

THE INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF BRIGHTON

A History - The first 100 years

1912 - 2012



Researched and Completed by Alan Jenner & Carl Bicknell

The Insurance Institute of Brighton --- The History of the Institute The First 100 Years

History

2012 saw the Insurance Institute of Brighton celebrate its first 100 years of providing a service to local members of the Chartered Insurance Institute. Under the watchful eye of its president, Alan Jenner, the local Institute arranged a number of events to mark the centenary. These included zorbing down the South Downs, an open top bus ride following the veteran and vintage cars on their annual London to Brighton run and afternoon tea overlooking the sea at the Grand Hotel in Brighton.

Our celebrations culminated in a centenary dinner, held at the Royal Pavilion on Friday 23 March 2012, almost exactly 100 years after the inaugural meeting took place on the same site.

Whilst these celebrations helped us look forwards to the next 100 years, it is also important to remember the history of the Insurance Institute of Brighton. We are therefore grateful to Alan Jenner and Carl Bicknell who tirelessly researched the archives of our institute to produce this booklet. Please print a copy this booklet your own personal memento of our history if you wish.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

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History

The Brighton Insurance Institute came into being at 6pm on 22nd March 1912 with PE Lawford (Guardian) taking the chair.

Ten years later it was known as Brighton and District Insurance Institute and eventually it became The Insurance Institute of Brighton.

The purchase of a presidential badge was first discussed in May 1927 but it was not until 1932 that it was purchased "on the institute's 21st anniversary". You may note that 1932 was, in fact, the twentieth anniversary!

The presidential badge was purchased with contributions from the president and past presidents totalling £10 from Jay's of Kings Road, Brighton and was presented to the then president A H Dilley. It was first worn at the annual dinner on 25 November 1932.

In 1962, in recognition of the institute's 50th anniversary, the then president EG Bell was presented with an impressive bell of Chinese origin.

With the growth of insurance three 'daughter' institutes were created. East Sussex was set up in 1951, Horsham & Crawley in 1968 and Worthing and West Sussex in 1971.

Unfortunately as the industry changed, both in size and location, all three institutes struggled to find sufficient officers and council members. They were all dissolved and reconstituted as a local committee of the Insurance Institute of Brighton; Worthing & West Sussex in 1999, East Sussex in 2000 and Horsham & Crawley in 2005.

Additionally, a Haywards Heath local committee was formed in 1987.

The institutes boundaries are notionally the county boundaries of Sussex, but the area in the north east around Crowborough, Eridge etc. has, as far as we know been serviced by the Insurance Institute of Royal Tunbridge Wells since 1935.

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Timeline

- 1909 R H Russel, formerly of Nottingham and Northampton Institutes, arrived in Brighton to open an office for the Atlas. Surprised that no local institute existed, he gained the interest and support of other local insurance officials over the next three years.
- 1913 By the time of the first AGM in October 1913 the membership totalled 121.
- 1914 Members who failed to pay their subscriptions were named and shamed at the AGM, with each name read out, proposed, seconded and promptly expelled!
- 1915
to
- 1919 The Institute suspended operations owing to the War. When the Institute resumed its operations it appointed a completely new Council, including its first lady member.
- 1921 Miss H M Theobald of Brighton Institute became the first lady Fellow in the UK.
- 1922 The membership rules were revised to allow insurance brokers and their staff to become members.
- 1929 In response to an increase in the number of local institutes nationally the CII created new regions, and Brighton's area was widened to cover the whole of Sussex. As a result the name was changed to the Insurance Institute of Brighton and Sussex.
- 1932 The Presidential Badge ("The Jewel") was purchased with funds provided by Past- and Vice-Presidents, from Jays Jewellers in Brighton.
- 1936 The Institute's Silver Jubilee celebrations for the 1936/7 Presidential Year included hosting the CII National Conference in Brighton's Royal Pavilion.
- 1939
to
- 1945 The Institute continued to operate during the War, albeit with reduced levels of activity and reduced membership as the numbers of members called up for service increased. Inevitably this also meant the curtailment of the activities of most of the affiliated sports clubs.
- 1948 Council Meetings moved back to the Royal Pavilion and continued there for many years.
- 1949 GW McArthur (Road Transport) passed all 9 subjects of the Accident Branch at one sitting thus attaining the Associate.
- 1951
to
- 1954 A separate insurance institute for East Sussex was created, resulting in The Insurance Institute of Brighton and Sussex being renamed The Insurance Institute of Brighton. As a result membership numbers had suffered severely. However, vigorous recruitment of new members in West Sussex achieved by the efforts of the new Worthing Local Committee went most of the way towards restoring the membership to previous levels.

