



## IHBC EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 2014

Dear colleague,

As a Branch, we have been keen to improve our communication with our members for a number of years now and this has seen several upgrades to our Branch website - <http://ihbc.org.uk/branches/emids/index.html>.

To take these efforts further, we will be emailing updates to keep you informed of the Branch Committee's work on your behalf, forthcoming training events and to seek your feedback on a range of issues. Please read on for an update on the latest news.

### Introduction from the Chair of the Branch

I am pleased to have been elected as Branch Chair for a second year and hope to do my best for our Branch. Here is a quick update and a little about what we do for our members in the East Midlands.

After a successful AGM it is great to announce we have more members than ever on the Branch Committee as we welcome Eva Long, Rosamund Worrall, Becky Waddington and Simon Revill to the fold. Our AGM was held on 11<sup>th</sup> September at the Hallmark Hotel in Derby, where we also hosted a well attended reception for our members to meet the members of the IHBCs' National Council who were holding their 2014 peripatetic Council meeting in the East Midlands Region.

An aim of the Branch is to assist those members who wish to join or upgrade their membership to full or the recently introduced associate membership level. I am pleased to say on 12<sup>th</sup> September the Branch hosted at the Roundhouse in Derby the very successful training event '*Building Skills for IHBC Membership*', which provided speakers and mentors from the National Council and the East Midlands Branch providing helpful advice for the delegates.

Following this flying start, over the forthcoming Branch year we will look to develop some of the themes of the AGM and focus on the needs of members so watch this space.

Finally, your Branch Committee meets every six weeks in Newark at the Fox and Crown pub and I'd like to invite you all to come along to at least one of our meetings. The next meeting is on 2 December where we will be discussing possible training events to be held in April 2015 and on issues that we as a Branch want feedback on from you, our members. Dates for future meetings can be viewed on our website - <http://ihbc.org.uk/branches/emids/index.html>.

I hope to see you soon.

Liz Mayle, Chair of the IHBC East Midlands Branch

## NEWS UPDATES

### Update from AGM and Branch Plan 2014/15

This year's AGM at the Hallmark Hotel in Derby saw a good turn out from East Midlands Branch members and provided a good opportunity to review the year's successes, such as the CPD visit to Newark to see the repairs and renovation of the Magnus Building as part of the Palace Theatre works in April. Going forward, the Branch's Action Plan for 2014/15 was agreed and the Branch will continue to focus on supporting its members.

For more details on the AGM, the Branch's Action Plan and Committee Members and its meeting dates, please see <http://ihbc.org.uk/branches/emids/index.html>.

### IHBC Council and Affiliate member day update

As referred to above, the East Midlands hosted the IHBC's National Council 2014 peripatetic Council meeting and we as a Branch dovetailed our AGM to enable our members to meet the National Council members, both at the dinner reception and in the Brunswick pub afterwards. Feedback from both sides has been very positive and this can be considered to be another success for the East Midlands Branch.

Built into this activity was a national IHBC event to provide support to IHBC Affiliate members in their efforts to achieve full membership. This involved mentoring sessions focussed around the membership competencies and again this event received very positive feedback from both the affiliate members who attended and the full members who were providing the coaching and mentoring. You can hear feedback from attendees in our short film of the day - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjNyUQiJ5W0>.

As a Branch, we feel this is something we could develop this year and see that there may be potential to organise mentoring sessions for the Branch's affiliate members by linking in to the County Conservation Officer Groups. More to follow on this but if you would be interested in a mentoring session, please mention it to your County representative.

### Communication

Finally, communication is vital to maintaining an active Branch and so using emails to reach members directly is another step forward for the Branch. However, we don't want to stop there so what would be your top suggestion to help us improve our communication? Would it be using social media tools, such as Twitter, or video streaming of the Branch meetings, or more reminders about CPD events?

Please let our Communications Officer, [Chris McKinney](#), know your thoughts.

Finally, many best wishes for the festive season and 2015. If you can't get to the Branch meeting on 2 December we hope to see you at a Branch event in the New Year.

Yours,

***The East Midlands IHBC Branch Committee***