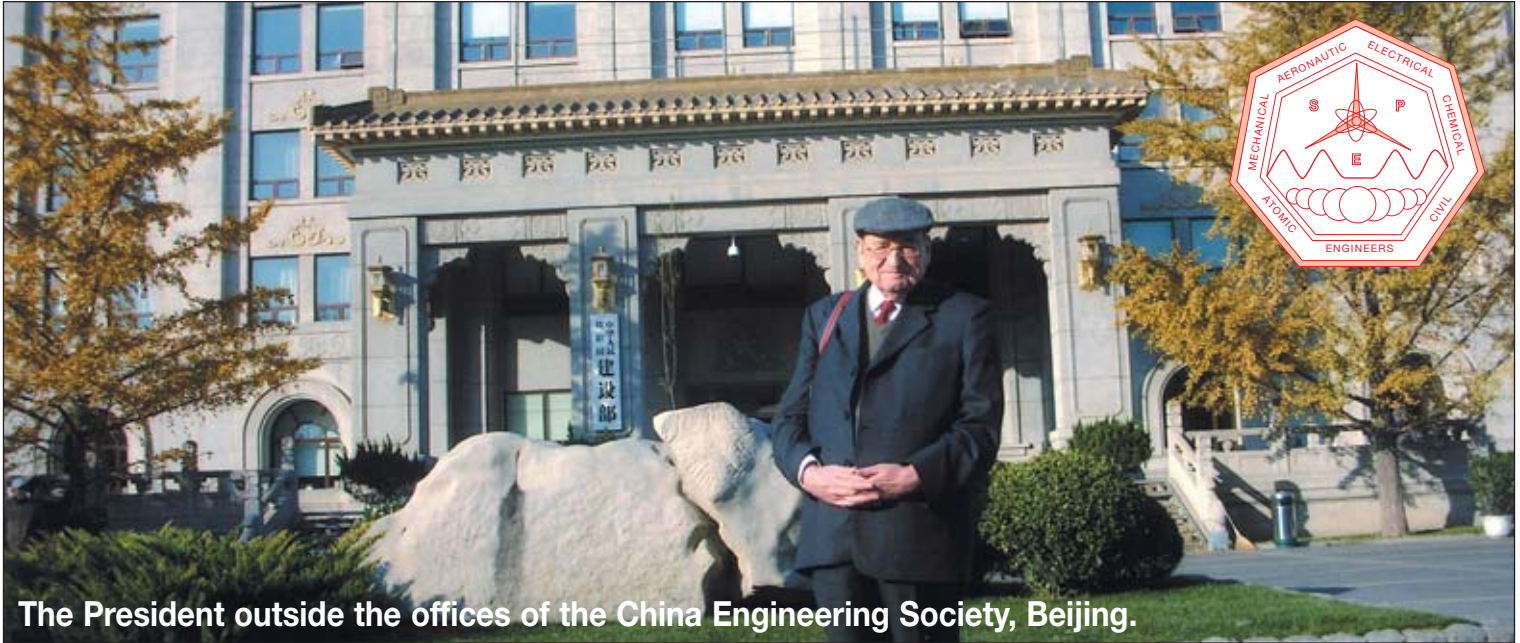


ENGINEER

Issue 57, Spring 2007



The President outside the offices of the China Engineering Society, Beijing.



The President presents a clock to Liu Haiying, Vice Secretary of China Civil Engineering Society.

Features in this Issue

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. Memorandum of Understanding with DT&MS International | 3. News from Council | 6. The China Civil Engineering Society |
| 2. New Library in Otley, West Yorkshire | 4. Steel Framed Floors | 8. Thirlmere to Manchester Aqueduct |
| 2. The Peninsular Treatment Centre | 4. How Corrupt is UK Construction? | 9. Other Professional Bodies |
| 2. The Senedd | 4. Hays Construction; Mentoring | 11. Battersea Redevelopment |
| 3. The Editor Writes | 5. The President's visit to the China Civil Engineering Society | 11. Lord Mayor of the City of London |
| 3. The President Writes | 5. Inflation to end Housing Boom? | 11. City's Information Service Building |
| | | 12. Steel puts the Glitter in Golden Square |



The Society of Professional Engineers was founded in 1969.

Memorandum of Understanding with the Design Technology and Management Society International – South Africa.



The Society is pleased to have signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Design Technology and Management Society International - South Africa where we seek to foster a greater understanding of each others objectives and practices and how each endeavours to project these for the benefit of Society.

In particular, each body will work to strengthen the practice and standing of Engineering in society.

The agreement provides for a member of either Professional Body to become a member of the other Professional Body.

In the photograph are the officers of the Design Technology and Management society International, the persons are from left to right: Prof. Dr. J. Potgieter, Chief Executive, Mrs Frances Botha, Administrative Secretary, and Dr. M.A Botha, Honorary Secretary.



