

# DEMOLITION ENGINEER

ISSUE 1



**Message from the President**

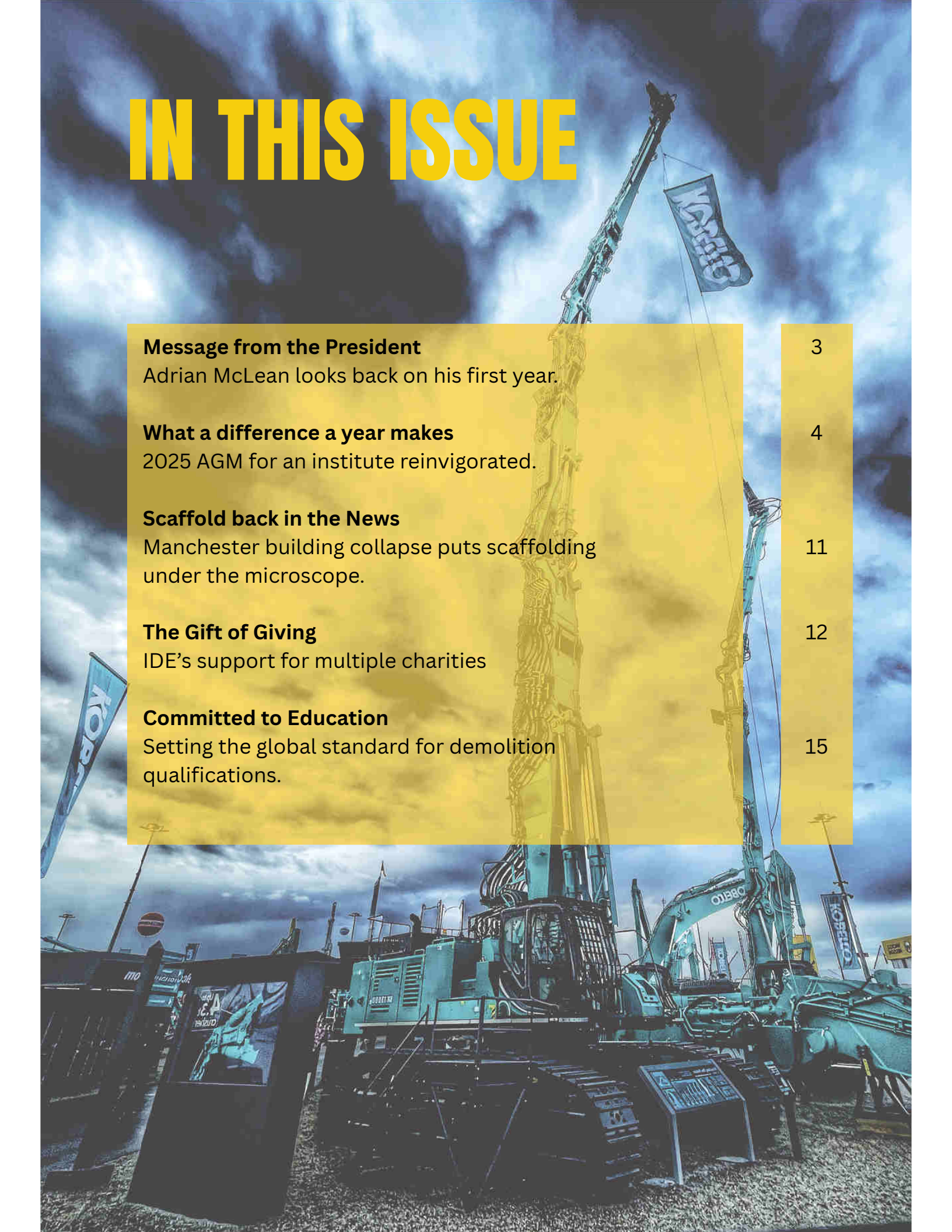


**A rip-roaring AGM**



**Scaffolding back in the news**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been away for a few years, but the Demolition Engineer is BACK in a new all-electronic format that will allow us to keep you all informed of the latest developments within the Institute and the wider demolition world. The return of the Demolition Engineer coincides with the Annual General Meeting which – coincidentally – marks the end of my first year in the role on IDE President.

