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Chairs' Report 2014-2015

Introduction

This has been my first year as Chair of the Gloucester Area of the IMechE and I have found it both a challenging and interesting role.

Before explaining the changes to your Gloucester Area Committee, highlighting our achievement in the past year (2014-2015) and out-lining our plans for the next year (2015-2016), I would like to say a few words of thanks.

Words of Thanks

I would like to thank:

John Logue, our Honorary Treasurer, who nobly took on the role last year.

John Clarke, our Honorary Secretary, for his continued enthusiasm and arrangements skills.

Peter Rayner, our immediate past Chair, for deputising for me when I have had other commitments.

John Strydom who is stepping down from the committee

The Gloucester Area committee for the time and effort they put into make our activities successful.

Messier-Bugatti-Dowty, EDF Energy and Delphi for their continued support in providing venues and other assistance.

And finally, to the members and supporters who make up the Gloucester Area of the Institution of the Mechanical Engineers.

Gloucester Area Committee

During the past year, I received to two requests to volunteer for committee membership:

The first from Joy Tao, a Fellow of the Institution, and the second from EeJane Low, a Graduate Engineer currently working to Chartership through the Institution's MPDS scheme. I was delighted when both Joy and EeJane were co-opted to the committee.

I believe we now have both a strong and, perhaps more importantly, a diverse committee in terms of demographic and gender.

Highlights from the Past Year (2014/2015)

The season's events have generally been very successful and we have covered topics from the 'Rebuilding the Welsh Highland Railway' through to 'Chernobyl – Then and Now'.

In total we held nine events including two joint events, one with the IET (Engineers Question Time) and the other with the RAeS (The Last British Airliner – BAe 146) both which were well attended.

Continuing with the ambition to engage young people in Engineering, we held a very successful 'Engineering for Fun' event facilitated by Caroline Alliston.

In the field of Alternative Energy, we held two events, Energy from Tidal Lagoons which was extremely well attended (92 people) and Cotswold Canals Dudbridge Lock Hydro scheme which formed part of the Stroud Festival of Manufacturing (FESTOMANE).

Finally, in reporting the highlights of our past year, I would like to mention that our activities have not been confined to just arranging talks.

Peter Rayner, our immediate past Chair, supported a Presidential visit to the Gloucester Area which took in companies such as Delphi and Goodwin Pumps.

Peter and I also attended the launch of the Cotswold Life Business awards at the Royal Agricultural University.

Other committee members have been active in STEM activities and also formally and informally mentoring Engineers.

2015/2016 Programme

We are currently working to develop the 2015/2016 programme based on the regional and Nation strategy, notably:

- Events to support key themes defined by the Institution.
 - **Energy**
 - **Environment**
 - **Transport**
 - **Manufacturing**
 - **Education**
- 1/3 of events to be joint with other PEI, so 3~4 events per year
- One (or more) prestige event
- One event to promote professional registration and membership development (members to fellows)
- One event to support Apprentice/Eng tech
- Support STEM
- Visit with an Engineering theme.

This being the case we intend to put together what we hope will be an enjoyable, interesting and informative programme

Finally Thanks once again to the Officers and committee members for their continued support and enthusiasm and looking forward to another successful year.

Matthew Sexton

Chair Gloucester Area, Western Region
Institution of Mechanical Engineers