The Peninsular Treatment Centre



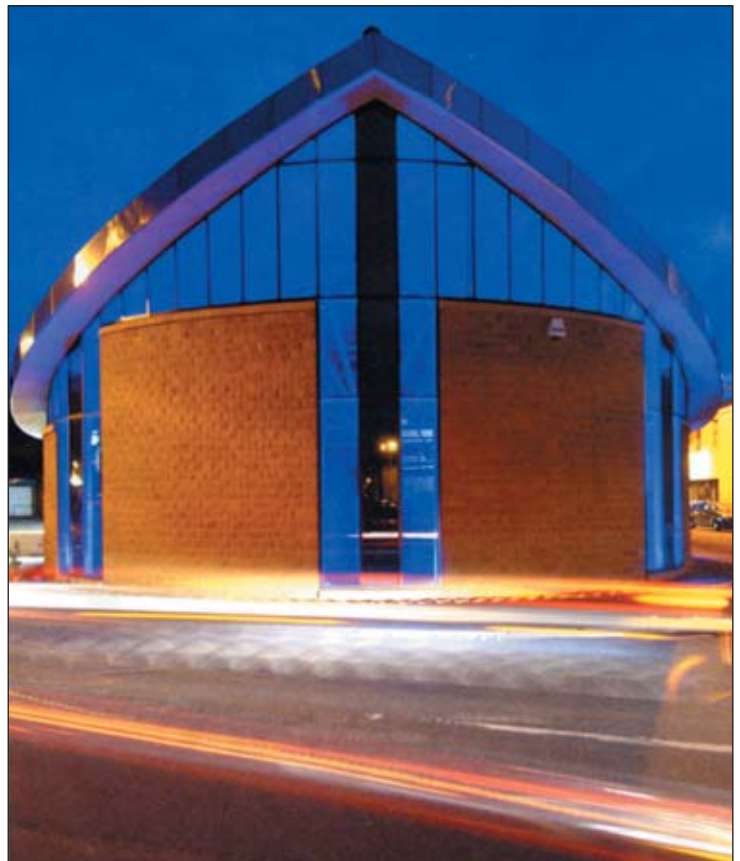
The Peninsular treatment centre, Plymouth, the project that won Richard Ellis ICIOB his gold medal in the New Build/Refurbishment projects between £5-10 million at CMYA 2006.

The Senedd



The Senedd, National Assembly for Wales, the project that won Jeremy Williams from Taylor Woodrow Construction the Construction Manager of the Year Award 2006 plus his gold medal in the New Build/Refurbishment Projects Over £25 million.

New Library in Otley, West Yorkshire



This futuristic building is actually a new library and tourist information centre in Otley, a dramatic design, featuring a stylish glazed curved gable end that slopes upwards to a sharp central point, was produced by Leeds City Council's architectural department. The technology is an SCW curtain wall system from SAS.

Fabricator Aire Valley Architectural faceted the SWC thermally – broken box section profiles to form the semi-circular curtain walling to give the impression of a curved screen.

Come nightfall the blue, clear glass is illuminated by fluorescent blue lighting – bringing a sparkle of glamour to the centuries old Otley Streets.

Welcome to the Spring 2007 publication of the Bulletin, in this issue we feature the visit of the President to the China Civil Engineering Society in Beijing, the new Library and Tourist Information Centre in Otley. Inflation to end Housing Boom?, the 679th Lord Mayor of the City of London; the

Senedd, National Assembly for Wales; Has anyone got the energy to redevelop Battersea? And how corrupt is UK Construction? There is also a report on our Memorandum of Understanding with the Design Technology and Management Society International of South Africa.

I do hope you enjoy this issue of the Bulletin, I am always looking for new articles to publish and if you have anything I shall be pleased to hear from you.

Brian R. Dixon, BA, P.ENG
President and Editor



In the last Bulletin you would have read of my visit to Hong Kong last November to formally set up the Hong Kong

are W.L. Cheung, Chairman, David K.M.Ho, M.H. Wong and Daniel S.K. Tang who are nominated officers for the first two years.

programmes in collaboration with local overseas institutions and universities.

The Hong Kong Chapter helps to foster local discussions on professional practice in the Construction Industry, and co-operation with regional and international Construction Engineering Institutions, to maintain a high standard of practice and professional conduct for the benefit of the public.

Conduct construction related visits that would be of interest to their local members.

Chapter and I thought the membership would be interested in hearing more detail of the Society Chapter in Hong Kong.

Industry Co-Ordination:

Liase with other Industrial Associations to address Government regulation of the Construction Industry.

In 2004 a group of Hong Kong based Construction Professionals, all members of the S.P.Eng, discussed forming a local Chapter in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong Chapter has a focus on several key areas, namely:-

Networking:

Close co-operation with the Hong Kong Institution of Construction Engineers for joint seminars and activities.

