

President - IESF (British Section)  
Dr Andrew Graham

## **Presidential Report for the year 2017     Andrew Graham**

This report briefly summarises the events held under the auspices of IESF during 2017.

Fuller details are available in the Newsletters produced during the year (numbers 23 and 24, 2017). Over 600 attendees took part in the events this year.

The year began at the AGM with the Presidential address on extra-terrestrial materials and the information, from their analysis, on the age of the Earth and the formation of the planets of the inner solar system. The next two lectures were on bridges. The first concerned the aerodynamics of suspension bridges and how they may be stabilised; and the second on the use of composite materials to strengthen older bridges. In April the President's Day trip visited Manchester, with tours of the National Graphene Institute and the Whitworth Art Gallery.

The Spring Voyage in May took forty five members and guests by luxury coach to Bruges, Belgium. The industrial component was the pipeline built to transfer beer from the brewery to the bottling plant financed by crowdfunding with the reward of a supply of beer for life for the donors! The Ladies Lunch was celebrated at Kensington Palace with a tour of the Royal Apartments and of the exhibition entitled "Diana, her Fashion Story". This was followed by lunch in the Palace Orangery overlooking the new Diana Memorial Garden. Members and guests also enjoyed the Summer Dinner held at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge in July.

In the Autumn there were two lectures, one on the Buncefield explosion and the forensic investigation of this very destructive event; the second on the personalities and politics involved in the construction of the Panama Canal. The Autumn Voyage in early October visited Angers, France. The industrial visits were to the Airbus factory near St. Nazaire where A319, A320, A380 fuselages are made, followed by the Cointreau distillery (all in copper); and a vineyard producing rosé wine (all in stainless steel). The events of the year ended with the RICS/ICE Carol service in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey followed by mulled wine at the RICS and then an informal dinner at the ICE.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to the activities this year, particularly the Officers of the Society and the support received from the ICE.