



105TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26th September 2020

THA Secretary's Report

The 2019 AGM was held in College on Saturday 28th September. Roger McKinlay(1979) was re-elected as President and Dr David Billett (1968) succeeded Dr Chris Angus (1967) who retired as Secretary and from the Committee. Dr Emily Floeck (1967) and Dr Andrew Lennon (1998) also retired from the Committee and Ms Lizzie Iron was appointed a member. Keval Shah (2012) was co-opted in February, which leaves two vacancies that we would like to fill.

Our live regional events have undoubtedly continued to provide great opportunities for alumni across the matriculation years to meet old friends, make new ones and to maintain contact with the College. The autumn event in Liverpool on 2nd November was held at the Merseyside Maritime Museum. After a fascinating guided tour, we enjoyed an excellent reception and dinner in a memorable venue overlooking the rejuvenated Royal Albert Docks area. We were pleased to welcome the Vice Master to this event.

Saturday 7th March saw us in Northern Ireland at another notable venue, the Titanic Museum in Belfast. A private tour, which hardly allowed sufficient time to do full justice to the Museum, was followed by a superb dinner overlooking the historic slipways. Seven decades of matriculation were represented. We were glad that the Development Director, Dr Rachelle Stretch, was able to represent the College, an important link with the THA.

Shortly after this event our activities became totally disrupted by the restrictions of Covid-19. We have not switched to virtual regional events. However the Committee has continued to function and has met virtually.

The uptake of the THA Awards has been poor this year, largely due to the pandemic. These Awards are an important part of our engagement with, and encouragement of the student community. It is hoped that access will be widened to include UK based projects and the eligibility of graduate students. Within the spirit of its Avery endowment, the THA would also consider broadening its support to other aspects of student welfare.

The reception in May at Lambeth Palace, usually very popular, had to be cancelled. It is unlikely to become available in 2021 owing to major restoration work at the Palace.

Looking forward, our event at Riddle's Court, Edinburgh scheduled for 14th November will now be postponed, we hope until early in 2021. Venues in Birmingham and Leeds are also under consideration.

We are indebted to all the staff of the Alumni Development Office for their support throughout the year, without which it would be very difficult for us to function. We are also grateful to my predecessor, Dr Chris Angus, for his willingness to advise and help us in several important matters.

David Billett