

# Welcome

Dear Reader,

**W**elcome to the Autumn edition of Elements magazine.

As we enter Autumn, our sector faces challenging times, with energy prices impacting hugely on profitable operations. However, it is heartening to see many of our members focusing on the future of the industry, thinking about the supply of talent into our businesses, innovations around the drive towards net zero and the capabilities of the supply chain, focusing on improvement of processes and management of production.

This edition we have contributions from across our membership, with a look at the area of patents from two different viewpoints, a considered view of whether we have a skill migration problem, a focus on translation services and how it can help business expansion, as well as discussion around considerations for change management and look at the value of the environment in regulatory compliance.

We also have our member SLR Consulting highlighting the issues around flooding, which is of real concern for those operating around the flood zones within our region. As one of our new initiatives, we are working with them jointly to create a working group for companies across our membership, who can offer real support to industry on this topic. Details of how to join are included on page 17.

Our next breakfast networking event, on 21<sup>st</sup> September, will feature presentations from new members, Pumptec and ikm consulting, giving you the chance to learn more about them. Please make sure you book online, on our events page.

Finally, September sees the return of CNW Marketing Manager Alex Abris following her maternity leave. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Alex back! She will be picking up the reigns across the board and again become your day to day contact.

Please keep an eye on our website for upcoming events, news, industry updates, careers information and the latest Elements magazine <https://www.cia.org.uk/chemicalsnorthwest/>

If there is anything else you need from us, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**Fiona Hought** - Member Services and Events

## About us...

Chemicals Northwest is an established business network wholly owned by the Chemical Industries Association.

With around 160 members we actively promote this important regional sector and our objective is to help membership to grow through;

- **facilitating** networking events, common interest groups and interactive workshops, all aimed at covering topical industry issues.
- **supporting** projects and programmes that identify and enhance business performance and generally support continuous improvement across the sector.
- **promoting** science and engineering based skills, helping to address the region's future needs.
- **improving** the image of the industry overall, including generating a positive reputation, through communicating achievements and success.
- **contributing** to the industry's strategic voice and the national growth agenda aligned to the work of the Chemical Industries Association.
- **connecting** the community of chemistry-using businesses and the vital supply chains here in the Northwest.

Chemicals Northwest really does bring people together! It is an essential feature of successful networking strategies used by many organisations. We coordinate a range of meetings and events to enable 'face to face' networking for the benefit of all members. Every successful business networking organisation also needs effective communications channels.

As a result of gradual development over recent years, getting messages across, promoting member companies and reporting news, Chemicals Northwest has reached new levels of topicality and quality.

