



HERTFORDSHIRE ENGINEERS' LUNCHEON CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.helc.org.uk>

January 2017

EVENTS

LUNCH AND TALKS PROGRAMME - HOMESTEAD COURT HOTEL

Don't forget to send in your booking forms on Page 14 before the deadline dates for the relevant Lunches. The Talks listed below will be given after the lunches on the dates shown. Note that the Bar will be open from 11.30, and the lunch is at 12.30.

| Luncheon Talks | Date - Thursday | Details |
|--|------------------|------------------------|
| THE ENERGY CRISIS AND ENERGY SOURCES Dr John Hodgson | 19 January 2017 | Page 2 |
| EXTENDING THE OUTREACH OF PALLIATIVE CARE IN SOUTH AFRICA Frank Taylor | 16 February 2017 | Page 2 |
| NUCLEAR FUSION Robin Stafford-Allen | 16 March 2017 | Page 2 |

VISITS

| | Date | Details |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| AWAY VISIT TO SHROPSHIRE | 7 – 11 May 2017 | Page 6 |
| AUTUMN BREAK TO BOURNEMOUTH | 22 – 25 September 2017 | Page 7 |

2017 AGM

| | Date | Details |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 2017 AGM | 16 March 2017 | Page 12 |

Club Events including Walks, Away Breaks and Visits.

We are asked by our Insurers to remind Members that it is their personal responsibility to decide on the level of their capability and whether they should participate in each of the Club activities. Before joining in any Club event, Members must ensure they are briefed about unusual risks. Members must also ensure they can cope safely with the weather, ground conditions and other hazards by wearing or carrying suitable clothing, footwear, walking aids and other protective equipment.

Where walks are arranged, brief details of the proposed walk will be given to each member via the Newsletter prior to the event. Members wishing for earlier information should contact the Walk Organiser.

The Club does not arrange insurance for members participating in Club activities. Insurance is the responsibility of individual members. The Committee reserves the right to refuse applications for participation in any Club activity when they judge an unacceptable risk may occur. When the Club arranges activities which involve Coach Travel, such travel will be an integral part of the cost, which will not be reduced if Members travel independently. Payments made by Members when booking a Club activity are not refundable in any circumstances should the member decide to cancel any part of his booking. Exceptionally, the Committee may decide to make an ex.gratia payment in compensation.

INFORMATION ON TALKS

19 JANUARY 2017 - THE ENERGY CRISIS AND ENERGY SOURCES

Dr John Hodgson

John will review the current situation, the energy crisis, dependence on electricity, and lack of generating capacity. He will look at our energy sources for electricity generation: steam turbines, use of fossil fuels, and carbon dioxide emissions. Then we have renewable sources of energy: biomass, hydroelectricity, wind power, geothermal power and heat conversion, solar and photovoltaic power, tidal and wave power, nuclear power and waste. The latest technique to hit the headlines is hydraulic fracturing (fracking), and John will consider the environmental considerations, and the current UK position.

Dr John Hodgson gained an Honours degree in Electrical Engineering in 1963 at The Polytechnic, Regent Street, followed by a Masters degree in Modern Physics at Kings College, London University. He then worked in the electronics industry for a year before becoming an Assistant Lecturer in Electronics at the Regent Street Polytechnic (now University of Westminster). He pursued research and gained a PhD through Imperial College, University of London, in 1979.

Following retirement, he has followed many interesting lines of enquiry and activities, and ran the Introduction to Computers and the Digital Photography groups for Barnet U3A for 5 years and now runs the Computer Help Desk at the monthly meetings. He remains the group co-ordinator for Short Mat Bowls.

16 February 2017 - EXTENDING THE OUTREACH OF PALLIATIVE CARE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Frank Taylor

Renal failure is a major cause of death at the 3000 bed Baragwaneth Hospital serving Soweto. The reason is that black Africans widely hold the belief that on death bodies should be interred complete, so making kidney donations very rare. Our project is focused on end stage renal failure patients who are with their families mostly unemployed and living at subsistence level or below.

With Rotary Foundation grant support, Hatfield Rotary Club and the Rosebank Club in Johannesburg are managing a US\$ 98,000 budget to bring Palliative Care to patients in their own homes. The project team consists of 3 nurses, 2 social care workers, a driver and a dedicated vehicle. Families and patients are supported by non-religion specific spiritual care volunteers. In hospital bed-night costs alone our project will result in savings of US\$ of 783,000 in one financial year. At project's end all our team will be taken on to the Health Authority payroll.

16 MARCH 2017 - NUCLEAR FUSION

Robin Stafford- Allen FIMechE

We are facing a growing problem with energy for the world population, which is growing at an astounding rate and as the standard of living is also rising, the demand for energy is rising faster than the population growth rate. The vast majority of the world's energy comes from fossil fuel. This cannot continue indefinitely as oil reserves are finite and Global Warming means we may face a serious food shortage if the climate changes radically.

