



# newsletter

Autumn/Winter 2015

# Viewpoint

With the Chancellor's autumn statement perhaps less austere than had been predicted, and with increasing financial support for housing and infrastructure projects, can we look forward to a steady improvement in the construction industry?

There is still a great deal of pessimism as to the ability of the Government to overcome its own Localism Bill, to ensure that development is where it is needed, which currently has to be the South East of England!

The Northern Power House and other more northerly strategic plans might be good ideas but, without corresponding employment, will take many years to become attractive enough to meet the increasing housing need, with our population still growing at over half a million a year.

The clear danger is that delays in Town Planning due to local resistance will delay projects, leading to the Government having to override the normal Planning process.

HS2 has still to be approved by Parliament and the decision on the expansion of a London airport is continually being put back, although it was promised as this newsletter is published!

Whatever is the case, I do not see any boom in the industry in the immediate future.

PPN congratulate CEM in achieving University status, and with their impending move to new premises, it is clearly a very exciting time for the College. Our increase in student membership now supported by CEM will be an interesting addition to our event calendar, and I look forward to hearing student views on the Construction Professions and how they see the future.

To this end, we have invited two students to join our management committee – so watch this space for what I hope will lead to some exciting ideas for our events calendar – Ibiza here we come !

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With a growing membership, the uncertainties of where the industry might be going, and, with the loss of contacts during the recession, we will be increasing the number of pure networking events, where members can meet other members in very informal surroundings. We hope to publish the first such event early in 2016.

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It just leaves me to wish all members and their families a very happy Christmas and let's hope a very prosperous new year.

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**David Ross**  
Chairman  
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# F u t u r e e v e n t s

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## **Outline Programme of Forthcoming Events**

*A varied programme is proposed for 2016, with some events having been finalised (see below) and others which are still in the process of being organised. PPN members are invited to attend events organised by the College of Estate Management, 3CPD Ltd, the Lunchtime Comment Club and the Construction & Property Lunch Club.*

*Information and booking forms for these and other events being organised will be sent out to all members in the near future. Please note certain visits will offer a limited number of places. In order to secure a place(s), bookings with payment will need to be made by post or online banking. Confirmation will be sent by email upon receipt of payment.*

### **Property & Construction Lunch – Tuesday 12 January 2016**

12.30pm at the Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, London W1. Anyone with an interest in property and/or construction is welcome to attend. £55pp (half price for first time attendees). *Further details to follow.*

### **Lunchtime Comment Club Lunch – Guest Speaker: Sir David Wootton – Wednesday 10 March 2016**

12.00pm for 12.45pm. RAF Club, Piccadilly, London W1. Sir David Wootton was 684<sup>th</sup> Lord Mayor of London from 2011-12. He has been an Alderman of the City of London representing the Ward of Langbourn since 2005 and served as Sheriff of the City in 2009-2010. *Further details of this lunch to follow shortly.*

### **PPN Spring Golf Day at – Wednesday 6 April 2016**

Tandridge Golf Club, Oxted, Surrey. Bacon rolls & coffee, morning round of 18 holes, followed by four course carvery lunch and prize-giving. *Further details to follow shortly.*

### **PPN Guided Tour of MINI Plant, Oxford – Tuesday 12 April 2016**

1.00pm-3.30pm. Plant Oxford is the birthplace and heart of MINI production. This is an opportunity to gain insight into the automotive production during a guided plant tour. The tour group will experience the production of MINIs, from the welding of steel parts into car bodies to the individual interior equipment in the assembly.

**Further details and up-to-date information on events organised by PPN, UCEM, 3CPD Ltd and LCC can be found on the PPN website – [www.ppnonline.co.uk](http://www.ppnonline.co.uk)**

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# P P N e v e n t s

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## **RNLI Tower Lifeboat Station visit – 26 June 2015**

A party of members and guests enjoyed a splendid detailed talk at the busiest lifeboat station in the country. It is called Tower because it used to be based there but is now next to Waterloo Bridge on the north side in what used to be the Thames Police base, originally set up in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century by the Humane Society to attempt to save those jumping into the River.

It is manned by a mixture of permanent staff and volunteers and works on a 12 hour shift basis so it is manned throughout the year. Last year it had 543 call-outs, most of which are to retrieve people from the river. They saved 16 lives and rescued 104 people. We learned that the thing which kills quickest is the temperature of the water often because gasping people take in cold water which chills them both inside and out. The river water is colder than the sea.

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## RNLI Tower Lifeboat Station (Contd)

We also did a tour of the station and saw the splendid E Class jet boat which does not have propellers and therefore is unlikely to harm the people being saved. It is extremely fast but we did not get a chance to have a ride!



We were told that the whole of the RNLI is funded from donations and legacies so please donate online –

**[rnli.org/donate](http://rnli.org/donate)** or become a member – if you were unable to join us on a fascinating tour. Thanks as always to Madeleine for organising it all.

