

HOMSW - President's Report 2013

Professor Malcolm Wheeler

It has been a great honour, privilege and indeed pleasure to have served as the 31st President of the HOMSW during 2013.

I am grateful to the Society, its members and committee for entrusting me with this responsibility. A special word of thanks is due to Margaret and Peter Jones for their enormous support and enthusiasm. Without them this Society would not be so outstandingly successful. As I have previously emphasised, the secretary is absolutely key to the efficient running of a professional organisation such as ours. In this regard we have been extremely fortunate.

During 2013 it has been particularly gratifying to see the Society thrive and continue to grow. Many thanks are due to the members who continue to enthusiastically and actively supported the HOMSW.

We have held 4 meetings with excellent speakers providing exceptional talks on a diverse range of topics from Surgery at Waterloo to the suffering and remarkable courage of those exploring the Antarctic at the beginning of the last century, even passing through Cardigan Hospital en route! Indeed a programme with something for everyone.

We also enjoyed talks on specific medical and surgical topics but especially enjoyable were the presentations examining the fascinating lives of famous doctors and scientists, none perhaps more prominent than Charles Darwin, all of whom made such an impact on our profession.

The venues have been excellent including the familiar, Llandudno, Aberystwyth and Cardiff, but also including Newcastle Emlyn – a new venue and meeting which was very well attended and received.

At the beginning of the Cardiff Meeting, the Membership were informed of the recent death after a long illness of Marie Thomas, wife of Gwyn, both members of the Society. As a mark of respect and remembrance those gathered stood for a moment of silence.

On 2 occasions we enjoyed an expanded programme with activities on the 2nd day. In September we visited the Science Centre at Milton, Pembrokeshire, courtesy of Prof. Tony Campbell.

In Cardiff we were able to spend a Saturday morning at the Cochrane Centre, at the University Hospital of Wales. The programme commenced with an introduction from the Dean of the Medical School, Professor Paul Morgan. There were then 3 student presentations followed by a demonstration of Simulation as an aid to clinical Teaching. The attending members were also given an opportunity to tour the Cochrane Centre.

At the end of the Cardiff programme a hand over was made to the next President Mr. David Jones. The outgoing President commented that our Society can look forward with confidence to the future under Mr. David Jones' leadership. The future meetings will include the usual eclectic array of speakers drawn from many areas of medicine and certainly the events next year will continue to entertain and inform.