Renewables are providing only a few percent of the energy for the world and almost all renewable with the exception of hydroelectric dams, are "in addition" to power stations and not "instead of" power stations and so cannot be relied upon for "base-load" energy supply continuously.

Nuclear fission has contributed a significant amount to the base-load supply, but there are issues with this technology, and so researchers are examining using Nuclear Fusion, the process that keeps the sun hot, as hydrogen is transmuted into helium releasing energy in the process.

The talk will cover this world energy issue and then move on to showing what Nuclear Fusion is, and how it is being researched using the machines in UK (JET) and the latest machine in France (ITER). I will endeavour to show the progress toward putting Fusion generated electricity onto the grid within our children's lifetime.

FUTURE LUNCH PROGRAMME PLANS

Some bookings are provisional.

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 20 April 2017 | Secret Siberia | Paul Whittle |
| 18 May 2017 | The Thames Tideway Tunnel | |
| 15 June 2017 | “Where the Wild Things Are” | Anthony Oliver, Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust |
| 20 July 2017 | The Plight of the Humble Bee | David Brown |
| 17 August 2017 | Did we have to lose America? | Malcolm Rainbow |
| 21 September 2017 | Technology Developments In Medicine | Dr Helen Meese |
| 19 October 2017 | The Fatal Tablet – Abermule 1921 | Peter Greatrex |
| 16 November 2017 | Trekking in the ‘Stans | Emma Rosen |
| 21 December 2017 | Travellers Rails | Clint and Jude Bull |

FINDING NEW LUNCH TALKS, TRIPS, AWAY BREAKS AND WALKS

To remain a vibrant and exciting club we need a continual stream of new lunch talks, trips, away breaks and walks. At a recent lunch the Chairman put forward an idea stolen from his Probus club, namely that a group of people work together to organise events. That has a number of obvious benefits, such as stimulating one another with ideas, sharing tasks, and exploiting individual skills, experience and enthusiasm.

We are delighted that Ron Verran, David Purser and John Deans have formed a dream-team to organise Away Breaks, and their efforts have already borne fruit in the exciting trip to Bournemouth in September – see page 7. It would be great to emulate that success on other events, so please don't hang back, please offer to help: you don't have to join the Committee. The following people would love to hear from you:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|--|
| John Hammond | Day Visits Organiser | Visits@helc.org.uk |
| Roy Franklin | Joint Speaker Secretary | SpkrSecretary@helc.org.uk |
| Vernon Clough | Walks Secretary | Walks@helc.org.uk |

Please contact the above, or any Committee member, if you have any ideas for events, even if you are unable to help organise those events. All ideas for events are welcome.

WELFARE OF HELC MEMBERS

Peter Arrigoni has continued to collate information from those members with health or welfare situations. It will be his responsibility to keep the membership informed about the welfare of individuals. In the event of the death of a member or partner, he will arrange assistance and support, if required. This can only work if Peter is informed either directly, welfare@helc.org.uk, or via the club secretary, secretary@helc.org.uk.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Peter Ball has had a pacemaker fitted in the Royal Brompton and was home for Christmas.

Ron Botfield had been in the Lister for about 8 weeks with pneumonia and is now in Danesbury.

Peter Greatrex has been recovering from a stroke and was recently in Danesbury, but is now at home. Shirley says, “We are looking for a few days of real peace and relaxation. The therapists think that he will benefit more with establishing routines at home. From the point of view of movement and dexterity he is 100%, speech is pretty good but he still has some Aphasia which means that, especially if tired, he can have some difficulty finding just the right word at times. We are sure that given time and encouragement Pete will improve even more.”

Colin Hancock

As many of you will know, Colin Hancock passed away on 28 November after a long and happy life. His funeral was held on 15 December at St Mary's Church, Thundridge.

Colin was one of the founder members of our Club, and served on the Committee for many years. He was a lively participant in Club activities. He and his wife Margaret enjoyed the HELC weekends away and day trips.

Colin was born in 1924, in Cardiff, to Florence and John Hancock, the youngest of 5 children. During the Second World War, Colin won an apprenticeship with Metropolitan-Vickers and after the war completed a Post-Graduate course at Cambridge University.

In 1969 Colin worked with Electron Microscopes, and contributed to electronic components used on the Saturn 5 Space Program. Later Colin started to work for the NHS, in the development of the Breast Screening programme. He was instrumental in bringing screening to the masses by developing the first mobile breast screening unit. This was an example that was soon followed as a national programme.

Colin was very active in Thundridge village life being a Churchwarden, Treasurer of the village hall and since the 1970s he was a key figure in the production of the Thundridge and High Cross Magazine.

He will be sorely missed by Margaret, his two sons and daughter, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He will also be missed by HELC members as he was very popular.

