



## BSST President's Report for 2022

Dear Members

This is my final meeting as President of this distinguished Society; it has been an honour to serve in this capacity but at the same time it has been a little disappointing for me. For reasons beyond my and the Council's control, events have been somewhat curtailed; firstly Covid and then a major fire at a planned ATM venue. In addition, my own health problems have meant that this is only the 3<sup>rd</sup> technical meeting that I have been able to physically attend in the 3 years.

However, as a consequence of Covid restrictions, the option of virtual attendance is now offered at all meetings which, hopefully, will increase active participation by members not able to attend meetings in person. All our Council meetings have been entirely virtual, saving a lot of time and cost to the Council members.

There were 7 wide-ranging papers presented last year, including ambiguity in 'salespeak', anomalies in product labelling, factory engineering and country-orientated papers. The ATM was held at the Museum of London Docklands, with the added bonus of several attendees testing positive for Covid a few days later – a timely reminder that Covid is, and probably will always be, with us.

At the time of writing this, the cancelled and then postponed ATM at Frogmore Paper Mill is scheduled for this year, but it is increasingly likely that it will have to be postponed yet again; an alternative venue has already been discussed and agreed upon; confirmation will be forthcoming at the AGM.

It is sad to have to report the passing of a number of our members during the last year, including Mike Bennett, a founder member and our first President. Tributes will be paid during the AGM.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM, either in person or via Zoom, at the Royal Geographical Society on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

March 2023