

51st Annual Report of the Council

The Institute has continued to serve the interests of its members through its established programmes in education, professional development, meetings, and publications and by providing representation in areas such as the Engineering Council, Standardisation, Government Policy, and International Affairs.

The Trustees confirm that in exercising their powers as charity trustees, they have had due regard to the published guidance from the Charities Commission on the operation of the public benefit requirements and that the charity's aims are carried out for the public benefit.

The strategic aims remained as:

1. Advise public policy with regard to the impact and nature of acoustics
2. Increase public awareness of good acoustic design
3. Increase understanding of acoustics by other professionals
4. Developing tomorrow's professionals
5. Providing better support for members
6. Increasing members' professional understanding.

To achieve these aims Council agreed on the following objectives against which progress in 2024 is listed.

Objective	Progress in 2024
To advise policy makers on acoustics	<p>The Parliamentary Liaison Group (PLG) had a very good year in 2024. It included communicating the report of the House of Lords' Science and Technology committee on the effects of Artificial Light and Noise on human health to incoming MPs.</p> <p>Members of the Institute continued to attend meetings of various All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG), including the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee and the APPG on Health Homes and Buildings.</p> <p>The initial groundwork was completed in pursuit of the ambition of establishing some form of APPG on Sound and Noise Management, with a keen eye on the efforts of those like the CIEH, which has secured the backing and will include some areas of noise.</p> <p>One briefing note on building classifications was approved during the year. The PLG also coordinated the IOA's response to Government consultation documents on various issues and published another briefing note during the year.</p>
Increase public awareness of good acoustic design	<p>The Institute again funded both a Secondary Schools' and a Primary Schools' competition, which proved to be a success, raising the profile of acoustics with</p>

Objective	Progress in 2024
	<p>school children and teachers.</p> <p>The Institute also again sponsored the John Connell Innovation Award.</p>
Create opportunities for other professionals to gain a better understanding of acoustics and its interaction with their specialist field	The Institute continues to liaise with other professional Institutions, including the ANC, CIEH, the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS), the Institute of Licensing, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the British Standards Institute. Members participated in various working groups with other professional bodies.
To support school children's understanding of acoustics	In addition to the schools' competitions, the Institute has continued to fund the Edinburgh Science Festival's outreach programme to schools using acoustics-based science workshops. The Institute also worked with SpringPod to fund and participate in online careers in acoustics workshops for approximately 900 year 12/13 students.
To improve the operational efficiency of the Institute	<p>The Institute has progressed the work on its application for a Royal Charter, which is entering the final stages of the application. In 2024 the Institute was awarded its Coat of Arms.</p> <p>The institute commissioned work on the construction of a new personalised website, which is due to be completed in 2025. The aim is to expand its education provision, provide better service to members, and investigate how it can become a digital organisation.</p>
To develop mechanisms for supporting members' professional development	<p>The Institute hosted a number of events in 2024, including ICAU (Bath), Acoustics 2024 (Manchester) and Reproduced Sound 2024 (Harrogate).</p> <p>In addition, numerous branch meetings were held, including a mix of online and face-to-face meetings.</p> <p>The 10% check of members' CPD was completed during the year.</p>

Standing Committees

Bursary Fund Committee

The Bursary Fund was again very popular in 2024. It has opened for applications four times, and six were received throughout the year, for a total amount of £4,895. From those six applications, five successfully obtained funding to study the IOA diploma and attend conferences and events outside the UK.

Only one application was rejected this year. It was from a member of the Institute who wanted to develop an online acoustics course for non-acousticians. The main reason for the refusal was the lack of consistency in the plan, including how to access it (paid or unpaid) and how the course would be reviewed for accuracy and completeness. The applicant is welcome to apply again once the idea is developed further, covering the points mentioned.

Last year, we received nine applications, of which only three were successful. This proves that the quality of applications received has improved, along with the Bursary Fund becoming better known by the membership.

This has been my second year as Chair of the committee, and one of my priorities has been to follow up on all successful applications. So far, I have encountered that most applicants use the funding accordingly and are incredibly helpful for the opportunities the Bursary Fund gives them. One applicant started paid employment as an acoustician shortly after receiving his diploma and relayed his gratitude for the financial assistance to kickstart his career.

This year, however, we have learned that a diploma student who was awarded a bursary in 2022 has dropped out of the course and is failing to engage with the Institute. Luckily, this is the first and only case of someone not completing their course, and the positive experiences outweigh the (so far) only negative experience.

I am also working on the ongoing task of raising the Bursary Fund's profile and getting it better known within the membership. Regular updates in the bulletin and newsletter about deadlines and profiles of successful applicants are helping with this purpose, and the work will continue during 2025. I particularly enjoy reading about how they have used their funding and future plans.

Education

Diploma

The IOA Diploma and Certificate courses continue to provide education and training for members and non-members and encourage the recruitment of new corporate members.

Based on grades obtained in 2023/24, the Diploma was awarded to 57 students from three accredited Centres: KP Acoustics Research Labs Southampton and Manchester centres, the University of Derby, and four distance learning (DL) centres (Bristol, Dublin, Edinburgh, and Milton Keynes).

Yong Lee Low, based in Singapore (DL Milton Keynes), won the prize for best overall performance on the Diploma, and Jacques Dalton won the award for the best performance by an Irish student.

A proportion of UK distance learners attended the tutorials at Milton Keynes, with others participating online, together with the increasing number of overseas DL candidates. Diploma DL candidates used IOA Classroom (Moodle) to share materials. The videos produced for blended learning were extensively used.

LSBU paused its delivery of the Diploma in 2023/24 Diploma academic year but has resumed in 2024/25 under the new leadership of Haydar Aygun. Mark Dring has been joined by Paul Shields in support of the University of Derby's delivery of the Diploma and certificate courses. To enable better geographical coverage for the Diploma, in addition to offering the Diploma at its centre in Southampton, KP Acoustics has maintained its Diploma offering at a second centre in Manchester using facilities at Salford University.

Enquiries for the 2025/26 diploma are already coming in for DL and accredited centres. It is hoped that the afore-mentioned accredited centres will continue to run the Diploma in the 2025/26 academic year. The block method of delivery fostered by KP Acoustics is proving successful.

The Dubai Acoustic Research Laboratory hosted the Diploma Laboratory Module for candidates in 2024 and 8 candidates in January 2025. Some candidates for the 2024/25 academic year had to defer their laboratory module until 2025/26 due to travel or visa-related restrictions. Other options were offered to accommodate the candidates, which were then declined.

A sustainability supplement has been shared with Diploma students for reference so that it may be examinable in the future. The Maths and Science supplement has been reviewed and revised and will be shared with candidates to aid their understanding and preparation for assignments and exams.

The Current list of examinable standards is being updated thanks to tutors' contributions and advice. A new BA Case Study is being refined to supplement the BA notes. No extensive development of Diploma notes will take place until the new Director of Education is in place and determines when and how the Diploma will be restructured.

Pleased to report that two new examiners have been recruited to replace two retiring Examiners. Simon Roberts from ISVR Consulting will take on the role of the NVCE Exam Author, taking over from James Hill of Apex Acoustics, who will change module specialities and become the EN Exam Author. Ashley Leiper from SSE Renewables will take on the EN Coursework Assignment Author role from Tim Britton.

Although the IOA doesn't have the same access to reference documentation as academic institutions, we do our best through Barbour and Examiners should not feel constrained.

Certificate Courses

The Irish version of the Building Acoustics Measurements certificate (CCIBAM) continued its delivery in 2024 in a hybrid format: two days of remote delivery of the theory from the UK followed by three days of practical tuition, assessments, and a written examination on site in Ireland.

The Certificate of Proficiency in Anti-Social Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 (CPASBA) - Noise Measurement course did not run in 2024.

Three of the certificate courses (Workplace Noise (CCWNRA), Building Acoustics Measurements (CCBAM), and Environmental Noise Measurements (CCENM)) continue to be offered twice yearly at various centres nationwide, with CCENM still being the most popular.

Three certificate courses offered only by a single accredited centre in 2024 were CCBAM, CCIBAM and the Management of Occupational Exposure to Hand Arm Vibration (CCMOEHAV).

2024 saw the accreditation of Blue Tree Acoustics, enabling a second centre to run CCBAM in 2025.

The 2024 numbers of candidates were as follows: CCWNRA (24, including 2 resits and a deferral); CCBAM and CCIBAM both ran with 8 each in the Spring, with 11 candidates, including one resit for CCBAM, in the Autumn; CCMOEHAV (9); and CCENM (153, including 6 resits).

The Report Writing Course did not come to fruition, but progress has been made with the Advanced Certificate of Competence in Report Evaluation (ACCRE), which, subject to recruitment, may see its first presentation by KP Acoustics Research Labs from 26-28 March 2025.

Environmental Vibration certificate – planned to be at the technician level. Daniel Lurcock is leading the potential certificate committee.

The Certificate Course in Soundscape Assessment saw the accreditation of the University College London centre. Plans to run the course in May 2025 include a one-day introduction to soundscape studies or a five-day course leading to a certificate. KP Acoustics Research Labs will seek accreditation to run the course later in 2025, potentially in the North West.

Online Refreshers

Online refreshers based on the Diploma blended learning videos on Transport Noise, Outdoor Sound Propagation, Room Acoustics, Sound Insulation, Vibration, and Human Responses to noise and vibration are complete and available to IOA members on the website. New online CPD courses in the pipeline include ‘Why CPD?’ (Richard Collman), ‘weather’ (Jon Tofts), and ‘Electroacoustics’ (Ludo Ausiello).

Membership and Apprenticeships

In response to the Education Committee's concern that the list of acoustics-related courses equivalent to Diplomas for MIOA applications to be used does not contain relevant Physics courses (e.g., Edinburgh) but does contain BA in Music Production, which cannot be considered to have enough appropriate technical content, a joint working group has been formed, chaired by Paul Shields.

There are no plans to resurrect the Acoustics Apprenticeship at present.

Future Leadership

The appointment of a full-time post replacement for the Education Manager is in the pipeline for early 2025. Shahram Taherzadeh will take on the temporary role of Education Manager until a Director of Education has been appointed and is settled in their role.

Benjamin Mosley will be stepping down as Education Committee Chair, but would like to remain involved with the Committee. Chris Barlow will take on the role from February 2025.

