

from the chairmen



Rachel Halley, Chairman
MWM Faculty



Michael Doran, Chairman
Environment Faculty



Ruth Adams, Chairman
Geomatics Faculty



Rebecca Jam, Chairman
Rural Faculty



Simon Harrison, Chairman
P&D Faculty

Environment and Minerals & Waste Management

We are delighted to announce the merging, at board level only, of the Minerals and Waste Management Faculty and the Environment Faculty.

As many of you will remember, faculties replaced the former 'divisions', coming into existence through the Agenda for Change in 2000. The former Minerals Division then became the Minerals, Waste and Environmental Management Faculty. In 2001, much to the concern of faculty members, the environment element was established as a separate faculty in its own right.

Most MWM faculty members no longer carry out the pure minerals work they did historically, with many adapting to the demands of a changing market and broadening their skills to include environmental work. The sphere of the environmental surveyor is vast and forms a natural complement to the traditional minerals and waste work. As a result of this, the designations 'Chartered Minerals Surveyor' and 'Chartered Environmental Surveyor' will not be affected by the merger.

Details of the composition of the new board will be published shortly, but please be assured that it will be an excellent mix of motivated individuals who are committed to work, on a voluntary basis, for the benefit of the wider membership. As a board, we will continue to provide high-quality and relevant briefing papers and professional papers to the membership.

Both boards have been discussing what the merged board should be called. Members are encouraged to comment on both the name and the future work of the board via an online poll at www.rics.org/facultymerger

Michael Doran and Rachel Halley

Geomatics

Last year's floods left some 350,000 people in Gloucestershire without drinking water for 17 days, constituting the most serious loss of essential services since World War II. It really woke us up, in the UK, to the fact that floods aren't just something that happens to others; they can happen to anyone. At the time of writing, with many people still waiting to move back into their homes a year on, Somerset had just experienced the first (and hopefully last) flash floods of 2008.

Flood management provides the cover story for the *Land Journal* this month, with the Environment Agency's (EA) overview of flood risk (implemented in April for coastal flooding and to be extended inland later) promising a more co-ordinated approach.

The EA is one of the partners in the Atlantis Initiative, alongside the British Geological Survey, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, the

Met Office, Ordnance Survey and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office. This project will improve information on rivers and the terrain and will provide many related datasets for assessing the impacts of changes in flood frequencies, flood magnitudes and sea levels.

All of these inputs and more (such as the Marine Bill) continue to highlight the fact that, as a maritime nation, we cannot continue to ignore the impact urbanisation and global climate change is having on us all.

Ruth Adams

Rural

The Rural Faculty was very pleased to be a key stakeholder in the Tree Management for Public Safety conference, held in London at the end of May to debate critical issues. The intention is to develop an industry statement that is reasonable, non-defensive and defensible and to which all stakeholders can subscribe, and then to drive forward national policy. RICS will continue to be heavily involved as this develops.

The faculty is also pleased to advise members that it has released an RICS Briefing Paper for members on the recent important judgement in Northern Ireland on a conacre/agistment agreement which is likely to have implications for grazing and cropping licence arrangements in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This briefing paper is available to download from the RICS website.

Rebecca Jam

Planning & Development

The P&D Faculty has launched a major new piece of work: *Delivery strategies for masterplans and area action plans*, by Michael Beaman, a specialist in the creation and delivery of urban regeneration initiatives. With the in-depth paper comes a more succinct briefing paper specifically for chartered surveyors, focused on the limitations of many masterplans and the opportunities that await surveyors willing to step into the breach. Both documents are available to members. See page 14 for more information.

Meanwhile, the faculty has also produced two leaflets promoting the profession. *Why use a chartered P&D surveyor?* targets local authorities and councils, to make sure they are aware of the skills P&D surveyors bring to projects; *Why become a P&D surveyor?* is for students – those on RICS-accredited courses and others – outlining the scope of the profession and, ultimately, the benefits of chartered status and membership of RICS.

Simon Harrison