



newsletter

Spring 2017

Viewpoint

State of the Nation:

Not many would have predicted a year ago that we would have voted to leave the EU, that Donald Trump would become the President of the United States, that Teresa May would be our Prime Minister and would call a General Election for June!

If one ignores the deepening crisis in Syria, the threat of North Korea, and indeed Southern Rail(!) not much has changed!

Our economy appears to be holding up well, the construction industry is steady and indeed, with the urgent need for more housing, is likely to grow. Infrastructure projects to meet the rapidly increasing population are growing in evidence and being promised by all Parties, and the soon to commence HS2 with all the peripheral development will provide a further boost.

There is even a chance that there will be airport expansion either at Heathrow or Gatwick in the next few years! I'm sure there are experts lined up to warn of inflation, trade issues as we come out of Europe, and many other woes and worries, but on the ground...everything is fairly steady.

And..... the Treasury is collecting more funds. This should not be surprising, as many companies made losses during the recession following the banking crisis, and as these businesses turned round and started to make profit again, surely tax on profit would start to grow also. This certainly applies to many private companies that I know!

Employment continues to rise at a higher rate than unemployment falls, due to the number that are able to work growing faster. The increase in taxable earnings, coupled with the steady reduction in unemployment provision should continue to increase Treasury receipts and might even lead to greater relaxation in public spending. Certainly this is what is being promised, again by all Parties, and undoubtedly a large part of this will be construction projects.

So providing a reasonable deal is obtained from our European friends, what can de-rail us?

This General Election is likely to result in a Conservative Government with an increased majority but, perhaps of more significance, it is likely to lead to a major shake up in the opposition parties, all of whom have put aside their disastrous Local Election results. Could we see a new 'Gang of Four' create a new centre Party? And might this political upheaval create further uncertainty for the future?.... time will tell.

State of PPN:

I can say with some certainty that PPN has ridden the storm, emerging from several years of decline following the recession in the Construction Industry, to a strong membership organisation with sound finances, an energetic committee, and excellent prospects for the provision of exciting and educational events.

There has been an increase in membership, an increase in attendance at events, all of which we hope will lead to an even more diverse programme.

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- UCEM Course Start Dates

Continued/....

Our developing relationship with UCEM should lead to increased student / member contact to provide both mentoring and work experience, helping to fill the experience gap created over the last ten years.

Finally, we need new committee members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm to take PPN forward over the next decade and provide

succession continuity as older members inevitably retire. We are very happy for any member to attend a committee meeting to see how it works, before applying to be a committee member!

David Ross
Chairman
[dir@ctq.co.uk](mailto:djr@ctq.co.uk)



Ashley Wheaton, UCEM Principal - Looking at the Future

UCEM has a clear vision – to be the Leading, Vocational, Online University. This is underpinned by our Core Purpose (which is an effective re-statement of our Royal Charter in concise, layman's terms) which states that we will: Provide truly accessible, relevant and cost effective education, enabling students to enhance careers, increase professionalism and contribute to a better built environment. Both our Vision and Core Purpose sit firmly at the centre of our current plans as we head towards our centenary year in 2019. Our focus during this time is firmly on our Independence, Growth and Academic Excellence. We continue to make exceptional progress in this regard having gained Degree Awarding Powers, University College status and completed our physical move away from the University of Reading, grown our student enrolments by 100% over the last three years, and successfully passed our formal Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency at the end of 2016. All of that said, we cannot be complacent for a single minute, and must seek to continually evolve and grow our capability, to meet the ever-changing demands of our industry and our students, building upon our 97 years of history and service to the sector.

We are starting to look ahead some ten years or so, and are beginning to develop a vision which can take us on from our centenary through until 2030. Our aim is to envision a longer-term direction of travel which takes into account the myriad of external factors currently impacting on us and our evolution as an institution. When you add up the potential impact of just three of those; the recently enacted Higher Education and Research Bill, the current UK Industrial Strategy and the Apprenticeship agenda and associated employer levy, there is certainly a lot to consider. This is only further exaggerated by the growing skills-shortage in the UK Construction and Real Estate sectors.