That year has flown by, and it has proved to be every bit as challenging and rewarding as I anticipated.

Together with our various committees and the team at the Medway Innovation Studios, we have accomplished a lot. But we're not done yet.

It is pleasing to note that we are back on a sound economic footing, and I would like to thank all those that helped us through a challenging period.

We have also maintained our commitment to our educational efforts and our charitable donations, both of which are a cornerstone of my presidency.

Perhaps most pleasing of all, we are now seeing the green shoots of an IDE resurgence. The autumn seminar at One Great George Street was well-attended and well-received, and members are once again speaking of the Institute in enthusiastic terms.

In addition, we have welcomed a number of new members, honorary fellows and honorary members, swelling our ranks and cementing our place as a vital part of the global demolition sector. Our Annual General Meeting, our spring seminar at the Royal Armouries in Leeds, and our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event at The Belfry will only serve to underline reinvigoration of the IDE.

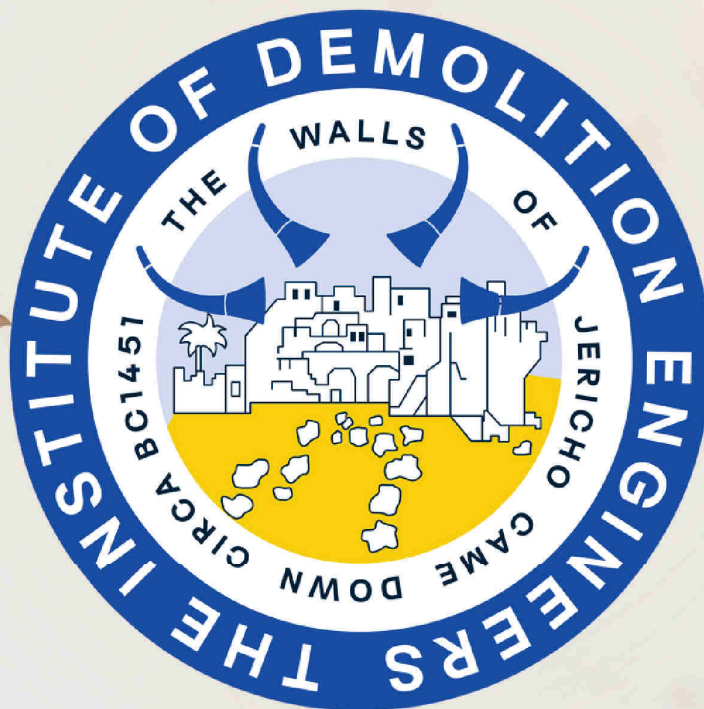
I am immensely proud of all that has been accomplished in a relatively short amount of time, and I am excited at the accomplishments yet to come. I hope to see you at The Royal Armouries in Leeds on 27 February 2026 for our Spring Seminar, and at the 50th anniversary ball at The Belfry on 19 September 2026, and I look forward to serving as your president for another 12 months.



*Adrian McLean  
IDE President*



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN THE INDUSTRY



# IDE REGIONAL MEETING

HOSTED BY: WORSLEY PLANT

## SAVE THE DATE

**20<sup>TH</sup>**  
**MAY 2026**

**ADDRESS:**

ROAD BETA, BROOKS LANE  
INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,  
MIDDLEWICH, CHESHIRE.  
CW10 0QF

**MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS WELCOME**

**This event will feature a great selection of speakers and  
a unique opportunity to network with colleagues**

# 12 MONTHS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

What a difference a year makes. When Adrian McLean addressed members for the first time in his capacity as the new president of the Institute of Demolition Engineers this time last year, his speech comprised cautious hopes, aims and ambitions.

