UK govt to collaborate with water sector
Joining forces for water reform **P6**

Meet new Guild chair Richard Weeks
Set to guide the Guild in 2026 **P12**

See who's on the Guild board for 2026
Branch appointments in full **P13**

Celebrating 50 years in the industry
Q&A with three industry giants **P15**

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE PIPELINE INDUSTRIES GUILD

Winter 2025

In the pipeline



WORTH THE WAIT

Wales & West kicks off the end-of-year Guild branch festivies with a pumphouse party **P18**

SIXTY EIGHTH

ANNUAL DINNER

at the

GROSVENOR HOUSE HOTEL

PARK LANE, LONDON

TUESDAY 10TH MARCH 2026

an evening of celebrating industry achievements, awards, networking & entertainment

PIPEGUILD.COM



We are tech champions

Hello! It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to the latest issue of *In the Pipeline* – and also introduce myself as your new Guild chair. You can find out more about my plans for the Guild this year – and get the chance to meet all the other members of the Board – in our AGM 2026 feature on page 12.

If you want to know my mission for the next 12 months in a nutshell, it's to expand our technical focus and do even more than we already are to showcase the incredible talent we have within the Guild. But I must emphasise that this will be a continuation and expansion of the great work occurring right now.

One only has to look through this issue to see the Guild's widespread role supporting our industry and building technical competence. This latest edition reports on our prominent role at the World Pipelines CCS Forum (page 8), the many notable strategies partners who are collaborating with the Guild and our ever-widening educational outreach.

Finally, there is one special story I must highlight. Jo Parker, Norman Howell and Bob Murray are each celebrating a magnificent 50 years in the industry. Our 'Pure Guild Gold' Q&A on page 15 asks each of them in turn about the changes they've witnessed in our industry, where they think the industry is going next, and much more. I spoke about technical competence above – and these three industry titans have it by the bucketload, and much more besides.

Finally, I'd like to wish you and your loved ones a restful and relaxing Christmas. Enjoy the downtime – there'll be plenty for us all to do in 2026!

Richard Weeks
Guild chair





Education lead Sarah Clinkard reveals the many ways she's building education opportunities for all (see page 11)

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Industry talk and networking at AVK UK's 40th birthday celebrations

COMPANY NEWS

Fabulous at 40

Valves and fittings experts AVK UK engineer the perfect celebration to mark four decades at its Corby facility

IF AVK UK ever fancied branching out into a new industry, it could dominate the event-planning market. The 40-year celebrations for its Corby facility was a precision-engineered day of site visits, industry talk and networking – culminating in a 'Friday-night-vibe' gala dinner.

The day began with a guided tour of the Corby facility, giving customers and guests an exclusive view of AVK UK's production processes. Attendees were able to see how AVK combines experience and modern techniques to deliver high-quality, reliable products tailored to their needs.

Success through tech

Since its founding in 1985, the Corby plant has been at the heart of AVK UK's commitment to producing high-quality gate valves and hydrants for the UK water industry. From just seven employees to a skilled workforce of 40, the facility has grown into a modern manufacturing hub, combining decades of expertise with advanced technology and automation.

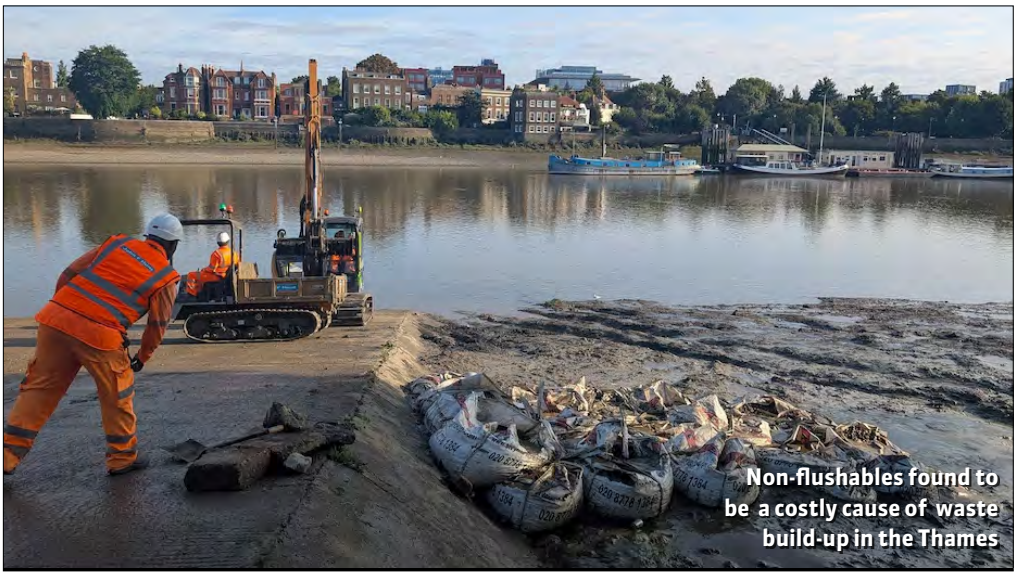
That Friday feeling

After the tour, guests enjoyed an outdoor shooting activity, the perfect opportunity for networking and informal engagement. There was also a relaxed discussion on topics such as leveraging supply chain expertise, future procurement models and practical sustainability initiatives.

The day concluded with a gala dinner at Ansty Hall Hotel, where customers and employees shared stories, celebrated achievements and toasted AVK's future. Highlights included a string quartet during dinner, a live band keeping the energy high and a talk by Bonita Norris, one of the youngest British woman to climb Everest at age 22. Her inspiring message – 'Success by smallness: you solve the big problems by solving the small ones' – resonated strongly with everyone in attendance.

Says Kate Lazenby, executive director at the Guild, 'What a real Friday feeling! Such a sense of pride from the AVK UK family, and hearing from Bonita Norris was the perfect nod to the event itself. Well done, AVK UK team!'





Non-flushables found to be a costly cause of waste build-up in the Thames

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

A trip to wet wipe island

Join us on an educational journey to examine the scourge of non flushable wipes

FANCY A GETAWAY? An idyllic island retreat? How about wet wipe island, an area on the banks of the Thames clogged up with tonnes of baby and incontinence wipes. No, we thought not...

The Water Research Centre (WRc) has carried out a waste autopsy to examine 30kg of the 114 tonnes of rubbish excavated from the banks of wet wipe island. The autopsy revealed not just wet wipes, but baby wipes, incontinence wipes, panty liners, tampons, cosmetic wipes, hand towels, fabric, unidentifiable items, unknown plastics, plastic line and twigs/shells.

We'll say it again: not flushable

Eight of the 12 product categories identified are the same as those found in sewer blockages, indicating they are likely to have derived from sewer discharges. All eight are considered 'non-flushable' and will have been labelled as such.

Water UK's most recent cost estimate for clearing sewer blockages was close to £200m nationally, with studies, including WRc's own work, attributing more than 60% of blockages to the use of plastic wipes.

