

NATIONS, REGIONS, GROUPS & FORUMS

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VOLUNTEERING WITH CILT

Meet Andrew Hemmings

I have been the Secretary of CILT's Rail Freight Forum as a volunteer for six years since I retired from Atkins, where I was employed as Senior Transport Consultant, specialising in rail freight. It was a natural and relatively easy progression to continue to apply my knowledge, expertise and skills on behalf of the Institute. I now help to organise meetings, recruit members, arrange keynote speakers and take notes of the meetings. I find it particularly enjoyable and rewarding to network with fellow members, maintain up-to-date knowledge of the rail sector, practise my organisational skills, and reduce professional and social isolation.

I have a lifetime interest in railways. My role as a volunteer provides the ideal opportunity for learning more about the latest developments at first hand from renowned speakers, from attending events and from visiting important locations such as rail freight terminals and distribution centres.

As an exponent of active travel, I appreciate a forum in which to discuss sustainability and decarbonisation of transport. As well as these tangible benefits, I have gained a range of likeminded friends and acquaintances across the UK. I am convinced that CILT would lose some of its strengths, respect, resilience and character if it were unable to draw on such groups of individuals, voluntarily giving their time to support the logistics and transport profession.

On a wider canvas, I am proud to represent CILT's Rail Professional Sector on the Representative Advisory Group. My earlier career in public service and a number of voluntary posts in not-for-profit organisations has taught me the importance of good governance, not least in matters of human resources. I am a consistent advocate of equality and diversity, having run a successful series of management training courses. Bodies such as CILT must draw upon such 'professional' volunteers at all levels from Group committees to board level.

Perhaps in conclusion I should warn the reader that I am addicted to volunteering. I am the Chair of the Advisory Body of Newport Harbour Commission and the Adopter for my local railway station. I work part time for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and write articles for the South Wales Argus newspaper and the Imperial War Museum. I have written two books: *From Lancashire to Yorkshire by Canal* and *Secret Newport*, and helped to produce two films.

I often gave talks on these subjects. Overall, I feel my world would be very different and less rich without all my volunteering activities at CILT and elsewhere.

Andrew Hemmings FCILT
 Secretary,
 Rail Freight Forum.



✓ Volunteering with CILT provides the ideal opportunity for learning more about the latest industry developments