Fast forward to this year's AGM, and the seeds of hope sown in 2024 are beginning to bloom in 2025.

McLean says a major achievement was the revitalisation of the Institute's financial health, with the organisation having "turned the ship" around. Crucially, membership has seen a strong resurgence, increasing by eight percent to a total of 426 members. This growth signals that the IDE is "in the right place" and is actively seeking to expand its reach to include nuclear and offshore professionals.

In a move praised by members, the IDE made charitable giving a priority, donating £30,000 to charity this past year. This marks the first time the organisation has performed so well in this area. The funds supported vital causes, including assisting Howard Button

with prostate cancer, Duncan Rudall's wife Sharon with cancer, and supporting Andy Lester's little girl. McLean noted that although the IDE is not the biggest organisation, its members are passionate about caring for others, and particularly their own.

Educational and professional development initiatives saw several advancements. A new education committee was formed, chaired by Steven McCann, which is actively lobbying Wolverhampton to restart the degree program next September. Furthermore, the foundation degree has been replaced by a new online diploma. This diploma is significant because it allows UK members to achieve the tech ID grade and enables international members to join the Institute.

During the course of the AGM, the IDE also welcomed its first official overseas members, and it is now on track to establish the IDE's first international chapter abroad. Communication within the Institute is also being modernised. The Demolition Engineer magazine has been relaunched as an electronic publication, with three or four

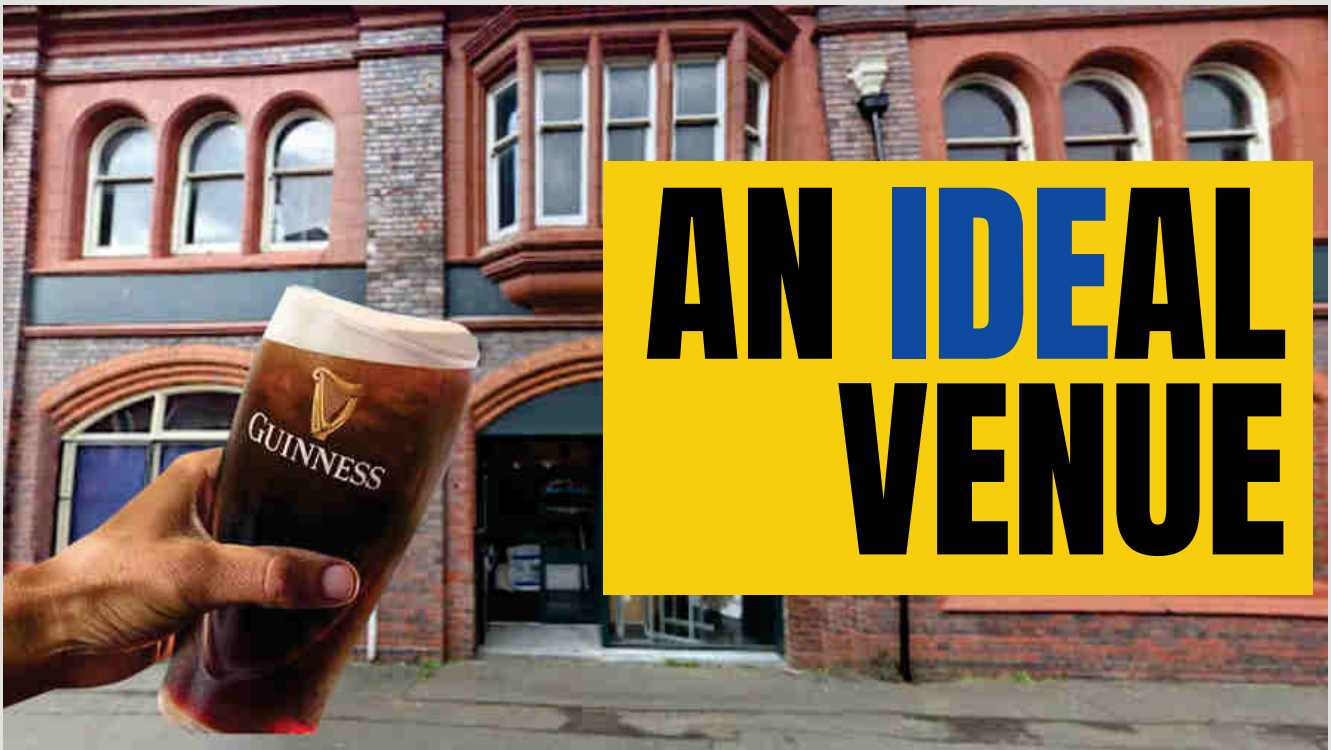
issues planned annually. A particularly successful initiative has been The Thursday Club, a monthly virtual meeting that has now featured 12 speakers and recently hosted its first international speaker.