Obituary written by John Prior who represented the Club at Colin Hancock's funeral.

~

We have offered Associate Membership to Margaret Hancock; the following is part of a reply from her daughter, that is very appreciative of HELC's part in Colin and Margaret's life.

"Thank you for your kind words to my mother, Margaret Hancock. She has read your letter and has asked me to thank you on her behalf.

She and my father valued the comradeship of the luncheon club for many years and yes my father was a founding member. If any of their grandchildren or children wanted to pop round on a luncheon club day then we were given short shrift and told that they were busy. We soon realised how much they enjoyed the club so made sure we knew when they were to be other wise engaged with HELC.

Over the years my father spoke so fondly of his friends in the HELC and it was a joy to meet John Prior at the funeral and put a face to a name.

She is living here with me and my husband George and has her own bathroom, sitting room and bedroom so is well cared for 24/7. She is surrounded by pictures of my father both in his youth and on later cruises and pictures of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, all of whom visit her regularly and with enthusiasm, specially the great grandchildren! The whole family is very supportive."

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL — DUE ON 1 JANUARY

There are still some members who have not renewed their subscriptions according to our records. Please note your membership will cease on 31 January 2017 if you have not taken action; if your membership lapses you will not know about the exciting lunches, visits or walks being planned! You may be contacted, but please do not be offended if you believe you have paid.

If you have not already renewed your membership, here is a reminder of what to do.

When you renew your membership this year you have the choice: you will be able to do it as you have done it in the past, or on-line.

If you wish to post a cheque, please check the details on the Membership Details form, correct any errors, sign and return the form with your annual subscription to Chris Dawes, Membership Secretary, the amount payable will be given on the form.

We do need to ensure that the records are complete and accurate, so please remember to return the form listing any changes with your cheque. If you don't want to print out the form, just include a note saying "No changes to details". Please don't just hand over a cheque at a Lunch without confirmation of Membership details, or changes to details – that does not help Chris.

If you want to renew your membership on-line please email Membership@helc.org.uk,

Subject: HELC Membership; stating "No change to details" or listing any changes.

Make a bank transfer of your annual Membership Fee for next year, using the details that were shown on your Membership Details form.

In case you can't find your form the membership charges are as follows:

- Member receiving Newsletter etc by email - £15
- Member receiving printed copy of Newsletter - £25, ie additional cost of printed Newsletter £10
- Associate Member receiving Newsletter etc by email - £0
- Associate Member receiving printed copy of Newsletter - £10

RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

There is no doubt that the best method of recruitment is word of mouth. Please note the widening scope of membership qualifications being introduced, now includes professional scientists and others who have held positions of responsibility for substantial engineering-related projects. So please invite any such professional engineer, scientist or technologist, whom you know would also enjoy being a member of HELC, to join you for lunch. See p.14 for a clearer definition of qualifications required for full membership.

Please try to bring someone younger than yourself, otherwise we won't achieve our objective of lowering the average age of Members. We try to spread Committee Members around the lunch tables, so please use this opportunity to put forward your views on the future direction of the Club.

FUTURE EVENTS – AWAY BREAKS

HELIC AWAY BREAK TO SHREWSBURY – 7 TO 11 MAY 2017

Shirley Greatrex wishes to deal with the bookings for the Shrewsbury trip while Peter recovers from his stroke: if you wish to contact her please see details in distributed copy of the Newsletter.

HELIC have organised a 5-day (4-night) trip to Shrewsbury from Sunday 7 May to Thursday 11 May. This will be in conjunction with Cannon Travel and Golden Boy coaches, in a similar style to our successful Chester, Cardiff and Harrogate visits. The hotel is The Lion, in central Shrewsbury, which may be inspected using Google. The price is around £500 p.p. for twin / double rooms, £520 p.p. for superior rooms, and £610 p.p. for singles.

The outline itinerary is as follows

Sunday – pick-ups from the usual points. Call at a National Trust property for lunch, arriving at Shrewsbury at 17.00

Monday – Guided tour of Shrewsbury, followed by a River Cruise on the River Severn.

Tuesday – Ironbridge Gorge Museum, with Guide.

Wednesday – Trip on the Severn Valley Railway from Bridgnorth to Kidderminster, followed by a visit to Dudmaston Hall (NT) for lunch and free time.

Thursday – Visit to JCB at Uttoxeter. Should this be unavailable, we will visit RAF Cosford Museum. Return early evening.

I would now appreciate a deposit of **£50 per person**, with cheques payable to **Cannon Travel Ltd.**

You may pay direct to Cannon, using the following information:

Bank: Barclays

Reference: HELIC<yourname>

Name: Cannon Travel.

SC: Twenty Ninety-two Fifty-four

AC: Three 0 Eight Four Four One Seven Nine

If you do, please send an email to me (Secretary@helc.org.uk) to confirm, stating choice of room, names and Emergency Contact.

