The Institution of

Agricultural Engineers

Founded 1938 – Incorporated 1960

## Honorary Fellow

## Bill Day

FIAgrE

Dr Bill Day has made a huge contribution to the agricultural engineering profession and the work of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers and I feel that it fully justifies him becoming an Honorary Fellow of The Institution.

Bill, has had a long and distinguished career in the biosciences starting from the Physics Department at Rothamsted to his becoming director of Silsoe Research Institute 1999. With the closure of SRI in 2006, the Institution took over ownership of the Biosystems Engineering journal. Bill was appointed as Editor in Chief (EIC) and I was appointed Managing Editor and this arrangement continued until 2021. It was a period of rapid change for the journal. We moved to a fully electronic submission and publishing system and submissions of papers more than tripled over that period.

We took on an expanded editorial team as a result. The journal’s impact factor, based on citations, also grew significantly and it is safe to say that our journal is now the leading scientific journal in our field. As EIC, Bill was responsible for overseeing this transition and setting its future direction in relation to content, scope and scientific standards. Biosystems Engineering has become a vital asset to the Institution contributing substantially to both its financial health and its technical standing and Bill has contributed hugely to that.

Bill contributed directly to the Institution in terms of our role in providing policy advice to Government. When, early in 2012, The Institution had been invited to provide a response to The Future of Food and Farming Foresight Report relating to the potential future role for agricultural engineering. The technical panel that was assembled to prepare the response unanimously agreed that Bill should be asked to act as editorial coordinator for this task. All recognised the task to be a daunting one that needed to be completed against a tight time schedule. Bill did an excellent job in stimulating ideas, moulding responses from a range of sources and drafting a really good report that fully met the requirements relating to the Foresight Report. This report represented an important milestone for the Institution and it continues today to serve as an important reference document.

Bill also masterminded the highly significant historical document concerning our sector; “Agricultural Engineering – The Wrest Park Story 1924-2006”. It was published as a volume by our journal and it provides a fitting legacy for the many who worked at Wrest Park over the decades.

Bill has also contributed to the profile of The Institution on the international scene as a key organiser of the first Ag Eng Conference in 2000 at Warwick and then as President of EurAgEng in 2005-6.

Since standing down from the role of Editor-in Chief, Bill has continued to provide valuable guidance and support for the journal as Editor Emeritus, but he has had more chance to ride his tandem with his wife Ginny, across the hills of Northumberland and elsewhere.

Dr C.S. Parkin CEng, CEnv, HonFIAgrE

Editor-in-Chief, Biosystems Engineering 2021-23  
Managing Editor, Biosystems Engineering 2007-21