



Lichfield Science & Engineering Society

PATRON

Ian Dudson CBE
H.M. Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire

PRESIDENT

Professor Carolyn Roberts
FRGS, FIEnvSc, FCIWEM, CEnv, CWEM

Chairman's Newsletter August 2020

Dear Member,

The first thing in my first newsletter is to offer thanks to Bob for having so competently steered the Society for the past three and a half years. He has already reported on recent events and the last (and unexpected) period of his Chairmanship has not been easy but I am grateful that he has spared me part of it. Where we will go from here remains to be seen but I am well aware that in this Chair I have several very hard acts to follow. With three ex-Chairmen remaining on the Committee I doubt that I shall be allowed to go far wrong.

At the last "virtual" Committee meeting it was decided that the first four Lecture Meetings of the new season will be delivered by Zoom. The conditions under which the Garrick will be able to open did not seem to be such as to allow us to hold satisfactory meetings there and we expected that a lot of our usual audience would not be happy about going to the theatre even with the safety measures put in place. Of course if the situation changes we may be able to rethink but this decision does give us some stability. As you will see in the Programme Card the method of delivery of lectures in 2021 has yet to be decided and will depend on the situation prevailing at the time.

It was decided also, for much the same reasons and with great reluctance that the Annual Dinner planned for October would have to be cancelled.

As you know we had a trial Zoom presentation by Claire Robinson which was "attended" by 85 Members and generally thought to have gone well. We hope that what we learned then will stand us in good stead for the next ones. All of the speakers whose presentations were cancelled earlier in the year have agreed to be rescheduled and we believe that the programme for 2020 - 2021 will be up to our usual standards.

We start this new season under difficult circumstances entirely beyond our control but I am confident that with the support of our Members and the work of the Committee the Society will continue to provide an unequalled service to the Lichfield area and beyond. I look forward to seeing if not actually meeting many of you in September.

Best wishes,

Mike Beeson