Of equal importance, albeit nearer-term, is our continued focus on our Student Experience, and our philosophy of 'No Student Left Behind'. As part of our continuing emphasis on enhancing our programmes we are in the midst of planning for a re-launch of all of our academic programmes in September 2019. This is in-part driven by the need to revalidate both our Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes (within the normal 5-yearly academic cycle), but with an additional focus on the areas where we want to improve our offer. The new model should substantially improve our student experience, and impact positively on progression rates, through further development of our assessment model and the additional use of online technologies for teaching, marking and assessment. Perhaps most notably, we will look to evaluate and implement a revised semester structure, with the option of significantly shortening the semester length, which would in turn allow students to more effectively focus on one module at a time, thereby avoiding potential conflicts in assignments dates and the consequential peak work-loads, as well as providing the potential for better and more immediate certainty for students on progression.

We're making great progress, and always looking to enhance what we do. We're also looking actively towards the future, and considering the ways in which we can evolve, both short and long term, with the outcome being positive and beneficial to both our students and industry.

Ashley Wheaton
Principal

University College of Estate Management: UCEM



Future events

Outline Programme of Forthcoming Events

A varied programme is proposed, 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 University College of Estate Management (UCEM), 3CPD Ltd, the Lunchtime Comment Club (LCC) and the Construction & Property Lunch Club.

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.

RICS Ethics (a 3CPD talk) – Wednesday 7 June 2017

6:30pm at Kings Hotel, Oxford Road, Stokenchurch, Buck HP14 3TA (2 mins from M40 Jn 5)

It is a requirement of all practising RICS members to complete a course in RICS ethics every three years. 3CPD has listened to requests for something more engaging than the ethics slideshow on the RICS website and it is pleased to offer you an hour with Jon Lever FRICS (Delever Associates) talking about RICS ethics in both a thoughtful and thought-provoking way. This is proving to be a popular talk so go along for an enjoyable evening, networking with associates, and a tick in the box for your CPD essentials.

Cost: FREE to PPN members, students and 3CPD subscribers; £20.00 to non-members. To book, please contact Guy Pullen, guy@3cpd.co.uk, (t) 01844 274830.

Networking Drinks Event for PPN members and UCEM students – Thursday 15 June 2017

5.30pm-7.30pm at the Institute of Directors, London SW1 **FULLY BOOKED**

An event for current UCEM students to join PPN Members and some of the UCEM staff at an exclusive networking drinks events.

Roof coatings and cut edge corrosion treatment by Liquasil (a 3CPD talk) – Thurs 15 June 2017

6.30pm. Tea & biscuits from 6.00pm at Kings Hotel, Oxford Road, Stokenchurch HP14 3TA

Cut edge corrosion is a common problem in metal profile roofs on commercial property. Liquasil Ltd is a British manufacturer of roof coatings, uniquely owned by chartered building surveyors, that offers a 12 year latent defects guarantee on its cut edge corrosion treatment. Join 3CPD at a most engaging and entertaining presentation by a fellow building surveyor – David Carter of Liquasil.

Cost: FREE to 3CPD subscribers, PPN members and students. For further information go to www.3cpd.co.uk or contact Guy Pullen, guy@3cpd.co.uk, (t) 01844 274830

Construction & Property Lunch Club – Tuesday 27 June 2017

12.30pm – 1.00pm at the Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, London W1.

Anyone with an interest in construction and/or property is invited to attend.

Cost: £60pp. First timers half-price. Price includes choice of hot buffet (plus starters, puddings, cheese, and coffee). If you wish to attend please e-mail Dave Owen - dwo@pengaron.co.uk

RICS Red Book (2017): Interactive CPD Workshop – Wednesday 5 July 2017

9.30am-4.30pm at UCEM, Horizons, 60 Queen's Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 4BS

UCEM is running an interactive training workshop, designed to help valuers understand what is required to comply with the latest 2017 edition of the RICS Red Book and International Valuation Standards (IVS), effective July 2017. This course is particularly suitable for registered valuers, senior advisors, students and trainees completing their APC via the valuation or commercial property pathways.

Cost (incl VAT): £270pp. Discount Price for UCEM alumni - £229.50pp. Contact alumni@ucem.ac.uk to receive your alumni discount code. **6 hours of formal CPD learning.**

To book a place and for further information go to www.onlineacademy.ucem.ac.uk/courses

Future Events (Continued)

Drones and the use of surveying technology: Interactive CPD workshop – Wednesday 12 July

9.00am-4.00pm at UCEM, Horizons, 60 Queen's Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 4BS

An interactive one-day face-to-face training course designed to help delegates know more about the use of drones and surveying technology. This one day course will ensure you know the correct legislation to ensure you use drones safely. You will experience first-hand just what a drone flight entails, observe a drone in action and see for yourself the output from that flight with the surveying technology. See how drone output can be incorporated into site survey software and the advantages to your business.

