



Summer 2014 Newsletter – West Midlands Region

Welcome!

Welcome to this summer edition of the Newsletter for the West Midlands Region, which encompasses the Birmingham & Coventry Group and the Staffordshire Group.

We're now in our summer break, but we have been working hard to put together an exciting and varied calendar of events beginning in September 2014.

As ever, if you have any suggestions for events in the future, or general feedback regarding the newsletter, please contact Andy Clark at andrew.clark@atkinsglobal.com. We are always happy to receive feedback – good or bad!

Forthcoming Events – A Sneak Preview!

You should shortly receive a calendar of events for September onwards. We have tried to organise events covering as many sectors as possible, so we really hope there is something in there that is of interest to you. A few examples of the events we have lined up are listed below. Exact dates and times will be in the calendar of events which gets posted out. The website also contains all the details you will need.

A visit to Network Rail's new National Distribution Centre at Ryton

A talk on how the Highways Agency is developing 'Smart' Motorways

A visit to see some 3D printing in action

A presentation by Chiltern Railways

West Midlands Dinner - Friday 19th September

We are also excited to announce our **first** West Midlands Dinner, to be held at **The Old Library**, Custard Factory, Birmingham. Please do join us in this beautifully restored Victorian library in the heart of Birmingham's creative quarter for a great evening including a **3-course dinner and entertainment**.

The evening will be a celebration of experience honouring some of the Region's longest serving members whilst raising money for Aspire. Bring partners, friends, or use the event as an ideal opportunity to entertain clients, reward employees, make new contacts or just come and have fun whilst raising awareness and funds for CILT's charity. Further details are on the website.

Recent Event Reports

Notes from some of the events held over the last few months.

Visit to the Central Motorway Police Group

Date: Tuesday 4th March 2014. **Location:** Central Motorway Police Group, Perry Barr, Birmingham

Write-Up: Don Hambleton

We had an enjoyable and informative visit to the Motorway Police in early March. The speaker, PC Steve Rounds, is an experienced road safety expert with special expertise relating to Heavy Good Vehicles. The Central Motorway Police Group (CMPG) patrols an approximate area from Cheshire to Gloucestershire. Readers may well have seen PC Steve Rounds in the past featuring in *TV on*





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Police, Camera, Action. PC Rounds gave a fascinating insight into the CPMG work covering modern day offences like using a mobile whilst driving, speeding and other driving violations. In addition, he outlined how the police move to close down criminal activity when such activities entail using the motorway network.

Visit to M&S Distribution Centre

Date: Wednesday 9th April 2014. **Location:** Castle Donington, Leicestershire

Write-Up: Bill Acres

30 CILT members joined the West Midlands Region at Marks and Spencer's cutting edge new EDC NDC site at Castle Donington near Nottingham (see picture). The visit was hosted by Chris Chaplin and his project team on behalf of M&S Logistics.

The site totals over 1m sq ft and is a new initiative for M&S who after 125 years of trading have in-sourced this operation after previously out-sourcing most logistics operations. This strategy began in 2009, and runs until 2016, the aim being to reduce 100 distribution centres to "a small number". This will result in reduced touch points from supplier to store (or direct to customer). Bradford was the first big distribution centre, then Castle Donington.

The warehouse is 25m in height and provides 20 million items of singles storage. All online product is held (hence EDC), and is M&S's "largest store". 25% of general merchandise volume is also held including all slow movers for the store estate (hence NDC). When fully operational, 1,000 staff will be employed on site.

The project history dates back to 2010 when the site was acquired. In 2011 the warehouse build occurred, with 2012 used for the fit out including many automated elements. During 2013 the team began the ramp up of operations (bringing in the stock from closing distribution centres) towards full capacity.

The site is an ex-power station, and the building rated BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology), excellent, with the largest solar wall in Europe in place and solar PV (photovoltaic) panels due to be installed on the roof.

The 875K sq ft warehouse is split into 3 chambers. No.1 is for boxed product, No.2 for intake, handling and despatch activity, with No.3 for hanging product.

Automation includes a Crisplant sorter, Schaefer box pick system and Durkopp hanging garment storage and retrieval system. Schaefer provide the WCS (Warehouse Control System) and Red Prairie the WMS (Warehouse Management System).

Other new initiatives include the award winning Marks & Starts programme for recruiting and retaining long term unemployed staff at the site which has enjoyed great success.

Thanks to Tim Owrid and his team for early access to this leading edge logistics site. We look forward to an early tour of the Thames Gateway site in a couple of years!





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Visit to Bombardier Transportation, Derby

Date: Tuesday 3rd June 2014. **Location:** Derby

Write-Up: Andrew Dartnell

The visit began with an introductory presentation on the company by Kathryn Lancaster, Internal Communications Manager.



Bombardier Transportation is one of the world's largest companies in the rail-equipment manufacturing and servicing industries. Bombardier Transportation is the rail-equipment division of the Canadian firm Bombardier inc., which has its European headquarters in Berlin. The company has 64 production / engineering sites worldwide (during a Study tour in 2010 the Staffordshire Group of CILT visited the plant in Vienna, building trams and LRVs (Light Rail Vehicles) for a number of European cities).

In the UK, Bombardier has around 3,500 employees at eight sites along with 23 service locations including Crewe, Plymouth, Derby and Burton-on-Trent (Central Rivers). It also operates in several locations in and around London plus a heavy maintenance depot at Ilford in Essex.

Earlier this year, the Derby site celebrated a milestone having been producing rail vehicles of various types since 1839, a total of 175 years.

In May 2014 the company completed the 1,000th car for Southern and are now working to complete a huge build of 191 new trains for the Sub Surface Lines (Metropolitan, Circle, Hammersmith & City and District lines) for Transport for London (TfL). A contract for some 600 new vehicles for the 'Crossrail' project has also been secured which will provide some stability for the next few years.

After the introductory presentation the visiting group were taken on a walking tour of the production line in the factory and saw at first hand the creation in various stages of new cars for TfL that would eventually make up a complete train set ready for testing, commissioning and delivery to the customer.

The building process commences with a single car floor which is delivered to the assembly 'upside down' to facilitate installation of looms, cabling and piping systems. Once this is completed the floor is bolted to the pre-assembled car sides and roof, then all remaining internal fitting out is undertaken.

The driver's cab and intermediate end is then bolted onto the ends of the car and the 'tubed' car is lowered by cranes to the floor for fitting of doors. Once doors are in place the car is lifted by cranes to the next stage for traction and fit-out with two teams working simultaneously, one beneath the raised car and the other inside it.

The final move is onto the bogies. Once the car is connected to the bogies the seats are fitted, air testing takes place and also levelling exercises commence.





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It was mentioned that it takes approximately 60 hours to complete one single car to ready it for insertion into a new train-set. At the current rate of progress the Derby site is producing one new train-set every day ready for testing, commissioning and delivery to the customer.

The visit to the production line was of great interest to all those who participated and our sincere thanks must go to Kathryn Lancaster at Bombardier for not only arranging for the visit to take place but also for accompanying us throughout the tour to answer the many questions raised by the visitors.



The visit was thoroughly appreciated by those who took part which was acknowledged as one of the highlights of the West Midland's Regional calendar.

West Midlands Region Committee

If you'd like to help organise events in your local area, please contact Graham Gittins FCILT at graham.gittins@advancedcomputersoftware.com.

Our meetings are very informal and you would be made most welcome. The main focus of the meetings is ensuring the annual programme of events is successfully delivered. We also discuss any feedback we've received on past events and consider how we can incorporate any suggestions going forward. A light dinner is provided!

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