Mission:

The Hong Kong Chapter will provide a forum for Construction Engineers to promote the practise of Construction in Hong Kong through networking with other Construction Professionals, sharing project experiences, providing and receiving training and supporting Construction Engineers in their certification efforts.

The Chapter was formed in 2006 in association with the Society of Professional Engineers, with our headquarters in Northampton.

Hosting Dinner Events with invited speakers and involvement in local industry events.

At the present time the Chapter has about 120 No. members and hopes to continue to grow. In addition they have a number of members in other parts of Asia who are affiliated to the Chapter.

Information on career opportunities in Hong Kong and Asia in the employment sector.

Education:

Organise C.P.D Courses and training

I know the whole of the Society would like me to wish the Directors of the Hong Kong Chapter every success in their efforts to promote the Society in their region of the world.

Brian R. Dixon, BA, P.Eng
President.

The key local contacts for the S.P.Eng

Council met on Tuesday 5th December 2006 at Northampton, the President took the chair, and a quorum confirmed as present.

document at the meeting.

Minutes of the last Council were approved and signed.

The President reported that the President's Luncheon was most successful and had been enjoyed by all present, discussions took place on nominations for Patron and Vice-Chancellors, the President reported on his visit to Hong Kong to set up the Hong Kong Chapter and his meeting with officers of the China Civil Engineering Society in Beijing, officers of the C.C.E.S. to be invited to the UK in 2007, and a return visit in 2008 was hoped for.

subscriptions were coming in for the new financial year, the Budget for 2007 was agreed.

The Certificate of Affiliation to the AEBC was expected shortly, the use of the Website continues to grow and was in process of being revised and updated.

Brief reports were discussed on the ABEI. Mutual Recognition Agreement, the Institution of Diagnostic Engineers and the hope of a meeting with UIDIP.

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Design Technology and Management Society International of South Africa had been signed by them, and Council agreed to sign the

The Bulletin Editor reported that details of the Hong Kong visit would be reported in the Winter Bulletin and details of the meeting with the China Civil Engineering Society in the Spring Bulletin.

The Chief Executive reported that new members were being processed, the finances looked good and

Council would next meet Thursday 1st March 2007, at Lutyens House, Northampton, at 11.00am.

New Guide Enables High-Quality Performance of Steel Framed Floors



The SCI is about to publish a revised version of its design guide on the vibration floors.

Commonly referred to as P076, the guide was first published in 1989 and since then it has been widely used and its advice has generally stood the test of time.

However, vibration performance is now a major factor in building design, particularly with the use of lightweight composite floors, and the guidance needed to be updated.

The Second Edition offers the most up-

to-date information on determining performance and appropriate acceptance criteria. The guidance has made reference to tests on a variety of real buildings – tests which dispel the myth that steel-framed floors don't meet the appropriate performance standards.

A pre-publication draft of the publication was launched at the recent Corus hospitals seminar held in Durham on the 25th September and all those attending the London Corus hospitals, seminar on 5 October received a copy of the guide.

Paul Devine of the SCI said: "The guide provides design guidance for all floor and

building types which use a structural steel frame. We've brought together all current information on vibration into one new Edition.

Explanations within the publication include the different types of excitation produced by occupant-induced vibration, while a simple design procedure is featured which shows how to calculate the floor acceleration, weight it to reflect human perception and compare it with the acceptance levels.

The Second Edition, was prepared by Dr Stephen Hicks and Paul Devine of the SCI.

How Corrupt is UK Construction?



Over Half (51%) of UK construction professionals felt that corruption is commonplace within the UK construction industry according to a CIOB survey.

The survey asked over 1400 construction professionals what type of corrupt practise was most commonly

found, and examined attitudes of how corrupt they deemed a variety of practices to be. The study also looked at the areas in which respondents felt that corrupt practise was most likely to occur.

82% of respondents were managers or directors; 57% worked in large companies, 20% were employed in

medium sized firms and 23% in small organisations.

76% of respondents regarded the employment of illegal workers as widespread in UK construction; 60% felt that fraud within the industry was prevalent and 41% had been personally offered a bribe.

Hays Construction: Mentoring



Are you struggling to see where your career is going or is your latest project veering off course? Tim Cook, managing director of Hays Construction, offers advice about the benefits of mentoring and provides some top tips for making it work.

If a mentoring scheme is carried out effectively, the advice and expertise that you receive can be invaluable. It also offers a wealth of indirect benefits, such as providing additional networking opportunities, offering an impartial listener to your problems and it demonstrates an active interest in the industry. Many companies now offer mentoring schemes as part of an employment package – not only does a company see the benefits themselves, but it highlights an investment in their employees' development and a commitment to the individual. It is often the case that behind every successful professional is a great mentor.

It's never too late

Mentoring is an invaluable one-to-one relationship with someone more

experienced. Although it is invaluable during the early stages of your career, it isn't just for young people or those newly-qualified. It can help you through different stages of your career and through a variety of problems.

