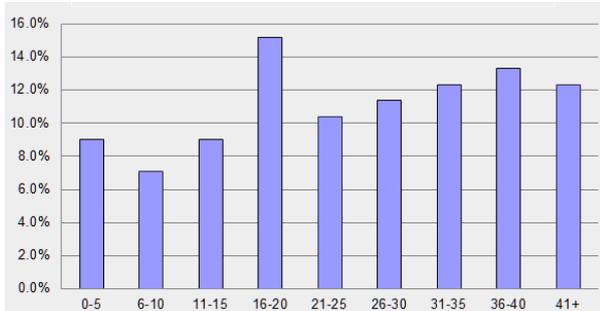


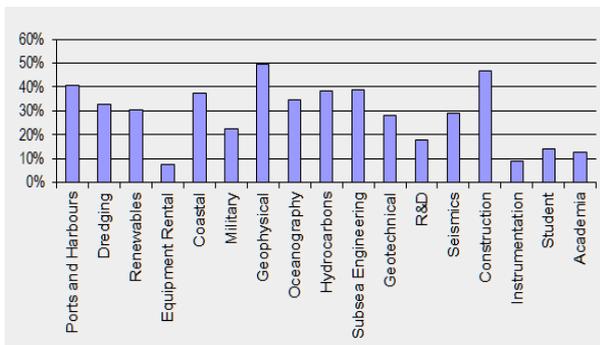
# Membership Survey: Results & Analysis

## Section 1: About You and Your Membership

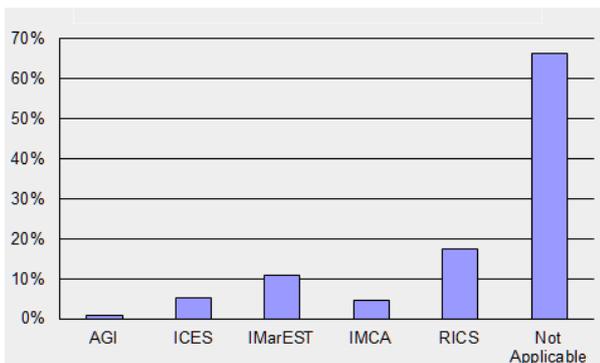
1. To the nearest whole year, how long have you been involved in hydrography or allied industries?



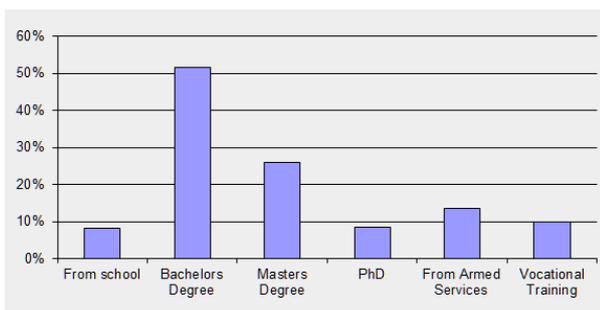
2. In which sector(s) are you currently working and/or have you previously worked?



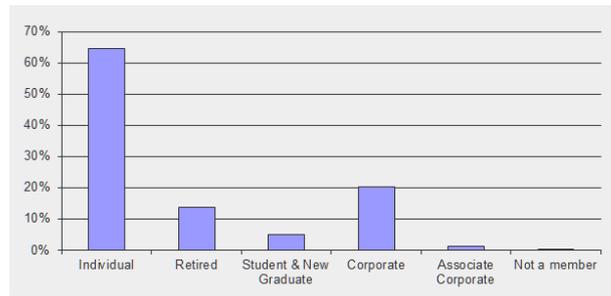
3. Please indicate which relevant professional accreditations you currently hold:



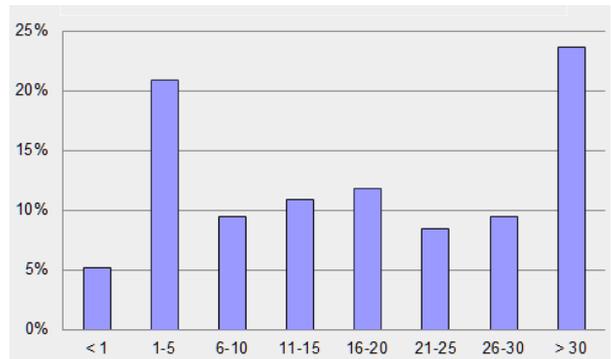
4. Please give details of your relevant educational qualifications:



