



Humber Branch Committee

Martin Haworth

Please tell us a little about yourself?

My father worked in the Royal Air Force, so like many forces children I went off to boarding school, Brigg Grammar School, at the age of 11. When I left school at 18 I was unsure of what career I wanted to follow and drifted into a management trainee role at the local quarrying and lime business, Singleton Birch Limited. I am still working for Singleton Birch Limited 40 years on and I am currently Deputy CEO of the Group and Managing Director of our Energy Business. Most of my career has been about operation roles in quarrying and Lime production but in the last 7 years I have been busy developing our Energy business. We now own and operate 3 anaerobic digestion plants which we built, and they supply 100% of the electricity that our business requires. I have recently started work on a project in collaboration with an Oxford University Innovation business to build the worlds' first zero carbon lime kiln at our site in North Lincolnshire. It is projects like this that still get me excited after 40 years in business.

How did you find out about the Energy Institute membership and why should others consider joining?

I have been aware of the Energy Institute for quite some time. I was lucky enough to have an EI stalwart, David Hughes, working part time at Singleton Birch and also already knew David Talbot through CATCH. The EI is a great network for any professional in the energy business and also helps you to gain qualifications and professional recognition.

Why did you decide to accept and become a EI Humber branch committee member?

I was delighted to be asked to join the EI branch committee. I am keen to do anything I can to help the local branch to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing energy industry. As I am from a different career background to most of the other committee members I hope I can offer a different view and sometimes an alternative solution to issues. I have no background in the petrochemicals sector, all my energy business expertise has been in renewables, or as a user of energy in an energy intensive industry.

What challenges do you think the industry will face in the future?

The speed of change in the world has never been greater and the energy sector is at the forefront of this change. We are at the start (or is it the middle?), of a new industrial revolution. The industry has to transition to zero carbon, and this requires an entirely new mindset, a new industry, new infrastructure, and a new skillset. One of the big challenges is ensuring that the industry is seen as an attractive career for young professionals, and this is why I think the Young Professionals Network is such an important part of the Institute.

How do you think the Humber branch can support its local members?

The Humber branch needs to be a support and a network for the new industry. The Humber region is becoming a renewables industry cluster and decarbonisation cluster and it needs an EI Branch to support this transition. I believe that the Humber EI branch needs to become the leading EI branch in the UK, the branch that other areas look to for inspiration and I see no reason why it cannot achieve this.