Choosing your mentor

Your mentor shouldn't be your line manager or anybody that can influence your prospects within the company. In smaller companies, where a suitable mentor is harder to find, it could be somebody you know from a different company or a different field of construction.

They don't need to have followed exactly the same career path or be in a role that you aspire to be in – it could open your eyes to something new and will give you a different perspective on a problem.

Be inspired

You should be inspired by the achievements of your mentor and get on with them well on a personal level. If they are chosen on this basis of being a role

model, you are much more likely to have a strong working relationship and get the most from the scheme. If you dislike the person it is extremely unlikely that you will want to spend your free time with them. Arrange a couple of informal meetings with your prospective mentor, prior to committing to a mentoring programme.

Mentoring not coaching

Coaching focuses on specific work issues, whilst mentoring is much more informal. It is a semi-formal relationship where business issues can be resolved and benefits from structure and direction. You should feel able to discuss anything during mentoring sessions, even aspects of your personal life which are affecting work.

Network

One bonus of having a mentor is using the contacts that they already have and you should make the most of these networking opportunities. Use their connections and, where possible, look to work with a well-known figure in the construction community.

The President, Brian R. Dixon, BA, P. Eng was pleased to visit the offices of the China Civil Engineering Society in Beijing, with Hong Kong members, during his visit in November last year, a number of photographs taken during the visit appear on the centre pages.

During the meeting we were pleased to complete an agreement on Reciprocal Membership with the C.C.E.S.

This agreement is of considerable value to the Society and it is hoped that the relationship will develop in the future.

We have invited them to visit the UK later this year, and if all goes well will keep the membership informed and up to date.

Following the visit to the C.C.E.S and Luncheon with officers of the Society, a tour of Beijing was undertaken to end a very successful visit.



During 2006 House prices continued to rise at a significant pace and the big question is – for how much longer can it continue before there's a correction?



According to the Halifax, although house prices declined by 1 per cent in December, they rose by 9.9 per cent in 2006 bringing the price of the average house to £186,035. A key factor in sustaining house prices is demand at the bottom end of the market – the traditional preserve of first time buyers. According to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS):

"Mortgage payments for new first time buyers were the highest since 1991 and we estimate in 2006 affordability will be the worst since 1991".

RICS defines 'affordability' as the percentage of take home pay taken up by mortgage payments for the first time buyer in prevailing market conditions. RICS uses the convention of assuming the costs of a mortgage at the beginning of a 25 year term calculated on a repayment basis, but it takes a very realistic approach to earnings, using the average take home pay of one person (currently £20,000 a year) not gross pay (currently £27,000 a year).

On this basis, RICS says mortgage repayments for first time buyers consumed 44.9% of take home pay in 2006 compared to a high of 65.5 per cent in 1990 and a low of 27.1 per cent in 1996. RICS expects it to be 48.6 per cent by the end of 2007.

However, while RICS says that getting on and staying on the housing ladder will be increasingly difficult for an increasing number of people in 2007, it doubts their

difficulties will have a significant market impact. RICS feels housing demand will remain strong as long as disposable income grows rapidly, and that buy to let investors continue to substitute for first time buyers at the bottom end of the market.

However, much will depend on the prospects for interest rates, which will in turn depend largely on inflation.

In the year to November, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) climbed by 2.7 per cent, up from a 2.4 per cent the previous month, the biggest increase since January 1997. The Retail Price Index (RPI) – which includes interest payments on mortgages, and is the benchmark for pay settlements – climbed 3.9 per cent in the year to November, up from 3.7 per cent in October, the highest since May 1998.

On the basis of these figures, at least one further base rate rise is predicted in early 2007. In anticipation of this, RICS says: "This leads us to expect a continued worsening in affordability conditions and further rises in the level of repossessions."

Articles for the Bulletin

We are always looking for news of members and project articles for publication in the bulletin, do you have something of interest, lets hear from you. Please supply articles up to 1500 words.

Do you have non-member colleagues? Encourage them to join the Register

A membership information pack is available on request from

The Society of Professional Engineers, Lutyens House, Billing Brook Road, Weston Favell, Northampton NN3 8NW

Tel: 01604 415729 • Fax: 01604 415729 • Email: gillian.stacey@abe.org.uk

A Brief Introduction to the China Civil Engineering Society

The China Civil Engineering Society is a nation-wide legal and academic organization for engineers and scientists engaged in the field of civil engineering. It is a constituent part of the China Association for Science and Technology.

The Society, originated from the former Chinese Institute of Engineers, was founded by Mr. Tien-Yow Jeme, an outstanding civil engineer in recent China in 1912. The famous experts on bridge and structure, Prof. Yisheng T.E.Mao and Prof. Li Guohao, once served as the President of CCES. It has quite a number of famous experts, professors, researchers and engineers as members devoted to the development of civil engineering in China and engaged in many activities for promoting the scientific and technical level in civil engineering.