EDUCATION

Let's talk innovation

Want to be informed and inspired? Don't miss these webinars

EACH SESSION of the International Panel's webinar series on innovation in the global pipeline industry, brings together subject matter experts, industry leaders, real-world case studies and practical insights shared across global borders. So you don't miss out, here is the list of webinars (completed events can be found on YouTube).

- **October 2025: 'Digitisation in Ireland – a case study of what's working'**
- **November 2025: 'Speed to innovation in utilities – a comparison of UK and Germany'**
- **January 2026: 'Is innovation redefining the reliability and intelligence of modern pipe systems?'**
- **February 2026: 'Price control reviews: do they de-incentivise innovation – UK and Europe?'**

And there are more to come in 2026. To register for the events, Membership@pipeguild.com.

AWARDS

Digging for victory

A great Guild showing at the UKSTT Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony

THE GUILD'S very own Kate Lazenby attended UKSTT's Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony on 2 October, held at De Vere Tortworth Court.

The event was part of the Bristol NO DIG Roadshow and Guild members were out in force, being shortlisted and winning in various categories. Congratulations to Guild member Shauna Herron of Environmental Techniques Ltd, who was awarded the Trenchless Woman of the Year Award for 2025. This celebrates her remarkable achievements and steadfast dedication to advancing the trenchless technology sector.

Says Kate, 'A great industry event. Congratulations to all the winners! It was lovely to see familiar faces and meet new ones – including the Reverend Canon Kate Bottley – and hear a powerful speech by charity ANDYSMANCLUB.'



An RSP suction excavator pulls up outside DeVere Tortworth Court, where the dinner and awards ceremony took place



Attendees at the British Water Annual Conference

INDUSTRY REFORM

Let's talk reform

Water minister Emma Hardy says UK government will collaborate with the sector on much-needed change

IN A KEYNOTE ADDRESS to the British Water Annual Conference, held in Coventry on 10 November, Water minister Emma Hardy signalled the government's intention to establish a single, powerful regulator for the water sector. She also spoke about a necessary spirit of collaboration with the sector to bring about the transformation.

She said, 'This is an incredibly important and exciting time for the water sector. Real progress is being made. Yet we all know there is much more to do. Bringing people together to share best practice will enable the sector to deliver the real change this country needs to see. I want to support this however I can.'



Water minister Emma Hardy

She confirmed she would be consulting with the water sector on a forthcoming white paper on water industry reform. 'This will set out our vision for a reformed water sector that delivers better outcomes for customers, investors and the environment.'

The minister also confirmed the government's intention to establish a single regulator, bringing together the roles of Ofwat, the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Drinking Water Inspectorate, as recommended by Sir Jon Cunliffe in the Independent Water Commission review. She said it would 'be created through new primary legislation – the Water Reform Bill – which we aim to introduce early in this parliament'.

Safeguarding water

Introducing the minister, Severn Trent Water's chief executive Liv Garfield said that environmental performance was front of mind for her company and achieving it, she said, is 'about delivering more projects than ever before, and doing that in a whole range of different ways'.

Regulatory changes were explored by a panel chaired by British Water chair Stephen Slessor, chief executive of RSE.

Chris Walters, interim chief executive of Ofwat spoke about the need to rebuild public trust in the water sector 'to remain credible' until the new integrated water regulator for England, and separate system for Wales, is established.

'We need to oversee and support the biggest five-year investment and expenditure programme in any five-year period since privatisation,' he said, 'to safeguard the health of our rivers, our seas, and our waterways, to improve the resilience of our water supplies, and to get water companies to raise their game on performance for customers and the environment.'

John Leyland, executive director of environment and business at the Environment Agency, stressed the importance of taking customers on the journey. 'We will deliver some amazing things [in the next five years],' he said. 'We need to take the public with us, because taking people with us will help drive action in the places where it's needed, not where the media might say it's hottest.'

More opportunities

On a panel focused on project delivery, senior representatives from five water companies also explored routes into water companies for suppliers and innovators. As an addition to 2025 agenda, British Water launched The Client Exchange on day two of the conference, a dynamic networking event designed to boost pace of implementation of upcoming projects, and create a pipeline of opportunities across the water sector. Suppliers engaged directly with water companies, consultancies and contractors in interactive Q&A sessions.

Hello, James

Severn Trent has since announced that Liv Garfield is stepping down as CEO. She will be replaced by James Jesic, currently capital and commercial services director at Severn Trent and managing director of Hafren Dyfrdwy. He will take over as CEO and join the board from 1 January 2026.



CONFERENCE NEWS

Connect, listen, share...

Storytelling and active listening features in an Institute of Water EDI Conference

GUILD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Kate Lazenby was delighted to be invited to the Institute of Water EDI Conference on 5 November. This year, iWater South East and Midlands Areas joined forces under the theme 'Connecting Through Effective Communication, exploring how we connect, listen and share to build a more inclusive water sector.

With diverse speakers and panellists sharing personal stories, challenges and tips for communicating with purpose, the conference dived into topics such as cancel culture, authentic intent and the power of listening It also included interactive sessions designed for engagement and reflection, hands-on workshops to strengthen communication skills and opportunities to connect with peers across the sector.

In brief...

PIPE EXPERT SAYS 'YOUTUBE IT'

ALH has launched a new MasterClass video series, hosted by group technical manager Mike Nilsen. In the first episode, Mike shares expert insights on towing heads – how they're designed, built and used to deliver reliability and efficiency on-site. This is a must-watch for contractors and utilities looking to get the most from their equipment. Watch the first episode and follow for more utility pipeline insights.

LEAKAGE FIELD TEAMS – READ THIS

Ovarro has introduced Enigma5, a next-generation fixed network correlator, and Mikron5, a wireless ground microphone. Shaped by the real needs of leakage field teams, both build on Ovarro's proven technology platforms, while future-proofing networks with improved usability and efficiency.

COMPANY NEWS

All around the weld

CRC Evans event looks at many aspects of welding and coatings in the energy transition



EXPLORING THE CHALLENGES and solutions shaping energy transition was the order of the day at a recent event held at CRC Evans' Kintore facility.

The event, 'Challenges, Solutions and Lessons Learned in the Welding of H2 and Carbon Capture Pipelines', was co-hosted by the welding and coating expert and United Infrastructure. It brought professionals across pipeline design, engineering and operations for expert-led sessions on technical insights, project experiences and innovations in H2 and carbon capture projects.

Expert presentations were delivered on advanced welding techniques, material innovations, digital project delivery platforms and insights from a live and upcoming Carbon Capture pipeline project.

Presentations were followed by live demonstrations, giving attendees a first-hand look at CRC Evans' cutting-edge technology and capabilities.



NEW RESEARCH

Innovative ideas flow

Ofwat-funded research projects showcased in Manchester

Professionals at the Siemens facility in Manchester provided updates on three Ofwat Innovation-funded research projects, at an event attended by water industry members. Background Leakage looked at methods of reducing background leakage levels. Designer Liner highlighted Braided Reg 31 lining material currently in development. Finally, Treatment to Tap Water Quality Monitoring examined live monitoring of water quality throughout the system. The projects aim to address systemic challenges facing the water sector, such as reducing pollution, preventing leaks and protecting ecosystems – core goals of the Ofwat Innovation Fund.

