

CERAMICS SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

1. Board membership

Throughout 2015, The Ceramics Society (CerSoc) has continued with three committees, which are: Cementitious Materials (CemMat), Ceramics Science (CerSci) and the International Clay Technology Association (ICTa). The Ceramics Society has maintained close links with the independent Society of Glass Technology (SGT), which has two Board members. Neither are members of IOM3, but perform the service of linking IOM3 with another, relevant organisation.

In November, Andrea Bennett replaced Guy Armitage as International Chairman at ICTa. Andrew McDermott has taken over from Francis Morrall (who retired during 2015) as the representative of the British Ceramic Confederation. Late in 2015, Margaret Wegrzyn agreed to join the Board from January 2016 as a Younger Members' representative. Board Membership at the end of 2015 is given below.

Name	Affiliation
Emma Barney	Secretary, SGT Basic Science and Technology Technical Committee
Andrea Bennett	International Chair, ICTa
Jon Binner	Chairman, Ceramics Society
Mike Chapman	Hon. General Secretary, ICTa
Emma Claxton	Chairman, CerSci
Geoff Hale	Technical Division Coordinator, IOM3 and Secretary to Board
Chris Hallas	Past Chairman, Ceramics Society
David Moore	Managing Editor, SGT
Mark Russell	Secretary, CemMat
Mark Tyrer	Chairman, CemMat
Luc Vanderperre	Secretary, CerSci
<i>Ex-officio</i>	
Steve Brooks	Past Chairman, CemMat
Andrew McDermott	British Ceramics Confederation
Andy Rotherham	Proskills UK Group

Andrew McDermott is in the process of joining IOM3 as a member. Andy Rotherham is a lapsed member and it is expected that he will stand down from the Board in the early part of 2016.

2. Board meetings

Over the past 12 months, The Ceramics Society has continued with a combination of face-to-face and web conferencing meetings, as detailed below.

Meeting date	Location	Number involved
26 May 2015	Web conferencing	5
8 September 2015	Murray Edwards College, Cambridge	6
23 November 2015	University of Birmingham	7

The numbers attending are similar to those reported for 2014. It is not expected that the Chair and the Secretary of each Committee will be involved in each meeting, although both are always welcome. Efforts continue to increase the proportion of members attending.

3. Activities during 2015

3.1. Technical programme

CemMat organised the 35th Cement and Concrete Science Conference which was held at Aberdeen University from 26-27 August, with over 100 delegates present. This was followed by a one day workshop on carbon dioxide minimisation on 28 August. In total, 58 papers plus three keynotes were presented, plus an additional 26 posters. A special edition of *Advances in Applied Ceramics* to cover the proceedings is in preparation.

CerSci held one of its regular 1-day research meetings on advanced ceramics (1-DRAC) at Imperial College on 24 April. The meeting was well attended with 37 speakers and delegates. The session was combined with the UK Post Graduate Ceramics Lecture Competition. The winner went on to represent the UK at the European Ceramics Society 2015, Speech Competition.

ICTa once again held a technical "Roadshow" – a webinar based activity – which was hosted by the West Midlands branch on 17 February. The theme was "Re-branding - from selling in a recession to not having enough stock". This was relayed by web conferencing to a number of other ICTa branches. Unfortunately, the quality of the ICT setup at individual sites was variable and the overall effectiveness of the event did not reach the level anticipated.

A 4-day study tour was organised by ICTa in late September. This was based around Stoke-on-Trent and involved visits to nine different locations. 23 delegates attended and all considered they benefitted from taking part.

The annual ClayTech UK conference and exhibition took place on 19 November at the Staffordshire Showground. The theme for 2015 **was Technical Matters**. Total numbers reached 166 and the exhibition seemed especially busy and active.

As in previous years, SGT organised Furnace Solutions 10, a training day on 3 June covering the Fundamentals of Glass Quality. The following day (4 June) was given over to the annual Furnace Solutions event.

