Welcome to the mid-year issue of IBBS News and a special welcome to delegates reading this at our "Water Microbiology - Current and Emerging Issues in Healthcare" meeting in Winchester, UK. After many years as a member and quite a few as Hon. Secretary, it was a great honour to have been elected as President of the Society at the IBBS-16 symposium in Łódź last year, joining such luminaries as Howard Eggins, Dennis Allsopp, Glyn Morton, Harold Rossmoore, Malcolm Greenhalgh, Jimmy Walker, Chris Gaylarde and Geoff Robson. I promise to do my best to serve and uphold the values of the Society during my term of office.

In the last few years IBBS has grown in numbers and its activities, with regular meetings on a wide range of topics. This growth has enabled us to increase our annual Student Bursary and offer help to members organising Society-linked meetings, especially in developing counties. I want us to continue and increase this work as far as possible.

We have an excellent Council made up of hard-working, dedicated scientists who spare just a little of their time in keeping IBBS the pre-eminent scientific society for biodeterioration, biodegradation and bioremediation. Our annual general meeting, at which Council members will be elected, will be held at the Winchester meeting. If you would like to join in our work please contact the IBBS Hon. Secretary, Chris Gaylarde secretary@ibbsonline.org.

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can make IBBS even better please contact me – president@ibbsonline.org.

Best wishes,

John Gillatt, President IBBS
**Coming Up – The IBBS Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2015**

The IBBS AGM will be held immediately after "close of play" on the first day of our "Water Microbiology" meeting in Winchester, UK on Monday 7th September. This is your chance to have a say in how our Society is run so please come along.

As usual the Council have made a few recommendations which we hope will be supported:

1) **Membership subscriptions** – to stay the same for the third year running

2) **IBBS Council** – that Chris Gaylarde (current IBBS Hon. Secretary) and Katja Sterflinger from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna be reappointed for a further three year term of office. Diego A. Moreno of the Technical University of Madrid, IBBS Scientific Programme Officer, has decided to stand down and Ana M. Garcia Ruiz from the same institute has been nominated to replace him.

**Heritage Biocare**

A reminder to all members that Christine Gaylarde and Dennis Allsopp have made their "Heritage Biocare" training course available on CD. This comprehensive package of 26 presentations has been completely updated and re-formatted. With modules on:

- Introduction to Heritage Biocare (7)
- Wood (3)
- Materials (6)
- Buildings (2)
- Detection and Testing (3)
- Control (2)
- Education (3)

It represents the most complete training course on the topic and is a MUST for all involved in the field. On sale now to members for only £20. Available online at www.ibbsonline/web-shop.

**Sponsor the IBBS Website?**

Would your organisation be interested in sponsoring the IBBS website www.ibbsonline.org as our friends at Dekonta have for the last two years? We can give you full "traffic" details and further information on request. Just contact the IBBS Hon. Secretary: secretary@ibbsonline.org

**IBBS-17 - Manchester September 2017**

The Society’s next triennial International Symposium will be held in Manchester, UK, in September 2017. The theme will be “Protection, Preservation and Control.” An organising committee is already in place, headed by John Gillatt and Malcolm Greenhalgh. Please contact us if you are interested in sponsoring this event.
COMBATTING BIOFILMS - The European Society for Marine Biotechnology (ESMB), Gothenburg, Sweden, 30th September 2015

The meeting will be arranged in connection with the final conference of the EU supported project Low Emission Antifouling (LEAF), which will be held on the 29th September 2015 at the same location as the ESMB meeting.

The programme will feature several keynote presentations on prevention and removal of biofilms, but time is also available for voluntary oral presentations. A particular interest of ESMB is to be educationally oriented, thus providing also a training platform for young researchers and students. Such participants are thus encouraged to submit proposals for oral presentations at the meeting.

All contributors are requested to use the Abstract Form provided and fill in the information about author(s), affiliation, etc. as indicated in the form. The abstract must not exceed 400 words, and all information must fit within the frames of the abstract form. As networking is a very important aspect of the meeting, the presenting author is requested to submit a portrait photograph of high quality.

All abstracts must be submitted before the deadline of 30th June 2015. Abstracts should be submitted to marcia.lutterbach@int.gov.br
Following previous successful Disinfection and Decontamination meetings held in 2010 (University of Central Lancashire) and 2013 (University of Manchester) the IBBS is pleased to announce this exciting meeting on the important topic area of water microbiology. The specific theme of this meeting is "safety of water as a product in healthcare” and it will be organised in association PHE and a number of partner organisations. The main speakers will be prominent microbiologists concerned with the use of water in healthcare, analytical scientists specialising in microbial testing and disinfection, specialists concerned with water supply and microbial control.

In addition to invited oral presentations, the meeting will invite submission for a number of oral and poster slots with a prize for the best young scientist and poster. More information and a provisional programme at www.ibbsmeeting.org.

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Autumn IBBRG Meeting

20-22 October 2015 Vila Lanna, Prague Czech Republic

The International Biodeterioration Research Group (IBRG) is made up predominantly of microbiologists from industrial users of biocides, biocide manufacturers, testing laboratories from both the private and government sector and academic institutions. The activities of IBRG are coordinated through a number of working groups specialising in Paints (including tinting pastes and colorants), Polymer Dispersions, Functional Fluids (such as metal working lubricants, textile spin finishes and lithographic fountain solutions), Plastics and Textiles.

Visit: http://www.ibrg.org/Meetings.aspx