One recent debate on high-reach scaffolding and demolition proved so vital that it lasted an hour and a half, prompting the IDE President to plan a proper presentation and open forum on the subject at the upcoming Leeds event early in the New Year.

Looking ahead, the IDE is preparing for its "big 50th" anniversary next year, planning a major event at the Belfry Hotel in September 2026. The organisation is also developing a 50-year anniversary book which will be published early in 2026.

All of that has been accomplished in just 12 months. Who knows what the next 12 months has in store?

One thing that is certain - There has never been a better time to be a member of the Institute of Demolition Engineers.



The 2024 annual general meeting of the Institute of Demolition Engineers took place at Nortons, an Irish bar in a less than salubrious area of the UK's second city. The venue was chosen by the then-incoming IDE president Adrian McLean to reflect his Irish heritage and his Birmingham roots. Even though that AGM was well attended, his choice of venue was not universally popular.

The IDE's AGM returned to Nortons in 2025, and it was about more than just Guinness and Irish songs sung with Brummie accents. The venue was a metaphor.

Nortons sits literally in the shadow of HS2. It is so close, in fact, that traffic to the venue is diverted around the HS2 construction works.

The UK's high speed rail project famously hit the proverbial and financial buffers back in 2023 when the incumbent prime minister Rishi Sunak pulled the plug amidst spiralling costs. Rather than linking London to Manchester and Leeds as had been planned originally,

HS2 was to terminate in Birmingham. Although Sunak's decision called into question the UK's ambition and its ability to deliver major infrastructure projects, it did succeed in resetting the HS2 debate. The project largely vanished

from newspaper front pages, leaving the working men and women to bring the project to fruition through hard work, dedication, and passion.

Like HS2, the Institute of Demolition Engineers had hit the financial buffers at around the same time.

Membership numbers were declining, the coffers were alarmingly bare, and an air of fatalism hung heavy over the IDE's future. But like HS2, the IDE has seen a reset. Like HS2, that reset has allowed the real work to recommence. And like HS2, the rediscovered enthusiasm is being delivered by working men and women.

As a venue, Nortons is a leveller; a place where company owners and demolition engineers are equal; where rivalries are left in the cloakroom; where everyone is united for a common cause. The history books will show that Adrian McLean was at the helm when the IDE's books were balanced; and when the Institute celebrated its 50th anniversary. What they won't show is the McLean took the IDE back to its roots.

Perhaps his greatest accomplishment, however, will be something entirely unspoken. Those in attendance at the latest AGM weren't there because rules required them to be. They were there because they wanted to be a part of it.

# NEW MEMBERS AND FELLOWS

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From left to right: Peter Edgerton AMIDE; James Fincham AMIDE, and Charlie Cheriton AMIDE



From left to right: Shaun Ingram MIDE; Luke Homer MIDE; and Jamie O'Donnell MIDE



From left to right: Jim Connell, Fellow; and Mark Jack, Fellow.