**John Edgcumbe**  
*Committee Member*

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## Annual Lunch at House of Lords

13 October 2015

We were extremely lucky to be able to hold our annual lunch at the House of Lords this year. Normally it takes us some time to find a Lord who will sponsor the lunch and this needs to be accomplished before we can make arrangements with the House of Lords Catering Department.

However, this year further difficulties were added as; firstly we needed to make an initial deposit a few months before the date of the lunch, based on an assumption of 50 people attending. This was followed by a second deposit payable a few weeks before the lunch and based on a more accurate figure of likely attendance. A final invoice was then sent to us after the event dealing with any outstanding costs.

Bearing in mind that most people will normally only pay for an event a few weeks beforehand, this gave us a cash flow headache and for a while it seemed unlikely the event would go ahead. Clearly, we solved these problems and the day was a great success with our best attendance for many years. Rest assured for 2016 we are planning ahead.

As usual the lunch was hosted from the Cholmondeley Room with drinks on the terrace beforehand. We were lucky with the weather as the sun was shining before lunch and only clouded over when we were sitting down.

Martin Nicholls was able to take numerous photographs and these were posted on the website.



*Lord Cormack (right) with Patricia and Clifford Dann*

Lord Cormack was our host and sponsor this year. As the House was sitting our speeches and response took place before lunch, this allowed Lord Cormack to make a quick getaway in order to vote!

We indulged in an excellent lunch of cheese soufflé, roasted chicken followed by oaty orchard crumble, all washed down with some excellent wine.

Due to the House sitting this also disrupted our normal tours of the Palace, but was made up for by an additional tour in the afternoon of the Jewel Tower. This Tower is located opposite the Palace on Abingdon Street. The Tower was built around 1365 and is only one of two buildings from the medieval Palace to survive the fire of 1834. It is now looked after by English Heritage and is open to the public.

If you did not make the lunch this year do try and join us in 2016 for another excellent day.

**Mike Whitson**  
*Committee Member*

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## Autumn Golf Day at Denham

5 November 2015

PPN returned to Denham Golf Club in Buckinghamshire for their Autumn Golf Day on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Despite the significance of the date there were no explosions or plots uncovered. However 15 members and guests braved the day which, despite the lateness in the year, was a pleasant autumn day which stayed mainly dry, with the rain only coming in when we were on our way home.

The course, which was opened in 1912, is a challenging one with five of the par 4 holes being over 400 yards long and, despite being sent off with a coffee and a bacon roll, most players struggled a bit with the course. On our return Denham provided us with an excellent four course meal (not everyone took advantage of the cheese but the writer did!).

For the guests the winner was David Davis with an excellent score of 35, followed by Nick Shepherd with 28 and Simon James with 26. The winning member was John Edgcumbe with a score of 30 and Don Ford was second with 29, followed by Jeremy Mortimer with 24.



David Davis with  
John Edgcumbe



John Edgcumbe and  
Don Ford

Our next PPN Golf Day will be in the Spring, on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016**, so golfers please make a note in your diary.

**Jeremy Mortimer**  
Treasurer

*Further photos of the Golf Day can be found under Recent Events on the PPN website - [www.ppnonline.co.uk](http://www.ppnonline.co.uk)*

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## BBC Broadcasting House tour

11 November 2015

Early November PPN had two tours of the BBC's worldwide headquarters in the heart of Central London. Our guides told us about the original building which was built in 1932 and has a statue of Ariel and Prospero on the front façade and the new building which included an upgrade of the old building which was created in 2006. In front of both buildings is the 'world pavement art' which was created by Canadian Mark Pimlott and has 750 place names from around the world enhanced by lines at longitude and latitude and includes many small imbedded lights. Both buildings house approximately 6000 staff.

Our guide firstly took us to the window that overlooks the busy newsroom for domestic and overseas journalists. (These are the people that one sees behind the newscasters when the news is

being aired). We were also able to see the 'weather girl' in live action bringing us news of the impending first named British storm 'Abigail'. We were next taken to the 'One Show' studio where we were able to sit on the (slighted faded) famous green couch (*below*).



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## BBC Broadcasting House visit (Contd)

The next part of the tour took us into the old building. The original 1930s reception space in the original Grade II\* listed Broadcasting House has been carefully restored, in collaboration with English Heritage. The foyer is a fine example of art deco design with classic lantern lighting, columns made of Hopton-Wood marble and the original 1932 paint colour.

Situated in the original reception is an elegant marble statue by Eric Gill which stands as a metaphor for broadcasting – as the sower casts their seed so does broadcasting cast its messages and communications to its audiences. Above the Sower statue is the gilded inscription placed there on the opening of the building in 1932. It reads:

*“This temple of the arts and muses is dedicated to Almighty God by the first Governors in the year of our Lord 1931, John Reith being Director-General. And they pray that good seed sown may bring forth good harvest, and that all things foul or hostile to peace may be banished thence, and that the people inclining their ear to whatsoever things are lovely and honest, whatsoever things are of good report, may tread the path of virtue and wisdom.”*

On the reception floor is an original mosaic (below) containing the earliest manifestation of the BBC logo in its centre. No-one knows who designed it, but one can only imagine how many famous feet have walked over that logo in the past 80 years.



