

I always try to open my report with a geopolitical overview. However, this time I think I will skip that; partly out of brevity but also bemusement on how the UK Government is going to move forward. The most uttered word is 'uncertainty' and like most businesses we just get on with the task in-hand and hope that some clarity will eventually emerge. In spite of the uncertainty, CIBSE had a good year in 2018 not only financially and in membership growth but also in further developing our Institution that is relevant, agile and serves Society. For further details I would recommend our Annual Report, which is at cibse.org - essential reading for all Council members?

At the June Council we welcome our new President, Lynne Jack, and say au revoir to Stephen Lisk, who is now the Immediate Past President. I am aware that the Journal is producing an article about Lynne and her aims for her Presidential Year so I suggest you read it when it hits your in-tray shortly. Lynne is resident in Malaysia with Herriot Watt University - International Presidents are now almost de rigueur at CIBSE! Stephen brought fresh skills and experiences and has travelled extensively, especially to meet the Regions and understand the 'grass roots'; he tells us he has had over 1500 conversations and there may be even more by now but no indications of the number of bars though! I am sure we would like to say a huge thank you to Stephen for his commitment and tireless efforts.

2019 Building Performance Awards Once again we enjoyed a quite outstanding evening at the Grosvenor House Hotel. This client-facing event attracted good numbers in the Great Room, even though we were affected by the 'uncertainty' and table sales were down. Nevertheless there was a very positive atmosphere and sense of purpose, captured by Sarah Prichard who really did 'strike a chord'. As always, a big thank you to our Judges; having 'performance' awards does make their task more complex as they have hard evidence to make judgements on too!

We have also seen more emphasis on Climate Change with **Committee on Climate Change (CCC)** calling for the UK to adopt a new, net zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2050, and large scale low or zero carbon heating installation by 2030. In "[Net Zero – the UK's contribution to stopping climate change](#)", I strongly believe that engineers in general and CIBSE in particular has a significant role to play and we have the skills and knowledge to apply. As an adjunct, Baroness Brown who is a member of the CCC, hosted a very successful Patrons Lunch at the House of Lords in April.

Technical Symposium This was our ninth Technical Symposium and continues to go from strength-to-strength. Hosted by Sheffield University at the Diamond building, yet again the University were outstanding hosts and we had around 220 delegates with 170 Papers - a two-day event with triple streams. This was our largest Technical Symposium outside London. All the papers are available on-line and I commend them to you.

As we approach the second anniversary of the **Grenfell Tower Fire** we anticipate that the Government will announce a significant consultation on Dame Judith Hackitt recommendations within the Building a Safer Future Report – I wanted to acknowledge the huge amount of work many of our volunteers and staff have contributed thus far and we think there will be a lot more to do.

Board Away Day As is our tradition now, the first new Board meeting takes place at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park, immediately after the AGM. The Away Day has two aims; first, for the new Board and senior staff to get to know each other better and second, to consider a strategic aspect of the Institution. This year we looked at the Strategic Pillars in order to create a new strategic plan and lay the foundation for a new operational plan. All those involved felt it was most worthwhile.

Many of us knew **Graham Manly** extremely well and we were sad when he lost his fight with cancer last month. There will be an obituary in the Journal and indeed many were at his Service of Thanksgiving. Graham made an outstanding contribution to the Institution, many other organisations and the Industry. In my mind he symbolised much of the unspoken bonds of the Institution; yes, we are drawn to CIBSE by the engineering, the desire to improve and share knowledge but the bond is also a human one - to support, nurture and show compassion in order to create a better society for the generations to come. For me this is what makes CIBSE so special – thank you and especially Graham for his outstanding service.