

# **Institution of Agricultural Engineers**

## **Award of Merit 2014**

### ***ALAN PLOM*** ***MIAgrE***

Alan has been an inspirational and active member of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers since joining in 1975. He has served on his local branch committee in the South East Midlands branch for over 25 years, being appointed Vice-Chairman in 1995 and then Chairman from 1996 to 1998 and remains an active member of the committee today – even though he has ‘supposedly’ retired from full-time employment. As part of this committee he has been instrumental in suggesting and organizing a number of highly appreciated technical meetings and visits. Not only has he put these together but he also regularly contributes Branch meeting reports to Landwards. He has also sat on the IAgRE National Council.

Alan graduated from Aberystwyth University in 1974 with a BSc(Hons) degree in Agriculture and went on to gain a postgraduate diploma in Agricultural Engineering and Occupational Health and Safety, which led him to employment in the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). He joined the HSE in 1979 as an Agricultural Inspector and ended his HSE career, after 32 years, as the Head of Safety Section in HSE's Agriculture & Food Sector where he led nationally on safety issues in agriculture and the land-based industries.

On ‘retiring’ in 2011 Alan gave up his full time job but has remained very much in the ‘H&S sector’ and now spends much of his time performing the duties of Chairman of the Farm Safety Partnership's (FSP) Machinery Safety Sub-Group. Not content with chairing the FSP committee, Alan is also Vice Chairman of the IOSH Rural Industries Group.

Never one to ‘sit back and do nothing’, Alan is a regular attender at IAgRE and HSE meetings and as part of his role as a Rural Training Organiser in Bedfordshire and surrounding areas was instrumental in organising a (free) Workshop entitled "Machinery Safety – What do we do now?" held at the NFU HQ at Stoneleigh Park in October 2013.

If he gets any spare time Alan is also an independent health and safety consultant and justly deserving of the Award of Merit.