It has been said that almost all microbial infections and their resulting effects have some link with microbial biofilm formation and this is very much the case with closed circuit heating and cooling water systems. Simple effects such as pipework blockages and corrosion cause the loss of efficient operation of these systems, often resulting in fractious and expensive litigation procedures being instituted. A high proportion of such system failures are undoubtedly due to poor water quality management.

After presentation of the papers the meeting will break up into the working groups where specific problems can be discussed. In parallel there will be an exhibition and demonstration of equipment. The meeting will be a good opportunity to network with other corrosion professionals from different industry sectors and to learn about some of the latest developments in the field of microbial corrosion. Further details via the Institute of Corrosion’s website and here.

International Conference on Protection of Cultural Heritage

On behalf of the Organising Committee we are delighted to announce that the International Conference on Biodeterioration and Protection of Cultural Heritage is to be held in Łódź, Poland on September 8th and 9th, 2016. The Conference provides the opportunity for discussing various topics of biodeterioration as well as protection of cultural property. The scientific program will range from the biodeterioration of historical buildings and wood, archival documents and historic textiles, biodeterioration of historical objects stored under water to methods of investigation, disinfection and conservation. The Conference will provide the opportunity to present and exchange ideas with prominent scientists and to establish future cooperation with other participants from around the world. Full details and registration via the conference’s dedicated website — www.biodeterioration2016.p.lodz.pl.

See You in Rio?

The third of our meetings this year is LABS 9, the only biodeterioration and biodegradation conference in Latin America, being held in the Rio De Janeiro from 2nd—5th October. More information on the conference website www.labs9.org or for further details please get in touch with the organisers via contact@labs9.org.
Wet in Winchester?

The IBBS/PHE Conference “Water Microbiology - Current and Emerging Issues in Healthcare”, Winchester September 2015

Conference Organiser, Jimmy Walker, writes: “As the title suggests the specific theme of this conference was safety of water as a product in healthcare and its role as a vector in the transmission of healthcare associated infections. The conference explored the themes of Legislation and guidance, Legionella, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Emerging Risks and Infections and detection technologies.

On Pseudomonas aeruginosa Robin Smith described dealing with water borne infections in an NHS trust whilst Beryl Oppenheim talked about identify the magnitude of transmission from water to patients using a longitudinal study involving whole genome sequencing. Michael Weinbren, with his fantastic animation and graphics, and Egil Lingaas discussed Legionella from a hospital perspective whilst Vicky Chalker described clinical diagnosis and Heather Aird presented the logistics of detecting Legionella in environmental samples. Toby Thorpe brought a realistic perspective in his role as an environmental health inspector in dealing with Legionella outbreaks on the front line.

The last session concerned emerging risks with Michael Kelsey describing a wide range of infections and what he considered would be the next microbial threat whilst Mark Garvey talked about problems with heater cooler unit (HCU) used heart by-pass surgery, explaining how M. chimaera from the HCU, presumably as an aerosol, had been detected on the heart valves of patients up to 3 years after their operation. Monika Babic gave a fantastic presentation on the presence of emerging fungi in drinking water and described the potential infection routes and problems that can occur. George McCracken presented a number of emerging methodologies that are likely to provide an important aspect to improving public health.

Samuel Collins and Kate Reddington provided the audience with the background and results from studies involving the use of real time (RT) PCR to improve the speed of detection of pathogens in water and Sam also gave examples of Legionella pneumophila outbreaks where PCR had been used to reduce the detection time from 7-10 days to 1 day. The organisers Jimmy Walker, Ginny Moore, Samuel Collins, Jeremy Webb and John Gillatt were very appreciative of the support from the University of Winchester whose small facilities resulted in a homely close knit meeting where there was excellent scientific as well as social interaction. We were very grateful to all the commercial sponsors who seemed to be busy during the conference and especially to IDEXX for sponsoring the speakers’ dinner prior to the conference. Matt Upton’s presentation that was directly prior to the dinner was pertinent as he described the microbiome and opportunistic pathogens that he had recovered from showers!”