Cost (incl VAT): £270pp. Discount Price for UCEM alumni - £229.50pp. Contact alumni@ucem.ac.uk to receive your alumni discount code. **6 hours of formal CPD learning.**

To book a place and for further information go to www.onlineacademy.ucem.ac.uk/courses

Break Notices (a 3CPD talk) - Thursday 7 September

6.30pm. Refreshments from 6.30pm at Maidenhead Golf Club.

'Break Notices' is a CPD talk by David Haines of Charles Russell Speechlys LLP. *Further details to follow shortly.*

Lunchtime Comment Club – Wednesday 11 October

The Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1

Guest Speaker: Jeremy Randall – President of Leander Rowing Club, which is recognised the world over for its extraordinary achievements and home to rowing heroes such as Sir Steve Redgrave and Sir Matthew Pinsent, double gold medallists James Cracknell, Steve Williams and Pete Reed, and to the champions of tomorrow.

Further details to follow shortly.

Building Surveyors' Oxford Briefing 2017- Friday 13 October

Culham Science Centre, Oxfordshire OX14 3EB

Please book the date in your diary and further details will follow shortly.

APC Workshop – Thursday 19 October

2.00pm at Thame Barns Centre, Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 3AJ

Details to follow shortly.

PPN Annual Lunch at the House of Lords – Friday 20 October

12.30pm- 2.30pm. Lord Ramsbotham has kindly agreed to sponsor our Lunch this year.

Pre-lunch drinks on the Terrace, three course lunch and coffee in the Cholmondeley Room overlooking the River Thames. We are hoping to be able to offer a tour of the Palace of Westminster after lunch. *Further details to follow shortly.*

PPN Autumn Golf Day – Thursday 26 October

Harewood Downs Golf Club, Cokes Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Nr Amersham, Bucks HP8 4TA

8.30am Coffee and bacon rolls on arrival, 18 holes of golf, followed by a three course lunch and prize-giving.

Further details to follow shortly.

Five Counties Conference 2017 – Wednesday 28 February 2018

Wycombe Swan Theatre, High Wycombe, HP11 2XW

9.00am *Details will be published in late 2017.*

PPN events

Wine Tasting event *Wednesday 16 November 2016*

Twenty-two intrepid members and guests gathered together at Jamies Wine Bar on Ludgate Hill, EC4 for PPN's annual wine tasting event.

Hosted admirably by two wine sommeliers, we were introduced to 6 regional wines in a fun quiz style format. In teams of 3 or 4, each had to guess the country of origin, grape variety and alcohol content from multiple choice answers for each of the 3 reds and 3 whites. Estimation of the alcohol content left much to be desired and correct answers tended to dwindle as the evening progressed!

From the 'Wine Trivia' section, interesting facts emerged, including that there are 3.3 units of alcohol in a 250ml glass of wine at 13.5% abv and there are over 30 million bubbles in a bottle of Champagne.

The winning team (pictured triumphant in the photo below) comprised our Treasurer, Jeremy Mortimer, past Chairman, John Edgcumbe, guest, Richard Godley, Stephen Hand, and membership secretary, Madeleine Savage.



An evening enjoyed by all and we look forward to the next one towards the end of this year.

Louise Georgi
Committee Member

Glyndebourne Backstage Tour *1 February 2017*

On the 1st February approximately 25 members gathered in the foyer of Glyndebourne. We were met by our guide Philip and taken into the Organ Room, the oldest part of the complex, and heard something of the Christie family, in whose hands the estate had been for many generations and who had held the first opera in the original opera house in 1934.

We were then taken backstage to the new building, designed by Michael Hopkins and Partners and built by Longleys (now part of Kier), we looked out into the stunning horseshoe shaped auditorium which has been finished in reclaimed pitch pine from demolished warehouses in Liverpool and oak slats for optimum acoustics. The stage itself is vast and high with 72 bars each capable of lifting 500lbs of scenery beyond the sight of the audience. We were shown the control panels and technical areas and were taken past some of the impressive pieces of scenery which had been used in the last production. This new auditorium was built in the early 1990s with 1.4million red handmade imperial size bricks and allegedly has the biggest lead covered roof in the UK other than those on medieval cathedrals.