The Committee continues to be indebted to the support of its members, course tutors and examiners, the work of the Education Manager Professor Keith Attenborough, supported by Education Officer, Helen Davies, Student Support Officers, Fiona Pizzey and Katharyn Holmes, Finance Officer, Julie Clements, and other members of office staff.

Engineering

The committee held three meetings in 2024 and had 10 Professional Review Interviews (PRI) assessments.

All meetings in 2024 were held remotely.

The committee currently consists of 17 people, five of whom are undergoing PRI assessment training.

We have 35 new enquiries (of which 17 invoices have been sent). 93 people have paid their guidance fee.

An internal audit was undertaken on November 24. The audit reviewed six candidate files, making one observation, one recommendation, and one non-conformance.

The observation noted a formatting issue on the score sheet, causing text from one cell to cover another.

The recommendation was to update the spreadsheet to auto-size cells.

The non-conformance related to one CEng PRI Candidate being interviewed by one CEng and one IEng, which is contrary to our procedures.

The action following the non-conformance is to ensure the review panel has the appropriate grade.

Preparations were made towards the end of 2024 for the Engineering Council Licence Review in January 2025.

Medals and Awards

The 2024 awards were as follows:

Award	Winner(s)
Rayleigh Medal	Prof Malcolm Crocker
Tynall Medal	Adam Hill
A B Wood Medal	Dr Ozkan Serlick
Peter Barnett Award	Dr Keith Holland
Engineering Medal	Raj Petel
Bob Peter Award	John Pritchard
Services to the IOA	Peter Rogers
Promoting Acoustics to the Public	Angela Iamcraft

Meetings

The Institute of Acoustics Meetings Committee met four times during the year. At the end of 2024, Chris Turner (Chair 2020 to 2024) stepped down from the Committee, on which he had various roles during his more than 15 years of service, marking the end of an era. Robin Woodward is taking over the role of Chair, and Josie Nixon and Matt Torjussen are being co-opted to the committee in preparation for becoming two new

members to join Kial Jackson (Secretary and ECG Rep), Martin Lester, Peter Rogers and Chris Skinner.

During 2024, more than 80 meetings were held by the specialist groups and branches, with around a quarter of these celebrating the institute's 50th anniversary. The celebrations were at the forefront in Manchester at the Acoustics 2024 annual conference, arranged by Martin Lester and Linda Canty with support from many others. This was again a successful event showcasing the wide variety of expertise the Institute and its membership have to offer.

On that note, 2024 also saw Linda's retirement after 34 years supporting the Institute, particularly the meetings committee and those putting on meetings. All will greatly miss her. Sheema Ali is stepping in to take on the meetings administration role, and the committee is already working well with her to continue with the strong position Linda and Chris left us with.

Alongside the general work of supporting the groups and branches with the meetings they put on, a process was started to look in more detail at how the committee can facilitate this better in the growing hybrid meetings age, and what expectations should be for the groups and branches. This is planned to be progressed with a meeting of the groups and branches coordinated by the Meetings Committee in collaboration with Hilary Notley, VP Groups and Branches, to consult with them on how best to grow and make more sustainable the existing high-quality provision put on by the many volunteers across the committees, of which the institute should be proud.

Membership

The Committee met four times during 2024. All meetings were hybrid, with most members attending in person at IOA HQ and some joining remotely. These meetings are most effective when attendees participate in person, particularly when reviewing applications. David Trew took over as Chairman from Paul Shields.

The CPD Sub-committee continued its work throughout the year, meeting twice to assess members' CPD records. There is a consistent issue with some members failing to engage with the CPD review system. Following three refusals to submit CPD or engage with the process, the Membership Chair has now contacted members. This has encouraged most members to comply. The enforcement option, as a potential breach of the Code of Conduct, remains available. This follows the Engineering Council's CPD guidance, which outlines the principles of Engage, Explain, Encourage, and Enforce.

The roles of Vice Chair for the Code of Conduct (Brian Tunbridge) and Vice Chair for Continuing Professional Development (Richard Collman) have been instrumental in sharing the workload and increasing the committee's output. Time spent reviewing CPD forms and providing feedback to members remains a constraint, and the CPD committee is exploring ways to streamline this process.

Code of Conduct Cases

There were four new Code of Conduct cases in 2024:

- One case related to pre-completion sound insulation testing accreditation/registration was upheld.
- A complaint about the use of false or misleading addresses in marketing information, which was upheld.
- A complaint regarding a member abusing the status of Affiliate.
- Two ongoing cases related to planning applications.

Conference calls with committee members involved in the Code of Conduct cases have continued to help maintain momentum and resolve these cases efficiently.

Membership Applications

During 2024, the Committee assessed 288 membership applications (2023: 280; 2022: 283; 2021: 275; 2020: 255; 2019: 241). Of these, 233 applicants were elected to membership across various grades.

The Institute's current membership is 3,146 (2023: 3,092; 2022: 3,055; 2021: 3,037; 2020: 2,988; 2019: 3,007). Further details are provided in Appendix A.

The Committee would like to thank Emma Lilliman for her continued excellent management and support of Membership and CPD processes.

Plans for 2025

The future Royal Charter will require new regulations to define the membership application process and the disciplinary process for Code of Conduct reviews in detail. This presents an opportunity to review and consolidate the various guidelines and procedures the committee uses. Additionally, it offers the chance to make these processes more transparent for prospective members.

Publications

Acoustics Bulletin and Supplements

Warners Group Publications has published *Acoustics Bulletin* since 2017, with Nicky Rogers as editor. 2024 has been an exceptionally busy year, and 2025 looks equally promising.

In 2024, we published six 72-page issues, each featuring an archive section celebrating the IOA's 50th anniversary. We also introduced regular features on sustainability, the environment, research, and IOA Bursary Fund updates.

The planned commemorative supplement, compiling archive material from 2024, has been delayed, but the content has been stored and is ready to be compiled when required. Additionally, a shorter update to the IOA's 40th-anniversary publication is underway, overseen by Stephen Turner and produced by Warners.

We continue attracting respected contributors, though sourcing strong technical articles remains challenging. Our review system functions well, thanks to our dedicated panel of volunteer reviewers, to whom we extend our gratitude.

The 2019 IOA Careers Supplement is also being updated for publication during National Science Week 2025 (7–16 March). While reviewing the 2019 edition, we identified content gaps and have secured high-profile contributors to address them. The updated version will feature articles on diverse career paths, including forensic acoustics and audio system design.

Marketing

In 2024, Alex Shaida, Head of Marketing, led key initiatives to enhance the IOA's outreach and engagement. Our social media presence continued to grow, supported by targeted advertising and data-driven insights to refine audience engagement.

Promotion of the IOA Diploma in the UK and internationally successfully maintained registration levels for 2024-25. The diploma webpages were overhauled for improved SEO, copywriting, and user experience.

Event promotion remained a priority, ensuring consistently high attendance across hybrid and in-person events. We enhanced digital marketing strategies using Google Tag Manager to analyse open rates and optimise ad spend across Google Ads, Facebook, and LinkedIn, particularly for international audiences.

A significant website redevelopment project is underway to create a more personalised and user-friendly platform, set to launch in summer 2025. This includes a switch to a more advanced CMS for improved accessibility and functionality. Given the rise in mobile traffic, we continue refining mobile engagement strategies tailored to different audiences.

Video content on our website and social channels has expanded, and a full review is planned for 2025 to enhance integration with the new website. Additionally, we are exploring AI tools to enhance visual content, repurpose existing materials, and improve efficiency.

Our efforts in 2024 have strengthened IOA's digital presence, increased engagement, and set the foundation for future growth.

Advertising

Advertising revenue in 2024 declined by 9% compared to 2023, affecting both *Acoustics Bulletin* advertising and overall web income.

While web income was down 9% overall (including job adverts and banners), job advert numbers saw a steeper decline of 15%, with a corresponding 11% drop in revenue.

Banner advertising remained stable, with two regular annual bookings and a mix of new product promotions, special offers, and event announcements. The flexibility of posting dates continues to be a key attraction, particularly for new product launches with shifting release schedules.

Looking Ahead to 2025

Four regular advertisers have not renewed this year due to budget constraints. However, a couple could return later in the year, and one is aiming to reinstate their advertising in 2026.

On a positive note, the 6% advertising rate increase has been implemented without any pushback. This adjustment reflects a necessary recalibration, as rates have been kept as low as possible for several years and have not risen in line with inflation. The increase ensures continued sustainability while maintaining competitive pricing.

For banner advertising, losing a *Bulletin* regular also meant losing an annual banner subscriber. However, this remains an effective route for time-sensitive campaigns, and early 2025 already has promising prospects.

Our current Advertising Manager, Dennis Baylis, is retiring in the summer of 2025, and we are actively searching for a replacement. We look forward to the new website's opportunities, offering enhanced advertising potential and greater engagement.

Committee Membership

Over the course of 2024, the Committee welcomed Bilal Ahmed as a new member.

The committee remains reasonably well-balanced across different sectors, although more members from local government would be most welcome.

Thanks to all Committee members for volunteering their time and enthusiasm throughout the year, and to the IOA members on the Editorial Board who review technical contributions before publication.

Special thanks go to the IOA Office staff, particularly Linda Canty, who retired at the end of 2024, and Dennis Baylis, who will retire in summer 2025. Linda's 34 years of contribution to the IOA Office and Dennis's 22 years as Advertising Manager have been invaluable, and they will both be greatly missed. Their hard work, commitment, and professionalism have played a vital role in the success of IOA publications.

We also extend our gratitude to Alex Shaida, whose leadership as Head of Marketing has significantly strengthened the IOA's outreach and engagement, and to Nicky Rogers, who, as Editor of *Acoustics Bulletin*, has worked tirelessly to ensure its continued success.

We still need volunteers for several vacant positions in our publications, including committee members, Acoustics Bulletin contributors, technical article reviewers, and social media platform moderators.

Research Co-ordination

In 2024, two RCC meetings were held in May and November, one in person and one virtual, respectively. The in-person meeting was held at the offices of Hoare Lee. Professor Stephen Dance chaired the sessions, and Dr Jonathan Hargreaves was the Secretary. A long-serving member, Alan Curtis, stepped down after sitting on the committee for the past 12 years. Simone Graetzer joined the committee.