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- 1957 Membership numbers continued to grow, and for the first time in the Institute's history the membership exceeded 500.
- 1959 A new Section for Ladies-only was created, hosting talks on subjects such as beauty, photography and interior decorating. Thanks largely to the new Ladies Section, membership continued to grow dramatically and now stood at 653.
- 1961
to
- 1962 The Institute celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a variety of events, many from its associated sporting and social societies. These included addresses by senior insurance and legal dignitaries, bowls matches, inter-office five-a-side football, cricket and golf competitions, panel games and theatrical productions.
- 1962 To commemorate the Institute's first 50 years the Bell was purchased for the Institute by the incumbent President, ironically Mr E G Bell!
- 1963 The membership stood at 691. The first Carol Service took place with a full congregation at Holy Trinity Church, Ship Street. It was a great success and continued to grow in popularity over the forthcoming years, with attendance peaking at over 300 in 1970. It remained a regular event until 1991.
- 1964 The CII National Conference was held in Brighton.
- 1965 £320 was raised for charities.
- 1968 The Insurance Institute of Horsham & Crawley was formed, reducing the Brighton membership reduced by 194 to 707.
- 1971 The Insurance Institute of Worthing & West Sussex was formed.
- A team won the National English-Speaking Union Debating Competition and SF Wass won the 'Hoyte' Cup for the best individual speaker for the second year running.
- 1972 The Institute celebrated its Jubilee and a Diamond Jubilee Dinner at the Hotel Metropole was attended by 257 members and guests.
- 1974
To
- 1978 Descriptive names for the diploma holders had been discussed by the CII, namely Chartered Insurant; Chartered Insurancer; and Chartered Insurate.
- A wide range of talks and debates were arranged including one on 'The Great Train Robbery'.
- 1978 A record to date of 358 attended the Annual Dinner at Hove Town Hall.
- 1979 The first lady president, Phyllis Carey, was appointed.
- 1982 The Raising of the Mary Rose talk was the highlight of the Presidents Evening.

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- 1985 The Haywards Heath local committee was formed.
- 1986 The 75-year Jubilee Ball was held at the Queens Hotel, organised by Alan Fall and Bill Mansbridge.
- 200 attended the Presidents Evening at Bentley Wildfowl Trust.
- 1987 The Quiz Night had to be transferred to Hove Town Hall as the Royal Pavilion's Music Hall had been damaged by the hurricane. For the same reason the Annual Dinner had to be postponed to the following April.
- 1988 An all-time record of 484 attended the Annual Dinner - still a record.
- There were talks on the management of meetings and salesmanship, based around John Cleese films.
- The Quiz Night at Hove Town Hall attracted an attendance of 172.
- 1991 Events included a Fine arts Valuation by Sothebys Billingshurst.
- Bill Mansbridge retired from Council but agreed to continue as dinner secretary until 2009, completing 30 years.
- 1993 Talks took place on such subjects as Terrorist Bombs, Drugs, Solvency and Insurance Fraud and Taxation in Life & Pensions Selling.
- 1994 The Body Shop premises at Littlehampton was the venue for the President's Evening and many took advantage buying early Christmas presents.
- Jeremy Flegg was elected the first Honorary Vice President for Life.
- 1996 A very interesting and well-attended talk took place on the Uppark House fire.
- The Presidents Evening took place in the spring with a conducted stroll around Wakehurst Place, with a talk on the plans for the Millennium Seed Bank.
- The year concluded with the CII's centenary year and the President attended the Centenary Dinner at the Guildhall.
- 1998 David Bland, CII Director-General, gave a talk on 'The Changing Face of Insurance'. There was also a very good talk on The Selsey Tornado.
- 1999 The Insurance Institute of Worthing and West Sussex was dissolved. As a result our membership rose above the 1000 mark, with a 237 increase to 1040.
- The Institute established its own website. Appropriately one of a range of topics covered in talks was 'The Worldwide Web and the Internet'.
- The Southern Regional Forum was formed.
- 2000 Mike Odell followed in his father's steps by becoming President of the Institute.