# COMING FULL CIRCLE

Cast your mind back to 2007. Former Prime Minister Tony Blair has just handed over the reins of power to his former deputy, Gordon Brown. In the US, George W Bush is president while Donald Trump is just a reality TV star. In the music charts, Rhianna is singing - weirdly - about her umbrella; while movie-goers are flocking to cinemas to catch the latest adventures of Harry Potter and Jason Bourne.

That same year, there was a meeting of the Institute of Demolition Engineers. During the meeting, the then IDE president David Ross Turner welcomed several new members into the Institute fold.

Among those to receive their scrolls that day were a young and fresh-faced Mark Bryan; and an equally young and fresh-faced Adrian McLean. Little did any of them realise that, within the next 12 months, the world would be plunged into a global recession.

A lot has happened in the 18 years since. The UK quit the European Union; and the world experienced a global pandemic.

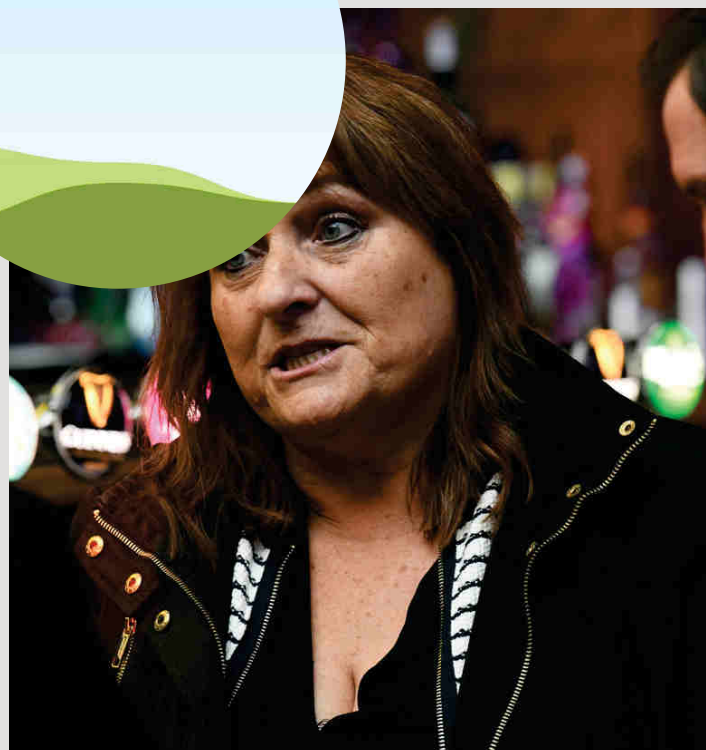
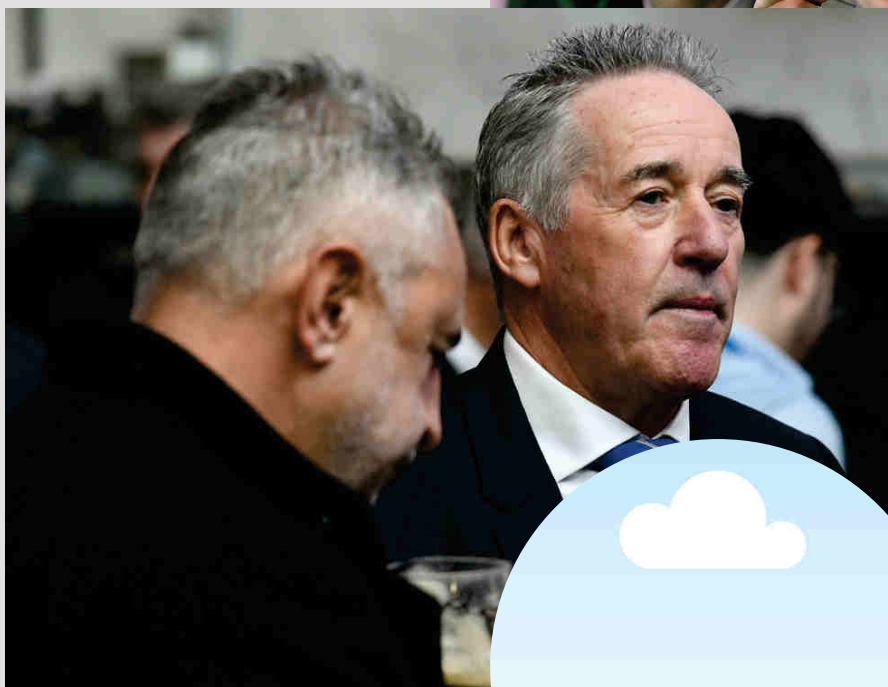
Tony Blair now haunts the corridors of power like a vengeful spectre. Boy wizard Harry Potter is now married with children. And that former reality TV star is now in the White House.

