

10 mar 2026
knights hill, kings lynn
6.30pm - in person

connect.

CIAT EAST ANGLA REGION

Topics of conversation

ITEM 01 Welcome and hellos

Attendees: Graham Terry, AJ Fleet. Stephen Nixon, Simon Ward, Matthew Halmshaw, Jayne Thomas. Alan Halmshaw, Ian Gowler, Steve Maclean, David Gratton, Eumir Barreiros, Trveor Wiltshire, Chris Nichols, Ben Thomas, Kiru Balson, Ben Wright, Sanna, Tom Gray

ITEM 02 AGM Update – Cambridge is Coming Together!

Jane introduced herself as the new Network and Engagement Executive. She's working on getting regions more engaged and supporting the Aspiration strategy. Good to have someone dedicated to helping us out with this stuff.

Simon gave a full run-down of AGM preparations. Jesus College West Court is provisionally booked for accommodation - awaiting final finance committee sign-off before any money moves.

Things shaping up nicely:

- Fitzwilliam Museum partners tour - no entrance fee, Simon happy to lead it
- Wren Library at Trinity - librarian agreed to a Saturday morning tour. A donation from regional funds would be a kind gesture (needs finance committee agreement)
- Pembroke College dining hall - Saturday evening formal dinner, up to 67 covers. Deposit still being confirmed
- Everything within easy walking distance of each other
- Sponsorship looking positive - Matthew is setting up a meeting with James at Superstructures in Ipswich who is keen to help fund the dining event, possibly in full. Simon to join that meeting.

Friday Aspiration event still being considered. Terry looking into venue options at the Cambridge campus.

ITEM 03 Jayne Thomas – Aspiration & Engagement

Jayne ran through slides covering Aspiration strategy developments and shared regional membership data for the first time. Highlights:

- Aspiration team now has a proper working project plan with clear ownership across Jane, Adam, Will Watts and Sam Lambert
- An engagement calendar is being developed - will link directly to student recruitment activity
- Aspiration eligibility is under review (currently first 5 years in industry, may be extended)

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•Chair feedback positive on peer communication and CIAT support, but volunteer framework needs development

The member data snapshot was new and useful - showing chartered, associate, affiliate and student numbers by county. East Anglia is performing above benchmark on chartered %. The group noted this kind of data needs to be more regularly accessible.

New member welcome process flagged as needing a refresh - Jane is working on ensuring new joiners are immediately pointed to regional contacts and support. A short committee survey on education engagement is coming out soon - please fill it in when it arrives.

ITEM 04 President-Elect Candidate – Tom Gray

Tom Gray joined to introduce himself as a candidate for CIAT President-Elect, with the election in September. A bit of background:

- Chartered Architectural Technologist and director at a small three-person practice
- Took the part-time/apprenticeship route - HNC then degree whilst working. AT of the Year 2021, previously stood for president two years ago
- Tom's three pillars if elected: Promote, Nurture, and Serve.
- Key ambitions:
- An ambassador programme in every region/centre - public-facing people to promote CIAT, support associates heading toward chartered, and raise profile
- Mental health and wellbeing - a personal priority following his own experience
- Currently heads up the EDI (Equality, Diversity, Inclusivity) Task Force
- Free associate membership post-graduation - to remove the financial barrier and keep graduates in the CIAT ecosystem on the path to chartered

Kiru raised CIAT's visibility on net zero and sustainability -Tom pointed to the Climate Society task force (Matthew recently joined) and said he'd push for more CPD in this space, in line with what RIBA are doing.

On time commitment: Tom's fellow directors are fully supportive and he has already wound down other commitments to make room.

ITEM 05 Apprenticeship & Education Update

Graham gave an update on the new degree apprenticeship at ARU:

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- Module and course portfolios have been approved
- Course approval event: 6 May - three modes of entry being approved simultaneously: four-year degree apprenticeship, cert HE (level 4 technician exit), and four-year part-time
- September start on track - if approved 6 May, course can be promoted the very next day

Simon noted strong numbers at Cambridge Regional College: 34 students in year one for the extended diploma, with more applicants expected next year - likely three houses. A steady pipeline heading toward HNC/HND and then degree level. Simon and Graham to coordinate course mapping so students can transfer credits smoothly between CRC and ARU.

Question raised: can level 3 students (aged 16–17) join as student members? Tom and Emily believe this is already possible - Jane to confirm minimum age requirement with head office.

New CIAT banners: Graham has the new artwork, ~£70 each to print. Simon keen to get updated versions up at CRC to replace older ones.

Software discussion: Graham exploring Enscape alongside existing Vectorworks licences. Ben Wright flagged Twinmotion as a strong visualisation option. Three new immersive rooms being incorporated into course delivery.

ITEM 06 Admin & Other Bits

- Teams/OneDrive is live. All committee members have access, templates are on there
- Brand refresh well received by head office - happy for the region to continue in this direction
- Expenses: please submit within a month of any event (ideally straight away). A student member nearly missed payment from last year due to a delay over the financial year end. Send tonight's expenses to Stephen before Friday
- CPD coffee mornings: Stephen thinking about reviving these, possibly rebranded as a CPD session to drive attendance. Graham happy to host at ARU
- Emily needs Aspiration support at ARU and CRC - Graham has two students (Chloe Burnett, Matthew Neville) who have shown interest. Graham to share contact details
- Dual venue approach for meetings supported - using ARU alongside a northern venue (King's Lynn / Mealy area). Simon also offered Cambridge Regional College at no cost

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ITEM 09 Whos doing what

Matthew Halmshaw — Set up sponsorship meeting with Superstructures (James), loop in Simon. Confirm minimum CIAT membership age with head office.

Simon Ward — Join sponsorship meeting with Matthew. Coordinate course mapping with Graham. Offer CRC Cambridge as venue option.

Terry / Graham (ARU) — Update on Bravago and any other sponsorship. Look into Friday Aspiration event venue in Cambridge. Send student Aspiration contacts to Emily.

Jane Thomas — Confirm minimum membership age for under-18s. Progress new member welcome review. Send committee survey out soon.

Stephen Nixon — Collect tonight's expenses by Friday, send to head office in one email. Progress CPD coffee morning plans.

Emily Wakely — Follow up with Graham on student Aspiration contacts at ARU and CRC.

Next Connect: CIAT East Anglia

Apr 2026 — Microsoft Teams