Main Tasks

Developing international academic exchanges; editing and publishing scientific and technical publications; Developing the international technical exchange and cooperation among foreign countries; consulting for national policy in civil engineering and other key issues in economic construction in China; accepting appointments for technical service; carrying out continued education and technical training; popularising scientific knowledge; spreading advanced technology; recommending, citing and rewarding the excellent achievements in science, technology and the talented persons; reflecting comments and demands of the members and organizing activities for them.

Membership

One who accepts the Constitution of CCES and conforms its conditions can apply to join the Society. There are 100000 members (including honorary members, members, student members, as well as overseas members) and 160 organization members.

Organization

The Society has 13 Institutes, 49 professional committees, directly affiliated to the Society. The Society has established its local organizations in 31 provinces (not including Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan), municipalities directly administrated by the central government and autonomous regions.

Publications

The China Civil Engineering Journal, which is monthly published, is the comprehensive journal of the Society. Professional journals, such as the Tunnelling and Underground Works, Urban Public Traffic, Gas and Heat, Shielding Engineering, Construction Marketing, Tendering and Bidding, Ground Treatment, Water and Waste Water, China Water and Waste Water and so on are also published. Further more the Geotechnical Engineering Journal, Building Structure, Construction Technology are published in association with other organizations.

International Cooperation

The Society representing China has joined 7 international academic organizations, e.g. International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering, International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, International Tunnelling Association, International Federation for Structural Concrete, International Gas Union, Water Environment Federation, International Union of Public Transport. The Society has signed bilateral cooperation agreements with academic organizations in 10 countries and regions; and has established friendly contact with several dozens of engineering institutions in the world.

Fund for the Development

For supporting and awarding academic activities, the Tien-Yow Jeme Fund for the Development of Science and Technology in Civil Engineering was set up in 1993 with domestic and foreign donations.

The Tien-Yow Jeme Science & Technology Prize in Civil Engineering

The Prize, set up by the Society, approved by the Ministry of Construction as civil engineering prize in the field of construction of nationwide, was ratified by the Ministry of Science and Technology. The Awarded Projects are selected once a year. Besides, "Best Paper on Civil Engineering Award" and "Citation for Outstanding College Graduates" were also set up.



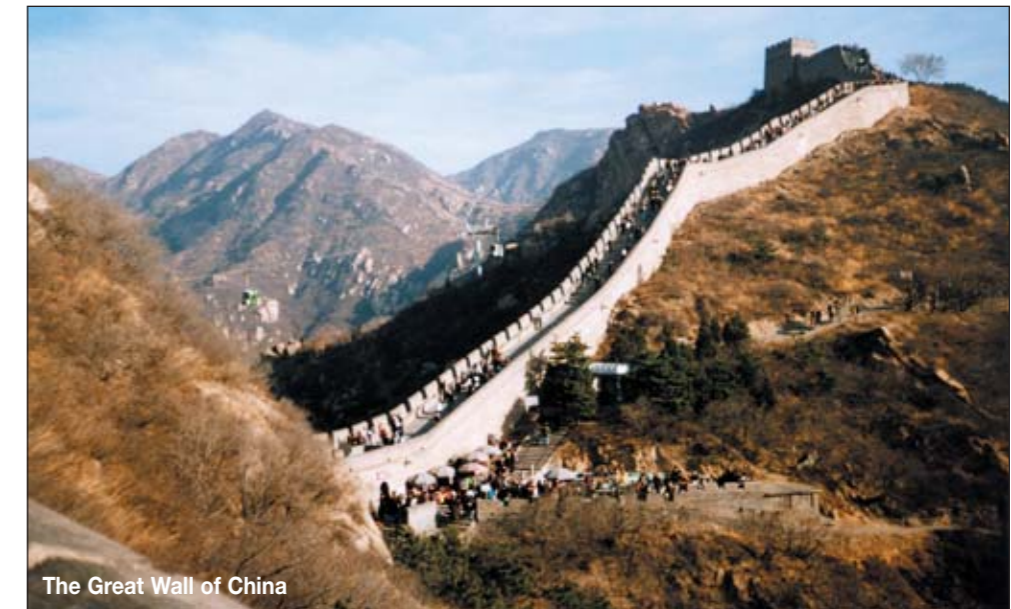
The President with Hong Kong Members, and Officers of the China Civil Engineering Society, outside their offices in Beijing.



The President, second right with members of Hong Kong Chapter, at the Great Wall of China



The President and Cheung Wai Lung, Chairman of Hong Kong Chapter, outside offices of the China Civil Engineering Society.



The Great Wall of China



Negotiating the Membership Agreement at the China Civil Engineering Society



The President and Liu Haiying

Thirlmere To Manchester Aqueduct-An Engineering Triumph



History

On August 22nd. 1890 Alderman Sir John James Harwood, with ceremony laid the foundation stone of one of the North West's most important water sources, Thirlmere Reservoir Dam in the English Lake District. The lake provides 50 million gallons of water per day to Manchester and now various parts of Lancashire.