Time to Pay up......

If you are a member of IBBS and haven’t paid your subscriptions for 2016 then PLEASE do so as soon as possible. This will include people who became members by attending the Society’s triennial symposium in Lodz in September 2014. Our membership income is very important for the running of the Society and rates have not changed for several years.

Our online membership system is very easy to use. Simply go to http://ibbsonline.org/membership, where you will see the benefits of Society membership, log on using your email address with the password ibbs (or whatever you have chosen) and follow the procedure.

If you have any problems please contact IBBS Membership Secretary Dr. David Sawtell — membership@ibbsonline.org

Congratulations Hans-Curt!

Hans-Curt Flemming, former IBBS President (2003—2006) and Professor at the University of Duisberg, Germany is presented with Honorary Fellowship of IBBS by current President John Gillatt at the Society’s Water Conference in Winchester.

Hans-Curt has been recognised for his tremendous work on the study of microbial biofilms, biofouling, biocorrosion and drinking water hygiene.

As a member of the IBBS Council, Vice-President and President he has made and continues to make a great contribution to our Society.
Anna Jarosławiecka attended the Hot Topics in Microbiology conference having received a FEMS young scientist grant as a result of being a member of IBBS. She writes: “The conference for young scientists was organised by Czechoslovak Society for Microbiology in cooperation with microbiological societies from Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary. It was sponsored by FEMS and held on 23-26 April 2015 in Štrbské Plešo, High Tatras, Slovak Republic and was an excellent occasion for young scientists to present and discuss their research with their peers as well as experienced researchers. The speakers covered a wide range of topics including new emerging pathogens, host-pathogen interactions, antimicrobial molecules and microbes in environment. Additionally, a round table discussion was organised to share information between participants about the current trends and problems in teaching microbiology. The picturesque surroundings, excellently organised social program and traditional Slovak hospitality enabled us not only to exchange scientific ideas and develop new collaborations but made this stay in the Tatra Mountains very memorable.”

New to IBBS Council

Since the Society’s Annual General Meeting in Winchester last year we are delighted to welcome two new members to our Council.

Ana M. Garcia

Ana M. Garcia is an Associate Professor and Vice Dean for Postgraduate Studies at Universidad Politécnica de Madrid-Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingenieros Industriales (UPM-ETSII) - The Technical University of Madrid. As a member of the IBBS Council she is jointly Scientific Programme Secretary together with her colleague Asunción de los Rios Murillo. She has published a number of papers on various aspects of biodeterioration.

Contact: ana.garcia.ruiz@upm.es

David Sawtell

David Sawtell is not a Microbiologist! In fact he’s a lecturer in the Division of Mechanical Engineering at Manchester Metropolitan University. However, he works closely with some real Microbiologists, including Kath Whitehead in the School of Healthcare Sciences. David was so impressed with IBBS at last year’s Water Microbiology meeting in Winchester that he not only joined the Society but agreed to become a Council member and is now our Membership Secretary.

Contact: membership@ibbsonline.org

Biofilms—June 26th—28th 2016, Porto

Please see the following information from our friends at the University of Porto, Portugal regarding their Biofilms 7 Conference.

Dear colleagues,

I would like to invite you to participate in the Biofilms 7 conference to be held in Porto (Portugal) from the 26th to the 28th June 2016.

This is the 7th edition of the internationally acclaimed Biofilms conference series addressing cutting-edge issues of biofilms in industry, environment and health.

The conference website is: http://biofilms7.com

The program is organised around seven main topics:

- Biofilms and surfaces/interfaces: from nano to macro-scale.
- Biofilm detection and characterisation methods (physical, chemical, biological).
- Biofilm prevention and control strategies.
- Biofilms and the environment.
- Productive biofilms.
- Biofilms, Industry and Energy.
- Modelling and Simulation.

