

**Chairman's Report – Cardiff Scientific Society  
- 2016-2017 –**

**AGM - Wed 15.03.17**

**CUBRIC Building, Maindy Road, Cardiff**

I would like to thank you all for your attendance this evening.

As you will have realized we have tried to create a special AGM this year, linking it to a visit and tour of the remarkable CUBRIC center. I am sure that we shall all enjoy the event.

Another year has quickly passed in the life of the Cardiff Scientific Society.

Again, notwithstanding a few ups and downs, it has been a successful year in which we have continued to face a variety of challenges.

The Executive Committee remains grateful for the continuing support of the membership in this regard.

Indeed, as you know we have previously been concerned by the falling number of members. But, we seemed to have turned the tide and during this year we have seen a steady increase in our numbers.

This also has quite profound financial implications. Last year our Treasurer expressed concern that the financial state would become precarious if the fall in membership numbers continued. Hopefully the Treasurer will this evening be able to report a slightly more optimistic outlook.

However the whole question of revenue income and potential savings to be made will be discussed later this evening with further consideration of the level of Membership Fee.

There is no room for complacency and it is worth stressing that we should all continue to actively recruit members to our Society

As you will recall from the presentations at last year's AGM the Executive Committee underwent some major changes with the movement and addition of new members .

We previously announced that our Secretary , Bruce, had indicated that because of increasing pressures in his new University post he wished to stand down as Society Secretary. He has continued in the post during the last year whilst attempts have been made to find a replacement Secretary. I would like to put on record our thanks for the sterling work , tireless efforts and dedication which Bruce has given to the Society.

I can also tell you that we have been extremely fortunate to locate within the University Chemistry Department an excellent Secretarial replacement. He will be presented to you at the appropriate point in this evening's proceedings.

Regrettably, I must also inform you that one of our long serving and hardworking Executive Committee Members, Graham Hockley, is very unwell at the moment. I am sure that you will join with me in sending him the Society's very best wishes.

Professor Rudolf Allemann's term as President is coming to an end and we would like to thank him for his enthusiastic support of the Society, especially considering how many other demands there have been upon his time as Head of the School of Chemistry.

We are also pleased to announce that Professor Kenneth Harris from the Department of Chemistry (previously Vice-President) will take over from Professor Allemann as the new President for the 2 years, 2017-2019.

I commenced by stating that we have enjoyed a successful year. As ever this has been due to the excellent speakers who have entertained and educated us by their professional presentations on a remarkably diverse range of topics.

Truly something for everyone and all interests.

There have been many highlights in the programme. It would be invidious of me to try and rank these presentations but particular highlights would include presentations by Professor Jehane Ragai on **The Scientist and the Forger**, Professor Valerie O'Donnell on **Discovery of New Lipids**, Professor Kenneth Harris on **The Dynamics of Crystals** and of course the Presidential Lecture given by Professor Allemann on **Chemistry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**.

I am sure that you will all have your own personal list of lectures which particularly impressed you.

Presently, the Committee is putting together what we know will be an exciting, varied and innovative programme, which we can look forward to for the next year, 2017-2018.

We also plan to maintain our valuable association with The Learned Society of Wales (LSOW) during the coming year.

We are very anxious to make the CSS lectures attractive to the young and especially science pupils in secondary education. To promote this concept we have embarked on a

series of school visits starting with Howells School, Llandaff, in order to advertise and promote our activities.

Those of you who were present at last week's lecture will have noticed students from Haberdashers' Monmouth School. I have communicated with the Head of Science at that institution and she is very keen to continue the association with CSS.

It is very important that the Society should take an active role in fostering a love of science in school pupils. Perhaps in the future we could use one of our sessions to try and replicate the famous Royal Institution annual lectures for the young.

As discussed at last year's AGM the end of Session Public Lecture, which usually takes place in the Rearden Smith Lecture Theatre, will now take place in our regular lecture venue in the University Chemistry Department

You will all be delighted to learn that we have now been able to provide University side door access and the use of the Chemistry Department lift which I know will be a great boon for those who might have difficulties negotiating the stairs

Finally, the Society is currently exploring the possibility of obtaining some sponsorship and financial support from Industry and other institutions outside of the University. We hope to be able to report favourably on this initiative in the near future.

It simply remains for me to wish you all a pleasant evening with the remainder of the AGM and thank you in advance for your continued support of the Society.

As ever the Committee is always glad to receive ideas and suggestions as to how the activities and events of the CSS can be improved.

Malcolm H Wheeler

Chairman – Cardiff Scientific Society