always looking for volunteers to help with activities, and so, if you are interested please contact any of the Board members. As always I would like to draw your attention to the Division website on [www.iom3.org](http://www.iom3.org) under the Technical Groups section. Margaret Copland is continually uploading new articles and I am sure that you will find the site useful.

As the year comes to a close I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Steve Bedford

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