Alternatively, please complete the form below and send with your deposit to Peter Greatrex, Contact details in distributed copy of the Newsletter.

Insurance has been a concern, and the price for 4 nights (5 days) UK Coach Travel is £12.80 per person. If you feel you need this, please contact Kevin Brooks at Cannon Travel – 01992 441521. The information needed is mother's maiden name, your date of birth and home address and phone number.

Peter Greatrex

| | |
|---|-------------|
| I / We would like to book _____ places on the visit to the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury, from Sunday 7 May to Thursday 11 May (4 nights). | |
| For couples, please show your preference for a Twin or Double Room _____ | |
| Superior Room Yes / No _____ | |
| Name(s) _____ | |
| I enclose a cheque for _____ (£50 deposit per person) payable to Cannon Travel Ltd. | |
| Name(s) _____ | |
| Address _____ | |
| Telephone _____ | Email _____ |
| Please provide details of an Emergency Contact _____ | |

HELC Autumn Break 22 – 25 September 2017

£195 per person DB&B, Hotel Royale, Bournemouth



For our Autumn Break this year we shall be staying at the Best Western 3 star Hotel Royale, situated in the East Cliff area of Bournemouth. We shall be staying for three nights, with dinner, bed and breakfast included. The dinner menu will be for three courses, with a choice offered for each course.

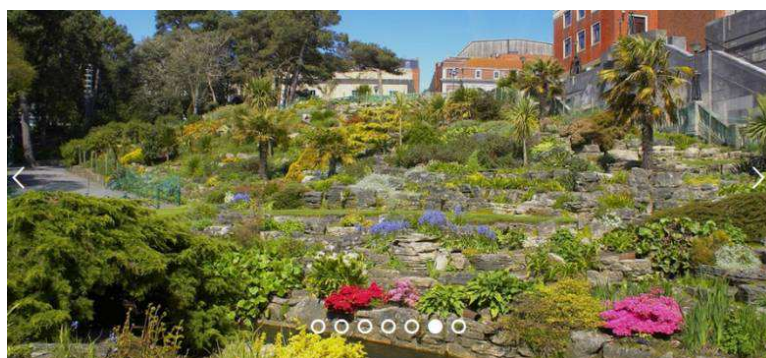


The facilities offered by the hotel include a large car park, free high speed wi-fi, portorage, and their own gardens. Within the gardens there is a covered swimming pool. The hotel also has a large lounge, and there is a lift to all floors. All bedrooms are en-suite, and have direct dial telephones, cable



and satellite T/V and tea and coffee making facilities and a hairdryer.

Bournemouth as a centre has something for everyone. In the centre there are all the main department stores, together with a number of individual specialist shops, but the separate areas of Boscombe, Southbourne and Westbourne each have their own individual style that needs to be experienced. A particular feature of Bournemouth is its gardens, both those centrally and those within the areas such as Boscombe. Also nearby in Poole are Compton Acres Gardens.



If you wish to enjoy the area in a relaxed fashion, there are Land Trains which run from Boscombe Pier to Bournemouth Pier via Boscombe High Street and Boscombe Gardens or from Bournemouth Pier to Alum Chine, or go from Boscombe Pier to Bournemouth Pier via the East Overcliff. Rather further afield, but still within easy reach are Swanage with its Steam Railway, the Bovingdon Tank Museum and the National Trust property of Kingston Lacy.

The cost of this holiday will be £195.00 per person for the hotel accommodation only. The cost of any trips or visits is yet to be determined, and will be notified to you before the final payment is due at the end of June. We have reserved 40 rooms, including 10 single rooms (for which there is no single supplement) and we expect demand for this trip to be high so you are advised to book early to avoid disappointment.

If you wish to join this trip please complete the form on the next page and send it with a deposit of £50.00 per person, plus a stamped self addressed envelope for acknowledgement of your booking.

HELC Bournemouth Visit 22 -25 September 2017.

£195 per person DB&B, Hotel Royale, Bournemouth

Initial Application Form to be returned with £50 deposit per person payable to HELC.

1. Names (print please)

.....

2. Address.....

.....

.....

.....

3. Tick Accommodation required:

Single ()

Twin ()

Double ()

4. Initial Deposit £50 per person enclosed: (.....)

Return with your deposit and a stamped self addressed envelope for acknowledgement of your booking to:

*Mr Ronald Verran,
Address in distributed copy of the Newsletter.*

Cheques should be made payable to HELC.

WALK REPORTS

THE NOVEMBER WALK – ST ALBANS GUIDED HISTORIC WALK – FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER

Twenty one hardy souls braved the November chill to participate in a guided historic walk of medieval St Albans.

We split into two groups with a guide each. The guide motto was “look up to see”. A fascinating and informative tour started and concluded at the old Town Hall. A short walk, packed with interest took in the original town hall, gargoyles of ill repute, the Clock Tower, Romeland and Sumpter Yard, just to name a few points of interest.