Between the two sets of double doors hang the two royal plaques marking the first royal visit in 1932 by King George V and Queen Mary and the second marking the re-opening and refurbishment of the original building by the Queen in 2006; and the original building works plaque, recording the names of the first architect, engineer and construction team.



Our guide, John, then led us to a recording studio where two guests were able to read news items using the auto queue about Prince Charles's first trip on the underground (above). This was followed by a visit to a radio recording studio where guests were able to record a short play about a car breaking down outside a very scary old house . . . . Rings a bell?



**Jeremy Mortimer**  
Treasurer

Further photos of this visit can be found  
under Recent Events on the PPN website -  
[www.ppnonline.co.uk](http://www.ppnonline.co.uk)

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## AGM & Wine Tasting

### 19 November 2015

This year we moved our wine tasting event to a new venue, Jamies Wine Bar on Ludgate Hill. We had the use of their basement private function room which was far superior in size and layout than the Davys Wine Bars which we have used in previous years.

The wine tasting started after our Annual General Meeting and our Sommelier for the evening was Gabrielle of Castelnau Wine Agencies (right in photo), who look after Jamies for all such events.



The wine tasting was instructive and not competitive, and what really added a nice touch was that Gabrielle had selected a suitable canapé for each wine we tasted. There are four main steps to tasting wine:

First, you must look at the appearance of the wine and determine its clarity and colour. Hold your glass up to the light or against a white background.

Second, swirl the wine around the glass to let the oxygen in. This helps the aromas to develop, put your nose well into the glass; what does the wine smell like?

Third, take a good mouthful and let the wine sit on the tongue whilst 'slurping' to bring in more oxygen; always difficult in polite company! Hopefully you will be able to discern the prominent flavours.

Finally, when you become more proficient you savour the wine, review your notes and draw your own conclusions!

All the wines we tasted were excellent and were as follows:

- Muscadet sur lie, Domaine Gadais, Loire (available from the vintners).
- Jean Bardin Pouilly Fume, 'les Chaumes', Loire (available from Spirited wines)
- Patriarche Pere et fils Pouilly Fuisse, Burgundy (Spirited wines)
- Maison Carree Côte du Rhône, Caroline et Christian. Grenache Syrah Moirvedre (GSM) (available Spirited wines)
- Chateau Marjolaine 2013, Bordeaux Superieur (vagabond)
- Malbec, available from Jamies Wine Bar

Our party was no more than about 15 people, although the venue could have catered for many more. The whole evening was very enjoyable and we all left with a goody bag containing a small bottle of wine, information about Jamies and a £5 voucher!

I recommend we return next year and I encourage our readers if they can, to join us.

**Mike Whitson**  
*Committee Member*

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## 3CPD - News

### Five Counties Conference 2016

Five Counties Conference 2016, organised by 3CPD, will be taking place on Wednesday, **24 February 2016** at the Wycombe Swan theatre in High Wycombe. This one-day conference offers a variety of useful professional and technical topics for surveyors in general practice in commercial and residential sectors. The conference provides six hours of CPD for as little as £55.00 incl. VAT for PPN members.

In 2016, the speakers will include former RICS president, Barry Gilbertson, exploring issues of diversity in the profession; Philip Santo, uncovering

the effect of nuisance on residential valuation; John Fullerlove investigating common defects in older housing, and Martin Gibbons squaring up to the impact of the Energy Act and Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards on commercial property.

The conference is being sponsored by Thames Valley law firm B P Collins.

Further details are available on the 3CPD website at [www.3cpd.co.uk/fc16](http://www.3cpd.co.uk/fc16).

**Guy Pullen**  
**3CPD Ltd**

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## News from the University College of Estate Management (UCEM)

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November was a fantastic month for us as we achieved university college title and are now University College of Estate Management. Ashley Wheaton, Principal at UCEM, commented, "We are both honoured and delighted to be receiving confirmation that the Privy Council and BIS recognise our academic standards; financial status; and effective governance. Gaining a university college title further confirms UCEM's status as a leading provider of supported online learning for the Built Environment worldwide. And, this award further reinforces our dedication to ensuring that our students benefit from high quality and prestigious qualifications; directly supporting their career ambitions."

On 25 November UCEM attended the E-Learning Awards gala evening held in London. We are proud to have been awarded bronze for 'best online distance-learning programme' in recognition of our long-standing commitment to the online learning sector.

### **Course Start Dates**

**Postgraduate courses** will start on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February 2016. Closing date for applications is on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February.

**Undergraduate courses** will start on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2016. Closing date for applications is on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March.

- For updated course information and future dates please visit CEM's website [www.cem.ac.uk](http://www.cem.ac.uk)
  - Please contact Student Recruitment with any queries  
Tel 0800 019 9697 (UK) or +44 (0) 118 921 4697 (international) or e-mail: [enquiries@cem.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@cem.ac.uk)
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