We look forward to meet you in Porto!

Luis Melo, University of Porto
The Biofilms 7 Organising team.
IBBS 17 — the Society’s Triennial Symposium, 6th - 8th September 2017 in Manchester, UK

IBBS 17 will, not surprisingly, be the Society’s 17th Triennial Symposium. Following on from the highly successful IBBS 16 in Łódź, Poland our next “showcase” conference is in the UK’s northern powerhouse—the great city of Manchester.

With a history going back to the Roman occupation it is famed for its historical association with the textile and engineering industries and it was the world’s first industrialised city. Nowadays it is best known for its architecture, culture, musical exports, media links, scientific and engineering output, social impact, transport connections and Manchester United and Manchester City football clubs. It also has two world class universities — the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University, the latter of which is hosting IBBS 17.

The theme of IBBS 17 is “Preservation and Protection of Materials” with planned sessions so far on:

- Biodeterioration and Biodegradation
- Biodegradation and Bioremediation
- Constructional Materials
- Cultural Heritage/Cultural Property
- Emerging Topics
- Decontamination
- Biocorrosion
- Fuels
- Biofilms and Biofilm Control Strategies
- Modern Investigative Methods
- Pharmaceuticals
- Biocides
- Antimicrobial Surfaces
- Antiadhesive Surfaces

There will also be an important session of short papers, primarily from young scientists.

The Organising Committee comprises members of the IBBS Council with current President John Gillatt and former President Malcolm Greenhalgh as Joint Chairs.

Coming soon - the conference website at www.ibbs.org

Further information - info@ibbs17.org

Would You Like £1,000/€1,200?

Student Bursaries

After many years of offering undergraduate bursaries of £250, IBBS Council has decided to increase this amount by a staggering 400%! Along with the increase, we are altering the regulations and allowing applications for postgraduate projects and conference funding. Application forms are available from the Secretary.

Undergraduate Student Bursaries

There is a limited number of awards to enable undergraduate students to work on relevant microbiological research projects in a laboratory that does not charge bench fees. The studentships provide support by awarding up to £1,000 towards a student project, which may include field work. Applications on behalf of named students are invited from IBBS members in higher education institutions and research institutes.

Postgraduate Student Bursaries

Council offers a limited number of awards for postgraduate students. The award may be used to help fund work on a relevant microbiological project, either in the student’s own or another non-bench-fee-charging laboratory, or to assist with attendance at a relevant conference. The bursaries provide support by awarding up to £1,000 towards a student project, which may include field work, or up to £500 towards the costs of attending a conference. Applications from or on behalf of named students are invited from IBBS members in higher education institutions and research institutes. Postgraduate students may apply directly if they are members of IBBS.

Contact the IBBS Secretary — secretary@ibbsonline.org for more details or to apply.

Goodbye Bob, Welcome Ji-Dong

It’s with real regret that we say “goodbye” to International Biodeterioration Journal (IBB) Editor-in-Chief, Bob Koestler, Director and Chief Scientist of the Museum Conservation Institute at the Smithsonian Institute. Bob took over from Brian Flannigan in 2006 and has done a remarkable job in increasing the Impact Factor to 2.131 and the Five Year Impact Factor to 2.377, increasing the number and quality of the published papers and increasing the number of issues from eight to 10 per year. We wish Bob well and continued success at the Smithsonian.

Taking over as Editor-in-Chief is Ji-Dong Gu, Associate Professor of Environmental Microbiology at the University of Hong Kong. He obtained his BSc from Heilongjiang August First Land Reclamation University (P.R. China), MSc from University of Alberta (Canada), PhD from Virginia Tech (USA). He worked in the Microbial Ecology Laboratory of Harvard University between 1993 and 1998 before joining his current institute.

We very much hope that IBB will go from strength to strength under Ji-Dong’s editorship.