RCC continued to work with the EPSRC UK Acoustics Network+ (UKAN+) led by Prof Kirill Horoshenkov and Prof Richard Craster, with particular focus on engagement of Early Career members. UKAN (www.acoustics.ac.uk) offered a third tranche of pilot funding for risk research projects, totalling 17 over four years. To meet Tomorrow's Engineering Research Challenges, EPSRC offered six Network+ grants. The Noise Network+ grant was accepted in December 2024, receiving £1.7m. This will build on the work of UKAN and UKAN Special Interest Groups to embed acoustics into other disciplines.

One of the long-term plans of UKAN/ IOA RCC was to aid in supporting larger bids. In 2024 this was more than achieved with EPSRC awarding £7.7m for 4D Metamaterials (Imperial) £19.5m for the Centre for Doctoral Training in Sustainable Sound Futures (Salford, Southampton, Sheffield, Bristol) for 70 PhDs, £2.2m from the Leverhulme Trust (Strathclyde) for 18 PhDs in Ultrasonics inspired by nature, £2.2m for a Doctoral Training Hub entitled LAURA for aural diversity (Salford).

RCC analysed the results of UKRI funding establishing that £239m. This is up from £206m of running grants (May 2024). Hence, grants are up 27% (now 259) and grant income up 53% over the past six. Ten of the Eleven research councils fund acoustics, although not Astronomy. The largest funder is EPSRC with 57% of all funded projects with Audio/Speech receiving 35%, Ultrasonics 35% then Acoustics 15%, Noise 8% and Vibration 7%.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The EDI WG currently has 11 members from a variety of backgrounds. Angela Lamacraft stepped down as Chair in September 2024 and was replaced by Mathew Robinson.

The aims of the working group continue to be:

- Improve inclusion within the Institute to encourage a more diverse membership and increased participation at meetings, consultations, events etc;
- Improve inclusion in the organisation of the Institute to encourage a more diverse Leadership team; and
- Improve inclusion of Institute members within employment to encourage a more diverse acoustics workforce.

There were five working group meetings in the year. The EDI Working Group often promotes the value of diverse collaboration, and in this vein the working group also met with members of EDI teams from several other organisations, including UK Acoustics Network (UKAN+), Association

of Noise Consultants (ANC), Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) and its Women in Building Services Engineering Network (WIBSE) and the Institute of Physics (IOP) to discuss different approaches to the challenges faced by the organisations. A collaboration meeting is proposed for March 2025 with these organisations, as well as several organisations that help companies within the engineering and built environment sectors, including property, construction and renewables. The working group has also promoted work with the Royal Academy of Engineering (RAEng).

The EDI Working Group received several responses to its consultation on the Draft EDI Strategy and used these to further develop the Strategy, which was published in June 2024. The Strategy aims to focus efforts on improving the accessibility of the Institute, which in turn will improve the inclusion and sense of belonging of members, resulting in a more diverse Institute that represents everyone, and in which people can openly be themselves and gain the support they need to achieve their full potential. It will be reviewed in 2026.

The EDI Working Group also published a Meeting Code of Practice to ensure that all meetings and events are inclusive and accessible to attract all, irrespective of characteristics including age, gender, cultures and nationality.

Several comments were received regarding the new membership renewal forms, which members of the EDI Working Group responded to.

The previous Chair of the EDI Working Group provided a session about EDI at the Art of Being a Consultant event, an event aimed at people considering, or just starting in, acoustic consultancy. She was also invited to help judge the ANC Acoustics for Inclusion Award, which demonstrated how committed the two organisations are to working together to improve inclusive design and to encouraging inclusive thinking by acousticians.

Members of the working group provided a couple of articles for the Acoustics Bulletin with the themes of a summary of collaborative EDI work with RAEng and suggestions for inclusive recruitment.

As ever, the goal of the EDI Working Group is to promote the many benefits of diversity, and to improve diversity by improving the inclusivity and equitability of the IOA and what it offers to current and prospective members.

Specialist Groups

Building Acoustics

In 2024, we have been finalising our guide to sustainable building acoustic design with the assistance of others.

To celebrate 50 years of the IOA, BAG has been considering the role of Building Acoustics since its conception (BAG actually started in 1978, the year I was born!). We are drafting short summaries covering the history of building acoustics for different topics and hope this will be both interesting and useful in our daily work.

We jointly organised sessions on the Future Homes Consultation, which proposed changes to Approved Document L and O. This led to submission of a formal response on behalf of the IOA, which included recommendations for Approved Document O to include scope for hotels and temporary accommodation, use of correct terminology to avoid confusion, the suggestion of

defining noise thresholds relating to the use of the Simplified Method and removal of the L_{AFmax} criterion, amongst other things.

We have also contributed to the consultation relating to amendments to permitted development rights.

We look forward to building on this success in 2025 with further meetings and consultations on guidance documents planned. If you want to contribute to the work we do, please reach out. We always welcome thoughts and input and are particularly eager to receive abstracts, papers, and ideas for conferences. You can contact us at BAG@ioa.org.uk.

Early Careers Group

Josephine (Josie) Nixon stepped down as Chair of the Early Careers Group (ECG), and Zachary (Zach) Simcox took on the role of ECG Chair in September 2024. Diogo Pereira has remained secretary for the ECG throughout 2024. The group currently have three vacancies which we will focus on filling in 2025 along with the relevant committees. The number of representatives has increased by one, and the number of vacancies has reduced by one compared to 2023

The group committee meets quarterly. In 2024, all meetings were held online, with some members in the London area choosing to meet in person at a hub location. We are hopeful to continue with more hubs (e.g., London and Manchester) to assist people travelling for the in-person meetings in 2025.

The annual 'Art of Being' (AOB) conference was undertaken at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton on 21st and 22nd March 2024. 'The Art of Being a Consultant' was organised by the IOA ECG, and 'The Art of Being an Acoustician' was organised by UKAN+ as a joint venture. Attendance was mostly students with some attendance from consultants in their first years of their career. Both conferences ended with a social networking event, which gave people the chance to catch up over a drink and get to know each other better. The events received positive feedback from presenters and attendees

The ECG organised two social networking events in 2024. The first event, sponsored by Mason UK, and was held during the Acoustics 2024 conference in Manchester. Over 20 ECG members came together for an evening of pizza and drinks. We appreciate the attendance of more experienced IOA members who informally shared career advice with the ECG members. The second social event was held at Cuckoo Leeds in December 2024 as part of the IOA 50th Anniversary Events schedule.

The webinar sub-section of the ECG has continued to arrange monthly webinars, with some gaps in the schedule for a summer break and breaks around busy conference periods. The webinars cover a range of topics, including specific standards, unique topics, and soft skills. A new type of British Standard readthrough session has been trailed this year. These sessions involve a live reading of the standards with breaks for questions and discussions. These sessions have been well attended, with the day/time of the webinars varied to enable as many people as possible to join. The webinars are often recorded to be uploaded to the IOA online CPD library/webpage. The webinars below were provided in 2024:

- 01 March – BS 5228 Readthrough part 1
- 05 April – BS 5228 Readthrough part 2

- 26 April – Managing the noise from explosions
- 03 May – BS 4142 Readthrough part 1
- 23 May – Wind Turbine Noise
- 07 June – BS 8233 Readthrough part 1
- 05 July – BS 4142 Readthrough part 2
- 02 August – BS 8233 Readthrough part 2
- 06 September – BS 4142 Readthrough and discussion part 3
- 04 December – Future Soundscapes – Applying the Soundscape Approach to Drone Noise

The ECG helped to organise a full-day session on Tuesday, 12th October at Acoustics 2024, with a mixture of academic and consultancy-focused topics. To fit with the 50th anniversary theme, the sessions were concluded with a panel discussion about the future of acoustics. The buddy scheme was run at the conference and was organised by the ECG. The event was well attended, with other IOA members coming to meet the ECG members, as the evening went on, allowing for greater networking in an informal setting.

The Students Representative initiative has continued throughout 2024. The subcommittee is now chaired by the Research Coordination Committee ECG representative, Alec Korchev, who is also undertaking his PhD part-time and working as a consultant. Acoustics students at the University of Salford with the ECG organised and hosted an in-person event.

The regular column in the Acoustic Bulletin dedicated to Early Careers' members has continued in 2024 and will continue in 2025. The column summarises the events and webinars undertaken and introduces the ECG committee members. The ECG also advertised vacancies and publicised the different activities that the group has undertaken.

We have continued to reach out to other organisations to exchange experience and ideas. The formal arrangement with the ANC's Future Acousticians Group and with the EAA's Young Acoustics Network allows each party to attend the other's meetings and coordinate events continuously. The ECG also continues to engage with UKAN+. With UKAN+ wrapping up, this engagement is expected to transfer to Noise Network Plus.

Plans for 2025:

- Continued work on the above items, particularly on webinars and liaison with the IOA branches/committees/groups and EDI group. Webinars will aim to include a wide range of acoustics topics in consultancy, research, and other specialist topics.
- The ECG arranged the Art of Being a Consultant & Art of Being an Acoustician in March 2025 in Manchester, alongside Stephen Dance of UKAN+ Early Careers Network.
- The ECG will arrange an ECG session at Acoustics 2025, to include presentations on a wide range of acoustics topics, focused on topics and/or presenters associated with ECG.

Electro Acoustics Group

The main activity of the Electroacoustics Group during 2024 was the organisation of the 40th annual Reproduced Sound conference. The conference was held at the Bristol Hotel, Bristol, in November (12- 14th).

Starting with the first event of the programme held on Tuesday evening, an interesting “shootout” of vintage, modern, analogue, and digital synthesizers was conducted by attendees who could engage with the challenge of attempting different keyboards to sound and measure the same with the support of a fully working PA system and a digital oscilloscope connected to a large projected screen. Interesting to mention that after the initial serious scientific attempts, the occasion allowed for some relaxed networking and more informal musical moments.

Wednesday started with the traditional Peter Barnett Memorial Award, which was granted to Prof Keith Holland from the University of Southampton for his extensive contribution to the fields of measurements and loudspeaker theory and design.

