

# **CRA CELEBRATES 20 SUCCESSFUL YEARS**

“Welcome to Portcullis House, Westminster”, was the Chairman’s opening and welcoming remark to members of the Concrete Repair Association (CRA) at the organisation’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary AGM, which took place at the House of Commons in early October.

The meeting launched a momentous week-end of celebration for the Association. In addition to the AGM in the ‘Thatcher Room’ at Portcullis House, fifty-two Association members and guests also attended a tour of the Palace of Westminster and in the evening, a black tie dinner in the Churchill Room.

CRA Chairman, Tony Hansard, commented “Whilst this is a significant occasion for the CRA, for many in the construction industry, 2008 has proved a very difficult year. Fortunately, the repair and refurbishment sector of the industry has withstood the worst of the downturn, but winning business is becoming tougher and the industry may not have seen the worst of it yet. Let us hope that recent measures taken by government will release some extra liquidity into the economy”.

He reported that despite the general downturn, the CRA has enjoyed a successful year. The Association continues to grow, is well respected in the industry and is financially sound.

“None of us would be here had it not been for a meeting called in the autumn of 1988, when the Concrete Repair Association was founded. Robert Jenkins became the new Association’s first Chairman. Others at this first meeting included John Fairley, still the CRA Secretary, Mike Derby, Dave Pepler, Graham Brown, Jamie Wimpenny, David Abrahams and Roland Tomlin. At the second meeting they were joined by notables such as Gerry Otter, Mark Ticknell, Pat Quarton and Jim Maker”. Contractors actively involved in those early days included Wimpenny, Gunac, Hydra, Connaughts, Stonecare, Lelliots, Balvac Whitney Moran, Makers and Delta Steeplejacks.

He welcomed some of the past Chairman in attendance and ran through the role of honour for the 20 years. “Following the first Chairman, Robert Jenkins, Graham Brown took over in 1991. He was followed by Jim Maker. In 1994 Chris Martin took the reins and then, for a brief spell Pat Mc Ardle took office. This was followed by a 3-year period by Mike Gibb. The new millennium saw Bob Berry and Tom McCulloch became the CRA’s first Scottish chairman in 2002. He was followed soon after by Mike Hackett and more recently by Andrew Muirhead, followed last year by yours truly”.

“So much for the history of the Association”, he said, “I would now like to wish the CRA continued success over the coming years”

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#### **Notes to Editor**

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