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## **Chair's Report 2015-2016**

### **Introduction**

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

Before explaining the changes to your Gloucester Area Committee, highlighting our achievement in the past year (2015-2016) and out-lining our plans for the next year (2016-2017), I would like to say a few words of thanks.

### **Words of Thanks**

I would like to thank:

- John Logue, our Honorary Treasurer, for his control of the finances.
- John Clarke, our Honorary Secretary, for his continued enthusiasm and arrangements skills.
- Peter Rayner, our immediate past Chair and Helen Rich, our Deputy Chair, for deputising for me when I have had other commitments.
- The Gloucester Area committee for the time and effort they put in to 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 several requests to volunteer for committee membership and three of these have come to fruition:

I was delighted when Stephen Stapleton, Narmeen Rehman and Pippa Stockdale were co-opted to the committee.

I believe we have further strengthened our committee, embarked on succession planning and developed 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 started to introduce the 'Near You' booking system, albeit with a few teething troubles.

In total we held eight events including two joint events, one with the IET (Prince of Wales, Britain's Most Powerful Steam Locomotive) and the other with the RAeS (SKYLON – The Future of Space Launchers) both of which were well attended.

Unfortunately we had to cancel one event at the very last minute due to the presenter pulling out, apologies for any inconvenience.

Continuing with the ambition to engage young people in Engineering, we held another very successful 'Engineering for Fun - Inspiring the Next Generation' event again facilitated by Caroline Alliston.

As a departure from the format of recent years, but perhaps revisiting the past, we arranged a social event through a visit to the Battledown Brewery in Cheltenham which proved successful.

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.

Helen Rich attended the launch of the Cotswold Life Business EMI 2016 awards at the Dean Close Preparatory School.

I was honoured to judge the Cotswold Life Business EMI Manufacturer of the Year 2015 which was awarded against stiff competition to Kohler Mira Ltd Cheltenham.

Other committee members have been active in STEM activities and of note we supported a STEM day for local Schools at Westonbirt School. This was attended by over 100 pupils of 6<sup>th</sup> form age.

## Awards

We have had two successful nominations for prestigious awards. Pete Rayner nominated Caroline Alliston for the Alastair Graham-Bryce Award and Daniel Kendrick applied for IMechE Heritage award for the Dowty Internally Sprung Wheel. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to the nominees for the hard work put in applying.

## 2016/2017 Programme

We are currently working to develop the 2016/2017 programme again based on the regional and National 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

As this is my second and final year as Chair, I would like to say I have enjoyed my time and would like to wish Helen Rich, the incoming Chair, every success  
So finally thanks once again to the Officers and committee members for their continued support and enthusiasm and I looking forward to another successful year.

Matthew Sexton

Chair Gloucester Area, Western Region  
Institution of Mechanical Engineers