It is also a focal point for recreational and leisure activities. The ceremony was the culmination of Manchester Corporations search for additional pure water supplies to meet the demands of expanding population and industry. Its existing supplies namely the city's Fountain Street was drying up and the River Medlock was fast becoming polluted.

In 1846 fewer than a quarter of Manchester and Salford homes had an internal supply of fresh water and the remainder relied for short periods each day on a public tap in the street. Inevitably the inadequate supply caused severe health problems within the population. Manchester was the first in Europe to store vast amounts of water when in 1847 it was given the go-ahead to develop a chain of seven reservoirs along the Longdendale Valley in the West Pennine Hills.

However in the 1850s the city was again looking for additional sources and the surveyors went to the Lake District to assess the potential and chose Thirlmere. The initial scheme was vigorously opposed by the local populace who quite rightly feared for their livelihoods and the desecration of the surrounding countryside.

A fierce opponent was the Lord of the Manor of Legburthwaite, Thomas Leathes Stanger Leathes whose family had owned the lake commonly known as Leathes Lake since

1577 AD. On his death in 1876 the title passed to his son who had spent many years in Australia, he agreed to sell the estate to Manchester.

When Manchester outlined their intentions in depth many of the other objectors withdrew and in 1877 after many Parliamentary sittings the select committee reported in favour of the Thirlmere Bill thus allowing construction work to begin in 1890.

The Thirlmere Aqueduct Scheme is in our day and age a monument to Victorian engineering and free enterprise. The masonry dam at the northern end of the two natural lakes is 58ft (18m) high and 857ft (260m) long. This allowed the water level to be increased by 54ft (17m) giving a storage capacity of 9000 million gallons or 34065 million litres.

More spectacular, mostly hidden from view is the 96 mile aqueduct carrying the water from the lake to storage reservoirs at Heaton Park and Audenshaw in Manchester. All along the route are treatment plants and booster stations to help the gravity flow. The aided fall is 20 inches (51 cm) per mile of run. The scheme was officially opened by Sir John James Harwood, Chairman of the

Manchester Corporation Waterworks Committee on the 12th. October 1894 at Thirlmere and the next day water gushed from the fountain in Albert Square after its 30 hour journey.