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The Insurance Institute of East Sussex became the second of the 'daughter institutes' to be dissolved. As a result membership increased by a further 104 to 1144.

The death of Jeremy Flegg meant the institute lost a dedicated member. Jeremy was secretary for 25 years which made him one of only two members to serve one institute in that role for such a period.

2001 A new membership database system was established.

2002 Chris Smith became the institute's second lady president.

2003 General Insurance Regulation continued to be significant and a talk was given on the latest developments.

CII Awards of an Exceptional Service Medal to Alan Jenner and a Distinguished Service Medal to Bill Mansbridge were made. (Details of all awards subsequently shown on separate listing.)

2004 PFS members joined following the SOFA/LIA merger. Membership increased to 1431.

Ian Sadler was awarded the CII Exceptional Service Medal.

John Oliver was presented with The Insurance Institute of Brighton Exceptional Service Award.

2005 The Insurance Institute of Horsham & Crawley, the third and final 'daughter' institute, was dissolved. With the transfer of members total membership rose to 2817.

Chris Dunkley was elected the second Honorary Vice President for Life.

2006 The year saw the launch of a new improved website.

An Examinations Awards Dinner was arranged and this was to become an annual event.

2007 A full programme included a FSA Compliance Workshop presented by Branko Bjelobaba.

2008 The Centenary Committee was set up.

The institute contributed to the first regional Newsletter.

The Institute's manual was completed apart from a few sections.

2009 Insurance Institute of Brighton manual completed.

A gliding evening at the East Sussex Gliding Club and a tour of Lloyds and the CII were arranged.

2010 Chris Denham was elected president having held the chair of PFS in Sussex.

Edward Grant, the president of PFS, represented the CII at the Annual Dinner.

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2011 The start of the Centenary Year.

We hosted the Insurance Charities Golf Day at the East Sussex National Golf Club.

Alan Cleary gave the Special Centenary Talk on 'Negotiation – Some Tricks of the Trade.

Special Events to mark the centenary were arranged by Colin McFarlin (chair) and the Centenary Committee, and he was awarded the CII Exceptional Service Medal.

These included the Family Day out on the pier and afternoon tea at the Grand Hotel, a bus trip on the veteran car run, orbing on the Downs and the highlight was the centenary dinner, which was held in the Royal Pavilion 100 years from the formation there of the institute.

An exceptional talk was given by Andrew Moncrieff on the Role of Geology in the Soham Murder Trial.

The CII presented the institute with a silver salver to mark our centenary.

The last President's Evening of the centenary was a Croquet evening at the Sussex County Croquet Club and was so popular it was repeated in the first year of the new centenary.

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The Jewel

The Presidential Badge, known as the Jewel, was purchased in 1932 with funds provided by Past and Vice Presidents from Jays Jewellers in Brighton.

It was bought to mark the 21st anniversary, but was first worn at the November 1932 Annual Dinner, six months before the 21st anniversary!!



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The Bell

To commemorate the Golden Jubilee the incumbent President, ironically Mr E G Bell, presented the Institute with the bell.

