Member News

New to RICE but known to several members, we welcome Peter Scally. Much of Peter’s life was spent ensuring that our lights stayed on 24/7/365, working on coal fired and nuclear power stations, as well as on highway works.

As he was very much part of our scene, it seems right to follow up the brief news of his passing that went into the last Newsletter, with some further information about the life of Geoff Kent, revealed at the service of thanksgiving which was attended by our Chair and other RICE members. We learned that in his final school report it was recorded: “He is a very intelligent boy, good with his pencil and sufficiently sound in mathematics, well fitted to the career he has in mind. We have always found him upright and reliable – a solid character.”

Initially employed by Dorman Long, structural steel fabricators, Geoff joined the RAF during World War II and saw active service as a navigator, in Anson, Dakota and Wellington bomber aircraft. As the conflict came to a close he was in Italy and climbed Mt Vesuvius, hitched a lift to Rome and visited the Vatican. On VJ day he was serving in Valetta, Malta.

After post war employment at ICI Middlesborough, in 1970 Geoff moved with his family to Grassington. Initially employed by the Craven Water Board, he went on to work for Yorkshire Water Authority (as it was then) up until his retirement in 1983.

Geoff was a keen tennis player and an LTA coach. Under his tutelage one of his daughters reached the quarter finals of the girls’ championship at Queens and was a winner of the ladies championship at Ilkley.

Geoff had an interest in many topics and would keep notes. He continued in that manner until the end and in one of his last notes he wrote: “Be good at what you do and ask questions.” Sound advice for us all.

Boring but Important

You have probably had some inkling of the goings on in the world of data protection. Your RICE Committee and our regional office have been wrestling with the new regulations (GDPR) and as I write it is still a work in progress. RICE in Yorkshire & Humber is very much part of the ICE, so that obliges us to follow advice that emanates from central admin, albeit we engage with them and do not simply take a passive stance. Merging of the RICE and ICE central membership databases is one consequence and your Hon Sec is endeavouring to ensure that any anomalies are properly resolved with the members concerned.

This is your Hon Sec’s fifth year in post and sixth as a Committee member. It is not premature therefore to be thinking of a successor. Your Committee has the power of co-option onto its membership, so if there is a member who may be prepared to take it on, he or she does not need to wait until the 2019 AGM to come forward.

Finally, please consider casting your vote in the 2018 ICE Council elections and the ballot on proposed changes in governance.

RICE Meetings and Events

Great Yorkshire Way / ‘FARRRS’ Scheme

With five awards under its belt, we were fortunate on 27th March to have a presentation of a scheme which is a fine example of how new infrastructure can deliver huge opportunities and benefits, as our speaker Nigel Morley from Mott MacDonald revealed.

The £56m project was characterised by team work and partnership, Nigel’s employer, Mott Macdonald, being alongside Doncaster Council, Peel Group (airport owners), Verdon and Harworth Group, with further funding coming from the regional growth fund, supported by Sheffield City Region LEP and Combined Authority.

Nigel took us through the many challenges that had to be overcome, the works having included six new bridges over watercourses and railway lines, that over the 125mph electrified East Coast Main Line being the most notable.

Since the start of construction in 2013, over 1,300 new permanent jobs have been created at Rossoingtion iPort and at Doncaster Sheffield Airport. Amazon, CEVA and Fellowes are already there and Lidl is on its way. Other businesses are lining up to take advantage of the modern rail freight facility.

The hoped for growth in passenger numbers through Doncaster Sheffield Airport has been realised, with a 55% increase being achieved to date. The road has
facilitated redevelopment of the former Rossington Colliery site, with 1,200 new homes completed. Queues and congestion on Bawtry Road have been greatly reduced.

Reconstruction of Tadcaster Bridge

To have had video footage of the actual collapse of Tadcaster bridge was of considerable value to the engineers investigating the failure, as well as being just one of the many features of David Bowe’s excellent presentation that held the attention of his RICE audience at Rogerthorpe on 11th April.

A Grade II listed structure, part dating back to the 13th century, arches that were built in the 18th century failed during the flood event. The bridge carried numerous underground services, including a cable that is a critical link in the north of England’s air traffic control system! Other issues to be resolved included felling of trees, high river levels during construction caused by other works being carried out further downstream, and locating masonry stone that would be in keeping with the original elements that remained.

