



The week started very well meeting several of the team at the Dark Star Brewery in Partridge Green on Saturday. The owner's talk was interesting and we each came away a souvenir bottle of 10.5% proof paint stripper.

Other than that it's been a quiet week and getting on top of my day job. Mid-year reviews are approaching for many of us and they need a lot of preparation. Perhaps the Dark Star bottle of 'Imperial' might have helped after all!

By now those on Council will have received their combined Minutes and Actions Pack from last week's meeting. The new style version prepared by 'Team M&S' seeks to capture decisions made in our meeting and allocates Actions on a sheet that I can share between meetings. Although lasting only 75 minutes the ground covered was wide-ranging and sets the IIS standard. Thanks everyone and particularly Susan who has been very tolerant of my late changes.

Today Graham chaired the first meeting of the new IIS Strategy Group. The team seeks to take a long view and then engage with the three team leaders to take forward. Underpinning what we do is how we spend our budget and, importantly from a good practice and governance view, being transparent and sharing the spending details with Council Members. Graham presented a Finance Tracker that will sit beside our Planner and we will walk through this at the September meeting. I often say I want our team to grab the development opportunities that IIS presents. This is one example, namely, understanding and challenging a budget. To reassure you, the bulk of our expenditure is as expected, putting on CPD events.

On the theme of acquiring new skills there is an opportunity to work with Victoria on launching a LinkedIn IIS Group. Also a Membership Survey. Please let Susan or me know if either of these projects interests you.

We talked about future plans for the Annual Dinner. As a Strategy team we looked beyond the 2016 Dinner and considered what it might look like in future years. Companies support the event generously by 'bulk booking' tables. The Strategy team recognised the value of this support and also considered how it could support Membership Engagement initiatives. CSR is well represented at the Dinner by our charity collection. Can anyone help with e-mailing out and following up invitations? The sooner we can reach our 200 limit, the sooner we can plan a party. Paula is waiting to hear from you!

Victoria and I caught up in the week and we talked about how IIS can support the wider Southern Region – Victoria is responsible for 15 Local Institutes and I'm sure there is much that we can do together. Susan suggested that CSR and 2020 could open new doors for us as we tell our story. Perhaps a joint CSR event similar to the joint events we run with North Downs and Tunbridge Wells?

In the near future all three teams will have met. CSR on Monday and Graham is planning a meeting for Membership Engagement and one exciting idea is to host a Reception for Employers.

### My plans for the next two weeks

Very little! I'm on leave until 6 July and will not look at my Blackberry. How? I've given the battery to Kate. I will miss the usual friendly emails but it is an unhealthy temptation to dive into work emails. If all goes well I will imitate Philae the comet lander and wake up when my own batteries are recharged with sunlight.



My daughter left home a couple of years ago coinciding with my son, Matt, returning from University. This weekend he moves out to live in London. It was a panic as Kate and I had to re-home two turtles that were tiny not long ago. So instead of sharing our own baby photos let me share one of the next 2020 generation and at the same time hope all fathers are spoilt on Sunday.

Meet Jacob, born 12 May, weight 7lb 8oz. Congratulations Alison. The perfect Father's Day present!

Back soon!

