



CIBSE Patrons 40th Anniversary Celebration

Wednesday 29 January 2020



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Welcome to the 40th anniversary celebration of CIBSE Patrons



Nick Mead,
Patrons Chair

Since our foundation four decades ago, the role and remit of Patrons has evolved significantly.

Originally envisioned as a kind of 'club' of organisations happy to provide (primarily financial) support to key CIBSE projects, we gradually developed into a unique collaborative network bringing all parts of the building services supply chain together.

This culminated with our change of status when we became a full CIBSE Society last year.

We have always remained true to our roots as a financial supporter of CIBSE and its vital projects – particularly around 'nurturing talent' and the wide range of initiatives designed to attract, encourage and improve the recruitment, development, training and retention of young engineers, in particular.

This support ranges from the production of careers booklets, to the sponsorship of student bursaries, and more recently as lead supporter of the CIBSE Young Engineers Awards.

The nature of this work helped to galvanise Patrons in a number of different ways and has given our members a particular insight into our sector's biggest challenges – and allowed us to contribute to many of the solutions.

Improving the sector's diversity is one excellent example of our wider role – making it highly appropriate that our anniversary celebration should feature the business speaker Jay Surti, who is also a trustee and director of the Women's Engineering Society (WES).

We developed a closer working relationship with WES last year during its centenary as part of a campaign to improve our industry's lamentable record on gender diversity. Only about 12% of engineers in the UK are female, which is the lowest proportion in Europe. In fact, our industry's workforce does not reflect the society it serves in terms of gender, ethnicity, age,

disability or most other measures. As a result, we are recruiting from a very narrow slice of the available workforce at a time of acute skills shortage.

Yet, this is an industry that offers excellent career prospects and has no obvious barriers to people from all backgrounds and abilities – and one way in which Patrons are helping to solve that puzzle is our ongoing support for the WES campaign to raise the proportion of women in engineering to 30% by 2030.

We have also been able to represent the sector at government level and explore how the regulatory framework impacts the way our industry works. This is partly thanks to our annual February legislation review with CIBSE Technical Director Hywel Davies. His insights (and warnings) continue to be invaluable for our membership as we face continued economic uncertainty this year.

Our annual Patrons House of Lords lunch (which this year takes place on 21 April) has also provided a window into the workings of government and our new host – Baroness Brown, vice chair of



the Committee on Climate Change – is a champion of the role of building services in helping the government work towards a low carbon future.

21 April will also be the date of our first ever AGM as a CIBSE Society. This means all Patrons members will be able to nominate themselves and colleagues to join our committee – and also elect my successor as chair.

Thank you for your support and please enjoy our celebration.



Young Engineer Awards 2019 Finalists

CIBSE PATRONS – A RETROSPECTIVE

Founder members Alec Moir and Doug Oughton look back to the early days of Patrons and pick out some of the group's greatest achievements.

It seemed appropriate to write a joint piece as our association with CIBSE and its Patrons have much in common. We both joined the Institution and Oscar Faber in the 1960s and both chaired various CIBSE education, training and careers committees. We are both past presidents and were active participants in Patrons when it was founded.

Doug was one of the team responsible for Patrons' first significant project and later became its Chair and served on the Steering Committee until 2015.

Oscar Faber (now AECOM) was a founding member company of Patrons along with several other eminent building services firms at the time including Haden, J Roger Preston, Drake & Scull, Nuairé, and G H Buckle and Partners

Whilst CIBSE provides representation and support to its individual members, Alec recalls the institution's wish to actively

involve companies, research bodies and other organisations to support their work in ways that individuals were unable to do. It was another of the industry's foremost figures – the late Brian Moss of Nuairé – who conceived the idea of forming a group of 'Patrons' for the purpose.

Our first collaborative project was the design and construction of an exhibit to be installed at the Science Museum as a permanent hands-on display to demonstrate the effects of temperature, humidity and air movement on the human senses.

This was acknowledged as a major development for the industry as it raised the profile of the important work undertaken by building services engineers. The unveiling attracted considerable press attention and was also attended by representatives from the museum and the institution.

From the very start, Patrons actively supported the institution's work in promoting education, training and careers in building services. Another early project was the group's support for a series of leaflets aimed at the younger generation and explaining the opportunities for fulfilling careers within our industry. Patrons have continued to support this project ever since by financing regular updates including the production of digital versions.



