



# InfoPlus+

Monthly newsletter from the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators

June 2023

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The ISTC is the largest UK body representing scientific and technical communicators. If you are involved in technical writing, technical illustration, or communicating technical information in other ways, it's the professional association that can support your career. Interested in membership? Find out more here.

This free newsletter is emailed to about 1500 people. As well as ISTC news, *InfoPlus* contains listings and articles of general interest to the profession. Subscribe here.

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## ISTC News

# UK Technical Communication Awards

*Communicating excellence*

## UK Technical Communication Awards 2023

*Linda Robins FISTC, President*

The entries are coming now! **Final reminder** – no apologies for repeating this – that the closing date for UKTC Awards 2023 entries is **30 June 2023**.

There are some rules to follow, so take a quick look at

them before you start nominating. Then [fill out the entry form](#) to nominate yourself, your team or someone else. **Go on, you and your team deserve it!**

If you need any help with your online submission, contact us at [istc@istc.org.uk](mailto:istc@istc.org.uk).

## TCUK23

TCUK is back, live and in person, for 2023. With our signature mix of workshops, presentations, networking, and community, we look forward to welcoming you on **26-27 September 2023**, at [voco® St. John's Hotel](#), Solihull UK.

## Keynote speaker announcement

TCUK23 is honoured to welcome Relly Annett-Baker as a keynote speaker! Relly's energy and expertise are sure to leave you feeling inspired and ready to do your best work. She is a specialist in content strategy of many years and currently UX Content Strategy Manager at Google. Her talks have a reputation for being both informative and uplifting. Come and join us in reconnecting with our professional community and purpose.

## Discounted tickets on sale now

Early bird tickets for TCUK23 are [now available to book](#), so grab these while you can!



If you're an ISTC Member you can save up to a further £150, so if you're not a member yet, now's a [great time to join](#).

## Ticket options and prices

Our All-inclusive ticket gets you access to the whole conference. Attend both days, with bed & breakfast at the venue for the night between, refreshments and lunches both days, and our fabulous celebration dinner with entertainment and the UK Tech Comm Awards show.

Our Single day ticket offers you the chance to get a bite-sized version of the conference in just one day, with lunch and refreshments included.

The Celebration dinner ticket gets you an evening of great food, entertainment and the UK Tech Comm Awards ceremony on the evening of Tuesday 26 September. This makes a great add-on option for those attending just for one day.

Want to know more? [Visit the website](#) for more conference details and booking options.

Ticket	Standard early bird price	ISTC member early bird price
All-inclusive	£800	£650 (save £150)
Single day	£475	£375 (save £100)
Celebration dinner and awards show	£80	£80

Please note availability is limited and our early bird offer finishes at 4pm on 23 June, so [book your tickets now with our early bird booking form](#).



## Call for papers still open

If you like the idea of attending TCUK23 as a speaker this year, then you're in luck as we're still accepting [proposal submissions](#) until 2 June 2023.

We're open to applications from first-time and experienced speakers, on a wide-range of topics. If you would like some ideas or advice, check out the [TCUK website](#) for guidance and suggestions.

Past speakers and workshop leaders tell us they found the atmosphere relaxed and supportive, and they were pleased with how eager delegates were to connect with them after speaking.

If you need more of a reason, then don't forget that if your session proposal is accepted, you, or the lead speaker for group-led sessions, receive free entrance to both days of the conference.

### Call for sponsors

We're looking for sponsors for TCUK23 at all levels. Especially this year we are offering more active engagement with our delegates. You can get full details of the options from the TCUK team directly at [tcuk@istc.org.uk](mailto:tcuk@istc.org.uk). **Important note:** As in previous years, we welcome private sponsors; we will list you in the programme with gratitude for your support.



### ISTC Meets in June

Due to a last minute substitution, please check the website for the latest information about June's ISTC Meets.

<https://istc.org.uk/events/istc-meets>.