5. Which category of membership do you have?



6. For approximately how many years have you/your organisation been a member of the Society?

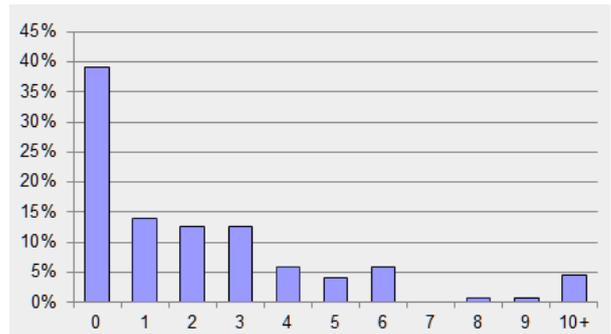


## Section 2: Society Meeting and Events

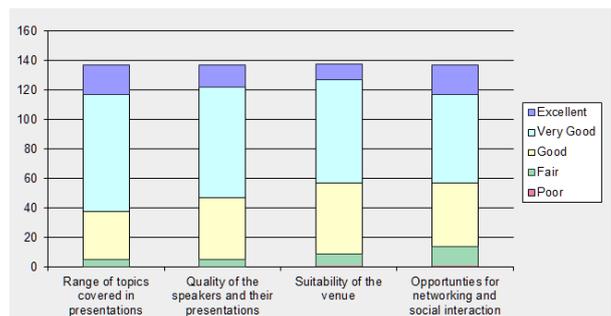
7. Have you ever attended a THS UK Regional meeting?

Yes: 73% No: 23%

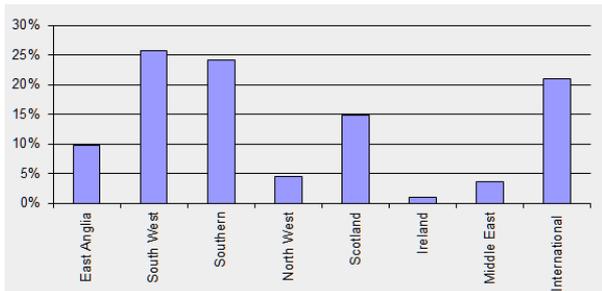
8. How many Regional meetings have you attended in the last year?



9. With regard to Regional meetings, how would you rate the following?



10. If you live/work within the catchment area of a Region of THS UK please indicate which one(s):



11. If you live in an area not currently served by a Region of THS UK, please indicate where you would like to see a new Region established:

North East	(7 people)
Wales/West of England	(4 people)
Midlands	(3 people)
Norway	(3 people)
London	(2 people)

12. Do you have any other comments you would like to add about your Region?

South West and Southern Regions are very active and are very positive front-of-house for THS locally. Meetings appear vibrant and well organised - also good links to other professional bodies.

Meetings are too far away to attend regularly. It would be good if meetings could move around within the Regions.

My area is not well-served with meetings, but I suspect there are not enough interested members locally.

Nothing happens for several months from about May to September due to the academic shutdown!

Very good socially.

It would it be possible to publish the presentations made at the Regional meetings

New members don't appear welcome into the clique.

My thanks to the volunteers for their hard work.

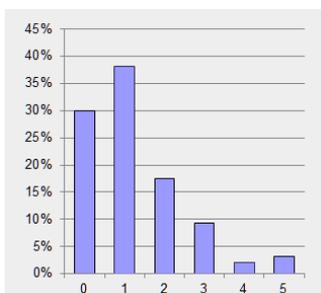
We've established the Norwegian Forum for Offshore Survey and Positioning (NOSP) in Stavanger which, in all but name, fulfils the functions of a THS region. It might be worth discussing possible affiliation to THS UK.

### Section 3: Conferences

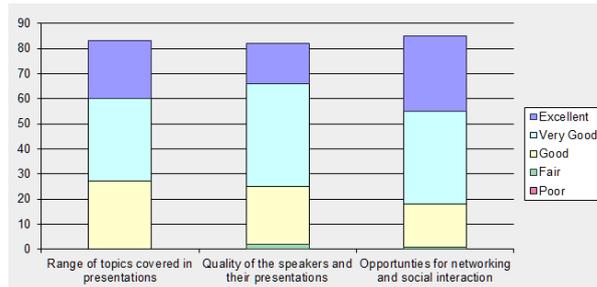
13. Have you ever attended an IFHS 'Hydro' conference?