We concluded with a convivial lunch at the Waterend Barn and shared positive feedback of the guided walks.

WALKS in 2017 - LEADERS REQUESTED

We plan to organise walks from March to November inclusive for 2017. We are presently looking for walk leaders. All we need to know at this stage is if you can lead a walk and which would be your preferred month. Precise dates, walk details etc can be left until nearer the time.

Vernon Clough, HELC Walks Secretary, would be very pleased to hear from anybody prepared to lead a walk: please email walks@helc.org.uk or phone. **Contact details in distributed copy of the Newsletter.**

2016 EMSTA Seminar 'Crossrail'

"Crossrail", EMSTA's eighteenth annual prestige seminar, took place on the evening of Wednesday 9th November 2016, in the Weston Auditorium of the University of Hertfordshire. The event was fully booked, but on the day there were a number of no-shows: however the Seminar was a great success – some feedback suggests it was the best yet.

The University provided a selection of tasty sandwiches in the Atrium for the delegates to enjoy: the sandwiches disappeared all too quickly. However networking with other delegates, including a number of HELC members was very enjoyable.

The Seminar was opened by Professor John Senior, *Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research), University of Hertfordshire*, who gave a short welcome address and then handed over to the Chairman, Gordon Masterton, *Government's Project Representative on Crossrail from 2009 to 2014*.

Before the main business of the evening the Chairman presented the EMSTA Scholars Innovation Award, and acknowledge two Friends of EMSTA. This year the EMSTA Scholars Innovation Award went to Eneh Alexander-Ikwue from Henrietta Barnett School, an outstanding Arkwright Scholar from the region. She gave an intelligent and confident "Thank You" speech although it was difficult to hear. The Chairman welcomed both Bernard Dawkins and Dr Andrew Powell, OBE, as Friends of EMSTA.

The Chairman set the scene for the Seminar, in good humour, by noting that he had been Government's Project Representative on Crossrail from 2009 to 2014, and the project was OK when he left it. He was looking forward to hearing that it was still OK.

The first speaker, Chris Binns, talked about **Infrastructure, station fit-out and railway systems**. His presentation was the larger part of the seminar, lasting about an hour. He started by describing the many positive impacts Crossrail will have on residential and commercial property values, supporting new homes and over 3M m² commercial office floor space. It has also had a positive impact on skills development and job creation. He showed many pictures showing the tunnelling and station buildings, some of which have been designed with a specific theme related to their position and surroundings in London. His talk also included two fascinating videos, one showing the fixing of the track.

Joe Bednall then talked about **Crossrail rolling stock**, first describing how Bombardier, having lost the Thameslink contract invested heavily in the new AVENTRA train platform development with 150 engineers. Their challenge for Crossrail was to develop an iconic new train, giving not only a good passenger and driver environment, but low cost to manufacture, operate and maintain. His talk described the production challenge, where flow-line manufacturing was used.

Both talks referred to the three different signaling systems that had to be installed in various sections of Crossrail, because of legacy Network Rail systems on Great Eastern, and Western Region, and a brand new system in the Crossrail tunnels: the trains have to handover from one system to the next on-the-move.

The seminar ended with a question and answer session, superbly orchestrated by the Chairman, which provided further interesting insights from both speakers.

The Vote of Thanks was given by Peter Hansford, *Former Government Chief Construction Adviser*.

Photographs on this page by Neil Drake. Text by Ian Williamson.



Chris Binns



Joe Bednall



Question and Answer session

THE COMMITTEE FOR 2016 – 2017

| | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------|--|
| Chairman and Webmaster | Ian Williamson | | Chairman@helc.org.uk Webmaster@helc.org.uk |
| Treasurer, Equipment Supervisor | David Bell | | Treasurer@helc.org.uk |
| Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Away Break Organiser, Deputy Chairman | Peter Greatrex | | Secretary@helc.org.uk Editor@helc.org.uk |
| Lunch Secretary | Paul Douglas | 0845 467 9983 | Lunches@helc.org.uk |
| Welfare Officer, Deputy Lunches Organiser | Peter Arrigoni | | Welfare@helc.org.uk Projects@helc.org.uk |
| Speaker Secretary for 2016 | Joe Harrison | | SpkrSecretary@helc.org.uk |
| Joint Speaker Secretary | Roy Franklin | | SpkrSecretary@helc.org.uk |
| Day Visits Organiser | John Hammond | | Visits@helc.org.uk |
| Recruitment, Institution Liaison | John Cowan | | Liaison@helc.org.uk |
| Membership Secretary | Chris Dawes | 0845 463 6645 | Membership@helc.org.uk |
| Joint Away Breaks Organiser | David Purser | | AwayBreaks@helc.org.uk |
| | Allan Goodfellow | | allan.goodfellow@helc.org.uk |
| EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS | | | |
| President | Julian Usher-Smith | | President@helc.org.uk |
| Vice-President | Eric Riches | | eric.riches@helc.org.uk |
| Vice-President | Peter Warren | | Peter.Warren@helc.org.uk |
| Vice-President | John Deans | | AwayBreaks@helc.org.uk |
| NON-COMMITTEE | | | |
| Walks Secretary | Vernon Clough | | Walks@helc.org.uk |
| Joint Away Breaks Organiser | Ron Verran | | AwayBreaks@helc.org.uk |

A SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS ON 9 JANUARY 2017

Allan Goodfellow was welcomed to the Committee.

