Chairman’s Message
Writing this note will be my last duty as chairman; I have reached the end of my term and will be handing over to my successor at the next committee meeting in December.

Before I go I can reflect on a good year. The highlight was the MPSVA conference in Cambridge: a small and friendly conference with a lot of old friends, four excellent keynote speakers and an interesting variety of presentations. We are negotiating with Politecnico di Torino to take the next MPSVA to Turin in 2020 and we hope to be able to announce that next year. There were also two smaller meetings: “High Value Manufacturing” back in February and “Integrated Computational Materials Engineering” to come in December.

The new chairman is Prof Carol Featherston (Cardiff) and the honorary secretary is Dr Anish Roy (Loughborough), both old hands on the committee. They are joined by Wing Commander Anthony Drew as treasurer. We have recruited three new ordinary members: Prof David Barton (Leeds), Dr Alice Cicirello (Oxford) and Dr Nadimul Faisal (Robert Gordon University). They form a good spread of early career and established academics, and combined with Anthony Drew’s military background I expect the committee to abound with new ideas.

I will of course remain a member of the Applied Mechanics Group, though not of your committee. I expect it to go on from strength to strength and I hope I might see you at the next MPSVA in 2020.

Jack Hale

Workshop Report
‘High Value Manufacturing: A UK-India perspective’ held at Loughborough University in February 2018. The 2-day workshop was co-sponsored by IoP and EPSRC with 30 participants from the UK and India. There were 14 talks dealing with experimental studies, numerical modelling and some specific topics related to transformative manufacture, which led to lively discussion of future collaboration.

Integrated Computational Materials Engineering (ICME) Seminar - 18 Dec 2018
ICME offers a powerful route for the rapid development and application of materials knowledge to real-world industrial and scientific problems, but the application is still in its infancy. This one-day seminar aims to discuss the development and use of ICME by academic and industrial practitioners. Register via the IOP Website https://www.iopconferences.org/iop/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=790729&eventID=1275&CSPCHD=000001000000gxMN8D7SJHN8T5oS0EJs0ffG8IPY3jUWFVwU8.

Conference Report – Modern Practice in Stress and Vibration Analysis 2018
The Applied Mechanics Group organised the 9th conference in the series at Clare College Cambridge between 2-4 July 2018.

During the 3 days, 4 Keynotes and 55 papers were presented, covering the wide field of applied mechanics.

A special issue in the European Journal of Computational Mechanics is being prepared, containing extended versions of selected papers from the conference proceedings.

Cristinel Mares – conference chairman