Yes: 47% No: 53%

14. How many IFHS conferences or seminars (e.g. Hydro or Digital Hydrography on the Maritime Web) have you attended in the last 5 years?



15. With regard to IFHS 'Hydro' conferences, how would you rate the following?



16. Do you have any other comments you would like to add about IFHS 'Hydro' conferences?

Very well organised!

They really are a highlight. I would like to have more time after the last presentation to visit the exhibition. I realise exhibitors may also wish to finish but at learned conference they should react to this.

Would be good to see more involvement from local port managers, pilots, fishing associations and schools. Get primary school kids into the exhibition for a half-day and to listen to professionals talking about careers at sea.

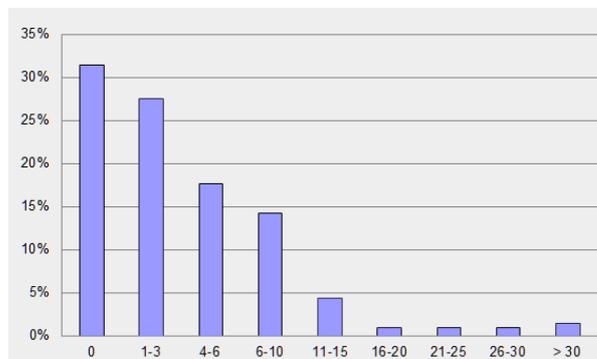
Might we try an applications day, a science day and an engineering day?

Consider more joint events to boost attendance and reduce diary conflicts.

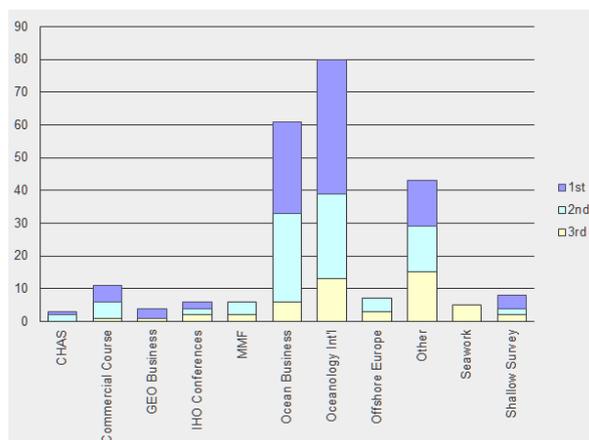
Speakers need to tone down commercialism.

Well done all-round, Hydro14 an excellent conference.