Doug Oughton (left)
& Alec Moir (right)



International visitors at the Patrons House of Lords lunch

Other activities included making working models for the Imagineering Exhibitions, sponsoring young engineer's participation in the Arkwright Scholarship Trust and the Smallpeice Trust schemes, producing kits for use by school teachers to demonstrate building services in action. Much of this work has been carried out in collaboration with the CIBSE Careers Panel, which Doug set up and chaired for many years with the help of Angela Ringguth, who has proved instrumental in delivering some of our most notable projects.

There was a period under the leadership of Charles Lever, of Taylor Woodrow, when 'contract partnering' was a popular approach to construction and was supported by the Construction Industry Council (CIC). This involved designers, suppliers and contractors working together over several projects to build relationships, reduce conflict and share the risks and rewards.

The Patrons became closely identified with this initiative and it was used to encourage firms to join. This turned the group into an excellent model of collaboration for the wider sector as we built up members representing all parts of the industry's supply chains.

Around the same time, work placement exchanges were arranged between Patrons' firms to broaden the experience of young engineers. These initiatives demonstrated how Patrons' members could work more closely together for mutual benefit. Such collaborative working was demonstrated during a memorable behind the scenes visit, organised by Charles Lever, to the Royal Albert Hall to witness an extensive refurbishment.

Arguably Patrons are most widely recognised for their annual House of Lords lunch. These began during Doug's chairmanship and have featured a wide array of guest speakers; including government ministers, leaders of industry and low carbon champions. They were first organised by the then Patrons Secretary Adam Poole, who exploited his excellent connections with parliamentarians. Chris Brown picked up Adam's mantle and the lunches have gone from strength to strength – as have many other initiatives over the years thanks to his devotion to the cause.

Patrons have played a key role in the progress of CIBSE during their first 40 years – something that we, as founders, are delighted to have witnessed. Here's to the next 40!



GUEST SPEAKER

Jay Surti



Jay is a keynote speaker, author and presentation consultant. She graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering and then went on to practise

as a lawyer for 17 years before specialising in effective communication and public speaking. She has written a number of books including “The Presentation Book for Senior Managers” and “Ultimate Presentations”. Jay now works with business leaders and professionals across many different industry sectors helping them master presentation skills and better connect with their audiences. She has been a guest lecturer at Manchester Business School and a mentor and judge for start-up accelerator Mass Challenge UK.

Her other main area of interest is speaking on the topic of diversity in the workplace – Jay is an advocate for women in leadership. She is a Trustee and Council Member for the Women's Engineering Society (UK) as well as a member of the Governing Body at Dundee University. She has also served on the Executive Board for Women in Banking & Finance (UK) and is currently the Head of Mentoring.

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for building engineering services contractors. We represent the interests of firms, both large and small, active in the design, installation, commissioning, maintenance, control and management of engineering systems and services in buildings.

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Join the CIBSE Patrons

CIBSE Patrons is a network of businesses who collaborate to provide financial, technical and moral support to a wide range of initiatives, focused on developing talent in building services engineering, some led by CIBSE, some by the group themselves.

There are over 100 member organisations in CIBSE Patrons, large and small, including consulting engineering practices, manufacturers, contractors, and trade bodies.

BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO PATRONS INCLUDE:

- Access to the CIBSE Knowledge Portal for one named contact, providing access to a wide range of CIBSE guidance, information and – now – digital tools
- A monthly copy of the highly regarded CIBSE Journal
- Use of the CIBSE Patrons logo on company stationery, website and marketing materials
- Company listing and weblink on the Patrons' website
- Discount on one place at any CIBSE conference or seminar
- Discount on stand space at the CIBSE Build2Perform exhibition
- Discount on audit fee for Certificate of Digital Engineering Competency, run by CIBSE and the Society for Digital Engineering **cibse.org/SDE**
- Opportunity to contribute to CIBSE policy development
- A range of networking opportunities, including the annual House of Lords lunch, CIBSE Young Engineers' Awards, and the annual inauguration event for the incoming CIBSE President

To find out more and to apply online, please visit **cibse.org/patrons** or email the group's coordinator Chris Brown at **cbrown@cibse.org**