Chairman's Report To The Bradford Textile Society AGM 2019

2018-19 has been a year of mixed fortunes for the Society with some successes but also challenges.

Ms. Vivienne Bradley the President undertook to organise a somewhat reduced programme of events for the year at the request of Council who considered this might increase attendance at the meetings but sadly that was not the case.

The lecturers for the year were Mr. Saleem Kadir, Professor Parik Goswami, Mr. Hugh Finn and Dr. Mark Sumner (who also delivered the lecture at the Design Seminar). The lectures were well presented and interesting and very well received by those who attended.

The annual dinner at the Midland with Lord Kirkhope speaking celebrated the 125th anniversary of the Society and was a roaring success. Organised by Sue and M.C.ed by Barry Whitaker, it really was a night to remember.

This year there were a number of changes to the design competition from the Clothworkers Company (who are the major supporter) where they increased prize monies in some categories but reduced the overall number of prizes sponsored. The effect of this was not quite as they had expected ie. that this would increase the number of entries into these categories to off-set the losses from those discontinued. There were also for some reason fewer entries from educational institutions which together resulted in a drop in entries of almost 200 and a loss of income for the Society of almost £2500. Non the less there was no drop in the standard of entries nor the enthusiasm from the students. Sue continues to liaise with the Clothworkers to see how the situation can be improved.

Challenges facing the Council for the year ahead are to explore ways to increase the entries to the design competition or to whether to increase entry fees so that income can be maintained. We must also improve attendances at the monthly lecture and evaluate whether these are still required by the membership although these key elements described to the Charities Commission by the Society.