Scottish Water hosts the Institute of Water Rising Stars

*Scottish Water reflect on their time hosting the Rising Stars…*

Guests from the Institute of Water (IW) visited Scottish Water to hear and see how we work. They are part of the IW's Rising Stars programme which aims to support and encourage future talent in the water sector. Each of the Rising Stars came from different water companies including Severn Trent, Veolia Water, Welsh Water, Anglian Water, South West and Thames West. Kirstin Watt who currently works in SCSP and was an IW Rising Star in 2017 also attended the visit.

As part of the programme, the group have visited water companies across the UK throughout the year with the aim of sharing best practice, learning from others and growing their widespread networks.

At the Scottish Water tour, the Rising Stars met Douglas Millican before they heard from Waste Water Process Team Leader, Yusra Omari. She discussed our Future Leadership programme and shared its process, its aim and what it's like to be a Future Leader.

*The Rising Stars learn about Scottish Water Communications*
During the event, there was also a question and answer session with Alan Sutherland, CEO of WICS and Lynn Cooper, CEO of the IW. The group then heard from our Internal Communications team about how we engage with our customers and colleagues.

The tour also involved a visit to the ICC and Balmore Water Treatment Works.

Lisa McKenzie, an Asset Investment Manager from Veolia Water, said: "It's been a jam-packed day but brilliant at the same time. The visits were fantastic especially seeing inside the ICC. I definitely feel as though I got a lot out of today."

Tom Swain, Network Optimisation Lead from Severn Trent, said: "There have definitely been things I've learned today at Scottish Water that I can take back to Severn Trent. There are also things I've been able to share so it's nice to have that two-way learning as well as making new contacts and networks".

Congratulations to our newly Chartered members!

The Scottish Area is delighted to have two new Registrants in our Membership; Petros Mylonopoulos CEng. & Hunter Fairley, Eng.Tech. Here, Petros discusses this career milestone…

“I have been recently awarded with the Chartered Engineer status within Institute of Water in the UK.

The process was quite straightforward. It was a great way to be able to look back and link the experience I gained from my past projects to the Engineering competencies. The interview with my assessors was a pleasant experience. Being a non-native English speaker and having a different background culture were barriers that I had to overcome when I moved to Scotland from Greece.

I would like to thank Rob Bradley - my mentor in RPS Group (Ratho - Edinburgh) - for his ongoing support and his encouragement. Hopefully I can now give something back to the water business community as a mentor too. I would definitely recommend members to apply for registration”.

If you would like further information on the various routes to Chartership with the IW you can visit the IW website or contact anyone on the Scottish Area Committee (see end of newsletter for contact details)
Intelligent Control Centre (ICC) December Lunch Byte

The Scottish Area Committee would like to thank Kevin Roy, Scottish Water’s Intelligent Control Centre Manager, for giving up his time to host our December Lunch Byte…

The lunch byte was led by Kevin Roy, Intelligent Control Centre Manager, who spoke about the role that the ICC play in ensuring Scottish Water’s service provisions are resilient and interruptions to service are minimised. The ICC are often the first line of defence when it comes to achieving Scottish Water’s strategic aims, and ensuring we continue to tick the needle on in both OPA and CEM. Key to this challenge has been a change in the manner in which we view and blend customer data and other sources of data, such as data we have on our assets and weather forecasts.

In the not so distant past, viewing customer data and trying to correlate that with real time data on our assets took quite a lot of manual effort across multiple systems. In the early days of the ICC, there were 15 different systems which were used to view 24 different types of data. This was often a cumbersome exercise and limited the ICC’s ability to make decisions and act decisively in the early moments of an emerging customer issue.

To address this, the ICC invested in a new system called Situational Awareness, with the aim of getting one holistic view of our asset configuration and performance, customer intelligence, work activities, weather and knowledge management. Now there is far greater connectivity, and a fully integrated view between customer and asset which makes earlier interventions far easier. Overall Situational Awareness has enabled us to gather a far greater understanding of our assets, and manage risk much more effectively.

Hydro Nations Leadership Series

Hazel Gibbens, Communications Lead at FutureX, provides an update on the success of the Hydro Nations Leadership Series …

On the 23rd November 2018, the Hydro Nations Leadership Series reconvened in Edinburgh for its fourth instalment.

The year-long Institute of Water programme is sponsored by Veolia and the Scottish Government and delivered by FutureX. Both existing and up-and-coming leaders across the water industry are invited to come together in order to develop new skills, share knowledge and collaborate.

The main focal point of this session was the causes and effects of change. The group explored a variety of theories, engaged in discussions and spoke to the founder of Scotland-based social enterprise, Brewgooder. Alan Mahon, who founded Brewgooder in spring 2016, began the day with a presentation about his mission to bring clean drinking water to 1 million people in underprivileged areas.
Since the business was started, the team at Brewgooder have impacted the lives of over 60,000 people. Mahon, who won the Entrepreneur of the Year at the Great British Entrepreneur Awards, spoke candidly about his experiences, how he tackled problems and how his values were paramount to the growth and strategy of the business.

Following the interactive discussion with Mahon, the group spent time looking at change instigated by a variety of factors, from minor social interactions to ecological intervention. In turn, the group explored some theories of change, including the ripple effect (the idea that even the smallest changes can affect areas far removed from the original intention) and the needle of change (the theory that explains how changing turning just one degree will bring you to a completely different destination over time.)

As the final part of the day, the delegates worked on creating tangible action steps for core problems in the water industry, including finite resources, outdated traditional practices, low customer engagement and the skills gap.

The group with Alan Mahon, Brewgooder
Welcome Scout Everleigh Relf

The Scottish Area Committee would like to congratulate our very own committee member Kerry Relf and her husband Andrew on the arrival of their beautiful baby girl.

