

Welcome

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Spring edition of Elements magazine.

Finally, the days are getting longer, and we are looking forward to being out and about and back together, as the last remnants of the COVID restrictions are lifted.

We've had some really interesting engagements with members over the last few weeks. Firstly, our HyNet project webinar, which was really well attended, gave some interesting insights into progress made so far and the imminent impacts the work will have on our northwest business community. If you missed the webinar, but would like to hear a little more, turn to page 18, where Rachel Perry, the Project Manager gives an overview of the task in hand.

We also held our first face to face event of the year in Daresbury, in early March, for our breakfast briefing. There we welcomed four new members, Beamex, Mettler-Toledo, Flexim and Holiferm who gave an overview of their services. If anyone would like more information, please do let me know. In the last couple of weeks we have also welcomed Suez Water Technologies and Solutions on board too. You can learn a bit more about them at our next breakfast briefing.

Also in this issue, we celebrate the Chemicals Northwest Awards for 2022, which took place at The Point, Lancashire County Cricket Club, Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester on the 24th March 2022. Our chairman, Steve Elliott, welcomed a large number of members despite COVID causing last minute changes to attendees and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy getting together, revelling in the success of the winners, as well as acknowledging the huge impact each and every shortlisted company had made on our thriving northwest chemicals sector.

Members have provided a range of articles and news stories for you for this issue, covering topics as diverse as recruiting the right skills for the move towards a hydrogen economy, a focus on how to deal with ageing plant sustainably, the changing energy landscape as well as some heartening news, which sees students finally able to get back into the workplace to understand what opportunities exist for them post school. We hope you enjoy reading them.

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 don't 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. Here are the the main features and benefits of membership...