17. How many other hydrographic or allied industry conferences/events have you attended in the past 5 years?

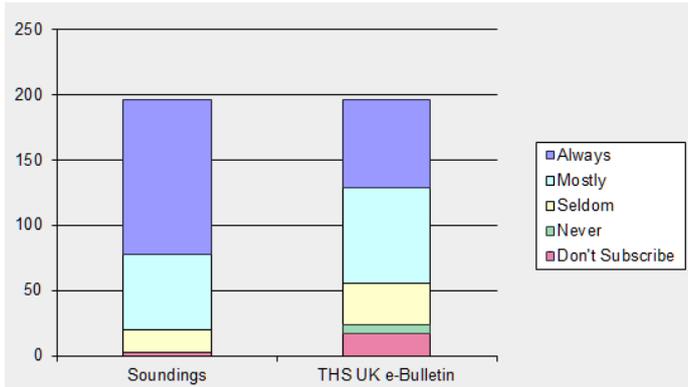


18. Please list the three events you got the most out of attending:

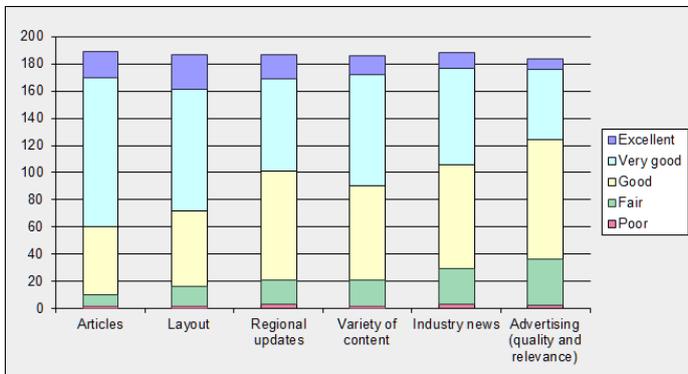


Section 4: Publications and Communications

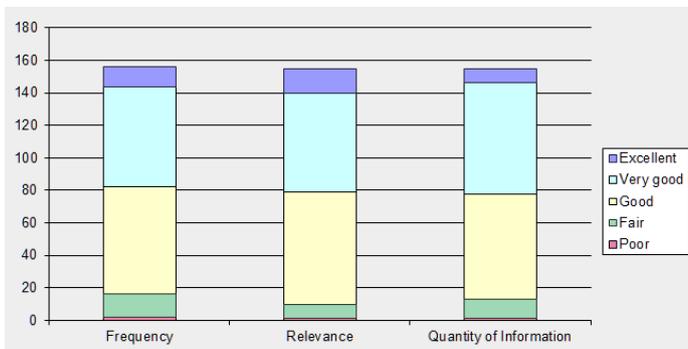
19. How often do you read the following THS UK publications?



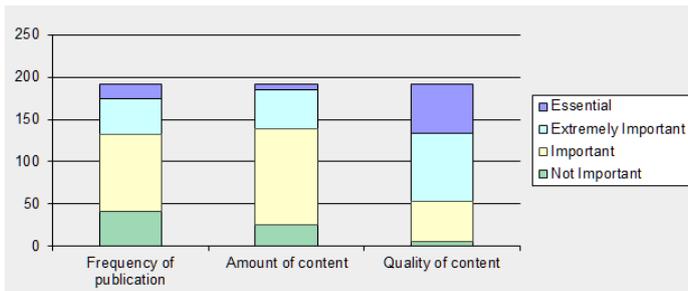
20. Assuming that you read it, how would you rate the following aspects of Soundings?



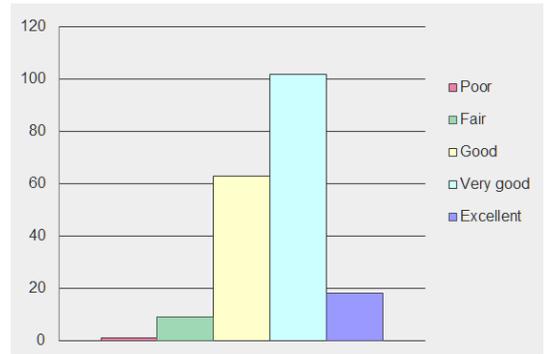
21. Assuming that you read it, how would you rate the following aspects of the THS UK e-Bulletin?



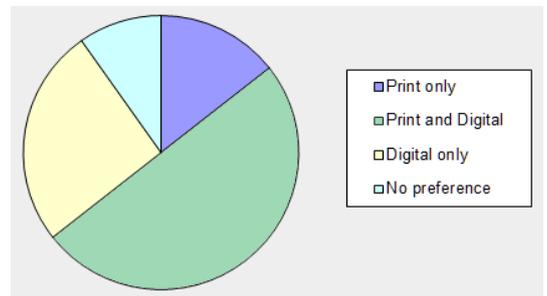
22. Sourcing relevant material for publications like Soundings has been challenging in recent years. Please indicate how important the following aspects are to you:



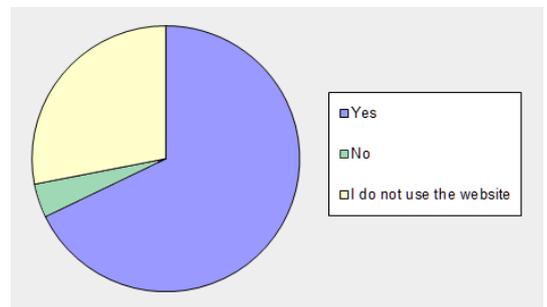
23. How would you rate the overall quality of THS UK publications?



24. Soundings is currently published in print format only. Please indicate which format(s) you would prefer to receive it in if they were available:



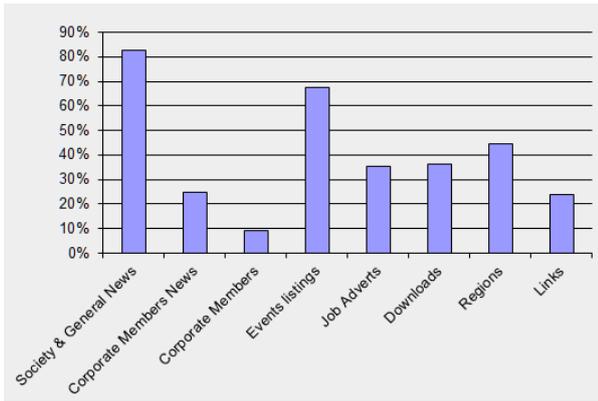
25. Do you find the website (www.ths.org.uk) user-friendly and easy to navigate?



