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## Fellowship

Fellowships, awarded annually at the Society's AGM, recognise members who have made an outstanding contribution to the profession, been pre-eminent within their chosen fields, or responsible for a significant development or concept, or who have made a sustained and exceptional contribution to The Society.

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**Captain John Pinder**, for his many years contributing to the hydrographic industry.

During his 30 years serving hydrography, John has been an influential figurehead in both UK and global activities. Well known for his sharp intellect and considered views, John forever makes a lasting impression to those fortunate enough to meet him. By developing talent; engaging with and encouraging academia, plus enforcing good working practices his contribution to hydrographic matters has been huge. He is an individual that many suppliers, peers and colleagues have enormous respect for.

John first went to sea with P&O in 1975 after leaving The Nautical College, Pangbourne. After 12 years of worldwide training, mainly on general cargo ships, and attaining his Master Mariner certificate, he completed the then Nautical Studies BSc at Plymouth in 1987.

After a year in command of a small training vessel based on the River Thames, he joined the Port of London Authority (PLA) as a hydrographic surveyor in 1989 (along with Adam Greenland, now the national hydrographer of NZ!), becoming Port Hydrographer in 2000. The PLA has, necessarily, always had a well-resourced hydrographic department, being one of the top three UK ports by tonnage and of those, by far the largest and most complex area to maintain. This does mean that those fortunate enough to work in the PLA service have access to the best equipment and can afford to be innovative. In the early 2000's the PLA joined forces with University College London (UCL) (at the instigation of Paul Cross and Jon Iliffe of UCL) to provide a Cat A MSc, which, after its third accreditation in 2018, remains the only civilian Cat A course in the UK. Much of the value of this course is the combination of an elite academic establishment and a competent hydrographic service working in tandem, something which John feels privileged to have been part of. Retiring at the end of 2018, John has left the PLA Service in the capable hands of his colleague of 24 years, John Dillon-Leetch, also Honorary Secretary of THS UK!

John was co-opted on to the Council of The Hydrographic Society (THS; forerunner to THS UK) in the early nineties, at a time of innovative change, with much debate about the Journal and the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS), with the late Julian Grant contributing so much to drive these changes. John volunteered to represent the IFHS (which has observer status) at the IHO on a number of occasions. Still an active member of the Society today, John has recently been co-opted as a member of a Society Working Group.

John's achievements include winning the Merchant Navy Medal, he is a Younger Brother of Trinity House, a Fellow of IMarEST and a Member of the Nautical Institute; much of the credit for which, John believes should go to his colleagues and friends over the years at the PLA and the hydrographic community in general.

John's Fellowship was announced at the THS UK AGM at Ocean Business in Southampton, April 2019. He was presented with his certificate and Fellow's lapel badge by the Chair, Ian Holden.



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