

TransportPlanning Society

Dining with the rich and famous

It has been a while since the last TPS annual dinner, but this highpoint on the transport planning calendar is set to return with something of a flourish on 16 March 2006. Madame Tussauds in London will provide the sumptuous setting for the three-course dinner – enjoyed in the company of waxwork versions of the rich and famous – as well as a breathtaking line-up of entertainment. The evening starts with a drinks reception and a Spirit of London tour in a mock cab and concludes with a trip through the Chamber of Horrors for those who have the stomach for it! Bluegrass band Buffalo Smoke will provide after-dinner musical entertainment and the bar will stay open until midnight to provide complimentary drinks.

TPS committee member and co-organiser of the event Colin Brader explained the thinking behind the dinner's move to the new setting. "The TPS membership and the society's role in the transport planning profession has

really started to grow in the last few years – and the annual dinner has also grown in a way that reflects that.

"On top of this we want to offer the opportunity for transport planners to meet in a convivial atmosphere in a location that will really provide a night to remember," he added. "The event is a little more expensive than usual, but I hope everyone will agree that it provides so much more".

For more details see the advert on this page.

Cash for members with new ideas

Are you a member of the TPS? Could you do something creative with £2,500? Then the TPS Leftfield Fund is for you. The society is offering three bursaries, each worth up to £2,500 to support original or even unconventional work that will promote the aims of the TPS and/or disseminate best practice or new thinking in transport planning. This might be in the form of a short film, a stand, an event or something completely different. The fund is open to TPS members of any age and complements the bursary scheme

that has already been in place for the last five years, providing support for the professional development of several young transport planners.

In 2006, the bursary scheme will continue, and five £500 bursaries will be on offer to assist young transport planners to produce a paper and associated presentation on a current transport planning topic, with the assistance of a mentor from the TPS. Bursary subjects include the impact of rising oil prices on transport planning and usage, and whether new high-speed railways in Britain are desirable. Alternative suggestions for topic titles are welcome.

The deadline for applications for both schemes is 30 January 2006. For more information look under 'activities' and then 'bursaries' on the TPS website – www.tps.org.uk. Non-members wishing to apply for the bursaries or the Leftfield Fund can do so by completing a TPS membership form and paying the subscription at the time of application.

Take on a student for summer 2006

TPS is once again calling for employers across the UK to host undergraduates for its highly regarded summer work experience scheme, which is now in its fourth year. The aim is to give students a taste of what a career in transport planning would be like – in a bid to encourage more of them into the profession, and address the ongoing national shortage of skilled transport planners.

Employers can also reap substantial rewards from offering summer placements, as the scheme will help raise the profile of their organisation or company in colleges and universities and so boost recruitment opportunities. Staff benefit from having an additional resource to support work on ad hoc projects as well as the chance to develop their management skills by overseeing the placement student.

If your organisation would like to host a placement student and register for the scheme please contact Andy Costain 020 7348 1975 / acostain@compuserve.com. The deadline for employers to register is 31 January 2006.

More students undertake Transport Masters

The number of students studying for a Masters in Transport at 11 UK universities increased once again, according to an annual census undertaken by the TPS. In this academic

year (2005/06) there are 350 full time equivalent Masters students – up 36 on the previous year.

"This year's findings demonstrate both the continuing demand for transport professionals and the impact of the Transport Planning Skills Initiative in raising the profile of the profession," said Martin Richards, who runs the census for the TPS and chairs the Universities Transport Partnership Employers' Forum. "They confirm that transport is seen as an appealing career."

Much of the increase was nevertheless down to an influx of students coming to the UK from overseas – and these now account for 47% of those studying for a Transport Masters. "A useful proportion of the overseas students do stay on in the UK to work – and so help fill the skills gap in transport planning," explained Martin. But, despite concerns over student debt, the number of UK students rose by eight, while the figure for those studying part time with employer support remained constant at 105 – which equates to nearly 250 individual people. "A significant number of the younger age professionals are being sponsored, and employers are clearly committed to supporting this sort of training," Martin concluded.

Events

8 February 2006

Transport Planning Society & Transport Planning Network.

Some inconsistencies in using a 60 year appraisal method for road schemes

ICE, 1 Great George St, London
Drinks reception at 6pm, event starts at 6.45pm.

Professor Phil Goodwin, Bridget Rosewell, consultant chief economist to the Greater London Assembly, and others debate the methodology for assessing highway projects, which is now focussed on a 60, rather than 30 year period. The event is free to TPS members, non-members £5.

Email: tps@ice.org.uk Tel: 020 7665 2229.

28 February 2006

Transport Planning Society AGM followed by

Transport and Accessibility Event
ICE, 1 Great George St, London
Evening, time and further details TBC.

16 March 2006

Transport Planning Society Annual Dinner

Madame Tussauds, Baker Street, London
7pm for 8pm, free bar until midnight.
Full details – see advert on this page.

For further information please contact the TPS at tps@ice.org.uk
Tel: 020 7665 2229.

TransportPlanning Society

A Society to facilitate, develop and promote best practice in transport planning and provide a focus for dialogue between all those engaged in it, whatever their background or other professional affiliation.

Fancy an evening of eating and drinking with 'A' list celebrities?

TPS ANNUAL DINNER 2006 at
MADAME TUSSAUDS
Baker Street, London ★
16th March 2006 - 7.00pm for 8.00pm

Tickets will include:

'Spirit of London' Ride upon arrival
Reception drinks at 'Blush'
Three course meal (Vegetarian option)
After Dinner Bluegrass Band - Buffalo Smoke
FREE UNLIMITED DRINKS
Dining with the rich and famous (in wax of course!)
Bar until 12:00am
Experience the 'Chamber of Horrors' upon leaving (optional!)

AFTER DINNER SPEAKER TO BE CONFIRMED
Dress: informal/lounge suit

TPS Members:	£80
Non Members:	£85
Corporate Tables (10 people)	£850

For booking please send details and cheque (payable to Transport Planning Society) to:

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