Scout was born on 15th November 2018 at 02:01 AM weighing 8lbs and half an ounce. They are besotted with her and both mum and baby are doing very well. **We wish you all the best on your new adventure and look forward to your return to the committee.**

Introducing our new Rising Star!

Scottish Water Horizons Project Manager **Rebecca Skuce** has been awarded a place on the Institute of Water Rising Star programme

Each year, the Institute of Water selects eight early career Institute of Water members from across the UK who have shown potential, and appetite, to progress within the water industry.

This year, SW Horizons Project Manager **Rebecca Skuce** was selected as the Rising Star for Scotland. The programme offers unique opportunities for those chosen to develop their skills, take part in the prestigious Institute of Water events and raise their profile within the industry. After completing her PhD in Earth Science at the University of Glasgow, Rebecca joined Scottish Water as a specialist graduate in 2014, working as a Waste Water Process Scientist.

Rebecca is now part of the Business Development team in Horizons. As Project Manager, she’s responsible for managing our Water and Waste Water Development Centres. Here, innovators, companies and researchers can test and demonstrate new technologies, products and processes under live conditions without risk to our operations.

As part of winning a place on the Rising Star programme, Rebecca will have the opportunity to broaden her industry exposure and knowledge by mixing with regulators, industry leaders and suppliers through attending a number of high profile events and conferences over the next year, which began with the annual Utility Weeks Awards Dinner in London in December. Rebecca said:
“I am thrilled to have been awarded a place on the Rising Stars Programme. It has already been an amazing experience! I have attended the Utility Awards in London and joined the rest of the Rising Stars group for a welcome session at Scottish Water. Hosted by Douglas Millican, Scottish Water CEO and IW President, we got to take part in Q&A discussions with Lynn Cooper of IW, Alan Sutherland of Water Industry Commission for Scotland and Terry A’Hearn CEO of Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Each session was unique and sparked some fantastic discussions! I was motivated to apply for the programme to broaden my knowledge of the wider UK water industry, meet other like-minded water professionals and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges that our industry faces.

In my role, I get the opportunity to meet companies and researchers who are developing all sorts of new and exciting innovations within the water sector. This programme provides me with a unique platform to network with a wide range of professionals so that we can solve challenges and progress new innovations as a collective. The range of opportunities throughout the programme is really inspiring. I’m excited at the opportunity to attend and present at various industry events where I will have the chance to develop my public speaking and influencing skills, whilst raising awareness of issues and successes that our industry faces. I am particularly looking forward to attending the Northumbrian Water Innovation Festival; not to mention the IW Annual Conference which has always been a highlight in my professional calendar!”

Booking now open for the annual President’s Dinner

Institute of Water
Scottish Area Annual President’s Dinner
27th April 2019
Radisson Blu Glasgow, 301 Argyle Street, G2 8DL
7pm drinks reception for 7:30pm dinner

For the 8th year, the Scottish Area Innovation Awards will be held at the President’s Dinner.
Evening entertainment and ceilidh will be provided by Callanish so don’t miss out!

Individual seat bookings welcome @ £42 (plus VAT) per person
Table bookings of 10 available @ £420 (plus VAT)
To book email: megan@instituteofwater.org.uk or call 0191 422 0088

Special Room Rates available - B&B Single £130 Double £140
Book direct with Radisson Blu Glasgow between 9am-5pm, Mon to Fri on 0141 204 3333 quoting Institute of Water - Room rates are available until 15th March unless sold out
Dress is Lounge Suit/Cocktail

For more info email: kathyauld@scottishwater.co.uk

Sponsored by ROSS-SHIRE ENGINEERING
Congratulations to our 3 Innovation Awards finalists who will now attend the President’s Dinner at the Radisson Blu, Glasgow on Saturday 27th April where the overall winner will be announced. This year, there were 13 applications in total and the master judging panel (consisting of Mark McEwen and Mark Wilson, representing the IW Scottish Area Committee, George Ponton, Head of Research and Innovation at Scottish Water and Barry Greig, representing the Scottish Government) all agreed it was a very tough decision.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to apply and we hope that you submit another entry in the future as it could be you!

The overall winner will go on to represent the Scottish Area at the National Innovation Awards which will be held in Belfast this June. Introducing our 2019 finalists (in no particular order!)

**Kenny Dallas (A&L Mechanical Installations Ltd)**

“Remote Hydraulic Valve Actuation”

**David Fraser (aBV)**

“Carbon Reinforced Polymer (CFRP) for rehab of above ground pipeline”

**Les James (FT Pipeline Systems Ltd)**

“Leak detectable chemical dosing hose”
Meet your very own Scottish Area Committee…

Date: Friday 24th May 2019
Location: The Sheep Heid Inn Pub and Restaurant, 43-45 The Causeway, Edinburgh, EH15 3QA
Time: 18:30 - late

Interested in joining the Institute of Water? Would you like to learn about the benefits of membership, how to get chartered or find out more about our upcoming events?

The Scottish Area Committee invite you to join us for an informal evening where you'll have the opportunity to ask as many questions as you like! We will have use of the pub’s skittle alley and there will be drinks served with a hot fork buffet. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please note that this event is free to members of the Institute of Water however numbers are limited. If you find that you are unable to attend after booking, we ask that you cancel your booking as soon as possible. For further information and to book your place please visit the Institute of Water website or contact Kirstin Watt on 07443876482.
Meet your Scottish Area Committee…

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Rob Bradley – Area Vice Chair  
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Jim Panton – Area Past President  
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Kirstin Watt – Publicity Co-ordinator  
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We are always interested to hear what our members are involved in. If you have any news or articles which you would like to share with the Scottish Area, please send to kirstin.watt@scottishwater.co.uk (Publicity Co-ordinator and Newsletter Editor). Thank you very much!