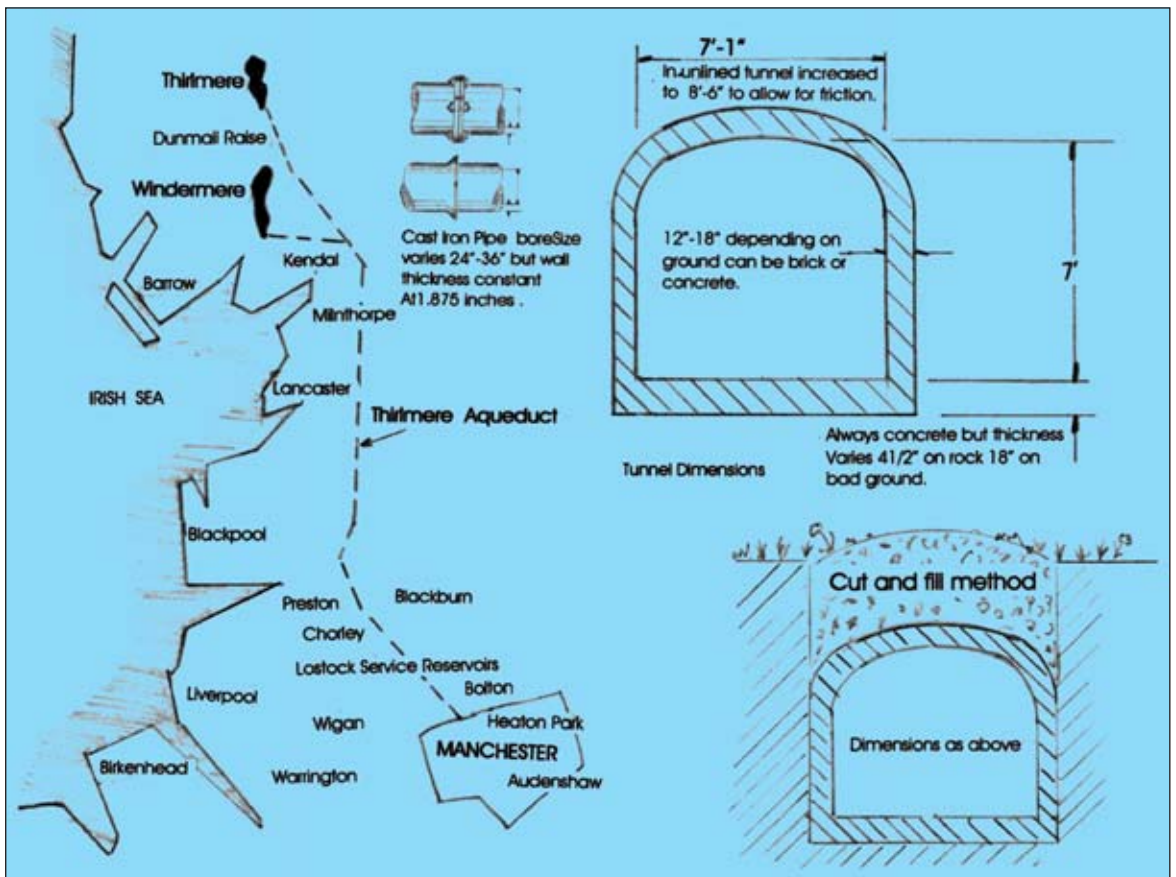
Construction

Most of the aqueduct is underground involving tunnels (14.25mls) through rock and sections of cut and cover (36.75mls) with the crossing of rivers and valleys in cast iron pipelines (45mls). Details of aqueduct dimensions are shown in the sketches.

For the thousands of work people and families brought in, accommodation had to be provided by the construction of huts. To cater for the families Manchester Corporation provided a school and library along with a soup kitchen and free meals served to every one. Medical care was also arranged and all this welfare was received gratefully by the workers and families who responded with good behaviour throughout.

The route of the aqueduct is noticeable on the surface by the air vents and access manholes, which are reached on private land by the many padlocked iron gates.

By B.W. Gerrard BSc, P.Eng



Reciprocal Membership Arrangement with other Professional Bodies

Reciprocal membership arrangements are in force with the bodies mentioned below. In every case Members wishing to apply should first contact the Society for an Application Form and/or a letter of recommendation.



National Society of Professional Engineers®

1420 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314 - 2794, USA
Tel: (703) 684 2800 • Fax: (703) 836 4875 • www.nspe.org



The China Civil Engineering Society (CCES)

Zhang Junqing, Director, Dept. of International Contact
PO Box: 2500, 9, San Li He Rd., Beijing 100835, China
Tel: 00 86 10 58933071 • Fax: 00 8610 58933071 • www.cces.net.cn
Societe Nationale des Ingenieurs Professionnels de France (IPF)

Self Inking Personal Stamps

As Members will be aware the Society has for many years had on offer a Stamp for use on notepaper and drawings containing the name of the Society and the name and Registration Number of the Member. The Firm that supplies the Stamps can now offer a self-inking Stamp which produces an even more finished appearance and is enclosed in an impressive case that will sit well on the office desk. These are now available from the Society at the modest price of £30.00 each which includes VAT, postage and packing.



Lapel Badges

Lapel Badges are now available from the Society at a cost of £2.00 each inclusive of postage. All paid up members are encouraged to purchase a lapel badge to indicate their membership of the Society, and to be proud to wear it among their professional colleagues.



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The Association of Building Engineers

The Membership Secretary Association
of Building Engineers
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The Institution of Diagnostic Engineers

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Society Ties

We are pleased to advise members that we now have good quality ties in stock of polyester satin in Silver Grey, Navy and Maroon with the Society Logo picked out in gold, They are very striking and will certainly provoke discussion when worn in the office and at business meetings and training. Support the Society by ordering one now at the modest price of £11.50 (including postage and packing).



Council and Officers

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	Ing .P. Eur.	HO, David K. M., B.Eng. PEng., M.Eng., FASI, FCI OB, FHKIConstE, MASCE, MIMgt, MHKMA, MHKIM. Flat 3415, King Tsui Court, ChaiWan, Hong Kong. Email: kmh08484@ctimail3.com <i>(Hong Kong Institution of Construction Engineers Ltd)</i>
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		David Ho, BSc, PEng(UK), M.Eng.(Const.), MA Const.E., MBIM, MIMgt, MASCE, MHKIM, MCCES, F.HKI.Const.E., FCI OB, FPSSE, FSPE, Director
		Daniel S.K. Tang, BSc(Hons), MSc, PEng(UK), MCIBSE, MIEE, FHKIConst.E., MBIFM, MSOE, MSPE, Director