We heard too about how it played out politically. No. 10 was on the case and when pressure was put on from that source it did have an impact. The PM was reportedly irate when objections from a well known local land owner held up the erection of a temporary pedestrian bridge.

It was huge credit to the NYCC and its consultants and contractors that the re-uniting of the two parts of the town was achieved in just over a year from the start.

Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme

The first day of May this year was as fine a spring day as one could hope for, ideal for a stroll along the riverside to view the impressive works of the Leeds FAS. Our hosts, Leeds City Council’s project team, dispensed refreshments and described the planning and execution of the works in an opening presentation.

The walking route from downstream to upstream took us along part of the Pennine Trail and provided excellent views of the various works that had been constructed in and over the river – we were impressed by the quality of finish of the concrete elements, which bodes well for their longevity, and the geometry of a new footbridge that had us all fascinated.

Our visit ended with lunch at Dock29, beside the Royal Armouries, where some members went on afterwards to view the exhibits and watch one of their daily re-enactment events.

RICE Golf Competition

The fifteenth RICE Golf Competition for the Peter Goode Trophy took place on 8th May at Wakefield Golf Club. The weather and facilities were excellent and we were joined by the Vice Captain of the Wakefield club, Mike Fewster who won the guest competition. The Peter Goode Trophy was fiercely contested and after 18 holes two competitors were tied for the lead with 34 points.

The winner decided on the best back nine score was Peter Clay, a new name on the Trophy.

It was the first year that the competition had been held away from the Pike Hills Course in York, following the decision earlier this year to play the event at Pike Hills on alternate years and others courses in Yorkshire in between. SB
**Skipton Flood Alleviation Scheme**

It was not planned this way, but after our golf day and Leeds flood alleviation scheme visit, the two themes came together at our meeting at Skipton on 12th June, held at the golf club there.

A three handed presentation from Environment Agency, Arups and Galliford Try clearly demonstrated both the need for the scheme and the well thought out and executed solution, the main features of which are two flood storage reservoirs on Eller Beck and Waller Hill Beck.

RICE member Jim Crossley, who has made a study of the history of water supplies in the area, was on hand to explain the relevance of some 19th century structures that were uncovered during the construction of the smaller of the two reservoirs.

It was when visiting the site after lunch, from the viewpoint on the crest of the main dam, that one realised just how much water was to be retained in the event of a design flood, and the area of the golf course that would be sacrificially flooded so as to save properties and possibly lives further downstream in the town.

A labyrinth weir is a feature of the spillway on the Eller Beck dam and its characteristics provided subject matter for a PhD thesis.

**Summer Social Day, Renishaw Hall**

Twenty nine RICE members and guests enjoyed a mainly dry day at Renishaw Hall in North Derbyshire on 20th June. The home of the Sitwell family during the time of their prodigious cultural output and influence, the Hall retains a fine collection of books, paintings, sculptures and other artefacts, many of which have interesting histories in themselves. One could readily imagine scenes of the famous hosts entertaining figures such as Waugh and Betjeman, both of whom were guests at the Hall.

Some of the ‘below stairs’ quarters had been preserved as at 1920s-30s. It was a surprise to find a dishwashing machine of that vintage, but its rather basic design left one wondering if it did much to relieve the kitchen maid of drudgery.

The Italianate gardens were laid out in the late 19th Century by Sir George Sitwell 4th Baronet and have been carefully tended since, having won a garden of the year award in 2015. In the gardens one is never far from a reminder of the interests of the Hall’s owners.

After lunch, a dozen of us went to the estate’s walled vineyard where we learned from vintner Kieron Atkinson about the business of producing wines of different characteristics. We checked this out with a tasting of their white, rosé and sparkling wines.

**Forthcoming RICE Events**

14th August 2018: Drones and demonstration, at Doncaster Town Moor Golf Club.


17th October 2018: M1 Smart motorway scheme, at Rogerthorpe Manor Hotel.


7th December 2018: Christmas lunch at Rogerthorpe Manor hotel.

**Your News and Views**

If you have any news / recent experiences that you would care to share, or comments on RICE events that you have attended, please do get in touch.

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