

Dear Members.

Well, we are nearly half way through 2018, passed the longest day of the year and already two months into my Presidential year. Time passes so quickly but it is a real pleasure to send you my Presidents message for June 2018:

Personal Stuff

I am writing this from Mumbai where I am working for the next 2 weeks. Despite it now being the rainy season and very wet, I enjoy my time here. People are friendly, the food is great and there is a real sense of family and community. Whilst I enjoy being here, many of my Mumbai team come to the UK. They stay and work in Suffolk and they love it. They talk about open country spaces, time for peace and quiet and friendly, helpful people. From a work point of view they see how close we are to London and how easy it is to access clients across the UK - we are extremely fortunate.

Closer to home, I can now share that my son has now joined the Insurance industry. He has recently joined P Plumridge, G White & B Williams, the NFU Mutual Agency in Ipswich, as a Customer Service Advisor. He joined the CII on his first day! I really hope that he will get as much from the Industry and the CII that I have.

People Stuff

As I have mentioned before, I am keen to focus on "People" over the next year - developing people, bringing people together more and helping people cope and grow in a work environment that is changing faster than ever.

We are building a partnership between our local CII and Suffolk Mind (my chosen charity). To get this properly underway we have arranged a free to attend Breakfast Briefing at Quay Place in Ipswich on the 17th July. This will allow people to hear and learn about workplace well-being and to connect with others. We have had a great response to this event but there are still some places available.

On the topic of bringing people together, I am keen to take advantage of the great British summer, with our CII Sports and Social team working on arranging an event based around a BBQ and some outside games! It should be a lot of fun and I am sure that the sun will shine. Once arrangements are finalised full details will be circulated but we are looking at a Friday evening in August.....

The annual CII Network Conference takes place on 28th June in Belfast and will focus on how the CII engages with its members and stakeholders which perfectly aligns to what we are trying to do in Ipswich, Suffolk and North Essex. My deputy, Sarah Deacon will be attending this event with Jess Addison who (as well as being our Treasurer) heads up our Young Professionals Group (YPG).

Diary Stuff

In addition to all of the above we have held a reserving liability claims CPD session in June and we have a legal update session planned for July. Some other dates for diaries include Council meetings arranged for 9th July, 10th September, 22nd October and 3rd December, and the 2019 Dinner (5th April 2019) and the AGM (29th April 2019).

I will keep you up to date with Council meetings/outputs and remain keen to get more people involved and connected to Council. To that end, each month when I issue these messages, I intend to include a piece about some of our Council members. Hopefully this will prove that we are all vaguely normal and approachable....

A Day in the life of....Sarah Deacon

This month we feature Sarah Deacon, our new Deputy President, in her own words:



The variety of roles you find in the insurance industry always amazes me. I didn't even know my department (let alone my role) existed until I was shown the job advert! I am a Catastrophe Risk Analyst for Willis Re at Willis Towers Watson.

"A what?" I hear you cry. In essence I help insurers quantify their exposure to catastrophes, and they can be natural or man-made. This is then incorporated into the design of their reinsurance placement, and arguably more importantly helps them to understand the risks they are writing from an internal capital perspective.

My route to this point has been a little varied, starting with a chemistry degree from University of East Anglia (UEA). I swore off chemistry for life at the end of those three years and started working for Marsh as an Accounts Technician.

I started to become interested in insurance and began taking the CII exams. A few years later I went back to UEA and did my MSc in Environmental Science, followed up by a couple of internships in a research laboratory and at an environmental consultancy (conclusion: chemistry still isn't for me and I don't do mud). Around this time, Willis Re were advertising to expand their existing Catastrophe Modelling team and this seemed like a great way to tie up my science and insurance background. Fast-forward 7 years and I now run the UK team, and have responsibilities in resourcing and recruitment as well as in the training and development.

For the last few years I have been part of the local CII Institute Council, beginning as part of the then newly established YPG. The Council is comprised of volunteers who work hard to provide our local insurance community with a range of educational and networking events in our region. I took on the role of Prize Secretary which is a fantastic job – I get to give out rewards to those who have excelled at their exams or in the community, and honour their achievements at our prize ceremony and annual institute dinner. Most recently I am thrilled to say I have become Deputy President to Richard Brame, supporting his Presidential themes for the year.

Whilst my day job and the local CII Council keep me very busy, outside of work I like to spend my time getting a bit creative. I love anything to do with crafting, especially if it involves textiles, and try to get out for a run every now and then to blow away the cobwebs. I've also have a newfound love of gin, for which I'm always grateful to receive recommendations.....

And Finally.....

So back to where we started. Enjoy the warmer weather now the summer is here and do look out for the invitation to our Summer BBQ. If you would like to know more about the CII or are interested in joining Council please contact me.

Very best wishes, Richard