GUILD NEWS

Big carbon meet up

The World Pipelines CCS Forum has brought together key players for a day of CCS events in 2026. Plus, Guild members get preferential rates at the British Water Annual Conference



CARBON CAPTURE and storage (CCS) was first proposed in the 1970s and is now at a critical moment in its expansion and commercialisation. With this backdrop, it is with great pleasure the Guild can announce its role as Supporting Association for the World Pipelines CCS Forum, which will bring together so many of the key UK players shaping the future of CO2 transport.

The event, to be held at the Park Plaza London Riverbank on 18 March 2026, will unite pipeline operators, engineers, contractors and policy-makers to address the UK's rapidly evolving CCS infrastructure landscape. The programme promises comprehensive coverage of the UK's CCS infrastructure plans, both proposed and confirmed projects, alongside crucial, in-depth discussions on everything from safety codes and regulatory frameworks to technical challenges and relevant international case studies.

Speakers will come from organisations right across the industry, including National Gas, Baker Hughes, SGN and United Infrastructure. This really is shaping up to be a great opportunity for members to hear the latest developments from an informed cross section of people and organisations making CCS happen. And (because it's a Guild-sponsored event!) you can be certain that networking opportunities will abound.

Exclusive benefits for Guild members

The Guild is the Supporting Association, and members can take advantage of a special delegate rate. This represents considerable savings on the standard delegate fee and reflects the Guild's commitment to supporting members' professional development in emerging sectors. With carbon capture and storage positioned as a cornerstone technology for achieving the UK's climate targets, this fantastic event really is going to be a must-attend for so many of you.

To find out more information about the event, and to access the Guild member discount code, please email the Guild head office at events@pipeguild.com.

Full event details are available directly at the World Pipelines CCS Forum website.



Food, knowledge, networking!

What the delegate package includes

- **Networking breakfast with keynote sessions**
- **Peak Cluster project presentations and panel discussion**
- **Networking lunch**
- **Presentations on UK CCS pipeline build-out and delivery and CCS pipeline integrity (and international insight)**
- **Panel discussion on the way forward for CCS pipelines in the UK**
- **Delegate gift**
- **Certificate of attendance**

PEOPLE FIRST

Cramp champ

Bilfinger is one of first organisations in the UK to commit to being both menstruation friendly and menopause friendly underground journey

INDUSTRIAL SERVICES provider Bilfinger UK has become one of the first organisations in the country to commit to accreditation for menstruation friendly and menopause friendly workplaces.

Through its partnership with Henpicked, Bilfinger is taking clear, practical steps to ensure colleagues experiencing menstrual or menopausal symptoms benefit from expert guidance, accredited training and helpful resources. This commitment is about making everyday working life better for everyone.

Deborah Garlick, CEO of Henpicked, says, 'Menstruation and menopause are part of working life and with the right support people can feel understood, empowered and able to thrive. Bilfinger's commitment sets a powerful example of the leadership needed to improve lives, workplaces and... wellbeing. They are helping to lead the way for others, and we're delighted to be supporting them.'

'Menstruation and menopause are part of working life and with the right support people can feel understood, empowered and able to thrive.'

Deborah Garlick, CEO, Henpicked

AWARDS

Thrills and spills

Adler & Allan celebrates triple award success

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES experts Adler & Allan's work in pollution management and environmental response has been recognised once again at the UK & Ireland Spill Association Annual Awards, where it was honoured with awards in three categories.

These were: Inland Responser Large Incident for an exceptional response to a large-scale crude oil spill in southern Scotland; Inland Responder Small Incident for a rapid and comprehensive response to a red diesel spill at a Grade II-listed estate; and Rising Star for the project manager Jack Anderson for his rapid growth and consistent excellence in the field. Congratulations to the team for these wins.

AWARDS

Fisher king!

Fisher German wins big at National Grid event

FISHER GERMAN has won a trio of awards at the National Grid LLRF Supplier Awards 2025 at the Thinktank in Birmingham. The awards recognise outstanding performance and innovation among key suppliers for the Land Rights and Referencing Framework (LLRF).

Graduate surveyor Charlotte Brooke was presented with the Rising Star Award for demonstrating exceptional leadership, initiative and professionalism. Health and safety co-ordinator Carolann Hardy secured the Best Safety Initiative Award for launching a comprehensive safety initiative to better protect staff and partners. Finally, partner Angela Brooks, who heads up Fisher German's strategic planning team, accepted the Innovation Award for development plan monitoring on behalf of its GIS and planning teams.



Fisher German winners

Matthew Hodgetts, head of infrastructure consultancy at Fisher German, said, 'It was a day to remember at the awards in Birmingham and emphasises the value we place on providing innovative work for our clients.'

CHARITY NEWS

Glitters raises gold

Cash flows in for fundraiser for WaterAid testing

THE WATERAID Northern Ireland Committee has announced that almost £120,000 was raised at the recent Hollywood Glamour Charity Ball, which took place at Titanic Belfast in support of international charity WaterAid.

Dr Sara Venning WaterAid NI president and CEO of NI Water says, 'The Committee continually raises the bar each year with this event, and we are proud of this record-breaking total! I would like to sincerely thank all our sponsors, particularly our Platinum Headline Sponsors GEDA & Water Solutions Ireland.'



Ball attendees raise a record total for charity

GUILD PARTNERSHIPS

Stronger together

The Guild is building more notable strategic partnerships – and that's great news for members

THE GUILD IS CONTINUING to strengthen its position across the pipeline and utilities sector through a growing network of strategic partnerships. These collaborations are helping members access wider networks, shared expertise and more opportunities to learn and connect.

The Guild is currently working with 11 strategic partners (see story, right). The collaborations reflect a shared belief that the pipeline and utilities industries are stronger when they work together.

What some of our partners say

The East of England Energy Group says, 'Our partnership with the Guild has been hugely valuable in bringing our communities closer together. It's allowed us to align industry conversations, share expertise and create more joined-up opportunities for members.'

The Women's Utilities Network says, 'Both organisations operate across the wider utilities sector, which creates opportunities to build on this partnership to enhance the careers of women in the workplace. The possibility of a collaborative event is really exciting – watch this space!'

British Water says, 'Partnership with the Guild is already delivering value through coordinated events and shared expertise. We look forward to deepening this collaboration and creating even more opportunities for our communities to benefit.'

Strategic partners

Meet some of the prestigious organisations we're teaming up with

- **British Water**
- **Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (CICES)**
- **East of England Energy Group (EEEGR)**
- **Energy and Utilities Alliance (EUA)**
- **Future Water Association**
- **Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM)**
- **National Association of Drainage Contractors (NADC)**
- **Spring Innovation**
- **The Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat)**
- **United Kingdom Society of Trenchless Technology (UKSTT)**
- **Women's Utilities Network (WUN)**

Reaching out in 2025

A snapshot of Guild partnership activities in the past year

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, we have been putting in place our commitment to work more closely with partners, attending events, engaging industry peers, and spreading our name and thought leadership far and wide.