Our monthly webinar series continues with a variety of sessions aimed at being accessible and appropriate for the wide ranging scope of technical communications. If you haven't checked these out yet, or cannot make a session live, don't worry - they are all available for free on the ISTC website at the link above.

If you can spare say one hour, once a month, please consider helping our current volunteer, Rachel Johnston, to ensure that these fantastic webinars continue. Perhaps you'd be happy doing some video editing, or simply introducing the speaker on the day. Learn how good it feels to be a part of something created for the community and giving something back to the profession. If you would like to find out more, contact us at [meets@istc.org.uk](mailto:meets@istc.org.uk).

## Did you know you could advertise in this space?



■ Reach an engaged, specialist audience of content professionals!

■ Join MadCap, 3di and many others who advertise in this e-newsletter!

■ Ideal for product releases, news, courses/events, brand awareness, and recruitment!

Contact [istc@istc.org.uk](mailto:istc@istc.org.uk) for further details!

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## ISTC Council and Volunteering

Linda Robins FISTC, President

### Background

We run adverts from time to time inviting ISTC members to consider volunteering for projects or regular activities. These can be for Council members or volunteers reporting to Council. We haven't told our members lately what this entails. We are keen to increase the numbers on Council to spread the load so no one has sole responsibility for an area. This can work very well in sharing ideas and ensuring that at busy times professionally and personally a Council member can be sure of the support of others with ISTC tasks.

### Organisation

To give a better idea of how you can be involved it makes sense to tell you how the ISTC Council is organised. There are Function areas and Content areas. These are arranged as follows:

#### Function areas

- ▶ President
- ▶ Treasurer
- ▶ Membership
- ▶ Marketing
- ▶ International
- ▶ Administration

### Content areas

- ▶ Resources (including books)
- ▶ Communicator
- ▶ TCUK
- ▶ Professional Development and Recognition (including Education, mentoring and Awards)
- ▶ Careers and student outreach
- ▶ Community (including Social Media)

The ISTC Council agrees priorities for the calendar year and these are arranged in and reported against the appropriate area. In successive issues of *InfoPlus*, I will include details of the responsibilities and activities of these areas. These will include specific projects as well as regular activities.

## ISTC Social Media

### ISTC on LinkedIn

There are ISTC groups on LinkedIn for ISTC members which include:

- Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/1858546](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/1858546)

#### England

- Cambridge Technical Communicators  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/1805651](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/1805651)
- ISTC Midlands Area Group  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/4835591](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/4835591)
- Thames Valley Area Group  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/4805266](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/4805266)
- ISTC Yorkshire Area Group for Communication Professionals  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/4662452](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/4662452)

#### Scotland

- Technical Writers (East Scotland ISTC)  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/13536907](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/13536907)

#### Ireland

- Irish Technical Writers – An ISTC Area Group  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/3369559](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/3369559)



### ISTC on Facebook

Our main Facebook page is at [www.facebook.com/ISTC.org.uk](http://www.facebook.com/ISTC.org.uk)

® You can join the ISTC Community group at [www.facebook.com/groups/490570891153888](http://www.facebook.com/groups/490570891153888) for discussion with fellow professionals.

The TCUK Facebook page is at [www.facebook.com/techcommuk/](http://www.facebook.com/techcommuk/)

### ISTC on Twitter

Follow us on Twitter at [@ISTC\\_org](https://twitter.com/ISTC_org) for everything ISTC, and specifically, [@TCUK\\_conf](https://twitter.com/TCUK_conf) for everything to do with our annual conference TCUK.

### ISTC on Instagram

If you use Instagram, you can follow us there too [www.instagram.com/istc\\_org/](https://www.instagram.com/istc_org/).

### ISTC on YouTube

You can subscribe to our videos at <https://www.youtube.com/user/istctechcomm>.





## ISTC Local Area Groups

The ISTC groups offer opportunities for technical communicators to network and share knowledge and expertise. They are open to everyone (you don't need to be an ISTC member) and are free to attend. The groups meet at intervals during the year and hold talks, peer discussions, demonstrations and social evenings. Joining a group is an excellent way to meet like-minded people in your area and get to know fellow specialists.