During that same period, Mark Bryan established his company - JBV Demolition - as one of the UK's finest exponents of petrochemical decommissioning. Adrian McLean's company - Armac - is renowned through the demolition world for its bridge demolition prowess; a skill that earned the company the nickname: The Bridge Busters. Since they were welcomed into the IDE, the careers of Mark Bryan and Adrian McLean have intertwined at industry conferences, seminars and events. Their journey culminated at the IDE AGM when their respective paths crossed once again. 18 years after he became a member of the IDE, Mark Bryan was awarded a Fellowship of the Institute in recognition of his contribution to the IDE and to the wider demolition industry. And there to hand him his fellowship trophy was Adrian McLean, who is now president of the Institute that he joined alongside Mark Bryan all those years ago.

# THE IDE AGM 2025 IN PICTURES



**AGM photos courtesy of Jim Mayer  
at Ginger Snaps Photography**



# SCAFFOLD BACK IN THE NEWS

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Members of the Institute and the wider demolition industry will be aware of the partial building collapse and resulting scaffold collapse that occurred in Manchester just a few days ago.

The important part is that no-one was injured, and the contractor involved – P.P. O'Connor acted with the transparency and professionalism we would expect.

However, the incident once again calls into question the often-troubled relationship between high reach demolition and scaffolding.