Thanks to the A/V team (Andy Horsburgh, Jamie Thomas, Adam Hockley, Andy Pidsley, and Jonathan Digby), who worked with the support provided by d&b Audiotechnik, the conference content was fully recorded but not streamed, although tools such as Mentimeter were still used to manage the Q&A sessions.

Wednesday’s social event was organised at Mud Dock, which again proved to offer a wonderfully relaxed environment for the attendees to network and discuss the topics presented during the conference. A bit of improvised music was suggested, and thanks to the chair and some “loud” volunteers, it supported the usual friendly vibes of the evening.

During the AGM held on Thursday, a few changes in the committee were approved and noted down by the secretary, Bob Walker. He kindly offered to support the committee for the next year and to whom our continuous gratitude for his impeccable work goes. A notable change was the selection of Arina Epure from KU Leuven as the committee's Early Career representative.

For the 2023 edition, a very interactive panel about hearing and hearing losses stimulated good discussions, as did the diversity and inclusivity panel, featuring James Hipperson from Funktion-One giving a very insightful presentation on neurodiversity.

All of the Electro Acoustics Group committee's meetings during 2024 were conducted online on Zoom. They took place in January, May, and September and were mostly dedicated to organising the conference.

For the 2025 edition, a change of venue was discussed, and the committee eventually voted to move the conference to Harrogate, where it will be held between 18 and 20 November 2025. The decision was based on several factors, including the hope to broaden access to the event to professionals from the northern part of the UK and, thanks to a reduced budget, offer enhanced registration fees to all participants.

Finally, the Committee is analysing the survey results shared amongst the conference attendees and preparing the best possible RS conference for 2025.

Environmental Sound Group 2024

Our lunchtime online meetings continued in March with a joint meeting of the Environmental Sound Group and the Sound Noise and Health Group entitled ‘How do we apply soundscape in

practice?’ There was great interest in this topic, and 240 IOA members attended the meeting. Four presentations were given, followed by a healthy debate that emphasised the need for continued dialogue.

In September, Acoustics 2024 in Manchester included a full-day session on Environmental Sound, with nine papers covering topics around sustainability, such as noise assessment of renewable energy sources, heat pumps, and soundscape assessments, an overview of options to update building design guidance in BS8233 to align with health evidence, and assessing noise effects on terrestrial animals, as well as other papers to update delegates.

In November, as one of the last celebrations of the Institute’s 50 years, we were very fortunate to have Rupert Taylor give a fascinating lunchtime presentation on environmental sound management over the 50-year lifespan of the Institute. 170 people joined. By looking back at the huge progress we have made over 50 years, Rupert was able to give some insight into what might be next.

A working group of 7 experts on aviation noise was formed in October to provide the IOA’s response to the Civil Aviation Authority’s consultation on Future Direction of the UK Aviation Environmental Review, which was submitted in December. The response encourages the CAA to report noise exposure around more UK airports in more detail and to track mitigation measures to reduce the impacts experienced in affected communities.

Measurement and Instrumentation

During the past year, the Group has organised a one-day meeting and produced four articles for the Acoustics Bulletin.

The one-day meeting took place at the Building Design Hub in Wycombe, which offered excellent facilities for practical building acoustics measurements. Charles Greene organised the meeting and collected a variety of papers on all aspects of building acoustics, design, and measurement.

The meeting was very well attended, and according to the SurveyMonkey survey done after the event, it was very well received across the board. I would like to thank Charles Greene for his efforts, along with Barry Cope, managing director of BCTA, who arranged the venue and the testing facilities.

Future meetings are in the pipeline, and it is hoped that they will have as strong a practical content as this one.

Over the past year, the Group’s Committee members have continued contributing to Instrumentation Corner. The latest was No 88 in the July/August 2024 issue, which looked at issues around overheating and ventilation by Tony Higgins. Other issues covered were wheelie bin noise (!) from Mark Dowie and microphone selection for reverberant environments from John Campbell.

All these papers form a historical reference section that can be accessed in the M&I group pages of the IOA website and via a public link on the IOA home page. A full schedule is planned, but we welcome suggestions for future subject matters.

With a couple of members standing down, we have refreshed the committee by bringing on board some new blood. Hopefully, these new bloods will be able to provide a new slant on instrumentation issues and contribute to future Instrumentation Corner articles!

This year, Sue Dowson, our Hon Sec, will retire from the committee after 21 years' service. I thank her for keeping the ship stable and doing all the administration for the committee. She will be missed, and we wish her all the best on her road to recovery from illness.

In August, we heard the sad news of the passing of Richard Tyler, our founding chairman, and we will surely miss his contribution, guidance, and great experience in the field of instrumentation. A full obituary can be found in Volume 50, No. 5, September/October 2024 of the Acoustics Bulletin.

The M&I group hosted two half-day sessions at Acoustics 24 at Manchester University on Friday, 13th. There was a wide range of presentations from assessing the effect of drone vibration on pharmaceutical products to inspecting pipes using acoustic beamforming. Midway through the day saw the AGM for the group at which John Shelton stepped down as chairman, after 9 years (29 on the committee!). Simon Bull was duly nominated and elected to replace John, although it is noted that these are large boots to fill! John did agree to stand as Hon Sec and was voted in unanimously. This will help with continuity and will be a huge help to Simon.

Susan Dowson resigned as Hon Sec after many years of faithful service, and we wish her well with her recovery from illness. Four other members of the group came to the end of their tenure, and all were nominated and duly re-elected. They were, John Campbell, Steve Cawser, Mark Dowie and Daren Wallis.

Huge thanks go to all committee members for their active roles in all aspects of the Group's activities.

Musical Acoustics

The IOA Musical Acoustics Group held two events since the last AGM (September 2024). The first a webinar held on 3rd December 2024 entitled, "Instruments, People and Places". This was part of the Institute 50th Anniversary celebrations and was given by Murray Campbell (University of Edinburgh) who demonstrated how wind instruments and how they have evolved over time, Stephen Dance (London South Bank University) will covered the effect of music on musicians' hearing, and finally David Sharp (Open University) will considered the effect of the room on the sound of performance. We had 43 attendees enjoy the talks.

The second event was a half-day in-person meeting held on 9th April 2025 at the Royal Opera House. This was attended by 24 people who enjoyed an afternoon consisting of four presentations and a back-stage tour. The attendees got to listen to a talk about the acoustics of the Choral Rehearsal Room where the event was held, a presentation on spatial audio and the recording of musical instruments, the missing link between ballrooms and theatres and finally a talk covering a new approach to assessing the hearing of musicians. Our thanks go to the presenters: Antonella Bevilacqua (University of Parma) , David Carugo (Oxford Brookes) and Stephen Dance (London South Bank University).

Noise and Vibration Engineering

The Noise and Vibration Engineering Group comprises members of the Institute of Acoustics with a particular interest in the assessment and control of noise and vibration. The group aims to provide a forum for members to exchange information and discuss developments within this general field of interest, including engineering methods for noise and vibration control, workplace noise or NVH assessment, low noise design, source identification methods, source mechanisms and prediction methods.

The NVEG committee organises events of interest to the membership, issues regular communications and represent members' interests within the IOA and on relevant external bodies.

1. Review of 2024

Event	Date	Type	Attendees (Approx*)
Prediction of Ground Borne Noise and Vibration Caused by Railway Vehicles - Dr Evangelos Ntotsios, ISVR Consulting	6th Feb 2024	Online	298
Design of Bioinspired Structures for Noise and Vibration Control and Energy Harvesting - Dr Moustafa Ranjbar, Cranfield University	8th May 2024	Online	89
Noise and Vibration Engineering Group Session at Acoustics 2024 in Manchester	12-13 Sept 2024	In person	N/A
50th Anniversary Talk - Project CAELUS: Investigating the influence of operational factors, ambient soundscape, and context on the human response to drone sound - Dr James Woodcock, Arup	10th Dec 2024	Online	32

The NVEG committee prefers online meetings to maximise the number of attendees, particularly when the topics may not attract the typical consultant membership base of the IOA. In 2025, the committee will avoid hosting meetings in December as attendance was low. November and December were also highly populated months for IOA events due to 50th Anniversary events.

Parliamentary Liaison

The Parliamentary Liaison Group (PLG) continued to be active in 2024, following up with raising the Institute's profile with decision makers in the year of the General election. It included communicating the report of the House of Lords' Science and Technology committee on the effects of Artificial Light and Noise on human health to incoming MPs. Members of the Institute continued to attend meetings of various All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG), including the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee and the APPG on Health Homes and Buildings. The initial groundwork was completed in pursuit of the ambition of establishing some form of APPG on Sound and Noise Management, with a keen eye on the efforts of those like the CIEH, who

have secured the backing and will include some areas of noise. One briefing note on the classifications of Buildings has been approved during the year.

You may also like something for the new Sustainable Advisory Group as Strategic lead, in which case:

The Sustainable Advisory Group was formed in late 2024 following the outcome of a review and recommendations by the Sustainable Design Task Force, supported by a Council Mandate. The first meeting was held in December, aiming to advise the IOA Council on a route map to net zero, with timescales. The group aims to initially help the IOA get its own house in order and then be able to focus on advising members on how they can satisfy their Code of Conduct commitment to sustainability. In addition, a collaborative group was set up between the IOA, ANC, CIEH, SEPA and REHIS to explore knowledge sharing on the topic. Further meetings are planned for 2025.

Physical Acoustics

The Group supported the dedicated physical acoustics session at Acoustics 2024 but was otherwise dormant in 2024 due to a lack of committee members.

The Physical Acoustics Group is actively looking for new members to join the Committee to increase its engagement activities for 2025. The Vice President for Groups and Branches supports this campaign drive to rebuild the PAG. The group will continue to support the annual conference of the IOA in 2025. It will look to expand our engagement with the Institute of Physics - Physical acoustics group and the relevant Special Interest Groups (SIGs) of the UK Acoustics Network (UKAN), with a view to co-hosting events and growing the PAG further.

Senior Members

The Senior Members Group held two virtual meetings open to all SMG members and others.

Both virtual meetings were conducted by overseas speakers and were well attended. The speakers were Susannah Buchan and Antoine Decloux. Their presentations were on "Acoustic monitoring of large whales off the coast of Chile and the Southeast Pacific" and "Acoustic Imaging" with coherence scanning holography, respectively.