The annual SGT conference entitled – Glass Reflections – was held at Murray Edwards College in Cambridge from 7-9 September. For 2015, it incorporated the Mellor Memorial Lecture given by Prof. Bob Newport entitled - *Glass: out of History and Art and into Tissue Regeneration*.

3.2. Website developments

The main Ceramics Society microsite and the associated committee microsites have been maintained over the past 12 months. However, adding extra additional content on a regular basis proves difficult and none of the sites are refreshed as regularly as one would like.

3.3. Engagement with technical community and/or local societies

In addition to its regular programme of branch meetings, the ICTa local societies collaborate with other IOM3 groups and local branches to hold joint meetings. These have included The Packaging Society, South Midlands Mining & Minerals Institute and Western Institute of Mining and Minerals.

CerSci engages with the technical community predominantly through networking during 1-DRAC meetings. They have limited interaction with local societies.

CemMat publishes a twice-yearly newsletter which continues to grow in scope and readership with a circulation of around 2,700. The Editor, Dr. Kai Yang is currently on secondment to the UK (Queen's University Belfast) which allowed him to attend their December committee meeting.

As in previous years, the ICTa Education and Training Committee continues to work closely with the IOM3 Training Academy to ensure effective delivery of the Level 2 and 3 courses in Clay

Building Products. ICTa also has a major involvement in the development of a three year Foundation Degree, incorporating a Heavy Clay Technology pathway (as part of a wider Construction Products Technology programme), run via Derby University. The first graduates from the course are expected in the summer of 2016.

3.4. Contributions to IOM3 house journals

CerSci takes responsibility for assessing shortlisted papers from relevant IOM3 journals to be considered for the Pfeil award (for published work of particular merit in the field of ceramics). The resulting nomination is considered by the Ceramics Society Board who makes a final recommendation to the Awards Committee at IOM3.

As noted above, the proceedings of the 2015 Cement and Concrete Science Symposium will be published in a special edition of *Advances in Applied Ceramics* by Taylor & Francis.

The magazine team at IOM3 is responsible for *Clay Technology*. They are supported by the ICTa Education and Training Committee, which helps to identify potential contributors and articles for the magazine. David Baggaley remains the key contact with the magazine team.

At SGT, each of the journals *Glass Technology: European Journal of Glass Science and Technology Part A* and *Physics and Chemistry of Glasses: European Journal of Glass Science and Technology Part B* published their first Open Access submissions. Both are print and electronic with online peer review systems.

3.5. Other (including sustainability initiatives)

A proportion of Ceramics Society Board meetings are held by web conferencing. When possible, CerSci committee meetings are held in conjunction with another activity to minimise the carbon footprint of the meetings.

4. Strategy and Objectives for 2016 and Beyond

4.1. Opportunities and constraints

Opportunity: CerSci has widened the scope of the 1-DRAC meetings from a meeting where PhD students and early stage postdoctoral researchers can present, to a meeting where there are also a number of speakers from industry and/or more senior academics. This also means there is an opportunity to organise more themed meetings in conjunction with other groups inside and outside IOM3.

Opportunity: ICTa aims to continue growth of the annual ClayTech UK conference and exhibition, and a review of the venue is required to allow for future expansion.

Opportunity: ICTa intends to complete its the review of operating committees as set out below to improve its effectiveness. There is a need to work smarter to attract more support from companies across the Heavy Clay sector.

Constraint: ICTa is aware of a lack of younger people who are willing or able to become involved in committee activities. They are needed to allow succession planning and bring new ideas and approaches.

Constraint: ICTa consider that events need to be much better publicised - an issue which needs to be taken up with relevant staff at IOM3. ICTa has concerns over falling membership and interest particularly in their local society network.

