



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

October 2024

This past twelve months has seen the society have another very good year and this has shown itself in many ways.

The membership of the society has continued to increase, on average to 2 to 3 members per week. In an age of ever-increasing costs, the subscription rates have not been increased and we hope to maintain this for some time to come. The financial position of the society is sound.

One of the main, but not sole, reasons for our increase in membership is due to the society being active on social media and for this I thank the Member of Council Paul Jagger and his able new assistant, David 'Griff' Griffiths who are responsible for our presence on the social media platforms. The total membership of the society now stands at about 650 members. We have however, unfortunately seen the deaths of some loyal members who were members of the society for decades, such as Joan Hurrell, Chloë Cockerill, former Chairman Tony Sims and former Secretary Melvyn Jeremiah.

The lecture programme has continued unabated under the hand of our Programme Secretary, David Phillips, and we have had some excellent talks. For the past few years, we have not been able to Zoom our lectures, much to the disappointment of many members. This is because the facilities at the lecture venue for Zoom were not up to scratch but principally because of the question of copyright and the upsurge of copyright prosecutions, there was the need to protect the society. It needed careful investigation and consideration. However, I am very pleased to report that we can now move forward and the forthcoming lecture programme will be have a high proportion of, but not all, Zoom lectures and also a some face-to-face meetings.

The Anniversary Lunch was a great success, and we were very fortunate to have as our guest speaker, Professor Anne Curry, Arundel Herald Extraordinary. She is the leading expert in the battle of Agincourt and she gave us a fascinating and entertaining talk. I am delighted to add that she is now a member of the society.

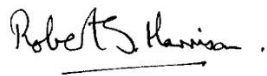
In early August the society held its Congress, this time in Canterbury. It was a great success thanks mainly to the very hard work of John and Jane Tunesi. The theme was 'Flying Heraldry' and the lectures were excellent. There was a very good exhibition comprising of various heraldic items of interest that delegates kindly brought along for

display. We had a tour of Canterbury Cathedral and its wonderful heraldic cloisters by Dr Paul Fox. Plus, we had lunch and a tour of The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies. I was delighted to welcome to the Congress delegates from as far away as Australia, Norway, Scotland and the United States. It is proposed that the next congress is to be held at Durham from 6 to 9 August 2026 and so make a note in your diaries now.

All members of Council and non-executive officers have been diligent in their duties to ensure that the society thrives, and I am most grateful to all of them for all of their hard work and counsel.

This is my last report to you as Chairman of the society. Under Section 45 of the Articles of Association the chairman can do no more than two consecutive terms of three years and therefore at the Annual Lunch on 12 February 2025 my six years will have been served. It has been a great pleasure and honour to have served the society, and I am so pleased to see it flourishing.

Finally, I wish to thank all members of the society. Without you, there would be no Heraldry Society and the world would be a much poorer place, so please consider how you could become actively involved and spread the joy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Harrison". A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

Robert Harrison
Chairman