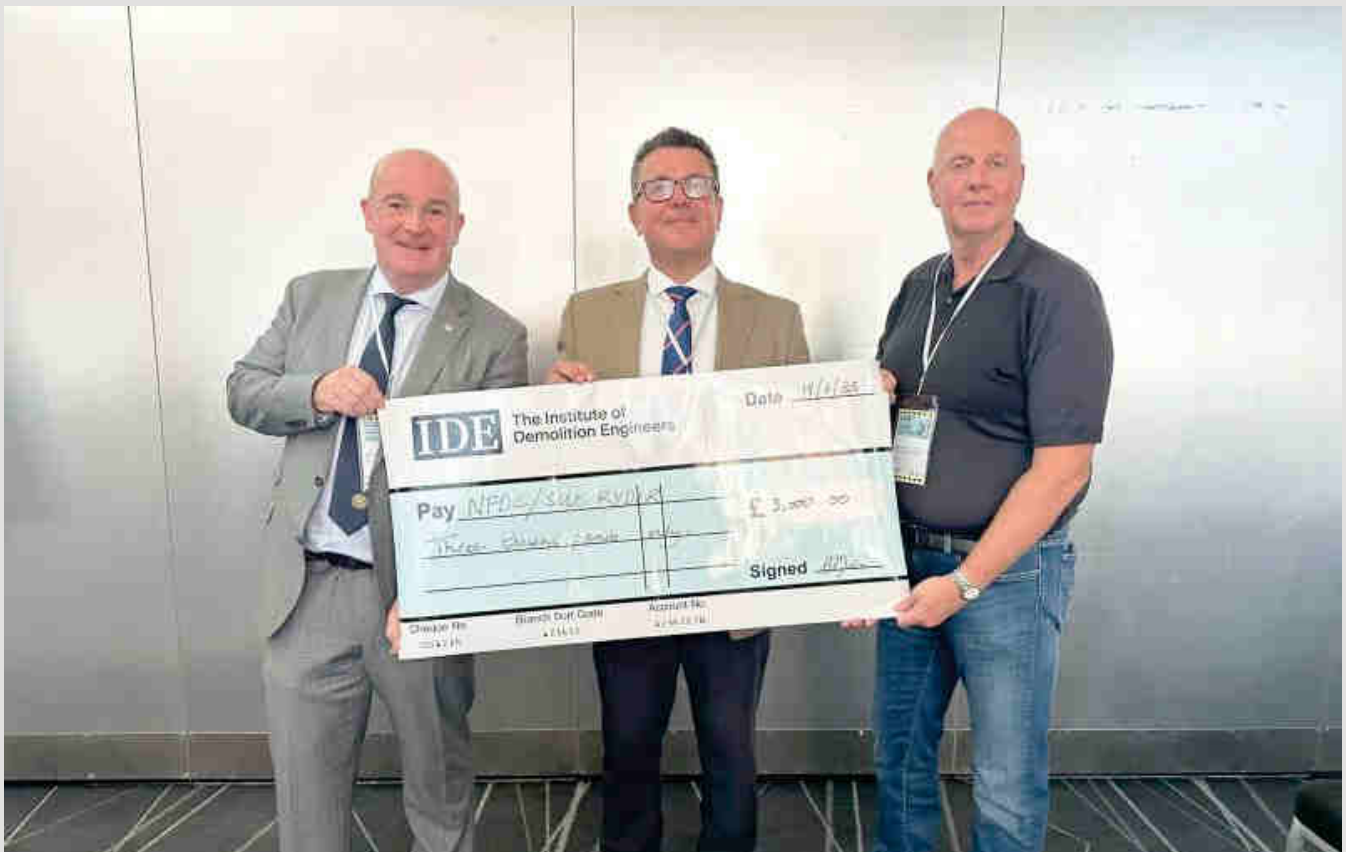
This is an issue about which former IDE President Richard Dolman has been forthright and vocal. It is also an issue that has come under intense scrutiny within the National Federation of Demolition Contractors and – more

recently – the Health and Safety Executive.

And yet, this latest incident in Manchester has once again put the demolition industry in the mainstream media for all the wrong reasons, and it has once again raised questions about high reach demolition methods that rely upon scaffold to contain debris.

As the industry's leading educational force, it is vital that the IDE continues to work on this important issue; to offer additional guidance over and above that provided elsewhere; and to raise awareness of a serious potential danger. Over the course of the past six years, the UK has experienced a spate of high-profile scaffold collapses.

As an industry, and as an Institute, we must commit to ensuring that there are no more.



An important but often unseen role of the Institute of Demolition Engineers is its support of various charities.

Adrian McLean kicked off his IDE presidency at last year's annual general meeting by donating £10,000 to the Standing Tall homelessness charity.

And those charitable donations have continued.

The IDE, together with the National Federation of Demolition Contractors, donated £10,000 to the Birmingham Hospice. The IDE also donated to Sue Ryder, the charity nominated by NFDC president Adrian Corrigan. There have been further donations of £3,000 to the Clair House Appeal, £1,000 to the Little Princess Trust, £1,500 to the

Torbay & South Devon NHS Charity, and £380 to Asthma and Lung UK.

"Supporting selected charities and community programmes has been a key role of the Institute since its formation," says IDE President, Adrian McLean. "As an industry and as an Institute, it is important that we give something back. It's a tradition I am honoured to uphold."