### Current ISTC groups

Name	Leader	Email
Cambridge	Deb Stevens	cambridge_areagroup@istc.org.uk
Midlands	James Bartley	midlands_areagroup@istc.org.uk
Thames Valley	Darren Mitcham	thamesvalley_areagroup@istc.org.uk
East of Scotland	Holli Hamilton	eastscotland_areagroup@istc.org.uk
Yorkshire	Dee Vincent-Day	yorkshire_areagroup@istc.org.uk

Contact the group leader if you want to attend one of the groups. Want to set up a new group? Contact Tom Dumic, our Area Groups Manager at [areagroupsmanager@istc.org.uk](mailto:areagroupsmanager@istc.org.uk).

## Training courses

### Armada



### June 2023

#### 7-8 Introduction to Adobe After Effects

Teaches all the key skills needed to use the leading professional software for motion graphics, video compositing and visual effects. Used across all forms of video and screen-based media, After Effects offers a powerful set of tools to deliver stunning visual results. 10% discount for ISTC members (coupon code ISTC10). £345 + VAT. Instructor led, live online course £395 + VAT. In-class at our Bromsgrove training centre [www.armada.co.uk/course/ae](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/ae).

#### 7-8 Introduction to Adobe InDesign

Provides a comprehensive introduction to the powerful capabilities of InDesign's most popular features. 10% discount for ISTC members (coupon code ISTC10). £295 + VAT. Live online participation £345 + VAT. In-class at Reading training centre [www.armada.co.uk/course/id](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/id).

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...June 2023

**12-13 Introduction to Adobe Illustrator**

Learn how to create and edit vector graphics quickly and effectively, in the leading application for vector graphics.

10% discount for ISTC members (coupon code ISTC10).

£245 + VAT. Live online participation  
£345 + VAT. In-class at Bromsgrove training centre

[www.armada.co.uk/course/ai](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/ai).

**19-20 Introduction to Adobe InDesign**

Provides a comprehensive introduction to the powerful capabilities of InDesign's most popular features.

10% discount for ISTC members (coupon code ISTC10).

£295 + VAT. Live online participation  
£345 + VAT. In-class at Bromsgrove training centre

[www.armada.co.uk/course/id](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/id).

**21-22 Introduction to Adobe After Effects**

Teaches all the key skills needed to use the leading professional software for motion graphics, video compositing and visual effects.

Used across all forms of video and screen-based media, After Effects offers a powerful set of tools to deliver stunning visual results.

10% discount for ISTC members (coupon code ISTC10).

£345 + VAT. Instructor led, live online course

£395 + VAT. In-class at our Bristol training centre

[www.armada.co.uk/course/ae](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/ae).

**21-22 Introduction to Adobe Photoshop**

Learn how to create and edit images using the de facto standard in the graphics industry. Techniques covered include colour correction, working with layers, compositing images and preparing images for use on the Web.

10% discount for ISTC members

(coupon code ISTC10).

£295 + VAT. Instructor led, live online course

£345 + VAT. In-class at Bromsgrove training centre

[www.armada.co.uk/course/ps](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/ps).

**26-27 Introduction to Adobe After Effects**

Teaches all the key skills needed to use the leading professional software for motion graphics, video compositing and visual effects.

Used across all forms of video and screen-based media, After Effects offers a powerful set of tools to deliver stunning visual results.

10% discount for ISTC members (coupon code ISTC10).

£345 + VAT. Instructor led, live online course

£395 + VAT. In-class at our Reading training centre

[www.armada.co.uk/course/ae](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/ae).

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### 29-30 Introduction to Adobe Illustrator

Learn how to create and edit vector graphics quickly and effectively, in the leading application for vector graphics.

10% discount for ISTC members (coupon code ISTC10).

