

Events and Award Schemes

The QPA runs a series of events and award schemes. Although these focus on a broad range of issues from within the industry, they share a common theme of raising awareness of good industry practice both within the Association and to external stakeholders.

This is the programme of events organised by the Association, although additional seminars and workshops are also arranged.

Showcase & Restoration Awards

The QPA Showcase is the highest profile event of the year - an hour long show which keeps key stakeholders up to date with the industry's progress on major issues. The recurring theme that has dominated the event since its inception in 2001 has been sustainable development and the event is becoming an opportunity to highlight the QPA's achievements in this field.

The event is staged at a top London hotel and has been presented by a string of well-known news presenters, including George Alagiah, Peter Sissons, John Craven and, more recently, Fiona Bruce. The format includes both live and pre-recorded features which, in recent years have featured:

- Sustainability profile on two very different quarries.
- A public launch of the QPA's Virtual Quarry website.
- Fast-moving news roundups on sustainable development issues and good practice throughout the country.
- A popular feature that tied individual quarries to the construction projects that benefited from their materials.
- A string of interviews with high profile guests live on stage.

The Showcase also acts as one of the best opportunities for the QPA to gain media coverage during the year, much of which centres around the winners of the Restoration Awards. The scheme has existed in various forms for nearly 40 years and commends QPA member companies for excellence in quarry restoration. Standards are improving all the time, making the judges' job more difficult each year, but only one site can be awarded with the premier prize, the coveted Cooper-Heyman Cup.

The QPA is reliant on its members to submit projects, restoration sites, product innovations and good practice to form the Showcase's content. Each year the Association asks its member companies to consider submissions for the following year. Visit the website to find out more about the event - www.qpa.org.





Scottish Seminar, Welsh Lunch and Northern Ireland Showcase

The QPA's other national organisations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, while contributing and attending the annual QPA Showcase, also host events of their own to increase the Association's profile across the UK. There is an annual Welsh Lunch in the spring that brings together the industry and stakeholders that has featured well-known speakers such as Jonathan Porritt, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Sustainable Development Commission. Similarly, in Scotland, an annual seminar brings together the industry to consider performance in health and safety and the environment and is always well-attended. The QPA in Northern Ireland follows a similar format to the annual event in London, with a biennial Showcase event featuring news and the latest developments within the fields of good industry practice and sustainability.

The QPA/RTPI Planning Event

The long-standing annual planners' meeting is jointly organised by the QPA and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). It is the UK's largest minerals planning event, which aims to examine the changes in law and policy that are occurring within minerals planning. The conference offers presentations, exhibitions and opportunities for networking.

Health and Safety Best Practice Awards

Another annual fixture, the Health and Safety Best Practice Awards showcase the significant strides that the industry has taken and continues to take in the drive to reduce reportable injuries down to our target of zero. Competing over nine health and safety categories, it is not unusual for the judges to be faced with over 100 entries from across the QPA membership, all demonstrating innovation and best practice. The judging panel is formed from independent health and safety experts with the two major prizes being the Sir Frank Davies trophy for the most outstanding health and safety performance specifically for smaller companies and the John Crabbe Trophy being presented to the overall winning company.

The Awards scheme has historically produced best practice resources which are available throughout the membership, with a library of DVDs spanning back five years. In 2006, the Association introduced a new online resource at www.safequarry.com that makes it even easier for companies to find out about the good practice throughout the industry. Funded through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, the resource also offers incident alerts that allow managers to learn how to tackle health and safety incidents if they occur, with better understanding leading the way to prevention.

You can access the latest information and entry guidance on the Best Practice Awards at www.safequarry.com.

Annual Asphalt Conference/Course

The annual course has been running for over 30 years and always enjoys good participation from the industry. The technical events generally feature broad agendas allowing delegates to gain a full overview of the latest asphalt issues. Comprehensive bound lecture notes are provided for all, which feature a wealth of references leading the way to more detailed study.

The format of the course follows a series of lectures with discussion time, demonstrations, technical videos and site visits. Acknowledged specialists contribute lectures to the course and provide a blend of principles, research and practical applications. Delegate feedback from previous courses helps to steer subsequent course syllabi and content ensuring that the event fully meets the needs of its audience.

Keep up to date with the latest events and seminars with your copy of the monthly QPA Newsletter and the websites - www.qpa.org or <http://members.qpa.org>.