# THE GIFT OF GIVING



# *50<sup>th</sup> Gala Ball*

19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026

AT THE ICONIC BELFRY HOTEL AND SPA

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- IDE GOLF DAY
  - AGM
  - ENTERTAINMENT BY APOLLO (DJ, BAND, SAXOPHONIST)
  - RECEPTION DRINK
  - 3 COURSE GOURMET MEAL
  - BACON BUTTIES AT 11
  - CHARITY RAFFLE
  - CHARITY AUCTION WITH SPECTACULAR PRIZES
  - REDUCED PRICE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION WITH THE USE OF THE NEW £10M SPA AND GYM
- 

TICKETS £160 PP

TABLES OF TEN £1600

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE ON ENQUIRY

PARTNERS AND NON-MEMBERS NOT ONLY WELCOME BUT ENCOURAGED  
HOTEL GUESTS HAVE USE OF THE SPA AND LEISURE FACILITIES DURING THE DAY OF 19<sup>TH</sup>  
AND CHECKOUT AT 11 ON SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

BOOKINGS EMAIL [ISOBEL@IDE.ORG.UK](mailto:ISOBEL@IDE.ORG.UK) OR [MICHELLE@IDE.ORG.UK](mailto:MICHELLE@IDE.ORG.UK)

# MEMBERSHIP



A demolition engineer is a specialist in the safe and efficient dismantling of structures, and thereby paving the way for innovation and redevelopment. These professionals craft detailed demolition plans, ensure compliance with safety regulations, maximise sustainability, and collaborate with architects engineers and construction managers to clear the way for progress. With expertise in materials science, cutting-edge techniques, and environmental awareness,

demolition engineers are vital to the transformation of urban landscapes and supporting disaster recovery operations. Within the demolition engineering sphere, there are multiple educational routes that allow members to flourish and progress in the industry. Career Path IDE tech Engineer via a demolition diploma, gain experience and advance to leadership roles like project manager or director. Opportunities also exist to act as a consultant, or to launch your own

company.

## Requirements

- Education - Masters degree in demolition; bachelors degree in civil engineering or related fields.
- Experience - Certifications and hands-on work in construction/demolition (average 5 years).

Quite simply, demolition engineers are visionaries, driving progress by transforming outdated structures into opportunities for new beginnings. Take on a career that shapes the future.



## DIARY

As part of its commitment to serving members, the Institute of Demolition Engineers hosts a broad range of events, both on and offline. Please add these dates to your diaries:

- 27 February 2026 - Spring Seminar, Royal Armouries in Leeds
- 10 June 2026 - European Demolition Association seminar in Dublin
- 19 September 2026 - IDE 50th anniversary ball at The Belfry
- 20 November 2026 - Autumn Seminar, One Great George Street, London

In addition, our Thursday Club hosts a monthly webinar on the last Thursday of every month.

Furthermore, we are planning a visit to the headquarters of Kocurek Excavators in March 2026. Watch this space for further details.





# Demolition Engineer: Building the Future by Redefining the Past

Demolition Engineers are specialists in the safe, engineered deconstruction of structures - enabling regeneration, major infrastructure renewal, and sustainable redevelopment across the UK and internationally.

The profession combines engineering expertise, regulatory competence, and practical demolition management, making it a critical discipline in the built environment.

## Your Route Into the Profession

The primary pathway into demolition engineering is through the IDE-endorsed Demolition Diploma, delivered exclusively by PERSES Academy.

### The Demolition Diploma

The world's first and only comprehensive demolition-specific qualification, covering:

- ☐ Demolition management
- ☐ Structural awareness
- ☐ Hazardous materials
- ☐ Circular economy
- ☐ COMAH & DSEAR
- ☐ Decommissioning
- ☐ Explosive demolition
- ☐ and 50+ specialist lessons.



### Learn more or enrol:

[www.persesacademy.com](http://www.persesacademy.com)

Completion of the diploma provides eligibility to apply as TechIDE (UK) or Tech IDE (international, forming the recognised pathway toward full IDE membership.

### Future Academic Route

A new BSc/MSc in Demolition Engineering is currently underdevelopment with the University of Wolverhampton, with the programme expected to launch in September 2026.

This will offer a full academic pathway into advanced practice and research within the discipline.

## Join the Institute of Demolition Engineers (IDE)

Be part of the professional body shaping the future of demolition through competence, standards, and engineering excellence.

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