- **In spring...**
  We hosted London Showcase & Lions' Lair with IGEM and welcomed many strategic partners to our Annual Dinner. We were also honoured guests at the Annual House of Lords Spring Reception and engaged with water industry figures.
- **In summer...**
  British Water attended our Annual Conference.
- **In autumn...**
  Ofwat took part in a Guild webinar on the Cunliffe Report, and we attended UKSTT's annual dinner and British Water's annual conference.
- **In winter...**
  The Guild was invited to exhibit at Floodex 2025 & the National Drainage Awards, and we attended EEEGR End of Year Awards & Celebration Dinner.

Keep an eye out for more eciting partnership-themed events in 2026.




Sarah Clinkard out and about on behalf of the GUILD









EDUCATION

Here to learn...

Education lead Sarah Clinkard talks about the many ways she's building education opportunities for all

OUR PARTNERSHIP with Solutions for the Planet has created more opportunities for aspiring professionals through a dynamic mentoring programme. We've connected mentors from leading industry organisations, including Arcadis, Costain and Murphy with two London schools. They bring a wealth of knowledge and practical insight, so thank you to Brian Mackay, Jazmin Hafeez and Riccardo Donati for making this happen. Updates on the process will be coming in the new year.

Buried treasure

As part of Midlands Branch activity, I went to a site visit hosted by Peter Braithwaite of the National Buried Infrastructure Facility at the University of Birmingham. Several members from various companies attended the event – please see the article by Dan Mee on page 19 for more information. It was a great success, and we will definitely try to repeat this visit in 2026.

More meet-ups

- **Apprenticeship news...** Visited Tom Beetham from 3T Training Services in Manchester to discuss apprenticeships and training. 3T has sites at Manchester and Aberdeen as well as other locations. 3T already works closely with members of the Guild, for instance Cadent Gas, and we explored the opportunities available for training in a wide variety of areas/qualifications.
- **ESG for businesses...** Visited Emma Johnson from United Infrastructure, where we discussed Environmental, Social and Governance for businesses. We also talked about apprenticeships and, from January 2026, the Guild will be hosting webinars on how to find an apprentice, with case studies.
- **A trip to the House of Lords...** Took tea with Lord Inglewood, to hear about Forests with Impact, an industry-led social enterprise creating opportunities by establishing commercial tree nurseries in prisons.
- **Green Skills Academy...** Attended a meeting about a project Anglian Water is undertaking with the College of West Anglia and its new Green Skills Academy. We will hopefully arrange a site visit in 2026.
- **STEM ambassadors...** Met with Guild honorary life member Jo Parker and the Women's Engineering Society's Lottie Doll to discuss STEM ambassador work in schools, as well as Jo's workshops. You can find out more about Lottie Doll **here**.

Get involved!

The PDN Paper Competition deadline has been extended... so there's still time to get involved

So we can capture as many applicants as we can working in the varied roles across the pipeline industries, we've decided to extend the deadline for entering the PDN Paper Competition. The new closing date will be 16 January 2026. Please share this link with your networks.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions about webinars, apprenticeships, education and careers, please email education@pipeguild.com

AGM2025 Introducing all the members of the new Guild board

‘I want to expand our technical focus’

New Guild chair Richard Weeks to encourage even more learning opportunities at the Guild



Outgoing Chair Barry Hayward passes the Guild baton to Richard Weeks

Have you ever attended a Guild event, looked around and been blown away at the sheer amount of knowledge and experience in the room? Richard Weeks has. And in his year as Guild chair, he plans to do even more to promote our status as a centre of technical excellence and put some rocket boosters under our events programme. Go, Richard! Here’s what he had to say about it all…

***IN THE PIPELINE*: Richard, tell us about your history with the Guild, and why our organisation matters to you.**
RICHARD WEEKS: In 2014, I was a guest at the National Dinner, at which I thoroughly enjoyed connecting with people I already knew and making many new contacts. I was invited to join the Utilities Panel by Phil Clisham and, after two years, became Panel chair and later Guild deputy chair.

On the panel, we addressed many industry technical issues and enjoyed regular site meetings and visits to research and manufacturing premises. I am passionate about the Guild and see its success as integral to my career development.

ITP: Everyone needs a Guild mentor! So, who showed you the ropes?
RW: My most consistent mentor has been Sean Greenwood. He is passionate and knowledgeable about both the Guild and pipeline engineering – and he is a great role model.

ITP: What’s your focus for the year ahead?
RW: Technology. I want to bring greater awareness of the incredible skills that our members and their businesses have, and the value that all of us bring to the pipeline industry. I am hoping that technical awareness and learning will sit comfortably alongside social events, so we can confidently call ourselves a networking and technical organisation.

Working with our HQ staff, I will be encouraging our panels and branches to hold regular technical webinars and to invite guest presenters. And we’ll encourage more face-to-face meetings – especially on site or at our manufacturer’s premises.

ITP: And what would success look like at the end of your tenure?
RW: Branches and panels strengthening their technical focus with an active, expanding, inclusive and lasting membership, particularly with our young professionals. I am also looking forward to a successful start to our research and scholarship programmes. Finally, I’d like to pass the Guild chair on to Sean in good shape.

ITP: Your best Guild night out ever was…
RW: I have enjoyed many excellent nights out with the Guild but, if I had to pick just one, I would say that the Wales & West dinner has it all – great location, great venue, great people and the official Guild start of Christmas!

ITP: Paint us a picture beyond the pipes. What’s life like for you outside of the Guild?
RW: I am married with two children who are both grown up now with careers of their own. I love cycling and building bikes, fell walking and skiing. I am interested in all things about engineering and the associated problem solving and have got good at it over the years. However, I come from a family background where that’s just expected.

> ‘I have enjoyed many excellent Guild nights out, but, if I had to pick just one, I would say that the Wales & West dinner has it all – and it’s the official Guild start of Christmas!’
>
> **Richard Weeks,** *Guild chair*

ABOUT RICHARD

A civil engineer specialising in the water industry, Richard is director and technical leader at AtkinsRéalis. After graduating from Loughborough University in 1977, he has worked in consulting, both in the design office and on site. He says, ‘I have worked on some fantastic projects in infrastructure, water supply and wastewater sewerage in the UK, Middle East and Africa.’ Richard is a member of CIWEM, a fellow of ICE and now Guild chair.

Meet the 2026 board

Here's a full list of all the board members for 2026. If you'd like to talk to any of the people listed below, you can contact them via Guild HQ at ***hqsec@pipeguild.com***



Board members come together for the first time

DEPUTY CHAIRS

Our 1st deputy chair manages and supports our branch chairs, and deputises for the chair where necessary.

Our 2nd deputy chair supports the panel chair and deputises for the chair after the 1st deputy chair.

- **1st deputy chair:** Sean Greenwood
- **2nd deputy chair:** Emma Bertenshaw
- **Immediate past chair:** Barry Hayward
- **Governance director:** Adam Wynne Hughes

BRANCH CHAIRS

Our branch chairs are ambassadors of the Guild at the local level, managing and promoting Guild activities and service.

