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## ***President's End of Year Report, 2019/20***

*The key focus this year has been our Centenary Anniversary. In addition to the usual arrangement of events through the year, comprising five lecture/dinners, our Amis and Partners event, President's Day, two Voyages and the Westminster Carol Concert we researched the first one hundred years of our Society and published our Centenary Anniversary book, "L'Entente Cordiale - a hundred years of the British Section of La Société des Ingénieurs et Scientifiques de France".*

*My **President's lecture** and theme for the year was the science, engineering and practical manifestation of bubbles, bringing together my experiences in cavitation, bubble phenomena in nature used as engineering and medical "tools" and food technology and the creation of champagne!.*

*Our centenary year also coincided with "world metrology day", and two hundred years since both the birth of Sir Joseph Bazalgette and the death of James Watt. These events were celebrated through our lecture themes and President's Day Technical visit. Lectures were: "Cherchez la femme-par avion?" by Gwilym Roberts CBE, "Artefact free measurement: the redefinition of the international system of units" by Prof Graham Machin, "How French engineers changed the world" by Julia Elton FSA, and "French influence in the establishment of the veterinary profession" by Gareth Williams.*

*Our **Spring Voyage** to Chester and North Wales concentrated on the region's anglo-french current and historical engineering, including a technical visit to Dinorwic pump storage power station scheme, Stephenson and Telford's Conwy and Menai Straits bridges, Bodnant garden and the early pioneering railway engineer Thomas Brassey (1805-70), born near Chester, who constructed two thirds of France's railways at the time.*

*Our **Summer event** was expanded into a formal **Centenary Gala lecture/dinner** which was held in a resplendent One Great George Street to coincide with our anniversary date and was attended by representatives from the French Embassy and invited Presidents of our sister Institutions and Societies. Humphrey Cadoux-Hudson CBE gave the **Gustave Eiffel IV lecture** on "Collaboration, Communication*

and Knowledge". Following dinner our **Sir Alcon Copisarow Medal** was awarded to Professor Roger Frank by Lady Copisarow, with the citation on his achievements in international collaboration and work with regard to future generations given by our Patron, Lord Robert Mair.

Our **Amis and Partners** event was a visit to the Wallace collection in the sumptuous yet intimate surroundings of Hertford House in London with afternoon tea.

Our **Autumn Voyage D'Etude** was to Paris which included a formal cocktail reception at the British Embassy where together with key invited guests from IESF, including President Marc Ventre and CEO Jean Dambreville and their wives and young Parisian engineering and science graduates, we presented copies of our book for the British Ambassador, the Embassy and IESF Paris. Technical visits took place to major construction works for the new RER Metro line, Musée des Arts et Métiers, Fondation Louis Vuitton, Opera Palais Garnier and Musée Jacquemart-André and a Gala dinner evening cruise on the River Seine.

My **President's Day** Technical visit was to Crossness Engines Trust and Crossness Waste Water Treatment Works to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both the birth of Sir Joseph Bazalgette and the death of James Watt by witnessing James Watt's beam engine in steam and then a presentation and tour of the latest efficient technology to extract energy from sludge produced on site.

Both Spring and Autumn Voyages were full to capacity and throughout the year there was a very healthy turnout of members and guests at all our events.

Arrangements were made during the year to provide **third party insurance** for the Society so that all our events are held on a proper footing and our ski trip event can now be formalised.

Two **opportunities** to further our technical involvement in and support of anglo-french relations in science and engineering arose during the year and should be developed. The first is an opportunity to mentor and support young French and British engineers and scientists in an annual essay/paper writing competition on sustainable energy, supported by both French and British embassies, called "Spark!". The second is an initiative led by the French Embassy in London to set up a group of French engineers, scientists and technologists based in the UK, which is being closely followed by our Honorary Secretary John Beck.

**Key concerns** regarding the long term health of our Society continue to be **increasing the number of new active members and increasing support to the President** in specific areas, in particular in the arranging of our two annual Voyages if members wish to maintain such activities, and secretariat support to Council.

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President , IESF British Section