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY

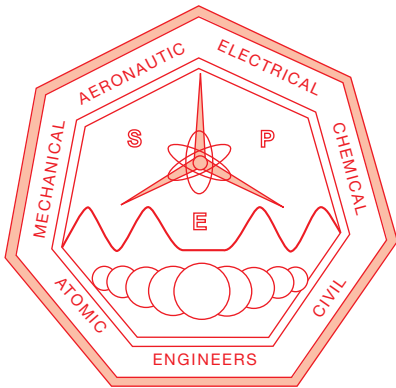
1969/70	F.W. HYDE	1974/75	D.J. AYRES	1979/80	R.C. WYKES	1986/87	D.T. COATES	1996/2000	G.K. TURNER
1970/71	D.J. AYRES	1975/76	J.D. BURROWS	1980/81	V.C. EALEY	1987/90	I.A.C. WRIGHT	2000/02	BRIAN R. DIXON
1971/72	S.N.B. GAIN	1976/77	T.M. SCANLON	1981/83	A.J. BARTER	1990/91	K.A. STATHAM	2002/03	IAN T. FITZHERBERT
1972/73	J.D. BURROWS	1977/78	S.N.B. GAIN	1983/84	D.J. HARDCASTLE	1991/93	M.J. PREECE	2003/05	DAVID PARRATT
1973/74	J. MASON	1978/79	W.E. HUMPHREY	1984/86	J.A. GARDNER	1993/96	R.J.T. ROLLINGS	2005/	BRIAN R. DIXON



Has Anyone got the Energy to Redevelop Battersea?

One of Britain's most loved buildings, Battersea Power Station, had lain dormant for 15 years until a planning application by Parkview International was approved late last year.

But then, just days later, Parkview announced it had sold the iconic landmark to Real Estate Opportunities for £400m. Planning permission is retained, but local campaigners suggest REO will go back to the drawing board to develop its own scheme.



Alderman John Stuttard is the 679th Lord Mayor of the City of London

He served as Sheriff of the City 2005-2006, is an eminent accountant and City businessman who advised government in the 1980's, and has spent most of his career helping businesses access global markets. He is married to Lesley and they have two sons, Tom and Jamie.

The Lord Mayor's Appeal for 2007 is based around the theme of 'Sharing Skills, Changing Lives' and is dedicated to raising funds for cross-border learning. The main beneficiary is the Voluntary

Service Overseas but other organisation set to benefit include the Mansion House Scholarship Scheme, the Guild of Educators and King Edward's School, Whitley.

The Lord Mayor is the head of the city of London Corporation and the main part of his job is to act as ambassador for the City – promoting it as the world's leading international financial and business centre.



A Brand New Building for the City's Information Service

The City of London Information Centre by St Paul's Cathedral closed on 29 September last year, having provided a dedicated face-to-face service to visitors and London alike, uninterrupted for 50 years. Since 1956 things have moved on a bit and valued service needs a new

building from which to operate. And it will get it in style next year when a distinctively contemporary presence will be introduced into one of London's most exceptional areas of visitor interest. The new building is due to open in autumn and is being built by the City of London

Corporation with support from the private sector. Until then the service will be operated from two temporary sites, the Shop in the Crypts of St Paul's Cathedral and the Museum of London foyer area. The contact number remains 020 7332 1456.





An innovative solution to extending a shopping centre in Warrington could be the model for similar city centre developments in the future, as Margo Cole reports. The growth in out of town retail parks has made life increasingly difficult for city centre shopping developments. Warrington is hoping to buck this trend with an ambitious plan to redevelop the town's 27-year old shopping centre and turn it into one of the country's top 40 shopping destinations.

Developer Lend Lease has taken on the existing Golden Square shopping centre and is investing £120M in refurbishing it and building an extension that will more than double its size. Big name retailers have signed up to the scheme which is due for completion next Easter.

Lend Lease awarded the construction contract to Bovis, whose project manager Simon Pritchard says: "Our brief was to extend the existing shopping centre in a period of 107 weeks, but the big challenge is the phasing of the scheme. There are some key constraints, including relocating a live bus station, £4M of utility diversions and the need to maintain car parking to the existing shopping centre – which has remained open throughout the construction.

"The overall duration is sensible for a scheme of this nature if you can tackle it in one hit, but it's a real challenge if you've got the phasing issues that we have." At the start of the project Bovis built a temporary bus station so that the existing facility – which sat on the site of the Golden Square extension – could be

demolished to make way for the new buildings. Under a separate contract Kier then built a new bus station, which opened in August.

Getting transport to the shopping centre is really important to Lend Lease because, if the transport links are not good enough, or the parking inadequate, shoppers will simply go somewhere else. As a result, the completed scheme will incorporate 1,700 car parking spaces on four different levels: one in the basement beneath the shops, and three levels above the retail space.

Redevelopment of Golden Square shopping centre, Warrington.

Main Client: Lend Lease
Main Contractor: Bovis Lend Lease
Steelwork Contractor: William Hare.



Charlie Benson of Leading Engineering Consultancy Whitbybird is to head the company's International Division

Previously a director based in London, Charlie recently moved to whitbybird's Dubai office to spearhead the company's growth in the Middle East and Asia.

He will take an overview of whitbybird's international operations and act as project director on its most high-profile overseas projects.

Charlie was appointed a director in 2002. Since then, he has led the structural engineering of a number of whitbybird's major projects, including the Willis Building/51 Lime Street, a high rise office development designed by Foster and Partners currently on site in the City of London, and the new terminal at Stansted Airport with Grimshaw Architects.