- **Eastern:** Gangadhar Aladakatti
- **Irish:** Damian Maguire
- **Midlands:** Chris Packwood
- **Northern:** Elis Hopkins
- **Northern Ireland:** John McEvoy
- **Scottish:** Craig Roberts
- **South East:** Kyle Ingram
- **Wales & West:** Ivan Gaston

PANEL CHAIRS

Each panel chair heads up a specialist area within the Guild. They each provide a centre of excellence in their own sectors.

- **Utilities:** Jonathan Drake
- **Intakes, Outfalls & Landfalls:** Martin Berry
- **International:** Kanthi Ford
- **PDN:** Meg Ginsberg
- **Onshore:** Mark Jones
- **Net Zero Transition:** Anna Lea
- **Wastewater & Drainage:** TBC

INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

Our individual representatives protect and speak on behalf of the interests of Guild members and help to develop and ensure the future of the Guild.

- Andrew Ball
- Murdo MacAngus
- Ayisha Khurshid

2025 PRESTIGE LECTURE

'You've got a friend in me'

Former Guild President Jon Butterworth, chief executive officer of National Gas inspires everyone in the room at his thought-provoking session

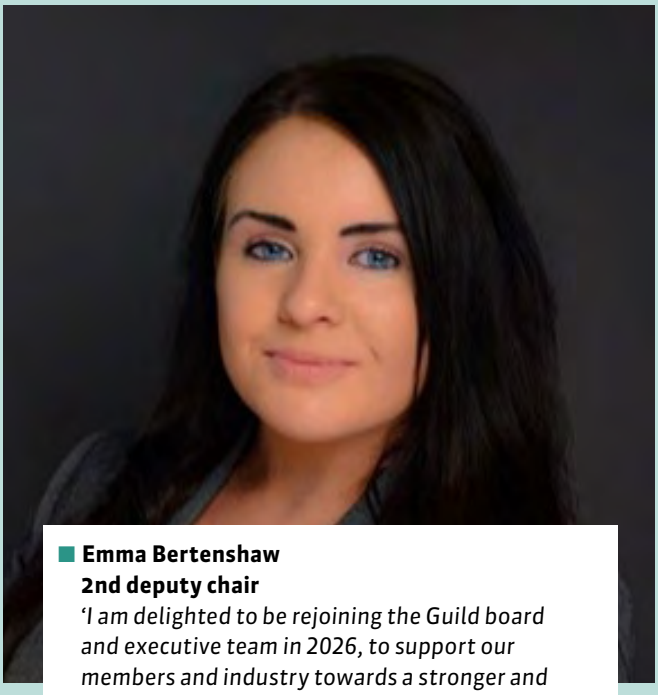
WHEN GUILD PRESIDENT Neil Armstrong needed a keynote speaker for this year's prestige lecture – the event following the AGM – it took all of about two seconds to decide Jon Butterworth was the right person for the job. Addressing the challenges our industry faces when influencing the government to make the right decisions as we navigate the energy transition journey, he offered valuable insights into leadership and policy during this critical time. The key takeaway? 'Be kind, be strategic, and be human', he implored, citing that we are all responsible for telling our sector's story with passion. Hear, hear!



Jon Butterworth addressing the room

Hello, hello!

Here are a few words from some of the new members who will be serving you on the board



Emma Bertenshaw
2nd deputy chair
'I am delighted to be rejoining the Guild board and executive team in 2026, to support our members and industry towards a stronger and sustainable future.'



Elis Hopkins,
Northern Branch chair
'I'm delighted to have accepted the role of chair of the Northern Branch. Being a member of the Guild has given me invaluable opportunities for networking and knowledge-sharing that are hard to find elsewhere. In this new role, my aim is to further strengthen the Guild, so it can continue to support and benefit our members for many years to come.'



Murdo MacAngus
Independent Director
'I'm honoured to join the Guild board. With more than 18 years in the pipeline and welding sector, my focus is on doing things right – driving quality, safety, efficiency and long-term value across every project. I'm passionate about supporting innovation while our industry leads the energy transition and I look forward to contributing to strengthen the Guild's mission of technical excellence, collaboration and industry leadership as we inspire the next generation.'



Ayisha Khurshid
Independent Director
Says Ayisha, 'I'm honoured to join the Board in 2026 and look forward to working with Guild members to strengthen standards, drive innovation and deliver real value across the pipeline industry.'



Ivan Gaston
W&W Branch Chair
'I'm looking forward to continuing the great work in the Wales & West region in 2026 and making sure the Guild remains a place where we can share knowledge, experience and ideas.'

In this special feature, we talk to three Guild luminaries who are celebrating their 50-year golden anniversary in their respective industries. If you only read one story this issue, make it this one...

Pure Guild Gold



Norman Howell with Sean Greenwood and Paul Merson



Guild legend, Jo Parker



The Guild's Kate Lazenby with Bob Murray

Fifty years ago this month, Slade's *Merry Xmas Everybody* and Wizzard's *I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday* first hit the charts. Some things don't change – they're still 'delighting' our ears half a century on. But other things do. Jo Parker, Norman Howell and Bob Murray also had their respective debuts half a century ago and they've seen many, many developments. In our interview, we ask them about the industry now versus then, their proudest moments and plenty more. Settle in, stick Slade on your smart speaker and read on for 150 years' worth of fascinating industry insights.

In the Pipeline: What have been the biggest changes in your respective industries over 50 years?

Jo Parker (JP): The number of women working in technical roles in the water industry. I was the first woman to work for Thames Water Authority and the only female in the office. Now, although sadly we still have a minority of women in the industry, there are far more – in the industry and the Guild – which is great.

Norman Howell (NH): Mobile communications and computers have allowed the industry to become more automated and give greater access to data, which speeds up both design and site works. Also, major advances have been taken in customer care and environmental management. There are also now many female engineers working within the sector.

Bob Murray (BM): Changes in mechanisation, IT, health and safety, the environment, sustainability, training and competence have all had a significant impact.

ITP: What achievement or contribution of yours do you think will still matter in another 50 years?

JP: I was very proud to reconnect a trunk main in Sarajevo during the civil war in the former Yugoslavia. This meant that people did not have to brave 'Sniper Alley' to get their water. I'd like to think that my work saved a few lives.

NH: Personally, it's my major involvement in the development of the pipe-bursting technique for the replacement of large diameter pipelines. It is extremely gratifying to see it become a commercially viable and reliable system that has been utilised successfully on many projects.

BM: For me, it would be business mentoring graduates and others into chartered engineer, incorporated engineer and engineering technician roles. I'm also proud of improving performance in health, safety, the environment and sustainability.

ITP: With hindsight, what would you say now to that young person 50 years ago entering the industry?

NH: Maintain your integrity and honesty, do not walk past anything that does not look right, be confident in your own ability, don't drop

'When I realised I was to be awarded the MBE, my legs went all wobbly and I had to sit down'

Jo Parker

> ‘Most senior staff would expect to be addressed formally and they would have a secretary through whom meetings would be arranged – things have changed’
>
> **Norman Howell**

your standards and stay committed. It is vital to have a team ethos, so treat colleagues with respect and how you would wish to be treated.