For Acoustics 2024, the Early Careers Group ECG chaired a panel discussion comprised of ECG, EDI, and SMG Representatives. The event was well attended, with lively and informative discussions and ideas from the audience.

The main topic of the discussion was 'How the acoustic industry has developed in the last 50 years and a discussion on the future of acoustics, specifically considering the following:

- How has the acoustic industry changed in the last 50 years?
- How has technology/equipment changed and how do you think it is beginning to and will continue to alter our careers (consultancy, public services, research) in the future?
- Where do you think the acoustic industry will be in 50 years? Will there always be a need for the discipline?

The various Panel members provided their views on the principal discussion points, noting the major changes in equipment usage, development, and reporting requirements. Issues raised included AI and changes in technology for measuring sound, and whether noise measurement/mapping could potentially use satellite systems or drones in the future. The audience appeared to be firmly of the view that acoustic professionals would be needed in the future, although the acoustic challenges could be very different from those today.

The SMG produced a video for the 50th Anniversary, which will be available on the IOA website in 2025.

In summary, the video is an interview with the SMG Chairman discussing the early career path into Acoustics, early instrumentation, standards that were used, anecdotal work experiences, lessons learned from dealing with the Public, working in the Public Sector with Environmental Health Officers, working in the Private Sector as a Consulting Engineer, owning an Acoustics practice and explaining acoustics to demanding clients. In conclusion, the Chairman states that he would do it all again.

Despite several SMG Committee meetings during the year, the SMG AGM was unfortunately unable to be held this year due to the significant commitments of the SMG Chairman and Committee members who were overseas.

In 2025, SMG will seek to identify potential speakers for its virtual meetings, which would again appeal to a wider range of IOA members.

Sound, Noise and Health

The Sound, Noise, and Health Group (SN&HG) was established in 2022. Its main aim is to raise awareness of the evidence on the human health effects of sound and noise amongst IOA members and beyond.

As part of the IOA's 50th anniversary celebrations, the SN&HG committee organised a webinar "*50 years of research, policy and guidance shaped by the health effects of sound*", which took place on Zoom on 11 July 2024. Benjamin Fenech and Pam Lowery presented an overview of how research, policy and guidance have been influenced throughout the lifetime of the Institute by our evolving understanding of the health effects of sound and noise. The webinar covered a broad range of areas, including International Context, Local Context, Health effects research, Evolution of Policy, Evolution of Guidance, Cost Benefit Analysis, Burden of Disease, Soundscapes and the implications of all these areas on acoustics practitioners' day-to-day work. The webinar was well attended, and a recording is available to members in the Institute's video repository.

The SN&HG committee also contributed to a written article for the 50th anniversary celebrations. As the group has only existed for the last two years, reflecting on past activities and achievements was impossible. Instead, the contribution covered events over the past 50 years directly relevant to sound and health. A shorter contribution was published in the Acoustics Bulletin SEP/OCT 2024 edition, and the full version will appear in the IOA 50th anniversary commemorative supplement in Spring 2025.

Another important milestone for the SN&HG was organising a parallel session focused on health effects at Acoustics 2024. This was the second annual IOA conference, with a parallel session dedicated to the effects of sound and noise on health. The session attracted a healthy number of abstract submissions, which led to presentations covering a broad range of topics, including human health effects of noise from road traffic, music venues, air source heat pumps, construction and drones, school environments, and effects on biodiversity. All the presentations were very well attended and generated constructive debates. This is all testament to the growing interest in sound, noise, and health among IOA members. A detailed session summary can be found in Acoustics Bulletin NOV/DEC 2024 edition.

Other activities by the committee included several Bulletin articles to raise awareness on noise and health, and contributing to the IOA consultation response for the CAA's Future Direction of the Aviation Environmental Review (NOV 2024). Most committee discussions were held via email correspondence.

The SN&HG aims to raise awareness of the evidence on the human health effects of sound and noise. For this reason, the Group was particularly pleased that a project mapping the health effects of noise in England won the 2024 Noise Abatement Society John Connell Innovation Award. The project was a collaborative effort between the UK Health Security Agency and the University of Leicester. The IOA sponsored this award.

The Group's annual AGM was held at Acoustics 2024 on Friday, 13th September 2024, 13:05 - 13:15, at Manchester Metropolitan University. Six committee members were in attendance: 4 physically in the room and two committee members joined via Teams. The existing committee were voted by six members to continue, with no abstentions and no against. The committee strikes a good balance of interest from public bodies, the private sector, academia and the third sector. It was agreed that in 2025, the committee will discuss succession planning as the members approach three years in their respective roles.

Speech and Hearing

The Speech and Hearing Group had a rather quiet year, following a few committee members standing down. Two sessions were organised for the "Acoustics 2024" conference in Manchester in September, where a variety of talks and a couple of posters were presented on various topics of acoustics related to speech and hearing. However, no other meetings of the group took place in 2024. More activities are planned for 2025.

The Group's AGM took place during the Acoustics 2024 conference.

Underwater Acoustics

The UAG committee met (online) on the following dates in 2024:

- 8th January 2024
- 20th May 2024
- 14th October 2024

The UAG AGM was also held (online) on 14th October.

The UAG held the International Conference on Underwater Acoustics (ICUA) in Bath in June 2024, with UAG Committee members Philippe Blondel as the Conference Chair, Andrew Holden and Nikhil Banda as Co-Chairs. This followed from ICUA 2022 held in Southampton, which itself followed ICUA 2020, which had to be held online due to Covid restrictions. ICUA 2024 was very successful, with 230 delegates from 17 countries and 190 submitted abstracts. A detailed

conference report was produced for the IOA Acoustics Bulletin. Many thanks to the UAG Committee and many others for making this a success.

Work has begun on the planning of ICUA 2026. We hope to showcase the international nature of this conference by holding it elsewhere in Europe rather than in the UK, ideally in 2026, if not in 2028. Encouraging connections have already been made with potential EU partners and venues.

In addition to ICUA, several other conferences related to underwater acoustics are supported by individuals within the wider UAG. These include the Underwater Acoustics Conference and Exhibition (UACE), OCEANOISE, and The Effects of Noise on Aquatic Life. The former will be held from 15th to 20th June this year in Halkidiki, Greece, and the latter will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 29th June to 4th July this year.

One of the great privileges of the UAG Committee is the consideration of nominations for the AB Wood Medal each year. This award is given in alternate years to young researchers from the American continent and then from Europe. Our recommendations are submitted to the IOA Awards Committee for consideration. Our recommendation for the 2024 AB Wood Medal award was endorsed, and the award was presented at ICUA 2024 to H Özkan Sertlek of JASCO Applied Sciences in the Netherlands. He gave his Medal presentation at that conference, as did the 2023 AB Wood Medal winner, David Barclay, from Dalhousie University, Canada. Nominations have been received for the award for 2025. The UAG Committee met on 22nd November 2024 to consider these, with a subsequent vote that resulted in our recommendation being sent to the IOA Awards Committee for their consideration. The recipient will be announced later this year and invited to present in the AB Wood session at ICUA 2026.

In November, the current Chair and Secretary of the UAG met with the immediate past Chair, Professor Gary Heald, to present him with a tankard to appreciate his years of work on the UAG Committee.

Several committee members are on the ISO TC43 SC3 (Underwater Acoustics) and are helping develop new ISO Standards. Stephen Robinson is the chair of this group. This committee held a plenary session and working group meetings in Berlin in October, which were attended by a number of UK experts. There are two standards which will soon be circulated as FDIS drafts for comment in the next few months, and where the BSI mirror committee (EH/1/7) will have opportunity for comment:

- ISO 17208 part 3 (ship noise measurement in shallow water)
- ISO 7605 (measurement of ocean ambient sound)

Current active work items include Terminology for Aquatic Bioacoustics (WG6). The UK has proposed a new work item on measuring sound particle motion and seabed vibration (led by Sophie Nedelec at Exeter University).

Work continues on IEC/ISO 80000-15 (logarithmic quantities and units) in IEC TC25 and a new work item is proposed in IEC TC87 on calibration of digital acoustic recorders.

Work is ongoing within the UAG Committee, looking at extending the IOA Diploma to include underwater acoustics.

The UAG actively represents the Early Careers Group Committee. ECG events have been held at each of the recent ICUA conferences.

Finally, the UAG Committee, on behalf of all UAG members, would like to recognise the tremendous contribution Linda Canty made to our Group throughout her career at the IOA: we will miss her. We welcome Sheema Ali, who has stepped in to continue the great support and has made an immediate impact in early planning for ICUA 2026.

Branch Reports

Central Branch

The following meetings were held in 2024:

- At the Central Branch's evening meeting on 20 March 2024, Nick Deal from Bond Solon delivered an insightful talk on becoming an expert witness. Drawing on his extensive experience as a barrister specialising in crime, negligence, and personal injury, Nick discussed the crucial responsibilities of expert witnesses, emphasising their impartial role in assisting courts. He covered the types of cases requiring expert evidence, key stages of involvement, and the importance of proper training and staying within one's expertise. 74 attended online and 8 in person.
- In July 2024, IOA Central Branch members gathered at Bletchley Park to celebrate the IOA's 50th anniversary with a one-day conference on the past, present, and future of BS 4142, attracting 95 delegates. Philip Dunbavin (PDA) opened with a presentation on BS 4142's history, tracing its evolution since 1963. Stephen Turner (ST Acoustics) discussed its alignment with UK noise policy. At the same time, Richard Collman (Acoustical Control Engineers and Consultants) highlighted the sustainability challenges of planning conditions requiring noise levels below background levels. Jon Tofts reviewed the Environment Agency's critique of noise impact assessments, noting improvements following the publication of their Method Implementation Document. Luke Hatton (Atkins Realis) summarised Defra-commissioned research on assessing industrial sound impacts inside dwellings, advocating for absolute specific sound levels indoors. Mark Dowie (Head acoustics) demonstrated using psychoacoustic indices to explain the varying annoyance levels of different sounds. The day concluded with delegates exploring Bletchley Park's historic site and a live demonstration of an Enigma machine, blending acoustic innovation with history.
- In October, the Central Branch hosted a joint meeting with the Early Careers Group. Instead of the conventional "chalk and talk" presentations, this event featured a panel discussion. The panel included experts from the legal profession (Barrister John Pointing of Statutory Nuisance Solutions Ltd), consultancy (Toby Lewis, Technical Director at WSP), and environmental health (Gillian Clarke, Principal EHO at Milton Keynes Council). The discussion covered a wide range of topics related to noise nuisance, including recent developments in deeds of easement. 39 attended online and 11 in person.
- Our final event was a presentation from Conor O'Brien, an Acoustic Consultant at Wardell Armstrong (Part of SLR), who delivered a talk about his IOA diploma project, which investigated the history and use of horse skulls for acoustic applications. He explained that evidence shows horse skulls have been discovered within and under old buildings, particularly in Ireland, the UK, and Scandinavia. Accounts from the 1800s suggested that the skulls provided acoustic benefits to a room. Despite abundant evidence and research, Conor highlighted that it primarily came from social or archaeological perspectives, with no prior quantitative analysis of the acoustic effects. His project aimed to fill this gap by investigating the acoustic impact of horse skulls, including testing with real skulls. 18 attended online and 6 in person.

