



## Presidential Address 2022

### ANDREW BISSEL FSL

#### Introduction and Thanks

Good evening and welcome, Past Presidents, Members, Honoured guests and Friends.

I am incredibly privileged to be taking on the role of President of the Society of Light and Lighting. There are so many people to thank who have helped me to reach this point I simply don't know where to start.

In relation to the Society of Light and Lighting I would like to say a huge thank you to the dozens of volunteers who run the various groups and committees. Until I became involved, I hadn't appreciated how many people were working so hard to make the SLL what it is. A special thank you goes of course to Brendan and Juliet without whom nothing would happen. For those who do not know Juliet has moved across the corridor to CIBSE Marketing and the SLL are looking for a replacement.

Finally, a huge thank you to all of the presidents, past and future for the amazing work completed and for the discussions we are having about the future of the industry. A special thank you to Ruth for handing over the SLL in such good shape having achieved so much in what is a very short space of time.

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#### Welcome to Manchester

After two years of incredibly successful online presentations and AGM's, it is great to be able to be here at the People History Museum in Manchester in what was the engine hall which generated electricity for the town hall clock. Equally it is great to have so many people join us online and long may it continue that we host hybrid events such that our members from around the globe can join us.

I can't thank Brendan enough for his enthusiasm when I first asked if the AGM had to be in London. I also look forward to where the next AGM's will be and particularly when we have the first AGM outside of the UK.

Welcome to Manchester

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#### My Background

Like many other's, when leaving school I had no idea Lighting Design and Lighting Engineering was even a career. Let alone that it would be something I would fall in love with to the point of one day finding myself stood here.

I started my working life as an apprentice electrician and by chance found myself installing a lot of light fittings. Thorn Pop Packs, Philips Flood Lights, Staff track lights among others from Concord and Moorlite (now Whitecroft). I found myself asking a lot of questions about the colour difference of the lamps amongst other things but even then I still didn't know lighting was a career.



Society of Light  
and Lighting

It was a college lecturer who suggested that with the recession of the 90's looming I should go to University and ride it out whilst also doing some learning. With that advice I found myself studying at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology UMIST.

Going back to who to thank for arriving here tonight then it really goes back as far my fellow apprentices, the electricians who took me under their wing to teach me and the resident engineers who answered my questions. It just shows the long term impact we can all have on the people around us regardless of their current direction in life.

In my final year at University I started to think about what I wanted to do and I guess logically when you walked into the careers office and told them you were studying engineering, they pointed you towards the shelf of engineering company brochures. As a result I was lucky enough to get a great job at a large consulting engineering company. What stood out in their brochure was their openness to new ideas, the desire to explore, challenge the norm and push the boundaries of technology and materials. As a society I believe we have a responsibility to also do that whilst also having the appropriate measure of checks and balances.

One of my first projects was a museum in Bradford and I was lucky in that the Senior Engineer had me complete all of the lighting calculations, collect the lighting data and produce the drawings (on tracing paper). This was the project where for the first time I felt this is something I want to be involved with as a career. During the project what I also learnt was how much there is to know about light and lighting and frankly how little I knew.

For every document I read on the office microfiche system, there were 5 more references at the end of the document I wanted to follow up on. Thanks have to go to all of the authors of the SLL and CIBSE guides at that time and the many papers from the SLL Lighting Research and Technology Journal.

I was blessed on the museum project with so many lighting companies offering support and willing to answer my never ending list of very basic lighting questions. Around the same time, 97/98, there was an incredibly knowledgeable and lively chap from Concord giving some truly inspirational talks on all things lighting. There were of course many other great talks and events over the following years with Love Light being a stand out. What all this highlights is how as an industry we are willing to share knowledge, help one another and therefore how many people there are to thank for all of the learning we do.

During those early years I spent 6 weeks at Thorn Lighting in the various departments and what I experienced in such a short space of time was quite overwhelming. It highlighted the many different areas of learning I needed to undertake which I hadn't thought of.

In 2000 the Society of Light and Lighting was created having previously been the CIBSE Lighting Division. I remember reading about it and wondering if that was for me, what criteria did I meet and how could I progress with the SLL. I also remember looking at the wealth of talent and knowledge of the people who were on the committees and council and thinking I am a million miles away from knowing what they know and therefore I kept my distance. It wasn't until a call from Liz Peck in 2015 that I felt I was at a point where I could or should be involved. Looking back I wish I had found a way to be more involved sooner and so if there is anything I can do to help others make that choice I would be delighted to help.

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**What Next**



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and Lighting

Throughout my career I have seen lighting design have a positive impact on our visual experience of spaces, our health, productivity and how we interact socially. At the same time I have also experienced the opposite. How do we ensure that we see more projects delivered by knowledgeable, innovative and talented lighters? As it happens the complexity of the subject of light and how it impacts us is now so great that I feel we have reached a point in time where there is no choice.

There is an ever growing library of evidence to show the benefits of daylight and in particular when it is managed to deliver the light our circadian system needs. Many of us over the last few years have experienced long periods of working from home where we generally had better access to daylight, better quality views (See BSEN17037) and the type of blind we want rather than what the building operator wants us to have. Most of us chose our own lighting at home and also chose when to use it even preferring to work in lower lighting levels if it meant we were lighting our spaces with daylight.

Coupled to having access to light we know the benefits to ourselves and the planets ecosystem of limiting the light we use at night and in particular being careful about when and where it is used. You can read more about that in the new LG21 Protecting the Night-time Environment written by Liz Peck. This is also a passion of my own and we will be adding to LG21 in the next 12 to 18 months to take forward significant change on how we light at night.

Sitting between delivering daylight and darkness are the products we use and we are blessed that we have the world leading TM66 Creating a Circular Economy in the Lighting Industry document written by Bob Bohannon and Kristina Allison. The TM66 Assured independent accreditation initiative is being taken forward by CIBSE, SLL and the LIA.

As if all of the above wasn't enough, clients have embraced net zero carbon and are ready to listen to genuine solutions which take them towards and hopefully beyond net zero.

When you combine the above lighting elements of daylight, localised lighting, views, personal control, useful blinds, repairable products, ultra low lighting solutions pristine skies, design and engineering, we have a very involved and complex subject. As lighters we have the knowledge, ability, products and passion which can find the balance on each project and improve peoples lives.

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## **Actions**

## **Knowledge**

We know the depth of knowledge we need to have to undertake our jobs as lighters. We are aware that the pace of change in our industry is faster now than it has ever been, whether that is through research, products or guidance and standards. I want to explore ways of ensuring that clients, project managers, our built environment colleagues understand the depth of knowledge we have, the importance that we are key members of the design and construction process and the benefits we bring.

During the production of TM66 engaged with end users, other professional bodies and clients as well as members of the SLL. This is one of the strength of TM66 and could be used in many other TM's, Guides and Fact Files.

## **Next Generation**



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and Lighting

Whilst making step changes and doing so more quickly, we need to bring the next generation of lighters into the society such that the baton can be handed over and the society can remain relevant, ambitious and ready for the next chapter in its history. I want to explore how we make it more appealing, comfortable and desirable for the younger generation to take that first step into the running of the SLL. Ideas are currently being developed and will be road tested over the coming months and therefore if there is anyone who would like to be involved, please get in touch.

### **Pristine Skies**

Finally, we have collected together a diverse group of people to enhance LG21, Protecting the Night-time Environment. The aim is to now add to the guide advice and the principles of solutions such that we move towards delivering pristine skies in both city and urban environments.

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**Thank You**