



# AGI Northern Group

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**Annual Meeting 2011**

**Leeds**

GIS Day - 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011

## Introduction

The AGI Northern Group held its annual meeting in Leeds on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The meeting coincided with 'GIS Day' and was hosted by ARUP. The seventeen people who attended the meeting are listed in Appendix 1.

We enjoyed a presentation by Roman Roth who provided an overview of the activities of G-Step.

We then held our annual meeting to review current activities and member participation.

**As current committee members have been in post for two years we also want to invite others to engage in the running of this vibrant group. Please email [gmorgan@spatialconsultants.com](mailto:gmorgan@spatialconsultants.com) to register your interest in participating in the running of the group; submissions by 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012. The new committee will be established at the first meeting of the new year.**

**We also agreed that we should conduct a survey of other members to solicit their feedback as well.**

We then adjourned to the pub to tackle the problems of the world.

### Stop Press

The AGI Annual Awards Dinner was held in London on 24<sup>th</sup> November and the North fared very well receiving three awards:

- Innovation on the Public Sector Award – Barrow Borough Council (Robin Gawlik and team)
- Innovation in the Private Sector Award – Manchester Geomatics (Bob Barr and team)
- Director's Award Graham Morgan of Spatial Consultants Ltd  
(for work with the AGI Northern Group – Thanks to the whole team)

## Annual Meeting

As Chairman, Graham Morgan provided an overview of the group and the activities of the last two years. The group has provided a regional forum for AGI members in the north of England, based around the mission and objectives of the AGI as a whole. Our focus has been:

Monthly events programme around the northern region

Annual conference (held in York this year)

Outreach to engage with northern universities and other professional bodies

- AGI council and policy making through local council member Ross Carter
  - Professional development and CGeog(GIS) certification support (work in progress)
- Community development through networking and our online forums

Attendance at our events has grown over the last couple of years. Figure 1 illustrates where members are located and also where we have held recent events. Membership of online forums has also grown pretty steadily.

The current committee members are:

Chair: Graham Morgan, Spatial Consultants  
[gmorgan@spatialconsultants.com](mailto:gmorgan@spatialconsultants.com)

Membership: Peter Wightman, GMPTE  
[gjs@pmkw.co.uk](mailto:gjs@pmkw.co.uk)

Web/Comms Coord: Mike Cottrill, Sellafield Ltd  
[mike.cottrill@sellafieldsites.com](mailto:mike.cottrill@sellafieldsites.com)

Event Coord: John Marchant, Skilstream  
[john.marchant@skilstream.com](mailto:john.marchant@skilstream.com)

Conference Coord: Stuart Mitchell, Geodigital  
[stuart@geodigital.biz](mailto:stuart@geodigital.biz)

CPD Coord: Mike Shankster, Environment Agency  
[michael.shankster@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:michael.shankster@environment-agency.gov.uk)

SIG Champion: Ross Carter, ARUP  
[Ross.Carter@arup.com](mailto:Ross.Carter@arup.com)

Ross Carter has been our SIG Champion on the AGI – Thanks Ross. He did not stand for re-election this time around.

Other potential new committee posts include:

- Local Coordinators e.g. county coordinators?  
To help arrange groups travelling together or meeting for geobeers locally.
- Outreach Coordinator  
To foster connections and collaboration with other professional groups
- Sponsors Coordinator  
To encourage organisations to support our activities for mutual benefit
- Corporate members Coordinator  
To develop corporate member and help them make the most of their membership

