

ajm Network

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COUNCIL, BRANCHES AND SPECIFIC INTEREST GROUPS

• CONTACT NAMES AND NUMBERS • COURSES • NEW MEMBERS • DIARY DATES

Wheeled up and away

THE FALKIRK Wheel, the world's first and only rotating boatlift, provided the venue for the Scotland Branch's corporate evening.

Over 50 members and their guests attended the event in September. The wheel replaces an original flight of eleven locks and rises from the Forth and Clyde canal up to the Union canal 35 metres above - the height of eight double-decker buses.

Neglect

The construction of the Falkirk Wheel and together with the refurbishment of the canals gives a coast-to-coast network of canals which are now open again after nearly half a century of neglect and abuse.

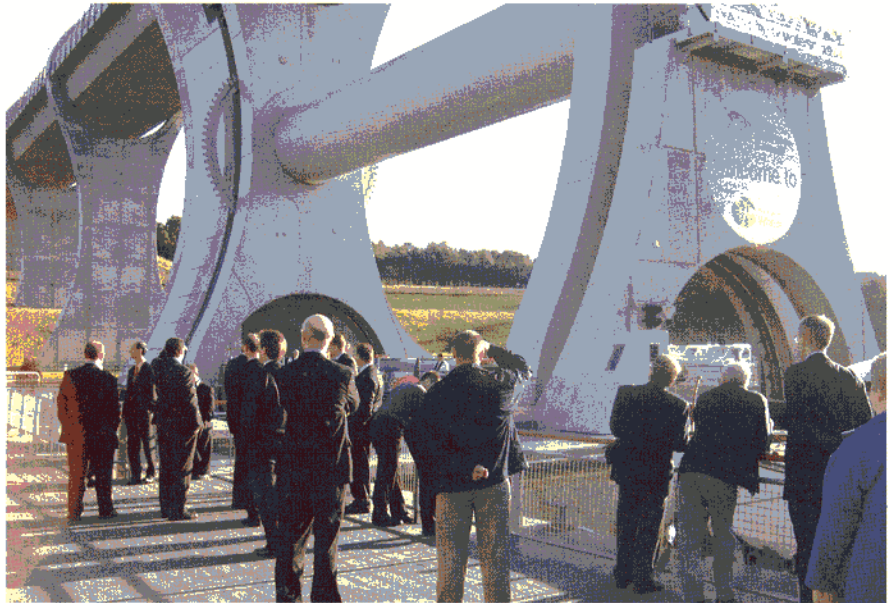
After meeting at the visitor centre of the Falkirk Wheel, members and guests boarded the boat for a 45-minute journey via the Wheel, ascending to the Union canal above. Guests then sailed through the Roughcastle tunnel before returning to the visitor centre.

On the journey, the boat driver amused passengers with an interesting commentary, yarns and local tales. Later, everybody assembled in the function room at the visitor centre where British Waterways chief civil engineer, George Ballinger, gave an informative and enlightening talk, focusing particularly on the history of the canals in Scotland, how they fell into disrepair and on the facts, stories and engineering triumphs behind the construction of the Wheel and the refurbishment of its connecting waterways.

Presentation

George gave a slide presentation showing pictures of some of the most interesting bridges and locks along the canals.

Refreshments were provided, organised by British Waterways catering and events manager Muriel Campbell. Several members then attended the AGM - also



VENUE: Scottish Branch members view the world's first and only rotating boatlift (above).

TRIP: A boat ride took everyone on a journey via the wheel ascending to the Union canal above (below).

held in the function room. Key points covered included an increase in membership, closer point-to-point contact with the corporate members, better quality of events, a review of accounts and a summary of Highlands and Islands charter.



Prescribed challenge for East Anglia

THE PHARMACEUTICAL and agricultural sectors come under the spotlight at an East Anglia Branch event in December.

Project management has a very important role to play in all areas of product development. Some of the challenges it faces in pharmaceutical companies are familiar to project managers in all sectors, such as working to tight time-scales and with limited resources. Others seem to be peculiar to this industry - but are they?

Speaker, Ralph White, is a pharmacist

with over 25 years experience in the industry, originally in research, but mainly in product development project management.

Ralph will help to explore what characteristics are shared with other research based industries and what insights are valid for projects which, at first sight, are very different.

The event's host, NIAB, is an independent organisation working in the fields of food, farming, the environment and research.