BM: The three Ls! First, listen: God gave me two ears and one mouth and eventually I got the message! Second, learn: advice is given freely and without expectation – consider it and use it. Third, love: love everything you do; it will make a difference to you and others.

ITP: On a related point, what personality trait or characteristic was most valued in your industry 50 years ago versus today?

JP: When I started, people and leadership skills weren’t really appreciated. Promotion was based on technical skill – or just time in the job. Thankfully, now they are far more recognised. Going forward, AI will change things and, for engineers, creativity will be important, along with people skills.

NH: It was expected that junior staff would observe a formal approach when seeking to communicate with senior managers and engineers. Most senior staff would expect to be addressed formally and they would have a secretary through whom meetings would be arranged. This type of behaviour has now vanished, with most senior staff having an open-door style of management and also availability by mobile phone.

BM: Hierarchy. Talent, drive and endeavour came second until now.

ITP: What’s one piece of conventional wisdom in your industry that you’ve come to disagree with?

JP: Water pipes will leak. New networks, if installed properly, should be leak-free and even older pipes, if managed well, can have minimal losses. Thankfully, research is developing better ways to manage pipes and reduce losses.

BM: ‘We’ve always done it this way.’

ITP: Tell us a favourite memory from 50 years in the industry.

JP: Opening the valves into my very first major installation that I designed and supervised at Abingdon Sewage Treatment Works. And opening the letter which told me I was to be awarded the MBE. At first, I thought it was a joke, but when I realised it was for real my legs went all wobbly and I had to sit down.

NH: Most recently, the Thanet Groundwater Scheme gave me great satisfaction. At times of high rainfall, the network surcharged with sewerage within the tunnels. The project needed to stop sewerage coming into contact with the chalk tunnel walls and the project team developed a standalone cured-in-place pipe-lining system. It reduced the total out-turn cost by 10% and the programme time by 30% – and has been recognised by receipt of four industry awards.

> ‘I learned to listen. God gave me two ears and one mouth and eventually I got the message.’
>
> **Bob Murray**



Jo Parker (centre) with members of the Midlands Branch

Bob Murray

BM: It was very rewarding to become national chairman of the Guild, president of IGEM and president of the EUA – and to be awarded IGEM’s Birmingham Medal.

ITP: How important has The Guild been in your professional life – and why?

JP: The Guild has allowed me to widen my knowledge about pipelines and make some great friends.

NH: It has provided me with opportunities to increase my knowledge and provide a platform for promoting the companies I worked for. The social events, meanwhile, helped me to extend my network of like-minded professionals, many of whom have become lifelong friends.

BM: Since 1975, the Guild has given me a platform to develop as an industry SME and professional engineer,



Norman and Pearl Howell flanked by some Guild greats

Meet our Golden trio

Norman Howell

Norman began his career as a site engineer at tunnelling business Kinnear Moodie in the mid-1970s and is now director of Norman Howell Associates. At the Guild, he has been Northern Branch chair, Guild chair, finance director and CEO. His big passion at the Guild has been helping developing professionals with their careers – he conceived the PDN-focused Guild Conference in 2013, which is now firmly in the Guild calendar.

Jo Parker

Jo is a chartered engineer with over four decades' experience in the water and utilities industry, and she is vice president of engineering at the Institute of Water. Her work has taken her across the globe, from Afghanistan to Madagascar, Mozambique and Portugal. Jo is an Honorary Life Member of the Guild and was chair of the Midlands Branch for two years and the Utilities Panel for six years. She remains active in both of these groups.

Robert Murray

From his early days as a trainee to becoming one of the most respected names in the gas sector, Bob's passion, knowledge and commitment have inspired generations of engineers and colleagues. A special advisor to Skewb Ltd, his broad depth of knowledge and expertise has helped shape the industry and set standard for excellence and safety. At the Guild he has served in multiple roles, most recently as Independent Director

and to have the most incredible and rewarding network of wonderful people.

ITP: Looking forward, paint a picture of where you see your industries in 50 years' time. What problems might innovative technologies solve?

JP: We will need to value and reuse water far more than we do now. I'd like to think that digging up the road to repair pipes will become a thing of the past as well.

NH: Trenchless technology is now the first choice for pipeline infrastructure and, going forward, it needs to continue to evolve to meet new challenges. Also, there will be greater emphasis on protecting the environment, and reducing excavations and disruption. The rapid advances in digital technology will have a major impact in initiating innovation. Also, new materials such as graphene will provide opportunities to develop new systems.

BM: Achieving net zero and a truly sustainable future through the molecule and electron.

ITP: And what's kept you interested in your industry all these years?

JP: Supplying clean water is, in my view, THE most important job in the world. Why would one do anything else?

NH: The industry has given me the opportunity to travel, and I have loved meeting new people and experiencing different cultures. Our industry is full of exceptional professionals and it has been an absolute pleasure to meet and work with many of them.

BM: People, friendships and being part of a community of professionals.

Branch News

A round-up of some of the latest LIVE Guild events



Another year, another fantastic evening in Bath



Advance Welding and guests



West & Wales Branch chair, Shelley Butler

WALES & WEST BRANCH

Roman holiday

You know the Christmas hols are nearly here when it's time for the legendary Wales & West Annual Dinner. *In the Pipeline* reports...

IMAGINE THE SCENE. Walking through the frosty streets of Bath, amid the twinkling lights and the aroma of mulled wine from a nearby Christmas market. Then, a hop and a skip into the magical Old Roman Baths, to share drinks and canapés with old friends. Yes, we know we sound like an old Jimmy Stewart movie, but, for many, the Wales & West Annual Dinner in December really does mark the start of the magical festive season.

Here comes Delilah...

This sold-out event started with the meet and greet, before the call to dinner with good food, great company and fab networking opportunities. Now, we need to talk about the famous W&W singing. One commentator mentioned the 'shared enjoyment' of singing together. Another said that 'everyone leant into *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* and *Delilah*'. True enough, but perhaps a little understated? What really happened is that all assembled belted out the tunes with such gusto, tiger prawns trembled on silver plates and Champagne flutes quivered!

'Especially meaningful'

The event also did itself proud by raising money for its chosen charity. Says Wales & West chair Shelley Butler, 'A highlight of the evening was a deeply insightful presentation by Louise of Diabetes UK. The cause holds a very special place in my heart: I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of 14, my younger sister at just five and, last year, my niece received her diagnosis shortly before her fifth birthday. Supporting Diabetes UK is deeply personal for me and my family, making this year's dinner especially meaningful.'

Don't delay – book now!

Prior to the event, a Professional Development Network (PDN) training day was a great success. Says deputy chair Ivan Gaston (who also provided the magical details to the opener of this story): 'I heard from the PDNs how much they got out of the training day. The Dinner, which was complimentary for them, was the cherry on the cake.'

A few final words from Shelley. 'Our sincere gratitude is extended to Network Plus for sponsoring the event, and a huge thank to Zara and Guild HQ. Given the overwhelming interest and the success of this year's dinner, guests are encouraged to secure their places early for next year's event.'



