Looking ahead is key to ensuring our contribution continues to be relevant to our community

As we gather momentum in our preparations for a range of events commemorating our Golden Jubilee, I am inspired and grateful for the leadership shown across our Branch network planning and coordinating events in every corner of the globe. Huge effort has gone into identifying superb venues and expert speakers – you can get an overview of the events planned on pages 28 and 29.

The events are wonderfully supported by a range of sponsors from the maritime community, showing great commitment to the professional development message delivered by members of The Nautical Institute. Please take a moment to see the sponsors in the NI 50th section of our website: https://www.nautinst.org/50th-anniversary.html

In the same area, you will find regular updates on the schedule for 2022 and the exciting programme for the year ahead. These events will give us a chance to consider the challenges of the future and how we can continue our leadership in maritime professionalism.

At the same time, this is a chance to look back with gratitude at those Founding Members who helped set us on a course that would last long into the future. In February, I received a copy of the Certificate of Membership from one of our Founding members and took time to reflect on the commitment and vision that was part of joining a new organisation in its early years.

All of our readers are part of the story to date and part of the development of The Nautical Institute – both today and tomorrow!

Looking ahead is key to ensuring our contribution continues to be relevant to our community; in this context, I was delighted to be at the opening session of our new ISM Lead Auditors course, developed by industry experts and to be delivered under the banner of the NI Academy. You can find information on signing up for the next course on p16, or at https://www.nautinst.org/ni-academy.html

This is an exciting development as we have broadened our capability into an area that is very important to providing evidence-based oversight through the ISM audit process. In this particular context it is also the beginning of work with the fishing industry that will add value to the discussions around safety and safety management in this challenging area of work.

The work of the NI Academy is an important part of the mix of activities that we undertake in support of professionalism in the maritime community. It enables us to influence first-hand the knowledge and understanding of course participants. Just like our books and publications, the courses are developed by and for maritime professionals. We are delighted with the feedback on the programmes we have introduced so far. We are always on the lookout for new ideas of areas that are not well covered in maritime training to see if we can add value to the discussion and knowledge base.

I am also pleased to be able to tell you we are now safely located in our new offices at 200B Lambeth Road; just next door to our previous location. We remain tenants of the Marine Society and Sea Cadets and thank them for their assistance during the challenges of relocation and for designing the contemporary workplace we now enjoy. We hope many of you will have the opportunity to visit in the coming months.

During this month, we will celebrate International Women’s Day. There is still such a lot of work to do encouraging wider diversity in our industry. Leadership is about encouraging this participation and allowing all participants to flourish. There are superb contributions to be made by all members of society to our industry and one of our roles is to ensure we are enablers of professionalism in a truly inclusive manner. I hope you will enjoy the ideas shared in this edition of Seaways on this very subject.

With best wishes
John