In 1988, Alan Jenner took the bell to Sotheby's at Billingham where Lars Tharp wrote the following description:-

A Chinese bronze bell early 18th century of European form. The sides relief cast with two dragons each looking over its flanks to a 'flaming pearl' of wisdom in its grasp, two small birds in between. The suspension bracket conceived as a twin headed dragon with arched back over an incised band of formal lotus.

It comes from the Kangxi period (1662-1721) and was cast by the 'cire perdue' (= floating wax) process.

It was agreed to open council meetings with the striking of the bell and for around 40 years, Presidents were seen struggling to meetings with the heavy bell.



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Above is the inscription shown at the base of the Chinese Ceremonial Bell that was presented to the Insurance Institute of Brighton to mark its Golden Jubilee. The inscription says:

CHINESE CEREMONIAL BELL
Cast Bronze circa 1700 AD
Presented by C.W.R. LITTLE ESQ. General Manager on behalf of the
EXECUTIVE of the GENERAL ACCIDENT, FIRE & LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION LTD
On the occasion of the JUBILEE DINNER, to E.G. BELL ESQ. President
For him in turn to present to the INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF BRIGHTON
As a memento of his year of office
And to mark the GOLDEN JUBILEE of the INSTITUTE 22nd March 1962.

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Presidents 1912 to 2011

1912 P E LAWFORD Guardian	1968 W E ENGLISH Eagle Star
1913-18 R H RUSSEL Atlas	1969 G E JOHNSON Prudential
1919 D BOAG Royal Exchange	1970 G V MOULDEN Royal
1920 R H RUSSEL Atlas	1971 F D THOMAS Eagle Star
1921 A J D LEONARD Phoenix	1972 G G UPSON Prudential
1922 A Q BROWNING Essex & Suffolk	1973 R A STUBBS Sun Alliance & London
1923 F W HAIGH HILL Ocean	1974 G A CLEAVES Commercial Union
1924 F J SHARPE Sun Life	1975 J G PERRETT Guardian Royal Exchange
1925 S M LAMPARD Royal	1976 N J DUPLANTIER Eagle Star
1926 J W L BENATON Sun Fire	1977 C E FEATHERSTONE Ellis & Buckle
1927 G MULLENEY Phoenix	1978 J P PELLING Prudential
1928 F EASTWOOD North British	1979 MISS P H CAREY Legal & General
1929 P J R SMITHETT Commercial	1980 F E LACEY Royal
1930 E G BROWNING Norwich Union	1981 G J ODELL Royal
1931 G DOUGLAS BARTON Phoenix	1982 J A P PELLING Prudential
1932 A H DILLEY Employers	1983 H W McILWAIN Commercial Union
1933 J W B COWLIN Atlas & Essex	1984 J V JOHNSTON Guardian Royal
1934 G L DALTON Royal	1985 P E SMITH Sun Alliance
1935 W G PAYNE Sun Fire	1986 R E JOHNSON Holmwoods
1936 HM T SHELLARD Commercial	1987 P R PAVEY Robins Davies & Little
1937 S J WALKER (Founder) Motor Union	1988 A J JENNER Legal & General
1938 S N NIELD Phoenix	1989 W DYSON LAURIE Thomas Howell Selfe
1939-44 S H ORFORD Norwich Union	1990 W G MANSBRIDGE Guardian Royal Exchange
1945 A JONES Royal London	1991 C C MILWARD Sun Life
1946 G P LEPINGWELL General	1992 J BENNETT Bennett Dawes
1947 J S SEARLE Legal & General	1993 A G BASS Sphere Drake
1948 E M BIDDLE Royal Exchange	1994 P J NEWNHAM Holmwoods
1949 D J BLACK Sun Life of Canada	1995 A J KEYS Commercial Union
1950 L E MORRIS Prudential	1996 A J JENNER Legal & General
1951 N L SHEPARD Royal	1997 J A OLIVER Eagle Star
1952 R J M CHRISTIE National	1998 J BENNETT Bennett Dawes
1953 L BAKER Ocean	1999 C MCFARLIN Europ Assistance
1954 F MITCHELL Eagle Star	2000 M ODELL GAB Robins
1955 L S TYLER North British	2001 A BISHOP Warren Hill
1956 C BAKER Employers	2002 MRS C SMITH Ilex Training
1957 FS PLEWS London Assurance	2003 I SADLER Ansvar
1958 G R ALEXANDER Royal	2004 D BYRNE David Haskoll
1959 J S GRAY General	2005 N M CHEATER Coverwell Solutions
1960 E C GORRILL Legal & General	2006 Mrs G THOMAS HSBC Insurance Brokers
1961 E G BELL General	2007 A FRASER Ecclesiastical Insurance
1962 E G P ROSEVEAR Norwich Union	2008-10 D WEBLEY WARD
1963 E G PRIOR Guardian	2010 C DENHAM Think Positive
1964 H A ROBERTS Phoenix	2011 A J JENNER
1965 H A SCOTT Motor Union /Car & General	
1966 T W JELLISS Royal Exchange	
1967 T H TOLLAFIELD Prudential	