Over the past year, the Central Branch has been deeply appreciative of the guest speakers who have kindly shared their time and expertise to deliver a variety of engaging presentations. The

talks covered a broad spectrum of fascinating topics, offering members valuable knowledge and insights across different areas of acoustics.

This year, particularly thanks to Matt Torjussen (ANV Measurement Systems), Rachel Canham (WBM), and Linda, for their efforts in managing the 50th in-person event at Bletchley Park. The delegates thoroughly enjoyed this well-organised conference and received excellent feedback. The event provided a fascinating exploration of the history and future of industrial noise assessment, offering valuable insights and discussions on this important topic. The historic venue added a unique and memorable dimension to the experience, blending technical sessions with the rich heritage of Bletchley Park, creating a truly engaging and rewarding day for all attendees.

Looking ahead to 2025, as part of our efforts to engage with all members, we remain dedicated to offering hybrid events that allow in-person and virtual participation, ensuring accessibility for everyone. However, we are also keen to prioritise hosting more in-person gatherings. These provide invaluable opportunities for networking and collaboration.

Eastern Branch

We undertook our AGM on the 22nd of February. Jody Blacklock became chair of the Eastern Region, Josie Nixon became secretary, and Sam Ward joined as the Early Career's Group Representative. Mat Tuora also joined the committee. John Campbell and Mick Cheong have also remained on the committee.

We held six meetings this year on a variety of topics, which were well attended and are listed below:

- February – The Magic of Magnets for Construction Noise Control Presented by Wilson Ho
- April – Noise at the Environment Agency Planning & permitting, New residential developments & EA regulated sites, Presented by Stephen Jay
- June - Speech intelligibility in the workspace: How to manage it to everyone's benefit, Presentation by: Stanislas Boivin-Champeaux, Sound Directions
- September – Sound Walk around the Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) Campus, Chelmsford, by Sam Ward and Mat Tuora, Create Consulting
- October – 50th Event – A Tour of Fläktwoods and Dinner
- December – An Evening with Collecta by Olivia Irven

Our 50th anniversary celebration was undertaken at Fläktwoods. This was a well-attended afternoon event, with a number of attendees from different sectors joining. We split into three groups and were given tours of the factory and the test areas. Fläktwoods employees also provided presentations while the tour was going on. This was an insightful and interesting afternoon and a fantastic opportunity to explore the factory and learn more about aeroacoustics.

As requested by our members, we have held some social events after the talks, including a drink at the student union after the sound walk and a Christmas curry after our December event. We will try to include more social and networking opportunities at our meetings going forward in 2025.

We are looking forward to an exciting and busy year in 2025. This year, however, due to the size and geographical region, we have mainly held our meetings at Create offices in Chelmsford. However, due to the size and geographical area, we are looking at trying to move some of our meetings around the region to increase ease for people attending the meetings. A questionnaire is being sent out to our members to understand how we can improve our engagement with the eastern region acousticians and other regions.

Irish Branch

Key Activities and Events

1. **Online Presentations:** We kicked off the year with two well-attended online presentations, demonstrating the engagement and interest within our community. The first session featured Doug Manville, who provided valuable insights on ISO 9613-2: 2024.
2. **Gerry McCullagh Memorial Lecture:** Besides our technical sessions, we hosted the annual Gerry McCullagh Memorial Lecture. This year's lecture, presented by Peter Rogers, focused on ProPG gym acoustic guidance. The event attracted strong attendance and sparked meaningful discussion among attendees.

Ongoing Initiatives

1. **Committee Meeting and Response to Draft Guidance:** A committee meeting is scheduled to discuss and formulate our response to the draft guidance issued by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the measurement and assessment of noise at licensed facilities. This is an important step in contributing to relevant industry standards and ensuring our input is heard in critical regulatory matters.
2. **Renewed Energy and Vision for the Future:** The committee has a renewed sense of energy, and I am enthusiastic about fostering this momentum. Our focus will be on raising the profile of the Irish Branch and making it one of the most proactive and engaged regional branches within the organisation.

London Branch

Last year, the London branch committee arranged a full programme of events, hosting eight evening talks, a full-day conference, and our 50th Anniversary celebration event.

In January, the LSBU Students returned to kick off the year by presenting their final-year projects. Rebecca Page presented her project on Impact Noise and Vibration Induced by Deadlifts and was awarded Nti Audio's sponsored award.

In February, our very own Ben Southgate from Sandy Brown presented alongside Andrew Parkin of Cundall's with a talk on the Acoustic classification scheme for configurable pods.

Tim Patzke, Pliteq joined us in March to discuss the 'Design of Floating Floors Using Recycled Elastomers: Reducing Embodied Carbon'.

In April, Wilson Ho of Wilson Ho and Associates Limited Innovative presented his research into Viaduct Noise Barriers for Reducing Wind Load Demand on Foundations.

In May, Ben and I attended the Institute of Acoustics Medals and Awards Lunch at Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham.

This was shortly followed by our One-Day Meeting on Artificial Intelligence for Acoustics, which was very well attended and opened a lot of interesting discussion.

Marc Holderied from the University of Bristol joined us in June to discuss Natural Acoustic Metamaterials in moth wings, which was fascinating.

In July, the LSBU MSC presented their final year projects, which included: Automated Sound Classification of Construction and Non-Construction Sound Events, by Samuel Spencer Toone; Effect of Face Coverings on Speech Intelligibility and Speech Transmission, by Mr. Rubén Vázquez Amos; Acoustics of a Choir Rehearsal Room by Vincent Tham.

In October, Ben West from Birmingham City University shared his 'Office Soundscape Assessment'.

We ended the year with our Institute of Acoustic London Branch – 50th Anniversary Celebration, which included a panel discussion looking back over the London branch's history, followed by a quiz, the social event held at the Slug and Lettuce in Aldgate in November.

Finally, in December, Dani Fiumicelli joined us to present on Low-Frequency Noise from Outdoor Concerts and Music Festivals: C Weighting as a Means of Management.

The committee and I would like to thank all the speakers who joined us over the year and LSBU and AECOM for hosting our various events.

The Chair would like to thank all committee members for giving up their time to assist in arranging these events, particularly Ben Southgate, who was instrumental in organising these events, particularly the one-day conference. We would also like to thank Linda Canty for all her efforts over the past years in advertising all our events and wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement.

Midlands Branch

The Midlands Branch held a total of six meetings in the year, four of which were hybrid in-person/online events, and two in-person only events. The events were as follows:

In March, Paul Doyle, Technical Advisor and Noise Lead at the Environment Agency's Air Quality Modelling & Assessment Unit, presented at Birmingham City University on noise at the Environment Agency, focusing on planning vs. permitting and the impact of new developments.

In April, AVA Consulting founders Roanan Ellis and Richard Crompton led a tour of their test facilities in Stratford-Upon-Avon, including four semi-anechoic chambers. They supplemented with a talk providing an insight into automotive noise and vibration testing. This was a popular in-person only event.

In May, Toby Lewis presented on his windfarm research for DEFRA at the University of Derby. This was conducted at a new venue for the University on the Markeaton campus and was followed by the AGM.

In July, Sam Williams (BBV Noise, Vibration, and Air Quality Lead), Mike Breslin (ANV Managing Director), and Kim Onjun (AECOM) conducted a joint presentation on the challenges of monitoring construction noise at scale for the HS2 route at BBV's headquarters in Coleshill.

In July, the Midlands Branch celebrated the IOA's 50th anniversary with an in-person, ticketed event. Ed Clarke presented on noise in motorsport at the Birmingham ARUP offices. To continue the theme, the event was rounded off with a trip to the nearby F1 Arcade for food, drinks, and some simulated racing!

In November we returned to the Markeaton Campus at the University of Derby, for presentations from their diploma students; Kimberley Meadows (Exploring Noise Exposure for Caregivers of Young Children in Domestic Environments), Daniel Butterworth (Investigating L_{A90} Variation, Together with Context Considerations for BS4142 Assessments) and Dorothy Poulter (A Review of the Impact of Driving Style on Vehicle Related Sound Resulting from Speed Cushions).

We sincerely thank our 2024 speakers for their informative presentations and support of the Midlands Branch.

This year, the Midlands Branch has tried to focus on finding a number of new venues across the Midlands to reach all members. We are pleased to have seen an uptick in numbers for in-person events and hope to continue this into 2025.

Thanks are also extended to the Midlands Branch committee members who make their contributions, often in their own time, and to our members for their ongoing support of the branch. The committee members for 2024 remained as per the 2023 annual update, with the addition of Matt Torjussen elected as Secretary. Looking forward to 2025, Izzy MacLachlan will be stepping down as ordinary member, with Ben West likely to join as a co-opted member to maintain our links with Birmingham City University. Fiona Rogerson will be taking on the role of Membership Secretary, with Kevin Howells and Mike Swanwick returning to the branch committee as co-opted members and Senior Member Representatives. Phil Hainsworth will continue as Chair.

Middle East Branch

The Middle East Branch has gone from strength to strength this year. The Chair of the committee passed from Safa Al Gburi to Harout Taghilion. The committee and members are grateful for all of Safa's efforts and achievements during her tenure, and thanks to Harout for taking on the role.

In July, Harout promoted a renewed vision and strategy for Branch members attending a successful meeting on "Closing the Gap between Acoustics and Façade Design" to consider.