We moved on to the rehearsal areas, where a full sized production can be in rehearsal whilst the current production is on the main stage and were given an

insight into scenery and props production by Steve Cowan the Stage Manager. We then toured the cast changing rooms- the conductor gets the biggest one, and the green room, where there was an exhibition of some of the costumes and scaled down models of stage layouts of various past productions (photos below).



We finished the tour in the Circle, looking down on the illuminated stage and auditorium (photo above), thanked our guide for a fascinating insight into the workings of our newest Opera House.

Ken Boyle
PPN Member

National Theatre Costume Tour

18 March 2017

On Saturday 18th March the PPN organised a behind the scenes tour to the National Theatre, for a small group, to see the craft, organization and skill of the costume team who create and produce the wigs, make-up, costume and props for the theatre productions. The department is located on the fourth and fifth floors of the theatre complex and is reached via a labyrinth of corridors and stairs which is not easy to follow as they look very similar.



The costume department produce the vast majority of clothing, wigs and props for all the theatre productions in an incredibly short time-scale, having just ten weeks lead-in to design then create the costumes for the entire cast, including the bespoke fitting for the individual cast members and understudies, who may not be available until as little as four weeks before the productions are staged. Bearing in mind that there could be numerous costume changes in each production, the logistics required for procuring the fabrics and materials in sufficient quantities, manufacturing the clothing, wigs and individual props are quite staggering.

Accompanied by a very informative antipodean guide we first visited the wig department where the hair pieces are made for each individual actor. The head pieces are made from human hair individually stitched on to a fabric cap, before being dyed and styled. The hair is largely imported from eastern Europe as it is essential that it has not been previously treated with dyes, conditioners or other chemical treatments.

Facial hair pieces are made from hair removed from the underbelly of a yak. (Not many people know that, or perhaps would want to!)

From there we visited the individual prop room. Props are generally classed as any item which is not clothing worn or held, or carried by members of the cast when on stage. This could be crowns, sceptres and swords from Romans to pirates, to wings both fixed and retractable for the upcoming production of *Angels in America*.

In the costume department the clothes are either made from scratch or are adapted from standard high street products suitably customized to suit. The clothes and fabrics are then conditioned using a variety of techniques to distress them to give the appearance of age, wear, or in some circumstance wetness so that the actors do not have to perform in damp or saturated material for extended periods of time.



Finally we visited the wardrobe department where the clothes are batched and sorted, maintained and repaired and finally fitted to the individuals.

When a production is over the costumes, are stored in a large warehouse in Kennington for reuse for revivals, tours, or in some cases altered for use in other productions. When not in use for productions they are available for hire for amateur productions or to individuals for fancy dress. Should anyone ever have the yearning to take on an alter ego you now know where to go!

Andrew Bidgood
PPN member

Spring Golf Day at Tandridge

20 April 2017

PPN held their Spring Golf Day at Tandridge Golf Club on Thursday 20th April. The weather, although a little chilly at the start, was glorious, with plenty of sunshine. The course was in a great condition. Although some work is being undertaken off the fairways the tee boxes, fairways and greens were excellent.

There were 23 members and guests who started the day with coffee and bacon rolls and then proceeded for a stapleford competition, with some off the 1st tee and others off the 10th tee to speed up the round and arrive in time for an excellent 'Tandridge Lunch' followed by prize-giving.

The Guest winner was Tim Allen with a superb 38 points closely followed by Robert Birthwright with 37 points. They were followed by five players with 32 points

*Guest Winner –
Tim Allen (centre)*



Alas the members were not able to post such good scores with Allan Chisholm winning with 32 points on count back from Nigel Vaughan with the same points in second. David Ross came in third with 28 points.

