

Norwich Engineering Society Council Report

In order to streamline and avoid repetition of information, this AGM it has been decided by council to dispense with separate reports from Officers and for me to submit a single **Council Report** covering this year's activities, and the state of the Society.

To satisfy Health and Safety requirements, an Evacuation Announcement is made at the start of each meeting.

This has been a good year for the Society, as a result of the high calibre of speakers and to some extent the summer visits. **We are a strong society.**

Our Secretary **Mike Vincent** has stepped down and the job has been taken over by **Chris Hoskins**.

This is now our **second year** at The Holiday Inn. We have had excellent support from the hotel staff, and the environment in which the lectures take place befits the standing of the lectures we are getting.

Attendance at the lectures has been excellent, so much so that on occasions we have had to get out extra chairs.

We have decided to dispense with signing in, as the records seldom tallied with the head count.

We acknowledge there are some difficulties in viewing the screen when the room is full, but the deal we have with the hotel is unlikely to be bettered. We believe both the members and our speakers feel at home here. To this end we now have bookings for the 2010- 2011 season.

Due to the steeply rising cost of postage (now 7s in old money per letter) we are trying to communicate with members by keeping our website updated. To this end we would ask members who cannot access our web pages to request information by royal mail.

My thanks to Keith Webster and Carl Stone for looking after the sound system, and Nigel Ratcliff the projector.

Nigel Ratcliff has again done a splendid job as Membership Secretary. The records are now in good order and everyone is listed on the computer which should make for better communication with members.

Membership now stands at 175, 5 more than last year; sadly 4 members have died including Brenda Taylor as a result of a car accident. 4 members resigned and the remainder did not renew their subs.

Encouragingly of the 15 new members, 4 are relatively young (in their 40's) which will help keep the average age down.

On the Corporate membership front we have lost Bayer Crop Science and regained May Gurney.

Last year we tried offering pupils at senior schools a "taster session" in the hope they may be interested in becoming junior members. Unfortunately we had no takers.

Nigel repeats last year's message: "Engineering is exciting and the Society needs to encourage young people. So ask friends and family to spread the word and invite them to our meetings."

The programme committee was again led by Dick Abbott, assisted by Ray Hannent and Chris Hoskins.

We are indebted to Richard Aldridge who arranged many of the lectures this year.

It is the aim of the committee to put together a programme to cover as wide a range of topical disciplines as possible. Judging by the attendances we are getting we seem to be getting things right.

The programme is in place for next year, which we hope continues the broad approach we have achieved to date.

The committee would welcome suggestions for speakers.

My thanks to Mike Vincent, Ray Hannent and Carl Stone for arranging the Summer Visits: *Ray Hannent will present his report shortly.*

I am pleased to report that **there will be no increase in subs this year.**

Richard Aldridge will present the Treasurers Report