26. If you answered 'Don't use' to Question 25, please indicate why you do not use the website:

- It's blocked by my company's ISP.
- There's no need to do so, I receive all my information from Soundings and e-Bulletins.
- Poor connectivity offshore. Do use it to pay subs.
- Wasn't aware of it or its usefulness before.
- My local Region keeps me up-to-date with emails.
- I prefer to read news in Soundings.
- There are a lot of site competing to report third party news.
- We have very poor internet access in rural Malaysia.
- I'm retired!
- I've not engaged as an active member.

27. Which features of the website do you use?



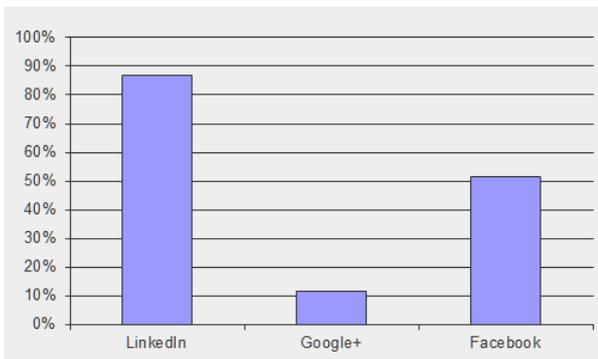
28. Are there any additional features you would like to see added to the website?

- A members' discussion Forum.
- A Useful Data page – formulae, data etc like there was in the THS Diary.
- An education page – or a link to one on IFHS site.
- A catalogue of publications and back issues of papers including The Hydrographic Journal. Is this already on IFHS website?
- An archive of Soundings.
- A layout like the BBC website.

29. The Society does not currently use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter etc.). Is social media something you would like to see it using in the future?

Yes: 33% No: 67%

30. The Society is considering starting to use Twitter in the near future. Is there any other social media you would also like the Board to consider?



Section 5: Finance and Value for Money

31. Do you think that you receive good value for money from your subscription?

Yes: 85% No: 15%

32. If you answered 'No' to Question 31 please explain your answer:

- I'm not a very active member!
- All I get is Soundings as I live too far from a Region.
- The only correspondence I receive is Soundings and the e-Bulletin; my Region isn't active.

I don't see what I get other than being part of the club.

Ten years ago the subscription included The Hydrographic Journal too.

THS seems to only be interested in the views of a few and regards anyone with only a few years' experience as irrelevant.

Soundings should be in digital format too as I assume it is produced digitally.

Soundings should be published more regularly rather than when the Editor and his team feel like it.

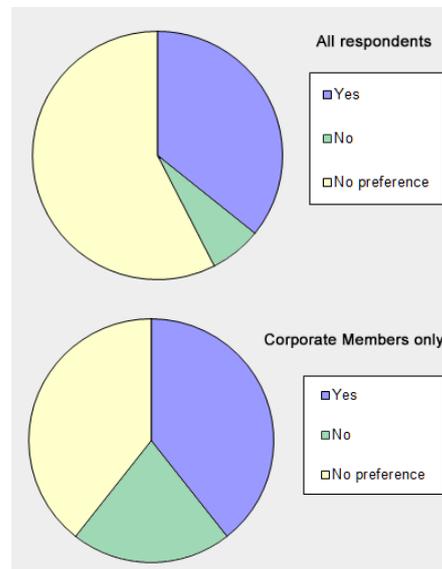
33. If you are answering on behalf of an organisation that is a Corporate Member, do you feel that your organisation receives good value for money?

Yes: 84% No: 16%

34. If you answered 'No' to Question 33 please explain your answer:

- Corporate Membership is too high for just a magazine.
- It is difficult to justify as an overseas member who cannot attend meetings etc.
- All events should be free-of-charge to Corporate Members.
- There are no benefits to membership but it's not expensive so we continue to support THS.

35. Do you think that there should be more than one tier of Corporate Membership, with smaller organisations paying less than larger organisations?



36. If you answered 'No' to more than one tier of Corporate Membership, please explain your answer:

- I don't see why this is necessary or what it would achieve.
- Equality and egalité.
- I don't think the fees are that high. Keeping them the same for all avoids any questions about whether larger organisations are getting more for their 'investment'.
- Too many tiers would be confusing and detrimental to smooth-running of the Society.
- It would be too hard to regulate.