Ron Verran has joined the Away Breaks Group to help John Deans and David Purser: he does not want to be on the Committee.

Following Peter Greatrex's stroke the following responsibilities were taken on by other members:

- Acting Secretary: John Deans
- Minute Taker: Joe Harrison
- Newsletter Editor: Ian Williamson (January Newsletter), Allan Goodfellow (subsequent Newsletters)

Proposed changes to the Constitution were approved, to be agreed by the Club at the AGM (see page 14).

The proposed trip to Bournemouth, 22–25 September 2017, put forward by Ron Verran was approved: his hard work was praised (see pages 7 & 8 for information and booking form).

The Accounts for the financial year ending 31 December 2016 were reviewed and will be submitted to the Examiner, once the rental charge for Committee meetings is resolved. The Examiner, Derek Fitzhugh, has agreed to examine the latest accounts, but will not do so in future.

Homestead Court had attempted to increase the lunch cost by £1, but a 50p increase was negotiated. The Committee decided to hold the lunch charge to Members constant at £22 for 2017.

AGM INFORMATION

The Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Engineers' Luncheon Club will be held at 12:15 on 16 March 2017 at Homestead Court Hotel, Welwyn Garden City

Agenda – AGM Chairman: Julian Usher-Smith

1. Approval of the minutes of the 18th Annual General meeting held on 17 March 2016.
2. Chairman's Report for the year 2016.
3. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Approval of the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 December 2016.
4. Agreement to proposed changes to the Constitution.
5. Election of the Officers and Committee for the forthcoming year.
6. Election of John Deans as President and Julian Usher-Smith, Eric Riches, and Peter Warren as Vice Presidents.
7. Appointment of the Independent Examiner of Accounts for year to December 2017.
8. Any other business. Please advise the Acting Secretary, John Deans, of any items in writing, no later than 10 days before the date of the meeting: John.Deans@helc.org.uk.

Documents

- (a) Minutes of 18th Annual General Meeting – see page 12.
- (b) Chairman's Report for the year 2016 – **Will be included in the March 2017 Newsletter.**
- (c) Annual Statement of Account for the Year to 31 December 2016 – **Will be included in the March 2017 Newsletter.**
- (d) Proposed changes to the Constitution – see page 13.
- (e) A list of Nominations for the Committee and Officers – **Will be included in the March 2017 Newsletter.**

COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS NOMINATION FORM

I, _____ wish to stand as a Committee Member / Chairman / Treasurer / Secretary for the Hertfordshire Engineers' Luncheon Club. (Please delete as appropriate).

Nominated by _____

Seconded by _____

Nominee's Signature _____ Date _____

Please send to the Acting Secretary no later than 1st March: John Deans. Contact details in distributed copy of the Newsletter.

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
HERTFORDSHIRE ENGINEERS' LUNCHEON CLUB**

The 18th Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Engineers' Luncheon Club was held on Thursday, 17th March 2016 at 12.15pm at the Homestead Court Hotel, Welwyn Garden City. The meeting was chaired by Julian Usher-Smith, President-Elect. There were over 30 members present, together with a quorum of the Committee.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 17th Annual General meeting held Thursday 19 March 2015.

The minutes had previously been circulated with the calling notice for the AGM. The Chairman invited any proposals for amendment of the minutes. There were none. Approval was proposed by Peter Arrigoni, seconded by John Deans and approved nem. con.

2. Chairman's Report for the year 2015

The Chairman of the meeting briefly introduced the written report which had been circulated previously. There were no further comments.

3. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Approval of the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31st December 2015

The Treasurer, John Cowan, apologised for absence, but he had provided a written report to the Chairman. In the event, there were no questions. Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Ian Williamson, seconded by Vernon Clough and accepted nem. con.

For the next item, the Chairmanship of the Meeting was taken over by Chris Dawes,

4. Appointment of President and Vice Presidents for 2016.

Ratification of the appointments by the Committee of Julian Usher-Smith as President and Eric Riches, John Deans and Peter Warren as Vice-Presidents was proposed by John Hammond, seconded by Eric Iball and accepted nem. con.

Julian Usher-Smith now took back the Chairmanship, commenting that once again he felt that it was an honour and a privilege to be elected as President.

