

# Café Scientifique Headingley

Monday 8 April 2019 at 7:30pm

## Protecting City Centre Leeds from Flooding by David Wilkes



**New moveable weir at Crown Point**



**Landscaped flood walls near station**

**Outline:** Phase 1 of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme has recently been completed at a cost of some £50m, and serves to protect 3500 homes, 500 commercial businesses, roads, power communications and other city centre infrastructure. The design involves 3 main and interlinked elements which aim to maintain the city waterfront and enhance its use for people, for wildlife and the aquatic ecology. The first element involved removal of the old fixed navigation weirs and replacing them with new moveable weirs, which lower flat to the riverbed at times of high flood flows. The second element involved over 10km of carefully landscaped defences without which there would be an early escape of flood water from the river, and the third element involved removing an 800m long island at Knostrop and merging the river and the canal to avoid any unnecessary friction and lifting of flood water levels. The project was led by Leeds City Council with support from the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water Services and the Canals and Rivers Trust; BAM Mott MacDonald built the work on site and the moveable weirs were provided by Dyrhoff.



**David Wilkes** Has guided all of Arup's work on the Leeds Flood Scheme. He is an Honorary Fellow of CIWEM, a chartered civil engineer, and Global Flood Resilience Leader for Arup. He is Project Director working on river, coastal and integrated catchment management projects within Europe and across the globe.

David has specialised in coastal, tidal and inland flood risk management for almost 40 years. The first 30 years with the public sector, and the last 10 with Arup as director on a multitude of projects. With the Environment Agency he was responsible for all operations at the Thames Barrier and the 120 miles network of defences which protect London from the storm tides. During this time, he set up the TE2100 study to develop plans to protect London against sea level rise to 2100.

**Venue: The New Headingley Club, 56 St Michael's Rd., Leeds LS6 3BG**

**Time:** Club opens at 7:00pm for drinks & the room at 7:30; talk begins promptly at 7:45pm

**Entry:** Donation please for room hire and expenses: **£3 at the door**



Café Scientifique Headingley is a programme run under the auspices of the Headingley Development Trust [www.headingleydevelopmenttrust.org.uk](http://www.headingleydevelopmenttrust.org.uk)