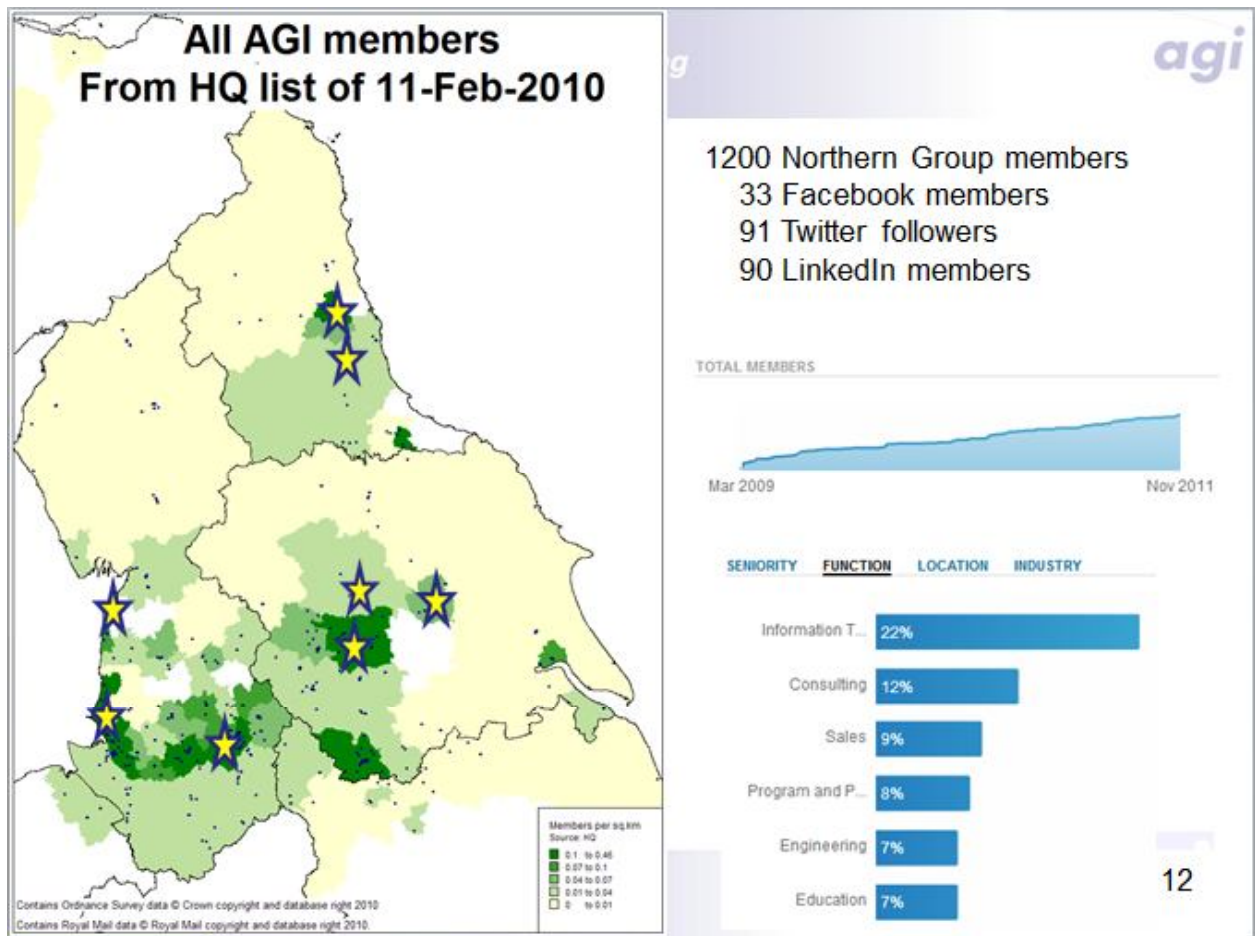


Figure 1 Group membership and venues

We held two breakout sessions to discuss the reasons that people joined the AGI and to identify areas where the Northern Group could provide benefit through the collaboration our its members.

## Break out Session

### What do we want from AGI-NG?

#### Flipchart 1:

- List of member skills and experience, to help find suppliers;
- List of corporate members;



Figure 2 – Group 1 breaking out the ideas

**Flipchart 2:**

- How many members said they wanted X:
- 8/8: Networking
- 7/8: Free seminars
- 5/8: Education /learning
- 5/8: Social
- 4/8: CPD
- 1/8: Jobs
- 0/8: Being part of a professional organisation

**What is working well?**

**Flipchart 1:**

The variety and the frequency of meetings;  
 Not having to travel to London for \_evening\_ meetings.

**Flipchart 2:**

Each member gave scores in the range 0 (Rubbish) to 3 (Awesome):  
 avg 2.8, range 2-3: Education / learning  
 avg 2.6, range 2-3: Networking  
 avg 2.4, range 2-3: Free seminars  
 avg 2.0, range 1-3: Social

avg 1.2, range 0.5-2: CPD  
avg 1.0 (one vote): Jobs  
no opinions given: Profesional organisation

Other verbal comments:  
The locations and variety of locations of meetings.

### What could be improved or added?

#### Flipchart 1:

Help with PhD projects, and [finding] jobs;  
Advertise members' jobs, projects, student topics, news at meetings;  
Can corporate members give more:  
- use of buildings (ties in with listing corporate members);  
- internships?  
Grow turnout using teleconferencing, putting video and slides on web.

#### Flipchart 2:

Better awareness for students of what AGI-NG can offer them;  
An award for the best student paper in the region;  
Work with RGS's geographical ambassadors in visiting schools/univs;  
Target corporate members to understand who is/isn't attending.

Other verbal comments:

To engage students, visit them + say why to attend (e.g. CPD, jobs);  
Advertise who the corporate members are so employees can come along;  
Understand and represent female members (committee is all male!);  
Include the £25 CPD fee within the corporate membership package;  
Hold another OpenStreetMap party.  
Promote the *\_benefits\_* of CPD and CGeog schemes to members + employers.

### Other comments and feedback

*Leeds City Council are willing to host a December meeting. Their offices are centrally located, so this might be a good venue.*

*Members' preferred start time for meetings depends on whether the employer will sponsor the time out of the office. However, we are constrained by venue availability and opening hours.*

*A first-time attendee commented to me afterwards that:*

*\* The November venue (Arup) was quite some way out from the centre of Leeds, and therefore less convenient / attractive than the town centre (they were travelling on foot);*

*\* They were unable to find the October venue (Natural England) as the advertised directions were insufficient to find the right building.*

*[Perhaps we could get each venue/host to stick a pin in Google Maps' aerial photography for us, to remove all doubt?]*

*It was clear that the monthly meetings are our strength. As this is in our control, I think that is where we should continue to focus. Maybe we could select the topics we want to cover then search for*

*presenters who can do that? Also instead of finding venues and then having to change times to fit because of possible room charges, should we fix the day, date, and time of all next years and then find venues and presenters that will work to those times?*

*However, I think we can maybe improve the way we communicate and promote these events. I feel they may get buried in the mass of AGI comms. We need a way to stand out. We could e-mail the data base ourselves but then there is the resource issues and the issue of keeping records up to date.*

*We also need an membership form that people can complete and sign on the day. Asking them to email AGI or go on line later gives them the chance to avoid or forget*