5. Election of Officers and the Committee for 2016

The Chairman of the meeting confirmed that one nomination had been received for Chairman, and so as there were no objections or further nominations, Ian Williamson was elected to this office. Peter Greatrex and David Bell were elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, there being no objections. In addition, eight nominations for membership of the Committee had been received by the deadline of 1 March 2016. A ballot would not, therefore, be required. The names of the nominees were

Peter Arrigoni, John Cowan, Chris Dawes, Paul Douglas, Roy Franklin, John Hammond, Joe Harrison and David Purser

There were no objections to the proposed nominees, and all were elected nem.con.

6. Appointment of Independent Scrutineer of Accounts for year to 31 December 2016

The appointment of Mr Derek Fitzhugh as Independent Scrutineer of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 December 2016 was proposed by John Deans, seconded by Vernon Clough and carried nem. con.

7. Any other business

Chris Dawes formally handed on the Chairman's gavel to Ian Williamson, who proposed a vote of thanks to Chris for his work, and presented him with a gift of wine.

As there was no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12:21

Peter Greatrex Hon. Secretary

CONSTITUTION OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE ENGINEERS' LUNCHEON CLUB

Amendments to Appendix A of the Club Rules proposed for approval at the AGM 16th March 2017

A.1 Membership

Eligibility

The Committee wish to extend membership to people with a degree level qualification in a science discipline or members of a scientific professional institution or learned society. We believe it important to spell out the conditions of membership, and at the same time to show that no prospective member shall be discriminated against on any other grounds.

Old wording:

Full Club Membership shall be open to professional engineers who have followed a career in any branch of engineering and other professionals who have had a career closely associated with engineering. It is the responsibility of the Membership Secretary to judge the suitability of prospective members. If in doubt the Membership Secretary should obtain an endorsement of the application by the President or a Vice President. A Member may register a spouse or permanent partner who will then share equally with the Member the opportunity to take part in Club activities, taking priority over casual guests.

New wording:

Full Club Membership shall be open to those with one or more of the following qualifications:

- A degree level qualification in an engineering or science discipline.
- Membership of a professional institution or learned society concerned with an engineering or science discipline.
- Chartered professional status in an engineering or science discipline (e.g. CEng, EurIng, CSci)
- Having held a position of responsibility for a substantial engineering-related project.

No prospective member shall be discriminated against on any other grounds. It is the responsibility of the Membership Secretary to judge the suitability of a prospective member. If in doubt, the Membership Secretary should obtain an endorsement of the application by the President or a Vice President. A Member may register a spouse or permanent partner who will then share the opportunity to take part in Club activities equally with the Member, taking priority over casual guests.

Associate Members

The Committee wish to offer Associate Membership to former Members who are unable to attend Club events due to ill health or disability, and to more clearly define Associate Membership.

Old wording:

At the discretion of the Committee, Associate Membership may be offered to partners of deceased Members or of former Members who have since died or to Members becoming resident overseas or in counties not adjacent to Hertfordshire. Associate Members are not full Members and are not required to pay a subscription. They have the right to receive the Club Newsletter electronically. They may book and attend Club events provided they do not displace Members and their partner.

New wording:

Associate Members are not full Members and are not required to pay a subscription. They have the right to receive the Club Newsletter electronically. They may book and attend Club events provided they do not displace Members and their partners. At the discretion of the Committee, Associate Membership may be offered to:

- Former Members who are unable to attend Club events due to ill health or disability
- Partners of Members or former Members who have died.
- Members becoming resident overseas or in counties not adjacent to Hertfordshire

A.2 Committee

The Committee wish to indicate the normal period of office of its ordinary members, to introduce the post of Deputy Chairman, and also to appoint Auxilliaries with the same rights and powers as co-opted Committee members to enable them to organise events for the club.

Old wording:

Responsibilities (such as Newsletter Editor, Events Secretary, Talks Secretary, Lunch Secretary and Membership Secretary) of ordinary members of the Committee will be determined by the Committee.

New wording:

- Responsibilities (such as Newsletter Editor, Events Secretary, Talks Secretary, Lunch Secretary and Membership Secretary) of ordinary members of the Committee will be determined by the Committee. It is expected that the normal period of responsibility will be five years.
- The Committee may select one Committee member as Deputy Chairman. Where appropriate, the Deputy Chairman will take the role of Chairman in the Chairman's absence and is expected to stand for the position of Chairman when the existing Chairman retires.
- The Committee may appoint Auxiliaries as necessary to support the work of the Committee. These Auxilliaries will have the same rights and powers as co-opted Committee members except they may only attend Committee meetings at the discretion of the Chairman and have no right to vote.