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Honorary Vice Presidents for Life

1994/5 J W FLEGG

2005/6 C M DUNKLEY

Distinguished Service Medal

2004/5 J A OLIVER

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CII AWARDS

Exceptional Service Awards

Exceptional Service Medal

2003 Alan Jenner
2004 Ian Sadler
2012 Colin McFarlin

Distinguished Service Medal

2003 Bill Mansbridge

Other CII Awards

Rutter Gold Medal

1923 Gerald Mullery

Morgan Owen Essay Competition

1967 Robert Carter

CII Examination Prizes

1949/50 Raymond Weller, David Fowler
1950/1 Stanley Plant
1951/2 Albert Denyer, Victor Jeffs
1952/3 Frank Jones
1953/4 Robert Smith, Frank Jones
1954/5 Michael Morris
1959/60 Thomas Greenhaugh
1962/3 Peter Simpson
1966/7 Derek Manser
1967/8 Rodney Young
1969/70 Terry Phillips
1973/4 Roger Hobart
1974/5 Roger Hobart
1977/8 Geoffrey Pook
1980/1 Julie Fines, Graham Davey
1982/3 Andrew Cornish
1995/6 Karen Ball
1996/7 Neil Hammacott
1998/9 Nicola Thomas
2000/1 Christine McFarlin
2004 Susan Stamp
2005 Gavin Lillywhite, Nigel Oliver
2006 Nicholas Turner, Lee Briggs
2007 Susan Stamp
2008 Samantha Dunning
2009 Samantha Dunning

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Copy of the original invitation to the Inaugural Meeting

INAUGURAL MEETING

.. OF THE ..

Proposed Brighton 
 *Insurance Institute,*

TO BE HELD AT

THE ROYAL PAVILION,
ON FRIDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1912,

At 6.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN : P. E. LAWFORD, Esq.

Agenda :

Mr. Boag to propose "The Insurance Institute be formed," Mr. Bacon to second.

Election of President for Ensuing Year.

Mr. P. E. LAWFORD. Proposed by Mr. Leonard, and seconded by Mr. Appleton.

Vice-Presidents :

Mr. J. CRAN. Proposed by Mr. Towner, and seconded by Mr. Russel.

Mr. D. BOAG. Proposed by Mr. Palmer, and seconded by Mr. Rhodes.

Mr. BACON. Proposed by Mr. Green, and seconded by Mr. Clarke.

Honorary Secretary :

Mr. GOLDSMITH. Proposed by Mr. Banks, and seconded by Mr. Rowcliffe.

Honorary Treasurer :

Mr. PALMER. Proposed by Mr. Sharpe, and seconded by Mr. Bacon.

Honorary Librarian :

Mr. BROWNING. Proposed by Mr. Glendenning, and seconded by Mr. Blackburn.