

PRESIDENT'S Message 2009

As the new NES President in a year which marks the 150th anniversary of the deaths of Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Robert Stephenson it gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to the 2009-2010 sessions. Your Council hopes that the forthcoming lecture programme will exceed expectations and raise the bar on last year's excellent programme.

Over the past year Council has formed itself into a number of small teams, each team dealing with different aspects of Council's responsibilities. This has a number of advantages in that the task of organising the lecture programme, arranging summer events, running the website and so on falls to small teams rather than individual members, effectively spreading the load around Council members. We have been trialling the idea for over a year now and I am pleased to report that it seems to work well.

In an effort to reflect the day to day activities of the Society accurately I am also pleased to report that the NES Website (www.norwichengineering.co.uk) has recently been updated in a number of quite significant ways. As well as the lecture programme it now includes reports on previous meetings and events. Perhaps in time the website will become the cheapest and fastest way of communicating with members, but rest assured that it will always be possible to receive details of NES activities without recourse to a computer, either by telephone, letter or the Yearbook; further information on page 5 of the Yearbook.

The original NES website site was devised and constructed by Stuart Snelling, to whom the Society owns a great debt of thanks for all the work and time he has put into the site, plus his many other behind the scenes contributions to the running of the Society. Sadly due to his increased work commitments he is unable to continue, however the website has been taken over by a website team headed by the very capable immediate past President, Richard Aldridge.

Council feel that it is extremely important to encourage links with organisations which support engineering, especially those with links to channelling school children towards engineering as a career. It is for this reason we support the **Rotary Schools Technology Tournament** each year and also award a cup and prize to the most improved trainee at **EAGIT**, East Anglia's premier training organisation for engineers. A frequently overlooked part of our activities but important none the less. It has been a policy of successive Presidents to increase our membership amongst the younger generation of engineers. I shall be pleased to continue to do all I can to help.

My thanks to your hard working Council Members for their continuing contributions to the smooth running of the Society in the past year. To Vice President Dick Abbot and his team for their persistence in contacting potential speakers, a thankless task which has helped to make this year's lecture programme as successful as it is. My special thanks to Treasurer Stuart Snelling for his considerable efforts for the Society, despite his heavy and unremitting daily workload. Also to Mike Vincent, who in 2010 will be relinquishing his role of Secretary, hopefully his position will be filled by Chris Hoskins. Finally I must express the Society's gratitude to Richard Aldridge for being such an excellent President for 2008-2009.

We will continue to hold our meetings at the Holiday Inn on Ipswich Road, so check the Yearbook 2009/10 or the website for the latest information on the coming winter lecture programme.

Thank you all for your continued interest in all matters engineering,

Steve Searle