FUN ITEMS

1. Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.
2. Nothing annoys more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.
3. I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
4. There is great need for a sarcasm font.
5. How the hell are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?
6. Was learning joined-up handwriting really necessary?
7. Map Quest or Google Maps really need to start off their directions at the fifth one. I'm fairly sure I know how to get out of my neighbourhood.
8. Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.
9. I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least sort of tired.
10. Bad decisions make good stories.
11. You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
12. Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blu-Ray? I don't want to have to restart my collection... again.
13. I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my ten-page technical report that I swear I did not make any changes to.
14. I keep some people's phone numbers in my phone just so I know not to answer when they call.
15. I think the freezer deserves a light as well.
16. The first testicular guard, the "Cup," was used in Hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974. That means it only took 100 years for men to realize that their brain is also important.
17. I wish Google Maps had an "Avoid Thugs' Ghetto" routing option.
18. I have a hard time deciphering the fine line between boredom and hunger.
19. How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?
20. I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars team up to prevent some prat from cutting in at the front. Stay strong, brothers and sisters!
21. Shirts get dirty. Underwear gets dirty. Trousers? Trousers never get dirty, and you can wear them forever.
22. Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone, and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey - but I'd bet everyone can find and push the Snooze button on the alarm clock from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time.

LUNCHEON BOOKING FORMS

Please note that Peter Arrigoni will be taking bookings for the February lunch, and Paul Douglas for the March lunch.

Lunches **must be booked in advance**, by posting the form(s) below. The cost is shown on each Booking Form. Please complete each form and send it with the fee to Peter or Paul to arrive before **Friday 10 Feb 2017** or **Friday 10 March 2017** as appropriate.

Subsequent cancellation will be accepted up until 4 p.m. on the above dates. To cancel either month, ring Peter or Paul on the same number, **0845 467 9983**. If there is no reply, leave a message including your name, telephone number and how many places you are cancelling. Voicemail messages will be acknowledged. If this acknowledgement is not received within two days, your message has not been received and you should call again. Your money will be held in credit unless you advise otherwise if you have cancelled in time. If you book two meals together, please send **separate cheques** for each month. Unless a stamped addressed envelope is included with the returned Booking Slip, the Club cannot provide acknowledgement receipts.

IF ANY ITEM ON THE MENU DOES NOT SUIT YOUR REQUIREMENTS, PLEASE DISCUSS WITH PETER ARRIGONI OR PAUL DOUGLAS AS APPROPRIATE.

| BOOKING FORM FOR MARCH 2017 | | COUNTERFOIL - PAID |
|---|------------------|--|
| The menu for this meal is: Starter: Tomato and Butternut Squash Soup Main Course: Roast Sirloin of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding or Chef's choice of Fish Vegetables: Roast potatoes (mashed potatoes with fish), carrots and sautee cabbage Dessert: Pecan Pie and Cream, Coffee or Tea and Mints The talk, by Robin Stafford-Allen is, NUCLEAR FUSION , I enclose my cheque for £22.00 per person made out to 'HELC'. Please send individual cheques for each month for which you book. | | HELC lunch 16 March 2017 at Homestead Court Hotel, WGC. NUCLEAR FUSION Robin Stafford-Allen Tomato and Butternut Sq. Soup Roast Sirloin of Beef Pecan Pie and Cream |
| Forename | Surname | Date |
| No. of meat meals required | Telephone number | Total meat meals ordered |
| No. of fish meals required | | Total fish meals ordered |
| Please complete this form and post it to HELC Lunch, C/o Paul Douglas Address in distributed copy of the Newsletter | | Paul Douglas, telephone 0845 467 9983. |
| BOOKING FORM FOR FEBRUARY 2017 | | COUNTERFOIL - PAID |
| The menu for this meal is: Starter: Smoked Duck and Orange Salad with Balsamic Dressing Main Course: Lamb Vegetables & Mushroom Stew & Herb Dumplings or Chef's Choice of Fish Vegetables: Lyonnaise potatoes (mashed potatoes with fish), peas and courgettes Provençal Dessert: Rhubarb Crumble and Custard, Coffee or Tea and Mints The talk, by Frank Taylor is, EXTENDING THE OUTREACH OF PALLIATIVE CARE IN SOUTH AFRICA . I enclose my cheque for £22.00 per person made out to 'HELC'. Please send individual cheques for each month for which you book. | | HELC lunch 16 February 2017 at Homestead Court Hotel, WGC. EXTENDING THE OUTREACH OF PALLIATIVE CARE IN SOUTH AFRICA Frank Taylor Smoked Duck & Orange Salad Lamb Vegetables & Mushroom Stew & Herb Dumplings Rhubarb Crumble and Custard |
| Forename | Surname | Date |
| No. of meat meals required | Telephone number | Total meat meals ordered |
| No. of fish meals required | | Total fish meals ordered |
| Please complete this form and post it to HELC Lunch, C/o Peter Arrigoni, Address in distributed copy of the Newsletter | | Peter Arrigoni, telephone 0845 467 9983 |