£245 + VAT. Live online participation  
£345 + VAT. In-class at Sheffield training centre

[www.armada.co.uk/course/ai](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/ai).

Follow us: [@ArmadaTraining](https://twitter.com/ArmadaTraining)

## Cherryleaf

ACCREDITED  
TRAINING  
COURSE



Technical Author/Technical Writer/  
technical writing e-learning course

<https://www.cherryleaf.com/training/technical-author-basicinduction-training-course/>.

Learn to write like a professional technical communicator. This

course teaches you the fundamentals of technical writing, and helps you understand your role as a Technical Author (or similar position).

This technical communication course is accredited by the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators.

### New two course bundles

We offer five bundle options that contain two courses at a discounted price:

- [Technical Writing & Screenshots Course Bundle](#)
- [Technical Writing & UI Text Course Bundle](#)
- [Technical Writing & User Onboarding Course Bundle](#)
- [Technical Writing & Copywriting Course Bundle](#)

## ESTON Training

Technical/Commercial Authorship (Former ISTC Syllabus Parts 1 & 2):  
<http://www.estontrg.com/technicalcommercial-authorship/>. A £50 discount is offered to ISTC members for this course.

**Simplified English:**

<http://www.estontrg.com/english-language-courses/>.

**Standard Generalised Mark-up Language (SGML):**

<http://www.estontrg.com/standard-generalised-mark-language-sgml-course/>.

**Editing and Publishing Magazines:**

<http://www.estontrg.com/editing-publishing-magazine-course/>.

**Report Writing:**

<http://www.estontrg.com/report-writing-course/>.

**Business English:**

<http://www.estontrg.com/business-english-course/>.



## Firehead

### An Introduction to Content Operations

<https://firehead-training.net/course/an-introduction-to-content-operations>.

### Creating user onboarding content

<https://firehead-training.net/course/creating-user-onboarding-content>.

### Creating Screenshots and Images for User Guides

<https://firehead-training.net/course/creating-screenshots-and-images-for-user-guides>.

### DITA concepts

<https://firehead-training.net/course/dita-concepts>.

### Introduction to Content Design

<https://firehead-training.net/course/content-design>.

### Specifications for Technical Communicators

<https://firehead-training.net/course/specifications-for-technical-communicators>.

### Fundamentals of modern technical communication

<https://firehead-training.net/course/technical-communication-fundamentals-1>.

## MadCap Software

For details of the latest MadCap Software training schedule (both on-site and online) visit: [www.madcapsoftware.com/services/training/](http://www.madcapsoftware.com/services/training/).

## Free technical writing courses

*Some free technical writing courses submitted by Mike Mee*

<https://developers.google.com/tech-writing/overview>.

<https://www.udemy.com/course/technical-writing-a-quick-start-to-software-documentation/>.

<https://github.com/wise4rmgod/TechnicalWriterResources>.

<https://iimskills.com/a-guide-on-technical-writing-and-technical-writing-training/>.

<https://iimskills.com/a-guide-on-technical-writing-and-technical-writing-training/>.



## Let other technical communicators know your news

*Michaël McFarland Campbell MISTC*

*InfoPlus* is here to help technical communicators hear the news about our profession including—but not solely—news from the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators. If you have information for the tech comm community, please do send it to me, so we can make sure as many people hear about it as soon as possible. My email is [newsletter.editor@istc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter.editor@istc.org.uk).

*InfoPlus* is published and distributed usually on the first working day of each month. Please bear this in mind when submitting time-sensitive information.

The deadlines for the 2023 editions are:

Edition	Deadline
July 2023	Fri 23 June 2023 at 12 noon BST
August 2023	Fri 21 July 2023 at 12 noon BST
September 2023	Fri 18 August 2023 at 12 noon BST
October 2023	Fri 22 September 2023 at 12 noon BST
November 2023	Fri 20 October 2023 at 12 noon BST
December 2023	Fri 17 November 2023 at 12 noon GMT