

TCUK 2018: trepidation to elation

Learn how to become one of next year's presenters



Communicator

The Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators
Winter 2018

Enthuse others about your role
as a technical communicator

Improve the accessibility of
your online output



Apply user experience
principles to your work

Read a review of Adobe
RoboHelp 2019

Mike Austin Award 2018

For services to the ISTC, **Linda Robins** accepted this award at TCUK.

When Carol Leahy our President phoned to say I was to receive the Mike Austin Award I was truly overwhelmed. It is a real honour to receive this recognition - but I can I honestly say it is I who have gained so much from my ISTC activities.

For many years, I have been the recipient of good advice and expert guidance from ISTC members. There are many routes to our profession - this gives good opportunities but it can mean the career path is not obvious. The generosity of members in sharing their knowledge and experience to help on this path has always impressed me.

I was encouraged to join Council 12 years ago, by Marian Newell (then editor of *Communicator*) after some regular involvement with the journal. And, I was supported by Gavin Ireland, President at that time. I felt I had gained sufficient experience as editor, author, manager and occasional trainer to start giving something back to the ISTC - without having a clear idea of what my contribution could be.



Linda Robins receiving the award from Alison Peck, Past President

I needn't have worried - opportunities soon came my way! I was made to feel useful straight away and was soon involved in the membership group, from which developed the introduction of the junior member mentoring scheme; I was also co-opted onto the judging panel for the UK TC awards - and

have continued with this role each year - which has given me exposure to some wonderful examples of technical communication. I also look after the resources for members - always striving to improve our offering here.

There are so many exciting developments in technical communication and through the ISTC I am able to make use of these in my professional life. I can't imagine being a professional communicator without the umbrella of the ISTC. I will continue to strive to pass on what I can to our members, and to grow our organisation. **C**



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and occasional trainer.

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Cake to celebrate!

Birthday celebrations for the ISTC and *Communicator* were accompanied by cake at TCUK 2018 as **Katherine Judge** explains.

The year 2018 marked the ISTC turning 70 and *Communicator* turning 50.

These are great achievements, for both the Institute and the quarterly journal.

At the annual TCUK 2018 conference in September, the ISTC and *Communicator* were celebrated with cake!

Before the cakes were cut, I gave a speech about *Communicator*. Here are extracts from the speech.

"As you may have heard Communicator is 50!! What a milestone!

It's such a great achievement and it's a privilege to be the editor of this journal.

The journal could not exist without the support of the numerous dedicated contributors, past and present. The copyeditors and proofreaders continue to work voluntarily and have to be praised.

Communicator has been built on a strong foundation. It goes from strength to strength to bring you relevant inspirational articles accompanied by the latest trends.

The Autumn 2018 supplement has given us all the opportunity to reflect on the past. The rate of change in technology has been huge over the years but the fundamentals of writing clear accessible documentation remain the same.

There will always be change but how will things change for us? Only time will tell.

Please raise your glass to the future of Communicator and the future of technical communication."



The ISTC cake was cut by Elinor Kapp who is the daughter of Reginald Kapp the Founder President of the ISTC, and I cut the *Communicator* cake. **C**

Katherine Judge FISTC

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