In December, the Branch held its inaugural Branch awards and year-end gathering, marking the IOA's 50th anniversary. Again, this was a very successful event, and the Branch were delighted to host the Chair of the IOA, David Waddington. The attendees, both in person and online, heard from a number of case studies covering lessons learnt and insights gained across a range of topics, attracting attendees from across and beyond the Middle East geographic region.

David presented winner and highly commended awards to members/teams covering sustainability, innovation and engineering project of the year. Our thanks to Ali Aurangzeb for helping to facilitate this event alongside Harout.

North West Branch

The North West Branch was reformed in late 2023 after an extended period of inactivity. 2024 has seen the first full year of activity of the Branch since the reformation. The Committee members are: David Terry (Chair); Helen Sheldon (Secretary); Zachary Simcox (Early Careers Rep); George Mackenzie (Student Rep); David Waddington (IoA President); Hannah Jones; David Logan; James Woodcock; Marc Fuzellier; Jonathan Grant; Jameel Malik; Jo Webb; Giles Hines; Gethin Manuel, and Simone Graetzer.

Committee meetings were held via Teams on the following dates through 2024:

- 18 January 2024
- 21 February 2024
- 25 June 2024
- 14 August 2024
- 15 October 2024

Technical talks held throughout the year were as follows:

- 25 April 2024: '*Specifying Sustainably – Getting to Know EPDs*', Ecophon (Material Source)
- 8 October 2024: The Geoff Kerry Memorial Lecture '*National Noise Modelling System*', Defra + Salford University (Salford University)
- 21 November 2024: '*Latest Developments on UAS noise Impact: Effect of Ambient Sound and Number of Events*', Salford University (Arup)

NW Branch Social events were held on the following dates:

- 4 July 2024 – 50th Anniversary Celebration, E-Karting
- 11 September 2024 – IoA conference NW Branch drinks

The AGM was held on 21 November 2024 after the technical talk listed above. David Terry agreed to continue as Branch Chair for 2025, and Helen Sheldon agreed to continue as Secretary. The other Branch Committee members also remain the same.

The above activity represents a significant increase compared to previous years, and a highlight was the Geoff Kerry Memorial Lecture which was a well-attended half day event held at Salford University, with a series of technical talks relating to the new national noise modelling system. We would like to express our gratitude to all the Committee members and Guest Speakers who have given up their time, and to those who have provided venues for the talks and sponsored the drinks events.

We look forward to continuing the branch activities in 2025, with the first technical talk from Mason being scheduled for 27 February 2025.

Scottish Branch

This year saw a few changes on the Scottish Branch committee. We said goodbye to Ashley Leiper (SSE) and Lindsay McIntyre (KSG Acoustics), who stepped down after their 3-year term. We thank them both for their excellent contributions to consultations, meetings, and Careers Hive participation. Emily Tilbury (Metrica Consulting) and Elena Prokofieva (Edinburgh Napier

University) took the two free committee positions and threw themselves into their roles of organising technical and social events. Anne Budd (Chair), Mark Robertson (Treasurer), Martin Butterfield (Secretary) and Chris Steele all stood for re-election. He will remain on the committee for an additional 3-year term. In addition, we co-opted three members to the committee during the year. Early Careers Representative Anna Wood (Sandy Brown), renewables/energy sector specialist Peter Brooks (RES) and CPD-focused Tim Britton (RHDHV).

This means that Scottish Branch committee is at its full quota of Chair and nine committee members, plus three co-opted members. We are excited to have members from a wide range of acoustics in Scotland, especially a new early-careers representative. 2025 will see Zanyar Abdalrahman and Eleni Kontesidou come to the end of their first 3-year terms. We would be very interested to hear from anyone wishing to volunteer for participation on the committee or co-opted for a particular reason, such as having a special interest or work in re-wilding, live music, soundscapes, underwater, electroacoustics or bioacoustics.

2024 also brought the sad news that Andy Watson, a long-standing committee member, died in September after a long illness. Andy was a stalwart of Scottish Branch throughout his professional career in acoustics. It was particularly known for his expertise in motorsports noise assessment and control, as the IOA Chair of the Workplace Noise Advisory Committee and as the go-to person for CEL sound measurement Instrumentation. He also served for many years as Treasurer of Scottish Branch. Thank you to Andy for all his contributions over the years, and we extend our condolences to Fiona, his wife, who was also on the committee for many years herself.

Technical Programme & Social Events in 2024

Our technical programme has been excellent and very busy this year. IOA Scottish Branch organised several meetings and presentations and participated in collaborative lunch-and-learn seminars with Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government.

- **February 2024:** Early evening Hybrid event. “Passivhaus Lessons learned explaining the basics of Passivhaus, including issues around noise” by architect Matt Bridgestock, Sussed Sustainability a Passivhaus designer with over 15 years’ experience in designing and specifying low carbon and Passivhaus projects.

Followed by dinner at a local restaurant in Glasgow.

- **April 2024:** Early evening Hybrid event. “Estimating BS4142 Character Corrections at the Planning Stage” by Matt Torjussen is the Acoustics Lead at ANV Measurement Systems, a Chartered Engineer, and a member of the Institute of Acoustics.

Followed by a social meet-up in Glasgow.

- **June 2024:** Half-day hybrid event. Scottish Branch 50th anniversary event at Built Environment—Smarter Transformation (BE-ST) in Hamilton. Our five special guests, Alistair Somerville, Professor Murray Campbell, Professor Robin Mackenzie, Dick Bowdler, and Professor Robert Craik gave a fascinating summary of our acoustic history in Scotland (and beyond).

Our event sponsor, Tim Patzke of Pliteq UK Limited, followed with a talk on quantifying and reducing embodied carbon in the acoustic design of mass timber buildings.

Our third talk was by Professor Sean Smith of the University of Edinburgh, who explained the construction, energy, and infrastructure challenges we face to meet Scotland's commitments on sustainability and the role that acousticians have to play in this.

We completed the day with an in-person tour of the BE-ST factory, where we saw the future of Scottish housing. This included homegrown Scottish cross-laminated timber solutions, recycled bricks, Passivhaus construction methods, and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery systems.

Followed by a social meet-up in Glasgow.

- **June 2024:** In-person only event. INWED celebration. A group of acousticians from the Scottish Branch came together on International Women in Engineering Day to celebrate Dr Marion Ross (1903-1994) of the University of Edinburgh, and her contributions to Acoustics. We met outside at Marion Ross Road on the University of Edinburgh's King's Buildings Campus. We took a walk and talked about Marion and the history of acoustics at the University and in Scotland in general. We hope to have a further presentation sometime next year, focusing on Dr Ross.
- **June 2024:** Lunch time Virtual Only. Transport Scotland TNAP lunch & learn (Noise & Health) supported by Scottish Branch. "A journey from Noise into Soundscape", [Jack Harvie-Clark](#) of [Apex Acoustics](#), presented on the latest evidence and background on the [Soundscape](#) approach to noise management, including case studies, and thoughts on application for Scotland.
- **July 2024:** Lunch time Virtual Only. Transport Scotland TNAP lunch & learn (Noise & Health) supported by Scottish Branch. "Why is sound an important public health issue?", [Charlotte Clark](#), Professor of Environmental Epidemiology at St George's, University of London, presented the latest evidence and background on noise and health, including case studies, and thoughts on application for Scotland.
- **August 2024:** Lunch time Virtual Only. Transport Scotland TNAP lunch & learn (Noise & Health) supported by the Scottish Branch. Andy Park of Transport Scotland presented the latest background on the Scottish economy, the Transport Future, and the impact on noise and well-being.
- **September 2024:** Lunch time Virtual Only. Transport Scotland TNAP lunch & learn (Noise & Health) supported by Scottish Branch. [Reuben Peckham](#) Director and Principal Consultant, [24 Acoustics Ltd](#) and [Intelligent Instruments Ltd](#) presented the latest evidence and background on noise cameras, including case studies, and thoughts on application for Scotland.
- **October 2024:** Lunch time Hybrid Event. Scottish Branch Consultation meeting on Building Regulations "Determining the principles for a Scottish equivalent to the Passivhaus standard (Stage 1)".

- **October 2024:** Afternoon Hybrid event. Scottish Government Noise & Statutory Nuisance, Environmental Protection Team. Presentations by George Gibbs & Chris Youdale of Noise Consultants Ltd on the 4th round of Scottish Noise Mapping, covered the journey of creating the strategic noise maps, from the original aims and methodologies to the final outputs, including the national noise maps and exposure datasets. The project team also discussed ambitions for the broader applications, such as the role of the strategic noise maps in Noise Action Planning.
- **November 2024:** Early evening Hybrid event. “Biologically Inspired Acoustic Measurement Systems” by Dr Lara Diaz Garcia of Glasgow Strathclyde University Centre for Ultrasonic Engineering. The presentation gave us an introduction to bioacoustics engineering at Strathclyde, where Dr Garcia’s team studies nature’s way of enabling the precise detection of discrete frequencies, directivity, and weak signals and applies this knowledge to the development of new cutting-edge systems.
- **January 2025:** Afternoon Virtual only. “A Deeper dive into the proposals to update BS 8233” presentations & discussion to inform the upcoming consultation on proposed changes to BS 8233 led by Dr David Hiller, Chair of BS 8233 drafting committee, Jack Harvie-Clark, Founding Director at Apex Acoustics and Dr Benjamin Fenech, Noise Lead at UKHA.

The branch committee would like to extend a huge thanks to all our speakers this year and to the companies and venues that have supported us, including RES, WSP, Arup, RMP, BE-ST and Pliteq.

Consultations & Knowledge Sharing Activities in 2024

Throughout 2024, Scottish Branch committee members have been working to liaise with other related groups and organisations in Scotland, including the REHIS-organised Scottish Pollution Control Co-ordinating Committee (SPCCC), the Transport for Scotland Noise Inspection Panel, and the CPX development and BS committees. Members also attend various other IOA committees and have been available for attendance at the IOA Parliamentary Liaison Group (PLG).

