

# NATIONS, REGIONS, GROUPS & FORUMS

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## NORTH WEST LANCASHIRE GROUP

### Good riddance, 2020; welcome 2021

**W**hat a difference a year makes. We started 2020 with a schedule of fantastic, informative events, showcasing some of Lancashire's finest businesses, but unfortunately, all had to be cancelled from March onwards.

As a county we have been one of the most affected regions in the UK and have spent the latter half of the year in the highest tier, which has been very difficult for many companies. However, our committee reacted quickly to the new guidelines and we continued to meet remotely to work out how we could reach out to our members.

In September we held a very successful webinar: *Weathering the storm*, which was an extremely relevant event aimed at our members to give them an insight on how innovative and flexible our profession has been in order to survive the pandemic. Our panel of speakers consisted of: Lesley O'Brien OBE, Partner, Freightlink Europe; Matt Davies, Managing Director, Stagecoach Merseyside and South Lancashire; and Ian Middlemass, Head of Tramway, Blackpool Transport and member of the National Tram Board. These knowledgeable speakers from a cross-section of our sector highlighted the challenges and changes that have been made as a result of Covid-19. It also demonstrated what transporters need to do now and the financial and operational implications to the changes that had to be made.

### New year and new beginnings

Although things are not going to revert to normality for some time, we still want to provide you with a programme of events that will be focused and inspiring. Join us for our first virtual event of the season on Thursday 21st January at 15.00 hrs, when the team from Backhouse Jones will provide an insight into: *The perils of public inquiries and employment tribunals*. Their expert team of lawyers will discuss many topics highlighting what is on the cards for 2021, the perils of public inquiries and the hot topics that are trending in employment tribunals.

We are still in the process of confirming the remaining programme, so watch out for further details by email or on MyCILT. Let us know if there is any topic you would like us to cover or if you would like to host an event.

### Your committee needs you

Do you want to become part of a dynamic, forward-thinking community and make a difference to the services we provide to our county? Do you want to be at the heart of our Institute and exchange information and best practice with fellow members? We are looking for new members to join our committee in a variety of roles, including Next Generation Representative and Events Coordinator. We need your knowledge and passion to ensure we continue to strengthen our Institute.

We want to use this year to galvanise the Group to benefit our members, but we cannot do this without your assistance and input. Let us make 2021 a year of change, development and growth, and one to remember for positive reasons.

For details on how to volunteer, contact: the Regions and Forums team. 01536 740296. [forums@ciltuk.org.uk](mailto:forums@ciltuk.org.uk)

**Rachael Scanlin-Davis FCILT**  
Chair,  
Lancashire Group.

## VOLUNTEERING WITH CILT

### Meet Simon Gardner

**I have worked in the bus industry with Cardiff Bus for over 30 years. I have been a trainer for 20 years, and the delegated driving examiner for Cardiff Bus since 2018.**

I became a member of CILT in 2003 when I was just starting my Bachelor of Education degree at Cardiff University as a mature student, as I thought it would help with my studies. I also began to help with the CILT Cymru Wales young professionals, by giving them a tour of Cardiff Bus. I became a Chartered Member in 2009, and joined the CILT Cymru Wales national committee in 2014.

During my time on the committee, we have organised many lectures on varied subjects with many leaders in their field. One highlight for me was meeting Sir Moir Lockhead OBE, former Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman, FirstGroup. Our local Group has also organised events such as the CILT Wales Transport Awards.

With the decline in local government committee involvement and with privatisation, we have had to evolve what presentations and times we provide them in order to maintain interest. This year has been particularly challenging, with all committee meetings going online. My concern for the future is that our membership may decline due to redundancy and fewer students. I also feel that as an organisation we need to ensure our activities are easily accessible to members and non-members, to build networks and encourage growth.

We all face challenges in the new world post-Covid-19 and a post-Brexit, and I believe the Institute needs to be a lead organisation, advising government and passing on information to our general membership, not just internationally or nationally, but also regionally, as some of the issues we face in Wales may differ from other parts of the UK and the world.

I look forward to passing on my knowledge and experience to future generations through my commitment to CILT and other organisations I am involved in.

**Simon Gardner CMILT**  
Committee Member,  
Cymru-Wales.



The Group will continue to host virtual events at the start of this year