*continued over page*

37. If you answered 'Yes' to more than one tier of Corporate Membership, please explain your answer:

It sounds reasonable that small(er) companies pay less than large(r) ones. However, it might be hard to justify where hydrography is not the core business.

It would encourage smaller companies to become members, whilst allowing larger companies to help cover the cost of the organisation.

It may encourage smaller companies to join, expose other non-members to the Society and, in turn, possibly increase membership take-up.

It should be based on the number of employees.

I have a small business and Individual membership, but I would consider a cheaper Corporate membership if it offered me additional benefits too.

Larger companies receive more benefit.

I am a one man band and happy to pay the Corporate membership - but it would be fairer if I didn't have to pay as much as a large survey company.

Smaller organisations have less of a budget for this type expenditure.

38. Please use the space below to make any further comments regarding subscriptions, the allocation of resources, improvements or ideas for future development:

The website is very good and the right place to invest time and effort.

Being able to pay subscriptions online using PayPal was a great idea.

It would be helpful to know what the paid personnel do.

Soundings is filled with reports from the Regional meetings which are really not interesting. More technical papers would be far preferable.

More use should be made of e-newsletters, both from the HQ and the Regions.

We need more things to attract younger members e.g. Google+ Hangouts for *ad hoc* chats/promotions/training.

I still miss the Diary!

An intern/apprenticeship programme would be of great value.

We should be reminded about/updated on the benefits of membership.

I'd like to see The Hydrographic Journal back in circulation, even only twice a year. I'm sure there are enough people out there to provide suitable input.

THS has no interest in new members - particularly those with military backgrounds. It exists purely to fuel the egos of those who think that to have an opinion you have to have been in the industry for 25+ years.

The individual subscription and event fees are fair and I would be prepared to pay more, especially if this could then benefit less well-off members or students, or the allocation of resources to events.

A Twitter presence would encourage more sharing of ideas/experiences.

You should try to ensure equal levels of content from the different disciplines i.e. maybe a bit more oil & gas.

Interest and activity in the Regions waxes and wanes with the ability of individuals to give their time.

Whilst not a fan of some social media, I think there is need to use it to engage with the younger members.

Include more information on OGP P1 & P2 format revisions and similar.

Regional and national events are an excellent way to meet up.

Keep up the good work!

Thank you to everyone who participated in The Hydrographic Society UK's Membership Survey which was conducted between March and June 2015. Almost half of the membership – and a few non-members – completed the questionnaire, either online or by post.

Your responses, comments and suggestions have helped us to gauge opinion a wide range of topics. They will also inform the Board's decision-making over the coming few years, in order to ensure that we continue to deliver a relevant, high-quality and cost-effective range of products and services. In the case of questions which invited personal comment, we have included an unbiased, representative selection of your responses in this analysis.

# soundings

## We want your Features

Features in **soundings** are the longer articles which tend to be more technically or mathematically robust and enable a subject or concept to be considered in greater depth.

Whilst not truly research or refereed papers, Features should seek to enhance the readership's understanding and/or awareness of a specific issue, new technology, survey practice or peripheral discipline.

Features should be 1500-2500 words in length and be complemented by several high resolution images. A short (maximum 150 words) biography and photograph of the author(s) should also be supplied.

## We want to hear your Opinions

Not afraid of speaking your mind? Are you a strong advocate or critic of any particular aspect of hydrography?

We would like to hear your opinions – either in a Letter to the Editor or in the form of a Short Feature article (500-1000 words).

Provided we don't think the content is libellous or seditious, **soundings** will try to help you to air your views. Who knows, you might even kick-start a lively debate?

## We want your Book Reviews

**soundings** is always keen to receive members' reviews of new publications covering the full spectrum of hydrography, survey and other relevant specialism. Reviews of books on relevant general interest topics would also be well-received.

Book reviews should be 500-100 words in length and accompanied by a high resolution image of the front cover and any other illustrations which may be help to whet readers' appetites.

## We want to Ping you

Ping is a regular column through which **soundings** is able to get to know some of the people working within our profession at little better. Pings explores what initially drew them into the industry and reflects on their career to date.

If you have an interesting tale to tell we'd love to hear from you.

If you would like to contribute a Feature, Book Review, Event Report, Letter or any other content for future issues of **soundings** please contact the Editor.

[helen@ths.org.uk](mailto:helen@ths.org.uk) tel. +44 (0)1752 223513