The Scottish Branch has also contributed to a number of consultations and knowledge-sharing events and activities this year. Thanks particularly to Eleni Kontesidou, Cesar Bustos and Anne Budd of Scottish Branch Committee for contributing to the various groups and arranging IOA responses. These are:

- **Scottish Government Consultation on [Building Regulations: Determining the principles for a Scottish equivalent to the Passivhaus standard: Stage 1 consultation](#)**
This stage 1 consultation sought views on the form and approach a Scottish equivalent to the Passivhaus standard, implemented through building regulations, should adopt. It also looked for information on implementing the 2023 energy standards to inform the development of a stage 2 consultation in 2025, which will set out the details of proposed new standards or performance targets.
- **Noise Mapping.** The IOA Scottish Branch supported Transport Scotland in gathering industry feedback on the Round 4 noise maps.

- **Other matters included:**
 - Noise models for major corridors
 - Noise cameras
 - Noise research
 - TNAP 2024 to 2028
 - Lunch and Learn Series of Seminars
 - [Assessment of noise: Technical Advice Note \(TAN\)](#) update
 - [The Noise Insulation \(Scotland\) Regulations 1975](#) update
 - In vehicle data pilots
 - Route corridor assessment
 - CPX
 - Soundscape

STEM & Outreach Activities in 2024

In April 2024, Scottish Branch members attended the Edinburgh Science Family Extravaganza at the Edinburgh City Arts Centre. As part of the 2023 Edinburgh Science Festival, the IOA was allocated 30 complimentary tickets for members and children to attend the workshops, shows, and interactive activities for free as a thank you to our volunteers.

In November 2024, Scottish Branch members give up their time to volunteer at the Edinburgh Science Careers Hive over 6 days at the Museum of Scotland, working to inform and enthuse those young people attending to pick subjects in their National Qualifications (equivalent to GCSE level qualifications) which will allow them to continue into a STEM career if they wish and opening their eyes to the wide range of careers that might entail (including acoustics of course!). A big thank you to all who volunteered, especially to Emily Tilbury and Shenzhi Su, who spent their Saturday at the event disseminating their knowledge of sound, energy, AI and insulation to the general public.

The IOA STEM committee has once again committed to sponsoring the Edinburgh Science Careers Hive in 2025. We look forward to participating again this year and encourage as many members as possible to volunteer.

Southern Branch

The committee has had another great year, with a very busy programme of engaging events, including a mixture of virtual, hybrid, and in-person presentations.

In purely chronological order, we have heard from:

- Oliver Bewes, Head of Noise Assessment at HS2 Ltd, on 'HS2, managing the noise and vibration of Great Britain's new high-speed railway line' as an overview of the subject and introduction to a larger event planned later in the year for the IOA's 50th anniversary celebrations.
- Dani Fiumicelli of Vanguardia on 'Management of noise from outdoor events'.
- As part of the IOA's 50th anniversary celebrations, we organised a half-day event to delve into the details of noise and vibration challenges related to HS2. Chaired by Oliver Bewes, Head of Noise Assessment at HS2 Ltd, we welcomed a number of speakers talking about general management and challenges faced during the construction phase and predictions for the operational phase of the HS2 project. Being part of the 50th anniversary celebrations, the half-day event was staged in a

fabulous conference venue. It was treated accordingly as a celebratory event of noise and vibration assessment and management.

- Jack Harvie-Clark of Apex Acoustics, Peter Rogers of Sustainable Acoustics and Adam Thomas of ARUP on practical application of soundscapes techniques entitled 'Attention Acoustic Consultants: Unlock the Power of Soundscape in Your Practice!'
- Rebecca Hogg of BSRIA on 'Laboratory testing of HVAC products'. This was at BSRIA's facilities in Bracknell and included a tour of the acoustic testing facilities.
- Finnur Pind of Treble Technologies on 'Next generation room acoustic modelling using cloud-computing, BIM integration and wave-based simulations'.
- Finally, Bowers and Wilkins welcomed southern branch members for a tour of their factory facilities, a loudspeaker demo and related talks. This formed the Southern Branch Christmas event.

As always, we have strived to provide an accessible, diverse, and inclusive programme and feel confident that we have given members interesting, varied, and high-quality offerings.

South West Branch

2024 started with our online AGM in May. In June, we had the SW Chair, Jon Tofts, giving a hybrid live and online talk about the new Environment Agency's Method Implementation Document for BS 4142. This guidance clarifies the EA requirements for BS 4142 noise impact assessments. In November, we hosted our IOoA 50th Anniversary event at Clifton Suspension Bridge, exploring the echoes of their underground caverns. Jon also presented a short IOA 50th anniversary video, interviewing an IOA member for each of the five decades. You can watch the video by searching YouTube for 'IOA SW 50th'. We then finished the year with a Padel Tennis Christmas social event.

Welsh Branch

January 2024 - May 2024:

No details were handed over from the previous chair.

May 2024

Previous Chair, R. Pitt confirmed by vote with board she would stand down and nominated T. Jenkins to take over.

T. Jenkins took over; contact made with the board to arrange AGM for September onwards following 50th Anniversary.

June / July / August 2024

T. Jenkins is networking with local consultancies, enforcement bodies, and Environmental Health Officers to promote Technician Grade to EHOs who have achieved Certificate in Competency. To bridge the gap between consultancies and regulators and promote the 50th anniversary.

September 2024

50th Anniversary Event held at the Principality Stadium with talks from Nick Jenkins and Matthew Bovington (Natural Resource Wales) and Tomos Jenkins, introducing as interim Chair until an AGM is agreed. Good discussions around the collaboration between regulators and consultancies, well attended from all sides as well as Welsh Government representatives and the Chair of the Chartered Institute of Wales. Promoted future changes and consultation of guidance, including British Standards 8233 and the Guidance on Event Noise Control.

October / November 2024

Following the event's success, contact was made with other interested parties in membership and raising concerns related to the field of Acoustics.

Discussion with other interested parties, such as Stephen Turner, regarding future events in relation to the proposed Guidance on Event Noise Control.

December 2024

Consultation with the Welsh Government on the Implementing the Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024 to promote the importance of Acoustics in such projects was broadly supported. Still, suggestions on improvement were made regarding consultation from EHOs and reliance on expert opinion from Acousticians in decision-making.

Plans for 2024

Ratify T Jenkins as Chair at the pending AGM, due January 2025, date TBC.

Arrange an in-person meeting at a date TBC with the IOA, and suggest eight speakers.

Hold discussions with the Welsh Government on proposed changes to BS8233 on how it aligns (or otherwise) with the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024

Respond to BS8233 Consultation

Continue to promote events and membership amongst EHOs to attend events. Work closely with CIEH Chair Mark Elliot to bridge gaps between consultants and regulators.

Yorkshire and North East Branch

In 2024, the Yorkshire and North East Branch held several successful events, engaging members on key topics in acoustics.

The branch celebrated the IOA's 50th anniversary by hosting a significant conference titled, "Legacies of Sound: Past, Present and Future of Museums' Soundscapes." The event, organised by Rebecca Romeo Pitone and sponsored by Apex Acoustics, brought together a range of experts to explore the evolving role of sound within museum environments. The sessions covered the history of museum soundscapes, the protection of artefacts from vibration, the use of oral histories, acoustic modelling in visitor spaces, and the importance of sonic inclusion and accessibility.

In March, the branch collaborated with the Environmental Sound Group and the Sound, Noise and Health Group for a well-attended online meeting, 'How do we apply soundscape in practice?'. The session explored the practical application of soundscape principles in consultancy, moving beyond regulatory compliance to focus on stakeholder-led, perceptual approaches to acoustic design. Presentations were from Adam Thomas, Peter Rogers and Jack Harvie-Clark.

In June, the branch continued its focus on this theme with a session on "Developing a Soundscape Brief." This talk provided practical guidance for consultants on how to integrate a perceptual approach into project proposals. Using a variety of case studies, the presentation demonstrated how to identify opportunities to add value for clients by focusing on the human experience of sound, rather than purely on technical compliance, with presentations by Peter Rogers and Jack Harvie-Clark.

The branch also hosted a hugely successful lunchtime webinar in September on the proposed revisions to BS 8233. The event featured presentations from Dr David Hiller (Chair of the BS 8233 drafting committee), Jack Harvie-Clark, and Dr Benjamin Fenech. The session was exceptionally popular, hitting the IOA's Zoom capacity with 500 attendees, and provided members with a detailed overview of the significant updates, including the introduction of Sound Exposure Categories and new guidance on facade sound insulation and overheating.

Statistic and Information Tables

TABLE 1: Membership

Grade		2024	2023	2022	2021
Hon Fellow		31	33	35	34
Fellow		158	151	153	151
Member		1986	1967	1958	1911
Associate Member		716	739	741	770
Research Member		1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Affiliate		94	82	79	53
Technician Member		131	120	121	122
Student		243	213	240	295
Totals		3389	3305	3327	3336
Founding Key Sponsor		2	2	2	2
Key Sponsor		0	1	1	1
Sponsor		50	49	46	45
Institutional Subscriber		4	4	3	3

TABLE 2: Group membership

Group		2024	2023	2022	2021
Building Acoustics		1764	1758	1729	1712
Early Careers		561	525	484	466
Electroacoustics		565	555	544	537
Environmental Noise/sound		1929	1942	1943	1944
Measurement & Instrumentation		938	926	907	880
Musical Acoustics		652	639	623	604
Noise and Vibration Engineering		1434	1430	1405	1380
Physical Acoustics		474	467	451	430
Senior Members		136	135	131	129
Sound & Health		138	n/a	n/a	n/a
Speech & Hearing		447	434	415	398
Underwater Acoustics		380	365	351	341

TABLE 3: Branch membership

Branch		2024	2023	2022	2021
Central		286	274	274	276
Eastern		279	271	281	282
Irish		154	141	138	137
London		970	956	959	959
Midlands		446	442	424	441
North West		479	463	462	463
Overseas		305	300	294	293
Scottish		217	202	203	199
South West		325	320	322	323
Southern		562	550	553	563
Welsh		106	99	99	96
York and North East		275	262	254	258
Middle East		41	21	14	8

TABLE 4 Details of employment (interests)

Employment Category		2024	2023	2022	2021
Architectural Practice		479	476	471	467
Consultancy		2087	2085	2064	2075
Education		526	531	512	510
Expert Witness		366	366		
Industry/Commerce		672	663	658	674
Public Authority		324	332	350	365
Research & Development		790	787	761	757
Retired		81	84	95	97
Other		219	224	222	217