The **Autumn Golf Day** is at Harewood Downs on **Thursday 26th October 2017.**

Jeremy Mortimer
Treasurer



*Allan Chisholm (above left)
– Members Winner*

Tate Modern Architecture Tour

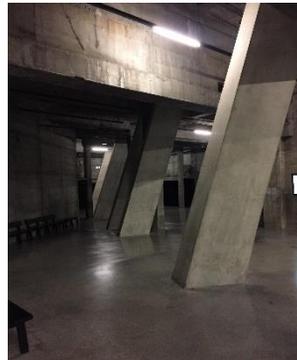
11 May 2017

Having lived in South London, I can appreciate just how much investment in the Tate Modern and South Bank have done to transform the cultural offering in the area so I simply couldn't afford to miss the architectural tour of the Tate Modern's 'Switch House' extension that PPN had organised.

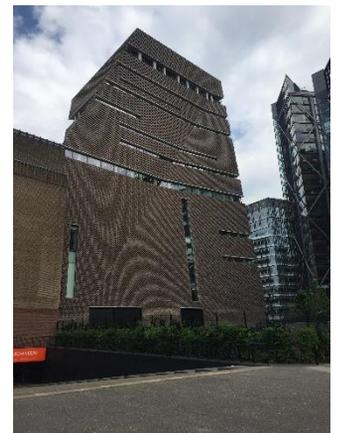
Until the tour I hadn't had a chance to visit the extension, completed in 2016, nor 'The Tanks' which sit below the new extension.

I was simply blown away by the sheer scale of the additional floorspace the extension created; over 22,000 m2 of new exhibition space, allowing the Tate Modern to display 60% more of their art collection for visitors to enjoy rather than sitting in dusty storage vaults.

'The Tanks', open for six months prior to the start of the extension in 2012, and as the name suggests, are the original oil tanks that supplied the power station with fuel until its closure in 1981. These have been opened up for exhibition space; a rabbit warren of concrete and steel, the smell of the fuel which they once held still permeating the space. An excellent exhibition space, perfectly juxtaposed by the crisp modern extension which lies directly above them.



'The Tanks'



'Switch House extension'

The new 'Switch House' extension, is a delightful creation by the Swiss Architectural firm, Herzog & de Meuron, a pyramid of brick lattice and strategically placed glazed openings. I must admit I was looking forward to observing first-hand the overlooking that the residents of Neo Bankside have been so vocal about, an interesting conflict between private and public space, and a recurring theme in central London. From the inside it offers unparalleled views of central London, definitely including the neighbouring residential properties!

Tate Modern (contd)/....

Our tour guide had an obsession with the different types and forms of the staircases leading you through the various storeys of the extension. While I was sceptical at first, it is worth paying attention to the role they play as you move throughout the building, creating not just linkages between floors but transitions between styles and an architectural feature and forming spaces for quiet contemplation.

The Tate Modern and its new extension are very much worth the visit, and well done to PPN for organising another interesting and stimulating tour.

Hugh D'Alton
UCEM Student

3CPD - News

RICS Ethics – Wed 7 June 2017

Over 40 people have booked to attend this engaging talk by Jon Lever FRICS of Delever Associates explaining the importance of ethics for chartered surveyors, being held at Kings Hotel, Stokenchurch (see Future Events above). **To book a place** please contact Guy Pullen – guy@3cpd.co.uk, (t) 01844 274830.

Oxford Briefing 2017

Plans for this year's Building Surveyors' Oxford Briefing are well-advanced with a diverse line-up of speakers and topics. The conference takes place on Friday, 13 October 2017 at Culham Science Centre, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire. There will be talks on tree damage to property, invasive species, the Crossrail experience in tunnelling under a major city,

legal advice on avoiding being sued, surveying with a drone and a camera-on-a-pole, building regulations and more. Truly, a mix of professional and technical topics that will be of interest to a wide range of surveyors.

If you haven't been before, why not discover what attracts others to keep coming back for over 20 years? Details will be available shortly at www.3cpd.co.uk.

Further details of all 3CPD events are available at www.3cpd.co.uk

Guy Pullen
3CPD Ltd
01844 274830
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University College of Estate Management (UCEM)

Course Start Dates

Postgraduate courses will start on 4th September 2017. Application deadline is the 24th July 2017

Undergraduate courses will start on 2nd October 2017. Application deadline is 21st August 2017

- For updated course information and future dates please visit UCEM's website www.ucem.ac.uk
- Please contact Student Services with any queries
Tel 0800 01 99 697 (UK) or +44 (0)118 921 4696 (international) or e-mail: enquiries@ucem.ac.uk

More photos of recent PPN events can be found in the Gallery under Events on the PPN website - www.ppnonline.co.uk
