

INTRODUCTION

I place great emphasis on the Executive Report to Council because, as far as I am aware, it is the only archived historical record of the Institution written from a Balham perspective. I like to think that in the years to come someone might sit down and read these Reports in order to cast some light on the how and why CIBSE developed and changed in the way it did. Also the Report lays out to Council, from a relatively narrow view, what has happened, what is happening and hopefully provides some perspective of the direction of travel for the Institution. Well I hope so!

I suspect that historians of the future will view 2017 as a very tough year for a wide variety of reasons. The geo-political landscape and BREXIT remains as cloudy and confused as ever, with so many companies asking for some clarity on the political agenda – there is no doubt that we are feeling the effects of this commercial uncertainty. Terrorism also has an effect, polarizing opinions and creating tension. At a parochial level we have seen the John Uff report into the future of the Engineering Professional Bodies, come, identify six possible work streams and arguably evaporate just as quickly, as the morning mist does in the sunshine.

Grenfell Tower Fire. However, I am strongly of the opinion that from a staff perspective 2017 has been a very tough year for a variety and often unrelated reasons. Arguably, one most significant external challenge we have faced is dealing with the post Grenfell issues. The horrific fire not only shocked the nation but also our profession. The Public Inquiry chaired by Sir Martin Moore-Bick and now the Independent Review into Building Regulations and Fire Safety, chaired by Dame Judith Hackitt, which is due to report in Spring 2018, has placed CIBSE at the very centre of the strong desire not only to understand what went wrong, and it is highly probable that there will be prosecutions, but also to learn the lessons and make substantial changes. There is also a plethora of working groups, round-table discussions and representative meetings that we need to be at and articulate the challenges and solutions. Not often can I say that CIBSE members have appeared regularly on the national and international news, that is heartening, at least the media is speaking to informed professionals.

I want to particularly highlight our Journal Editor, Alex Smith's article in the July edition covering the Grenfell Fire. The article has attracted plaudits from around the Industry for tackling the issue "head-on" in a balanced and accurate way. CIBSE is now engaged in a wide-range of discussions at government level, professional bodies and trade associations in support; I wanted to put on record the Institution's thanks to so many of our members who have committed themselves to engage in this crucial activity. While, in my opinion, the Government shows no appetite thus far to increase the regulative burden, it seems that accreditation and approval by qualified and experienced professions will be an outcome. That should emphasise the importance of professional registration and engineering standards, with appropriate design, construction and operational approvals – well I hope so.

Society of Digital Engineering. Pausing briefly for breath, I am delighted to report that CIBSE now has a new Society, its fifth, that of Digital Engineering. This new Society was launched at the Royal Academy of Engineering with a full house of enthusiastic professionals in September. I am particularly pleased because this new Society will embrace the digital challenges not only with the sphere of building services engineering but also encompasses most of the professions in construction. This all came about by the inspiration and vision of our Young Engineers who attended the Board Away-day in May 2015. All the details of this new Society are on the website and please do take a moment or two to see what it offers.

Governance Review I am conscious that Councils' views will be sort on some important proposals to change how senior officers are nominated for the Board and I am sure you will give this issue the attention it deserves. Governance change is never easy because of the various checks and balances that are in-place to ensure stability. There has been a huge amount of effort behind the scenes, led by a Governance Task Force, and now we are entering into an implementation phase. The truth is that perfection is impossible but pragmatic improvement in changing circumstances should be. CIBSE's purpose is to serve society and ensure we continue to maintain a strong and vibrant Institution. We represent a wide-variety of professional views and our members are often very passionate and vocal, which is always welcomed. However, we are growing and consensus is arguably more important now than it was in the past. I would like to personally thank the senior officers who have devoted so much of their time in bringing these proposals to you.

IT/CRM While this may be a saga that has been running almost as long a "Coronation Street", or so it feels, we do now know that our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system is now fully embedded; it has been a long and painful process but the fantastic opportunities of Sales Force are just becoming evident and the potential is huge. The integration into our Content Management System (CMS) is now established and we have now been able to get our finance package, Access Dimension, also fully integrated and I am hopeful that our 2018 Budget will be created on this system. The next step will be to have our new Learning Management System (LMS) go live and integrated. This is a very ambitious project but I would argue CIBSE had no choice; the majority of our members do not come directly from 1st degree university courses but via a vocational route. Therefore our "web presence" and member experience needs to be excellent with slick internal processes. We feel we are now starting to deliver some real benefits to our members with more to come; we are already thinking about a new version of the Knowledge Portal for example. I would like to say a sincere thank you, not only to the staff but also for all the support we have received from our senior officers and members. We still have a lot more to do but I am confident that this is a "game changer"

Just as the leaves on the trees are changing to autumnal colours so CIBSE is changing, although the indicators may not be quite so evident. There is so much vibrancy and positive news. We are on track for a really exciting new event, with free entry, "**Build2Perform LIVE!**" **21-22 Nov 2017** at Olympia. We have well over 1000 delegates registered and the majority of the stands now filled. Can I really encourage you to attend – we are trying a whole host of new things including a special "CIBSE Volunteers" programme, opportunities for the Special Interest Groups and our YEN. We will be holding a **Technical & YEN event in Dubai 29 October - 2 November** and as you will read in the following pages CIBSE is an exciting place with a great deal going on. I recently spoke to our **ANZ** Regional Chair, Paul Angus, and I was delighted to hear all the positive news and the impact of a new full-time member of staff, Sharon Pestonij, is having, all very exciting. The extracts for our **Technical Symposium** in London next April are now at an all-time high of 190!
Thank you to all our volunteers, who make CIBSE a very special place.