



October 4th-6th 2018

Dear Delegate,

Thank you for booking a place at the 50th IMI conference.

We are sending this email to provide you with some preparatory information and hope that it is helpful. Please do get in touch with the conference secretary Amy Lake or myself if you are unsure about any aspect of it.

We will be celebrating 50 years of IMI and hope that delegates old and new will come together at this special meeting and a warm welcome is assured.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to Harrogate.

Carol Fleming, Conference Chairman and Amy Lake, Conference Secretary

conference@imi.org.uk

Welcome

You can be assured of a Yorkshire welcome when you join us. Conference is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends old and new and to learn what colleagues are doing in other parts of the country.

But if this conference is your first - or you don't know anyone then please make yourselves known to one of the conference team and they will do their best to look after you and introduce you.

Your booking

If you have received this email then your booking was successfully made on-line via our booking system. Please check it carefully to ensure that you have included all necessary elements including any additional B&B.

Where you have been funded to attend, all payments must be received by IMI prior to the start of conference. Organisational finance systems are often slow so please chase your payment to ensure that this has happened before conference.

Location

Our annual conference in 2018 will take place in the lovely Spa town of Harrogate in North Yorkshire at the Old Swan Hotel. Here is the link to Google maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/dVY3ZwQyLJK2>

Train: By rail Harrogate is just 3hrs from London in the south and just over 3hrs from Edinburgh in the north.

Air: Leeds/Bradford Airport 14 miles
Manchester Airport 72 miles
Teesside Airport 52 miles

Rail: Harrogate railway station is less than a mile from the hotel and provides an excellent service via York or Leeds. It is a very walkable distance from the hotel and should take about 15mins although if you have luggage you may prefer to take a taxi. There is a large taxi rank over the road from the station and the cost of the fare should be £5 or £6.

National Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950

Driving: The SAT NAV code for the old Swan Hotel is: HG1 2SR

From the south:

M1 to A1 to Wetherby, then exit at junction 45 onto A661 to Harrogate.

Follow signs to Ripon and town centre.

Drive down Parliament Street, straight across the traffic lights at the bottom, and up Ripon Road.

After approximately 150 yards, turn left into Swan Road.

From the North

A1 to A61 signed for Ripon and Thirsk.

Follow signs to Ripon.

Follow signs to Harrogate, through Ripley and Killinghall.

Take 2nd exit off roundabout onto Ripon Road.

After approx. 1 mile, turn right into Swan Road.

From the West

M62 to A1 to Wetherby, then exit onto A661 to Harrogate.

Follow signs to Ripon and town centre. Drive down Parliament Street, straight across the traffic lights at the bottom, and up Ripon Road. After approximately 150 yards, turn left into Swan Road.

The Old Swan Hotel

The Old Swan is one of the most famous hotels in Harrogate, with a history going back nearly 200 years. Surrounded by lovely lawns and gardens, it's just a short walk from the town centre and it combines Victorian splendour with modern practicality. Guests can now enjoy contemporary-styled bedrooms, the famous glass-ceilinged Wedgwood Restaurant or newly refurbished Swan Lounge and Bar. With several reception rooms, and ample complimentary parking, the Old Swan is the perfect location for our conference and we hope to take over the whole hotel. All accommodation features TV with Freeview and room service is available throughout the hotel. You will be able to check into your room anytime after 2pm. Here is the link to the hotel's website:

<https://www.classiclodges.co.uk/our-hotels/the-old-swan/>

Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi is available in designated areas throughout the hotel and in all meeting rooms.

Car Parking

There is complimentary parking on site with 4 designated disabled spaces. The parking is regulated by Harrogate Borough Council and if you wish to park for the duration of the conference you must display a valid permit. Permits can be collected from the hotel reception on the day of arrival. All parking is subject to availability and operates on a first come first served basis.

Conference Registration

Conference Registration will be open early each morning until early evening on Thursday (4th), Friday (5th) and Saturday (6th).

If you arrive outside of the opening time then please ask the hotel reception to contact one of the conference team who will be happy to assist.

You will need to wear your name badge for the duration of the conference please in order to access catering.

Programme

The conference team have been working hard to provide a conference meeting that has something for everyone. You will be issued with a detailed programme when you register at the conference reception but below is the basic structure of the event.

Thursday 4th October

The conference reception will open early and after checking into the hotel, you should register to obtain your conference pack.

The conference will be officially opened at 10.30am with the Keynote address.

Three plenary sessions for 'Photography & Video', Art & Graphics' and Ophthalmic Imaging will run concurrently until the lunch break at 12.20pm.

Following lunch the 'New Voices' session will take place followed by further concurrent plenary sessions in each of the three disciplines until 6pm.

The AGM will take place at 6.15pm followed by dinner in the main hotel restaurant.

An informal social activity is being planned for the evening or alternatively you can catch up with colleagues in the hotel bar.

Friday 5th October

The whole of Friday is given over to an extensive trade exhibition throughout the hotel and a number of practical workshops. These have been timed to enable you to move across the three streams and you will need to book these in advance of the conference. We are in the process of setting up on-line booking of these so that you can plan your day so do visit the IMI website to find the links when this goes live in the next couple of weeks.

Lunch will be taken in the trade exhibition area and we will enjoy a taste of Yorkshire afternoon tea around 4.30pm. This will sustain you during the drone masterclass which will begin at 5pm so that we can take advantage of flying in daylight!

We will all come together again for dinner in the hotel restaurant after which you are free to relax and socialise.

Saturday 6th October

Saturday morning will be a mixture of plenary sessions and workshops for each discipline and these will be detailed in your programme.

Lunch will take place in the hotel restaurant.

The afternoon session will take place in the Garden Room when all three disciplines come together to look back over 50 years of IMI.

The last presentation will be very much a look forward to the next 50 years and will be followed by the official close of conference around 4.15pm.

Banquet

The conference will culminate with a sumptuous banquet where we will honour each of the IMI Award recipients and celebrate IMI's birthday. This is an opportunity to dress up a little, and catch-up with friends old and new. As the invitation to the very first IMI banquet in 1968 stated "*Black tie, lounge suit or national dress please!*"

The event will begin at 6pm with the official conference group photograph followed by a drinks reception. Dinner will be followed by a number of awards presentations and then dancing until late with the Dark Horse Ceilidh Band.

Sunday 7th October

For those of you who stayed over after the banquet, hotel check-out time is 11 am.

We look forward to seeing you.

The 2018 Conference Planning Team