Meeting of minds

SINCE June, the APM Risk SIG has been working with the Institute of Risk Management (IRM) to arrange a collaborative meeting.

The meeting will be held in Manchester in February and aims to identify issues of common interest and to see if there is an opportunity for the two professional groups to complement each other more in the future.

The agenda will include keynote speakers from both bodies, with ample time for debate and discussion on the discipline, its professional development and formal qualifications.

It should prove to be an important day in the field of project risk management. APM members interested in risk management are invited to participate - please contact the Risk SIG secretary Simon Jackson (see back of Network) for further details. The previous two meetings of the Risk SIG have been fully booked - so reserve your place early!

Steering the PRAM

THE RISK SIG is updating Project Risk Analysis and Management - the APM publication more commonly known as the PRAM Guide.

The guide was originally edited by Peter Simon, David Hillson and Ken Newland in 1997. The project manager for the new edition is Paul Close.

At a recent Risk SIG meeting,

Paul outlined the plan for governance of the production of the guide.

It was proposed that an elected group should direct the scope and content of the update, in conjunction with the team of authors and the project manager.

This steering group will also evaluate feedback from a

review team, and oversee activities in preparation for the publication.

The nominees for the Steering Group are: Deborah Vogwell, Julian Turner, Tom Teixeira, Martin Hopkinson, Guy Hindley and David Hillson. The appointed group of four will be announced in the next edition of Network.

Your chance to speak

THE NORTHWEST Branch will hold a rearranged event on 20 January entitled Developing Project Management Professionals.

This was previously the October event, APM Qualifications and Continuous Professional Development (CPD): What can they do for me?

Held at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, the event will be attended by a number of universities, training providers and corporate and individual members of APM.

There will be three sessions throughout the afternoon.

The first is Strengthening and Developing Relationships Between APM, Higher Education Institutes and Trainers. This includes a presentation by APM's Sue Beavil on APM Qualifications and Accreditation and another presentation by a leading Northwest University.

The second session looks at Corporate Issues in Developing Project Management Professionals. This will include presentations by Lancaster University and Sue Beavil.

The final session, Development of Project Management Professionals, contains a third presentation by Sue Beavil,

asking Why Bother with Professional Development - what's in it for me?

This is followed by a presentation of how a leading north west corporation develops its project management professionals.

The North West Branch would be delighted if anyone would like to make a small presentation - of around 10 minutes - at any of these sessions and/or have a free stand at the event.

Please contact Neil Proud by Email: neil.proud@apm-northwest.org Tel: 01244 851183/ 07764 568392.

Eastern vision

STEVE COX, head of urban renaissance at the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), will address members of East Anglia branch on 26 November at Bishops Stortford Golf Club.

EEDA is the driving force behind economic growth and regeneration in the six counties of the East of England: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Established in 1999, it is one of nine regional development agencies created to bring a new focus to economic development and to build prosperity across the English regions.

It has a wide-ranging remit that includes sustainable development and high-quality environment. The agency's vision is 'to make the East of England a world-class economy, renowned for its knowledge base, the creativity and enterprise of its people and the quality of life of all who live and work here.'

Attendance to this event, which starts at 7pm, is free and open to all APM members and their guests. The Bishops Stortford Golf Club asks that all attendees observe their dress code which excludes jeans and trainers.

For more information and to reserve your place, email Gayner Darke at gaynordarke@needlemans.com

Festive mood

GOOD networking opportunities will be available at Women in Project Management's Christmas party, on 17 December at The International, St Martin's Lane, London. The event starts at 6pm and further information is available from Katie Simper. Email: mppconsultants@btconnect.com

EPMF4 line-up

THE NEXT major event from the Engineering Project Management Forum, EPMF4, will take place in Westminster on Thursday, 4 December, from 9.30am to 5.30pm.

Speakers include members of APM and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. Case studies include Implementing Multi-National Systems and Earned Value in IT Projects. Stephen Armstrong, President of AMGI, will talk on programme management in the aerospace industry. Guest speakers, Alexandre Rodrigues and Antonio Laranjo of Portugal, will talk about Euro 2004: Getting ready for kick-off with earned value.

The cost of the event is £350 plus VAT for new attendees and £250 plus VAT for previous attendees. For more information, contact Steve Wake, EPMF chairman by telephone: 0208 886 5594 or email: swprojects@blueyonder.co.uk