Irish Branch's Ben McAlister with guest



Soaking up the atmosphere



2026 PDN chair Meg Ginsberg and guests

INTERNATIONAL PANEL

Energy slump?

Are UK energy utilities doing enough to adopt new tech, asked an International Panel webinar

HOSTED BY OUR International Panel chair Kanthi Ford, a webinar in November asked: 'Innovation and the energy sector – is the utility sector slow to adopt new technologies?' The session compared the approach to innovation in the energy sector UK and Germany, looking at differences, similarities and lessons that can be learned.

The session featured contributions from special guest speakers Stella Matthews, head of market and policy development at N-Gen Energy Solutions Ltd, and Shobana Sivenendran, energy innovation manager Uniper Germany.

Stella is a strategic public affairs and policy leader with over eight years' experience shaping the UK's energy transition. Shobana focuses on understanding how future movements in the energy sector may impact the business case of various energy asset types across Uniper's four core markets – Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands and Sweden.

In conclusion, Kanthi Ford summed things up by citing a need for 'an education mindset and an appetite for change'.



Getting up close and personal with innovative line-stopping tech

MIDLANDS BRANCH

Show stopper

Guests enjoyed a demonstration of innovative line-stopping technology

THE MIDLANDS BRANCH, in collaboration with Pipetech and Severn Trent Water, hosted the exclusive Stopping Flow Not Supply event at the Severn Trent Training Academy near Finham. The day brought together industry professionals, innovators and operational leaders for an in-depth look at how modern line-stopping technology is reshaping utility network management.

Pipetech managing director James Hodgson provided a comprehensive overview of the FlowStop system range, from H1 to H5, covering 2" to 20" on metallic mains and 63mm to 500mm on PE. His presentation walked attendees through the full operational process, from planning to deployment, and highlighted real-world use cases that demonstrated the safety, efficiency and practical benefits of FlowStop.

Supply uninterrupted

After a relaxed networking lunch, attendees witnessed a line-stopping system in operation, a technology that allows teams to safely isolate sections of pipeline while keeping customers' supply uninterrupted. Designed for maintenance, installation and emergency repair, FlowStop requires minimal excavation, operates with maximum safety and provides a dependable solution for maintaining service continuity on both metallic and PE networks.

Says Peter Sykes Tucker, Midlands Branch chair, 'The day brilliantly showcased practical innovations that are driving our sector forwards. A huge thanks to Severn Trent Water for the superb venue, and to Pipetech for showcasing their products.



MIDLANDS BRANCH

Going underground

What's going down at the National Buried Infrastructure Facility? *In the Pipeline* reports

ON 15 OCTOBER 2025, members from the Midlands Branch visited the National Buried Infrastructure Facility (NBIF), located within the School of Engineering at the University of Birmingham. NBIF is a unique, 'one of its kind' facility designed to simulate real-world conditions for buried infrastructure, offering a rare opportunity to observe and engage with full-scale testing environments for research, education and training purpose across a range of topics affecting pipelines, including: buried infrastructure-ground interaction, soil stabilisation and improvement, geophysical sensing, pipeline detection and condition assessment, tunnelling, trenching and trenchless technologies, and more.

Debate was sparked

The tour began with a short briefing before the group made their way to the facility. Attendees were introduced to NBIF's capabilities in soil stabilisation, structural performance testing and condition assessment of pipelines. The visit sparked valuable discussions around how the Guild's members might apply NBIF's research to enhance engineering frameworks, particularly in the context of asset integrity, innovation and compliance.

NORTHERN BRANCH

Northern soul

The 60th Northern Branch Dinner saw guests cutting the rug all night long

WHAT A MILESTONE! The Northern Branch Dinner enjoyed its 60th anniversary at Manchester Deansgate Hotel on Friday, 21 November. And was the venerable pipelines institution growing old gracefully? Was it heck! Reports (possibly from the room upstairs) tell us that attendees were dancing to a live band well into the early hours.

Over 350 people gathered as Nick Preston of the Northern Branch committee welcomed guests. The Footballer Paul Merson gave a very humbling after dinner speech talking about his life and addictions and how he has dealt with them. The nominated charity was Elsie's Story, which helps families following the Southport attacks, and over £20k was raised on the night for the charity via donations and auction.



Footballing legend Paul Merson was the guest speaker

'Highlight of the calendar'

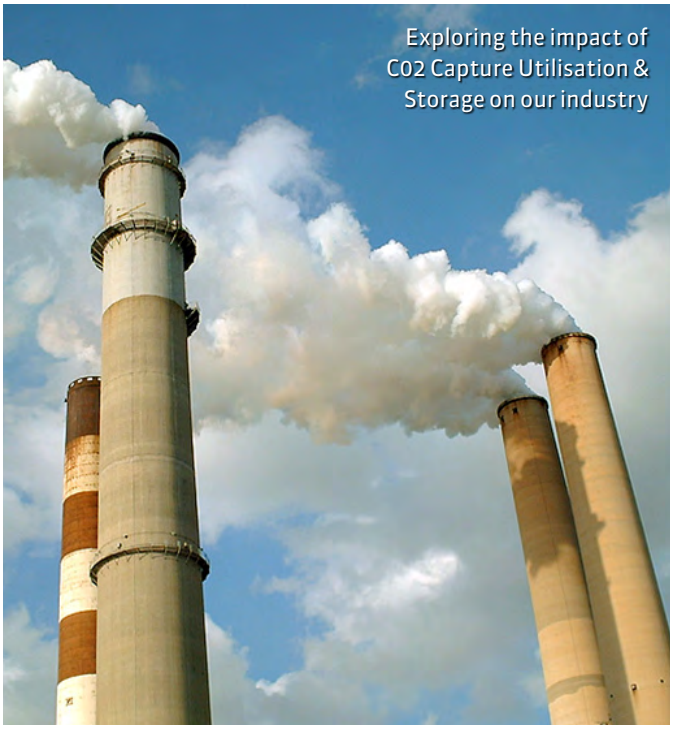
Kate Lazenby, Guild executive director says, 'I was delighted to attend what has truly become a highlight of the Guild calendar. Although Branch chair Eamonn Vaughan was unfortunately unable to join us, the Northern Branch embodied the best of Guild teamwork. My thanks and congratulations go in particular to Nick Hibbard of Groundshore, Chloe Harrison of OCU, Nick Preston, and the rest of the committee for delivering such an excellent event to mark the Branch's 60th anniversary.'

Thank you to sponsors Barhale, CPC Civils, GDB Civils, Flannery, Forkers, Groundshore, JMC Northwest, OCU, Murphy, OneBore, TSS UIS, United Infrastructure.

NET ZERO TRANSITION PANEL

Net zero transition

Exploring the impact of CCUS on our industry



Exploring the impact of C02 Capture Utilisation & Storage on our industry

ON 7 OCTOBER, the Net Zero Transition Panel hosted a fascinating webinar, 'CO2 Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS): An Update & Discussion on UK Policy, Investment, Planning & Permitting'. It covered the emergence of carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) industry, the upcoming trajectory of development and its consequences for pipeline engineering and construction.

