

# South East Region



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### NEWSLETTER JULY



From left to right – Diana Charlton General Secretary, Cliff Brown President, Mark Rea Vice President, Roy Blamey Junior Vice President and Director of Membership, J. Sinfield, Director of Finance.

The South West Region chose the Leigh Park Country House Hotel in Bradford-on-Avon as this year's venue for the AGM and Dinner and Dance and it proved to be an excellent choice. Cliff Brown chaired a successful meeting before handing over the Presidency to Mark Rea for the next two years.

Roy Blamey was officially elected as Director of Membership although he has been carrying out this role since taking over from Ian Trickey some months ago and David Jones a new member to the South East Region took on the role as Director of Education. Although a new member David Jones has been working tirelessly in background for a year or more on the new website and the planned academy, some programmes are already available but it will be fully up and running shortly.

The every reducing membership was as always a topic for the meeting but it is very much hoped with the Competency Register, the Academy and the new website which is receiving a large number of hits and interest we may be able to attract new younger members who are keen to take on board new technology as a way of moving forward in the construction industry.



Cliff Brown was delighted to be able to present Roy Blamey with a Fellowship for all his hard work with the website and for taking over the role of Director of Membership. Roy is Chairman of the South East Region.



Cliff Brown handed over the Presidency of the Institute of Mark Rea, of the South West Region.

Mike Wilkinson Governor, closed the meeting saying it had been a fruitful meeting and hoped everyone had an enjoyable weekend.

The Dinner and Dance was held in a beautifully decorated room set out with balloons and lovely table decorations overlooking miles of Wiltshire countryside. An excellent meal was followed by dancing and a huge raffle and everyone was complimentary about an extremely enjoyable day.

### **A Long Walk Home**

The UK's top military housing charity Haig Housing Trust has announced that 100 veterans will walk 100 miles from Ypres to The Cenotaph, Whitehall, finishing on Remembrance Sunday, to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War. Haig organized the hugely successful poppies at The Tower installation that raised millions of pounds for veterans' charities. The walk has been planned as a mark of respect to those who died in the Great War and to raise funds for charity. The Trust was launched soon after the end of the war in memory of Earl Haig.

The walkers will be taken to Ypres in Belgium, the scene of three major battles in the First World War and from there will begin their four day return journey, travelling to the Belgian coast then on to Dover making their way to Canterbury, Faversham, Rochester, Rainham, Dartford and Sidcup. They will stay in a hotel in Kent the night before Remembrance Sunday then march to The Cenotaph the following morning.

Along the route from Dover to central London the people of Kent will be asked to host the brave veteran walkers overnight to demonstrate the 'Dunkirk Spirit'. It is hoped the walkers will be joined along the route by the public, politicians and celebrities to raise awareness and to raise funds for the charity.

This centenary of the first Armistice will attract much attention as the nation stops to remember, not just the sacrifices of the Great War but those who have given so much in all subsequent conflicts and The Long Walk Home is felt to be a perfect way to commemorate this anniversary.

### **Grenfell Tower**

The fire at Grenfell Tower will live in the memory of everyone involved with the built environment and with the enquiry ramping up in earnest in 2018 the tragedy will have wide ranging implications for construction. The question of what to do with the building itself is still to be resolved. It still stands like a scar on the West London skyline, a constant reminder of the failings of the building and the lives that were lost.

2018 is likely to see a decision taken, with most expecting the tower to be demolished which, if this happens, would be the most high profile and sensitive demolition project since the recovery operation.

**Please note the Institute's website is now [www.the-ICM.co.uk](http://www.the-ICM.co.uk)** Please take a look at the work that has been done to our website, it is really worth a look.