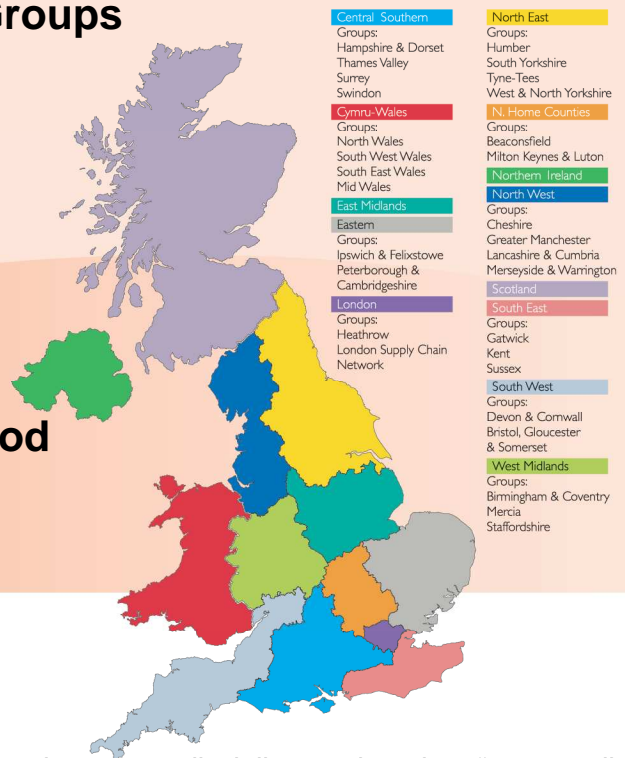


News from the Nations, Regions & Groups

CILT(UK) North West Region Lancashire Group

27th May 2010

Lancashire Group Visit to Fleetwood Nautical College



Lancashire Group members from many different logistics and transport disciplines enjoyed an “access all areas” tour of one of the UK’s leading nautical colleges. Fleetwood Nautical College has been on its current site since the late 1960’s and can boast some of the most up to date technical training equipment available to maritime students in the UK.

The evening started with a logistics careers advice session for a number of the cadets studying on site hosted by the North West Regional Officer Neil Caldwell FCILT, North West Regional Chairman Simon Reynish CMILT and Lancashire Group Chairman Lee Rossall MILT. A number of cadets were very interested in how the institute can help to support their career ambitions, particularly when the cadets look to “come ashore” later in their working lives. I hope that the Institute (and Lancashire Group in particular) enjoy an increase in new members from this drop in session.

The CILT delegates were treated to a traditional Fleetwood fish and chip supper and after dinner were brought together with some of the cadets studying at the college to watch a DVD presentation of the college and the educational services that it can offer. Our host, Jonathan Ward, who is an experienced seafarer who now uses his knowledge to develop and train the next generation of merchant seamen, gave a presentation on the history of the college and outlined some of its future aspirations and development plans. Fleetwood has its own indoor deep water pool which is used to train cadets and members of the offshore industry in survival techniques. The pool features a wave machine that can recreate the conditions that cadets could expect to experience at sea. The college also has mock helicopter cabins that are used for training cadets and workers essential survival techniques in the event that they are onboard a helicopter that ditches into the sea. Recently Prince William attended the college to undergo water based survival training as part of his training programme to become a search and rescue pilot with the RAF. The pool has also been used as a water prop in a number of television programmes such as “A Touch of Frost”, “Hollyoaks” and “Coronation Street”.

One of the highlights of the event was a demonstration of one of the college’s ships bridge simulators. This high tech equipment is used to train prospective deck officers in seamanship by sailing a number of different types of vessels in differing weather conditions. Where else could you sail into Sydney Harbour on a fast craft in brilliant sunshine and then find yourself on the River Mersey in control of a ferry in strong winds and rain? Only in Fleetwood!

We had two of the deck officer cadets assist our group in the simulator which added to the enjoyment of the experience, and I would like to thank Anya and Antony for their help and assistance (and their excellent seamanship!). Our thanks also go to Jonathan Ward for his kind hospitality and excellent presentations.