

Long Serving SOS Management Members – part 1

Congratulations and thanks to everybody who was elected / press-ganged onto the SOS Committee at the recent AGM. Most people spend two or three years amongst the exalted ranks of Society Management before finding something less demanding to do but over the past 98 years there have been some who have really gone that 'extra mile'...

Chairman: There have been 17 people who have held this position and the name that really stands out is Robert Hughes who died in post in 1970 after serving a remarkable 35 years. He was not that good at actually attending meetings and the committee made public the attendance register in an effort to shame him! My 9 years was spread over two sessions and the last three years took the form of a job share with Jonathan Fulcher. Brian was simply the chairman's chairman – the one that the others looked up to.



Robert Hughes 35 years **Terry O'Farrell** 9 years **Brian Howard** 8 years

Vice Chairman: The post of Vice Chairman was only introduced in 1957, this was in response to the frequent absences of Robert Hughes at committee meetings so it was felt that a deputy could be helpful. There have been 17 Vice Chairmen but only two, Sally Thompson and Paul Dawson-Plincke, have then gone on to become Chairmen of the group. Susie just needs to spend another 10 years as Vice Chair to draw level with Bruce...



Bruce Ellery **Mike Pavitt** **Samantha Sly**

Bruce: 12 years / Mike: 7 years / Sam: 5 years / Susie 2 years

Secretary: The first person that anyone seeking information about SOS usually encounters is the Secretary and we have been fortunate in having many approachable, hard working and reliable secretaries over the years. The doyen of this group would be Alfred J Tomalin who served for a remarkable 39 years (and also directed 11 shows) - when he did finally retire in 1971, he remained as Assistant until 1974! His successor, Barbara Wotton, described the job as being 'hard labour'.



Alfred J Tomalin 39 years **Suzie Pavitt** 9 years **Barbara Wotton** 7 years



Philip E Graham 38 years **Nigel Finch** 11 years **Dennis Gooch** 8 years

Treasurer: The list of SOS Treasurers shares a similar symmetry with the other management jobs as once again there is person who strides over the rest – on this occasion it's Philip E Graham who held the position from 1937 to 1975. However, since 2009, Nigel Finch has given the position some much needed stability. I wonder what Philip would make of Nigel's modern task – he might have been used to the decimal system but spreadsheets and calculators would have been unknown.

Part 2: The Business Managers, Production Managers, Directors and MDs...