



## Subs Forum Newsletter

### Annual General Meeting

The next Subsidence Forum AGM will be held on Thursday 12 May 2016 at the Building Research Establishment, Watford.

Members were encouraged to attend the day as the day would provide members with updates since the last AGM and the activities the Forum had undertaken.

Guest Speakers will follow the official business of the day. These included:

Basement Impact Assessments – a rapidly evolving market'

Keith Gabriel (Gabriel GeoConsulting Ltd) MSc DIC CGeol FGS UK  
Registered Ground Engineering Adviser

"House of Horrors , correct insurances are paramount"

Mark Richardson (MPW Insurance Brokers Ltd) Dip CII

The presentations would be made available to members post meeting on the Forum website



### Special points of interest:

- > Membership
- > Dates for the Diary
- > Special interest Group Updates
- > Training Day 2016

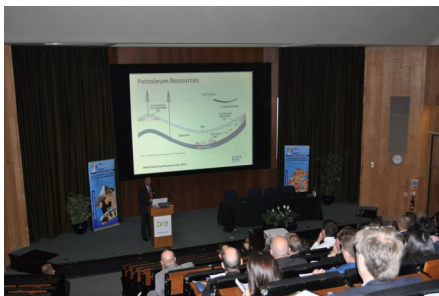
### Training Day 2016

The next Forum training day will be held on 20 October 2016 at the BRE, Watford.

The same format as 2015 will be adopted with voting buttons being utilized once again.

The programme for the day will be available soon , confirmed topics include:

- Root Barrier Splits
- Japanese Knotweed
- Legal Aspects



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## Dissertation Prize 2016



The Subsidence Forum will offer a cash prize of **£500** for the best undergraduate, final year dissertation for 2016. The subject matter must be related to subsidence but it does not necessarily have to be restricted to technical aspects; it may encompass wider issues, such as climate change, social and/or financial impact on

communities be they rural or urban and the wider environmental implications.

Heads of Department of Engineering in UK Universities have been approached and invited to participate. They will be asked to submit their highest rated dissertation. Each Department of Engineering will be restricted to one entry, obviously the highest marked.

## Insurers Initiative Scheme

***How can we raise the level of engagement? Perhaps the low profile of subsidence contributes to this with flood and fire taking precedence.***

The Forum has consistently tried to attract and encourage the participation of Insurers into the Forum. An active recruitment campaign by the Executive has resulted in some limited take-up.

We value the participa-

tion of insurance companies but it has been difficult to engage with them either at AGMs or Training Days.

The Executive are continuing to work on this initiative with a number of insurers being identified and contact

with regards to membership.

Any members that know of any insurers they feel should be involved in the forum should notify the Forum secretariat.

## Banner Advertising

As part of our ongoing initiative to raise the profile of our industry and the Forum we are offering banner advertising, at very reasonable rates, to members on the website which link directly to their home pages. Our website averages 3000 vis-

its per month but would attract many more visitors if it was the "go to page" for information about all aspects of subsidence. To do this it needs more input from members whether its industry updates, technical issues, newsletters or

Met Office updates.

The use of the website dovetails conveniently with our Twitter pages and LinkedIn Group which the Forum uses to promote activities and Training Days. It's also there for members to utilise for their own announcements.

## Special interest Groups

The Special Groups are split into four categories are cover the following:

### CUSTOMER FOCUS

The group aims to:

- Provide guidance on FSA requirements and TCF as applied to subsidence
- Compile and distribute useful notes and guidelines on customer service matters that will assist members
- Be a focal point for customer issues

### TRAINING & EDUCATION

This group focuses on the Forum training day and other educational matters

### CURRENT ISSUES

This group focuses on current issues within the industry

### TREE ROOT CLAIMS LIAISON GROUP

This Group has been set up to encourage and promote greater liaison between all sectors involved in the Forum, specifically in relation to tree root related subsidence.

## ASUC Annual General Meeting & Awards

Following the success of the AGM and Awards dinner in 2015 at the Little Ship Club, London, ASUC will once again adopt the same format with the AGM in the morning followed by lunch and awards.

The awards will be pre-

sented for Defects insurance Guarantee, Basement Insurance Guarantee, Members Contribution award

The awards will be presented by a celebrity guest speaker (TBC)

The venue will be the

Brewery, London.

Members are encouraged to attend and invites to bring any guests they feel may benefit from the day.

Full details will be available soon at

[www.asuc.org.uk](http://www.asuc.org.uk)



## The Subsidence Handbook

The 4TH edition of the Subsidence Handbook provides an excellent practical guide to subsidence in domestic property, which draws together key information from each of the disciplines and presents them in a format which is easy to use and understand. The

book guides the reader through the various stages of a subsidence claim in a logical manner, initially giving an outline of what subsidence heave and landslip is and the way to spot them. This is followed by defects which are commonly confused with subsidence

heave and landslip. Throughout the book a “model house” has been used to illustrate the key stages of a subsidence claim. The house is an inter-war semi-detached property familiar in towns across the country.



## Dates For The Diary

### Subsidence Forum Meeting dates

|                        |              |              |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Executive Meeting      | 12 May       | BRE, Watford |
| Annual General Meeting | 12 May       | BRE, Watford |
| Executive Meeting      | 15 September | BRE, Watford |
| Training Day           | 20 October   | BRE, Watford |



### ASUC Event Dates

|                        |             |                       |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| General Meeting        | 26 May      | The Oxfordshire Hotel |
| Annual General Meeting | 11 November | The Brewery, London   |

## The Forum for Subsidence Matters for Homeowners, authorities, Insurers, Repairers, Professionals

Different industry sectors across subsidence recognise that there are fundamental issues that are common to all and a constructive way forward is to share understanding. Working together and jointly solving problems, advancing standards and practice and enhancing the effectiveness and profile of the industry is to the benefit of us all.

The Forum is open to any organisation or individual involved with the insured subsidence risk. Full details of aims and objectives, how the Forum works, member companies and current activity can be found on this site. The aim is to expand the website to provide industry news, links and knowledge.

Subsidence Forum  
Kingsley House  
Ganders Business Park  
Bordon  
Hampshire GU34 9LU

Phone: 01420 471623

E-mail:  
admin@subsidenceforum.org



[www.subsidenceforum.org](http://www.subsidenceforum.org)

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LinkedIn

