

# Welcome

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Summer edition of Elements, as we welcome the Summer, we recap on the last couple of months.

The team at Chemicals Northwest held a very successful networking session at CHEMUK in May. It was good to catch up with members and industry colleagues and listen to presentations from the sector over the course of the two day event. The event was a huge success with plans for growth for 2024, and we look forward to being part of the event next year. A full recap of CHEMUK 2023 can be found on page 28 & 29 of Elements.

We held our breakfast networking event on the 15th June with a full round up of presentations from the industry and attended by a diverse audience. Tom Ventre, Operations Director at Lakers lead into the event giving a brief introduction to Lakers and the services they offer. Tom also discussed industry challenges faced by Lakers with regards to recruitment and retention.

Operations Manager Neil Swinburn and Technical Manager Stuart Carroll from John F Hunt Regeneration talked about a project in Deeside, dismantling an active paper mill so it could be repurposed into Europe's largest cardboard packaging plant.

Knowledge Transfer Manager Jodie Kershaw introduced Yordas Insight, the training arm of Yordas Group, a leading international provider of scientific, environmental, human health, global regulatory and sustainability services.

Colleagues from the Growth Company - Ben Peace, Net Zero Consultant from the Growth Company discussed the net zero context and introduced various support that is available to businesses of all sizes.

Steven Gasser from the IChemE provided an insight to IChemE and the role the organisation can play in the support and development of chemical, process and biochemical technician and engineering communities.

At the time of going to press, the team at Chemicals Northwest were about to host the Regulation update round table event on the 20th June. With presentations from Dr Iain MacKinnon, Managing Director at Dr Knoell Consult Ltd, giving an update on UK REACH from a practical perspective. James Killerby, Managing Director of Hibiscus Plc providing an overview of the key changes to EU chemical labelling, proposed under the revised Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Chemicals (CLP) regulation and Silvia Segna, Senior Chemicals Policy Executive from the Chemical Industries Association giving an update on the CIA position and engagement with DEFRA on policy development.

If you would like to present at the next event or would like to run some new topical industry events, please get in touch.

We are delighted to announce the date for the Chemicals Northwest 2024 awards as the 21st March 2024, taking place at the Hilton Manchester Deansgate. Save the date in your diaries and keep an eye out for further information.

**Alex Abraitis** - Member Services and Events Manager

# About us...

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

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

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

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

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