4.2. Specific targets for 2016

- Hold an Away Day with senior staff from the IOM3 during summer 2016.
- Organise 1-DRAC meeting in Manchester or Sheffield in Spring 2016 (*Ceramic Science*)
- Organise an Autumn 1-DRAC meeting at Imperial College (*Ceramic Science*)
- Co-organisation (with Institute of Concrete Technology) of the *Third Young Researchers' Forum on Construction Materials* to be held at Imperial College on the 12 April 2016 (*Cementitious Materials*)
- To hold a successful 36th Cement and Concrete Science Conference, at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (*Cementitious Materials*)
- Complete operational review of how the two committees of ICTa (Management Committee and Education and Training Committee), are working; concentrating on making them more effective – establishing charters, with clear aims and objectives. This will benefit committee members, many of whom have a very demanding work life. (*ICTa*)
- Attracting new and younger members to join ICTa (*ICTa*)
- To complete, with Derby University, the full Foundation Degree material and achieve course validation, by IOM3 for September 2016 (*ICTa*)
- Reinvigorate East Midlands and London and Home Counties local societies, which are presently dormant (*ICTa*)
- Complete revalidation of the Level 2 Technical Certificate in Clay Building Products (*ICTa*)
- Commence review process for the Level 3 course (*ICTa*)
- To run a range of events and courses including the Centenary Conference of the SGT, which takes place in Sheffield from 4-8 September (*SGT*)

4.3. Specific targets for the 3 years beyond 2016

- Convincing Heavy Clay companies that continued membership, individual training and participation in the three 3 courses presently running is essential to the future of their employees. It is essential that IOM3 assists with this “persuasion” process (*ICTa*)
- Consider, with Derby University and others, the viability of creating a full Honours Degree course in Heavy Clay Technology, and if favourable to start work on this (*ICTa*)

5. Other matters

None

Appendix: Technical Programme as of December 2015

Date	Status (Held /Progressing /Planned)	Title	Location	Organising Division(s) Committee(s) Collaborators	Financial Underwriter (IOM3/ Local/ Other)	100% Target No's	Actual No's
17/02/2015	Held	Technical Roadshow Presentation & Webinar on Rebranding - from selling in a recession to not having enough stock	West Midlands	ICTa West Midlands branch	ICTa	50	?
24/04/2015	Held	1-DRAC meeting	Imperial College	Cer. Science Committee	Imperial College	50	37
03/06/2015	Held	Furnace Solutions 10, a training day covering the Fundamentals of Glass Quality	Lucideon, Stoke-on-Trent	SGT	SGT	?	?
04/06/2015	Held	Furnace Solutions meeting	Lucideon, Stoke-on-Trent	SGT	SGT	?	?
26-28/08/2015	Held	35 th Cement and Concrete Science Symposium	U. Aberdeen	Cementitious Materials Group	U. Aberdeen	?	>100
7-9/09/2015	Held	Annual SGT conference entitled – Glass Reflections (incorporating 2015 Mellor Memorial Lecture)	Murray Edwards College, Cambridge	SGT	SGT	?	100?
Late September 2015	Held	Study Tour	Stoke-on-Trent area	ICTa	ICTa	30	23
19/11/2015	Held	ClayTech UK Conference and Exhibition	Staffordshire County Showground	ICTa Education and Training Committee	IOM3	150	166
12/04/2016	Planned	Third Young Researchers' Forum on Construction	Imperial College	Cementitious Materials Group Institute of Concrete Technology	Imperial College	50	
April 2016	Planned	1-DRAC meeting	U. Manchester, U. Sheffield	Cer. Science Committee	Local	50	
4-8 September 2016	Planned	Centenary Conference of the Society for Glass Technology	Sheffield	SGT and European Society for Glass	SGT	100	
September 2016		36 th Cement and Concrete Science Symposium	Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Cardiff	Cementitious Materials Group	Local?	>100	
September 2016	Planned	1-DRAC meeting	Imperial College	Cer. Science Committee	Local	50	
September 2016?	Progressing	Study Tour	?	ICTa	ICTa	30?	
17/11/2016	Planned	ClayTech UK Conference and Exhibition	Staffordshire County Showground	ICTa Education & Training Committee	IOM3	150	