Panel members Jemima Bruin-Bland (global lead CCUS, Arup) and Rob Garden (partner, CMS) along with Kirsty Cobb (industrial planning and permitting, Arup) highlighted CCUS as an essential pillar for reaching global and national net zero targets, with visible global expansion in regions with suitable geology and emissions sources requiring mitigation.

Industry opportunities

CCUS presents opportunities across the pipeline industry value chain and with connected technologies, such as direct air capture. While the commercial case is strong, consenting for large-scale CCUS projects is challenging due to complexity and scale. Key planning considerations were discussed including changes to safety regulations, environmental impact assessments and public consultation, plus recent planning reforms, which aim to streamline the process, particularly with changes to the Development Consent Order (DCO) process.

Welcome to our new members

Biomarsh Environmental Ltd

BioMarsh Environmental Ltd is a UK-wide liquid waste management specialist and full-service partner for businesses and households, providing 24/7 support and compliant disposal through licensed facilities. Services span welfare services, liquid waste disposal, hazardous waste services and drainage services.
Contact: Malcolm Travers
Tel: 0800 0285 942
Email: malcolm@biomarsh.com
Web: biomarsh.com

Hercules Pipe Tools Engineering BV

Hercules is a leading specialist in high-precision hydraulic Internal Line-up Clamps engineered to meet strict HiLo tolerances in pipeline construction. Precise fit-up alignment forms the foundation for stronger welds that last longer, support greater loads and withstand higher fatigue levels – ensuring a safe and efficient energy supply and extending the economic lifespan of pipeline infrastructure.
Contact: Laurens van der Heijden
Tel: +31 (0) 320 762 610
Email: info@hercules-pipeline.com
Web: hercules-pipeline.com

Informed Engineering Limited

Informed Engineering is an international digital strategy consulting firm and managed services provider for both private and public sector clients. It helps clients accelerate sustainable, digital growth and realise goals on complex construction and infrastructure projects. Its team brings together industry experts and skilled engineers with experience in BIM and information management.
Contact: Tom Price
Tel: 07850 093 044
Email:
tom.price@informed-engineering.co.uk
Web: informed-engineering.co.uk

Ligna Pipeline Packaging

Ligna Pipeline Packaging specialises in high-performance, sustainable protection solutions for tubulars across energy sectors. With decades of industry insight, its engineered innovative products safeguard assets during storage and transport, reducing damage, minimising downtime, and cutting operational costs and isolates against cross metal interaction.
Contact: Chris Armstrong
Tel: 01434 629 022
Email: info@lignapipelinepackaging.co.uk
Web: lignapipelinepackaging.co.uk

Opticore Group

Opticore Group is a multi-utility, civils and infrastructure contractor delivering integrated solutions across water, power, gas, fibre-optic, reinstatement and traffic management disciplines. We support developers, utility providers, tier-one contractors and local authorities with reliable end-to-end support, from excavation and ducting through to multi-utility installation, reinstatement and ongoing operational services.
Contact: Matthew Ball
Tel: 07771 332 780
Email: info@opticoregroup.co.uk
Web: opticoregroup.co.uk

Onshore Technical

Onshore Technical is a specialist consultancy and recruitment partner providing reliable, industry-led support to the UK gas sector. With over 20 years of experience across mid-stream and downstream assets, we understand the operational, construction and project delivery challenges facing today's energy infrastructure.
Contact: Jack Fisher
Tel: 0330 043 9006
Email: info@onshoretechnical.co.uk
Web: onshoretechnical.co.uk

Welcome to our new members (continued)

Sapoflow Limited

Sapoflow is the UK's sole distributor of 'UV-System', the original full-bore siphonic roof drainage system. With over 40 years' experience within the siphonic rainwater goods Industry, Sapoflow provides a high-quality service working in accordance with all relevant standards and industry best practice guidance.
Contact: Anthony Grayson
Ph: 01226 297 200
Email: tony@sapoflow.com
Web: sapoflow.com

Soil Science Limited

Soil Science is a pioneering ground stabilisation and enabling solutions contractor. Its unique Sureground binder and process are at the forefront of reversible soil treatments for use on temporary works such as compounds, access roads, piling mats and crane pads. Soil Science is part of the GRS Group, a full-service supply chain partner to the UK construction industry.
Contact: Dale Fanning
Ph: 0118 338 9530
Email: dale.fanning@soilscienceltd.com
Web: soilscienceltd.com

Waterco Datrys

Waterco Datrys is a leading consultancy in water and environmental engineering, formed in 2024 through the merger of Waterco Consultants and Datrys. It delivers specialist services across water, wastewater, drainage and flood risk, combining civil, structural and environmental engineering expertise. Its has extensive knowledge of managing complex projects across the public and private sectors.
Contact: Pedr Jones
Ph: 07592 618 394
Email: pedr.jones@waterco.co.uk
Web: waterco.co.uk



Let's stay connected!

Continue the great work of sending us your PR, stories and ideas to In the Pipeline and we'll try to include them in the next issue. Email news@pipeguildnews.com and attach any photos we have permission to use.



Upcoming Events

The latest Guild and industry dates. Check the events section of the Guild website for information on how to register.

January

16 January – Call for Papers: Professional Development Network Paper Competition
The Guild invites you to submit a 250-word synopsis on any subject associated with the pipeline industry for the Regional Professional Development Network (PDN) Competition 2026 and a chance to win £250 and place in the National Final.

22 January – Scottish Branch Burns Night Supper
Join the branch for an unforgettable evening celebrating the life and legacy of Robert Burns.

February

10 February – London Showcase and Lions' Lair
Brought to you by the Guild and IGEM's London, Southern and Eastern Section at the Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury. Expand your professional network, stay updated on the latest innovations in the industry and see a pride of industry lions judge the famous competition.

13 February – 42nd Irish Branch Annual Dinner
Taking place this year at The Intercontinental Hotel, Dublin. Further details to come!

March

10 March – PDN Training Day
This year's theme is 'Challenging Perspectives: Understanding Our Role Within Inclusion, Safety & Workplace Culture'.

10 March – Pipeline Industries Guild Annual Dinner
Booking forms are live for this flagship event, held at Grosvenor House Hotel, London. It's the most widely recognised event for members to entertain guests and network at the highest level. This year's guest speaker is comedian, TV presenter and actor Joel Dommett. If past years are anything to go by, tickets will sell out – fast!

May

28 May – Midland Branch Keith Mole Annual Golf Day
Don't miss this fun golf day at the Branston Golf and Country Club, in Burton on Trent.

June

2 June – Northern Branch Karting Challenge
Take on the Karting Endurance Challenge at the Three Sisters Race Circuit, Wigan. Paddock area will host a products and services showcase before racing commences.

4 June – Pipeline Industries Guild Annual Conference
Taking place at MTC in Coventry, this is the only conference to focus on expanding the knowledge and network of developing professionals in the pipeline industry. Plus, there's PDN (Professional Development Network) Presentation Competition Final!