

CEO REPORT TO COUNCIL OCTOBER 2018

While commuting in and out of London, I often frame what I would like to say to Council. While there is a good deal of news and events to report to you, I find the summary of the last four months of CIBSE more difficult to summarize than normal. The UK political elite seem to be making BREXIT very hard work indeed, rather like an Agatha Christie novel, the plot thickens at every turn; however, with a whodunit you are pretty sure that at the end good will triumph over evil; in the real world the 29th March 2019 is racing-up on us very quickly, and I am not sure I understand the plot, never mind a possible ending. Equally the long shadows of Carillion are still with us. This all creates uncertainty and nervousness in the market; investing in the built environment and infrastructure looks to be risky, and at Balham, we are very conscious of this uncertainty.

Meanwhile our Membership efforts are showing rewards, although we shall have to wait for the Engineering Council (EC) figures at the end of the year, we have been heartened by a record 196 EC interviews at this half-year point which is excellent news and our lapses, those members who do not renew, are at a three year low. We have just had the results of our Membership Survey back and I was delighted to read that:

95% would recommend CIBSE to a colleague
86% rated overall value of CIBSE membership
as excellent, very good or good
Almost **50%** of the participants would be
interested in volunteering with CIBSE

The top three priorities Members identified are providing guidance on building performance, ventilation & air quality, and commissioning. Members also rated the CIBSE Journal, Knowledge Portal and Professional Registration as the top membership benefits; details of the survey results will be on the CIBSE website very soon. *We could add here:* The knowledge team and Knowledge Management Committee are currently looking at how we can improve the process of generating and delivering knowledge in the future and enhance the involvement of members in that process.

CIBSE continues to support the work of Dame Judith Hackitt, we have responded to her final report and the various working groups continue; given the political uncertainties, I find it hard to forecast the final recommendations that will be adopted and indeed much will also depend upon the Public Enquiry conducted by Sir Martin More-Bick. I do feel confident that there will be a much greater role for approved and accredited engineers. As we all know the majority of buildings are complex and the challenges considerable; my slight worry is whether the professional bodies can work effectively together. Which leads me to another of my concerns. Although I do not wish to exaggerate the risk, the very public difficulties of our sister bodies like the RIBA & IMechE illustrate the risks of sustained dissent. I would balance this by suggesting that CIBSE does try hard to listen; we have passionate and caring members and the Board do try to ensure all views are heard.

In my last report, I said “The summer sun is providing a pleasant dappled light on the windows of Balham, and almost all our memories of a long a dreary winter have passed”. Well, that heralded the hottest heat wave in the UK since 1976 and a huge interest in overheating buildings, climate change, air quality and the built environment. CIBSE was the “go to” destination for reporting on the heat wave and climate change issues that were

highlighted by the Environmental Audit Committee report, which by chance was published on the hottest day of the year in late July. I am most grateful to Ashley Bateson, and staff members Anastasia Mylona and Julie Godefroy who had a number of starring roles on TV and radio – Anastasia was heard to say she had waited ten years for all these factors to coincide in one week, a bit like buses perhaps and hopefully worth the wait?

CAST In June London hosted the International Engineering Alliance and our Immediate Past President, Peter Y Wong, was here as part of the Hong Kong delegation; using his links, CIBSE were able to host the Chinese Association of Science & Technology (CAST) for informal talks on better understanding and mutual cooperation. This has resulted in our President Elect, Lynne Jack, making a reciprocal visit to Beijing in November, accompanied by Peter and a delegation from CIBSE Hong Kong.

Patrons CIBSE Patrons are a very long established part of the CIBSE scene and are very prominent in supporting our educational activities, the Young Engineers Awards and, of course, the ever popular annual House of Lords Lunch.

*So you may be surprised to know that CIBSE **Patrons are now formally a sixth Society**, or more correctly a Division of CIBSE, they will continue to have a core purpose to encourage and support the development of 'talent' in Building Services.*

This was approved by the Board earlier in the year and agreed by Patrons themselves. This really does bring Patrons “inside the CIBSE tent” and they will now be able to play an even fuller and more active role within CIBSE. The increased opportunity to share knowledge and help broaden CIBSE’s influence is seen as a key priority.

Visiting Speaker Scheme At the Council meeting there will be further details of a pilot scheme to increase the quality and depth of our technical events by starting a Visiting Speakers Scheme, again recently approved by the Board. The concept is to identify “topical issues” of broad and relevant interest and suggest speakers who are able to deliver them. Thus technical events should be easier to organise in the Regions, Groups and Societies, and we hope a successful scheme will deliver further positive outcomes. Aligned to this I am pleased to say that the various pilots using Eventbrite, linked to our CRM, appear successful and further details will be available at Council; while this may be a small step forward, I would suggest it is a significant one, fingers crossed!

Consultations continue to occupy us, with recent ones covering the proposed changes to regulations relating to the construction of external walls, in both England and Wales, the energy efficiency provisions in Scotland, and a call for evidence on energy certification. These are all significant opportunities for CIBSE to contribute to the development of policy in these areas. And we know that a review of Part L of the Building Regulations in England is expected in the near future.

Member Services Team After much planning and consideration we are in the process of consolidating all administrative staff support for the Regions, Societies and Groups into a Member Services Team within the Membership Department, with one exception with SLL who already have their own dedicated support staff.

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Staff Having recently reported that Bruce McGill had moved to head up the new Digital Services Team, Bruce has been lured away to become Chief Executive of the Society of Operations Engineers. However, we are pleased to welcome Kevin Chapman, who has joined us from the IMechE and takes over from Bruce as Head of Digital Services.

Strategy Following on from the Board Away Day in May, a number of the Board have been reviewing and refining the future strategy for the Institution to replace our current 2020 Vision. As part of this Council meeting we shall have four breakout groups to look at Membership, Building Performance, Knowledge and the Voice of CIBSE. We look forward, as always, to your contribution and participation in a most important development of the Institution. Thank you so much for your valued support.

Finally, I do want to encourage you all to attend our Build2Perform Live event at Olympia, 27-28 November 2018; this will be our second year and we hope to improve upon the record numbers of attendees, stands and speakers; the programme is now out. So please do make a note in your diary - one CIBSE event not to be missed.