



President's Round Up – Mark Longford Hatman and Robin!

Too much mulled wine perhaps but Susan insisted I appear wearing my crown! Our Advent Council meeting on 1 December was extra special with Richard navigating us faultlessly through the agenda and especially the prickly 🌿 subject of finances. We agreed a way forward and Richard and I hope to meet David Irvine with Victoria soon at Aldermanbury to discuss funding and our plans for next year.

Council agreed unanimously that Richard will have our backing as next year's President so he can now concentrate his energy on meeting members' needs. Much of this will be based on the results of an email survey that Victoria is helping us to send out in January.

Corporate Social Responsibility has come a long way since the team's launch at the AGM and the team is now adopting the name 'Community' whilst continuing to reflect its CSR credentials. We welcomed Charlotte Penson as new Leader and wished Charlotte Roch well in her new career move (with a customary bottle of wine).

One of the outstanding successes this year has been the Annual Dinner organisation. Paula Cook joined the Dinner Team as Colin's apprentice and, as Alan Sugar might say, 'You're Hired!' It has been a magnificent achievement to increase ticket sales to the level where we have now sold out and have a waiting list! Paula was awarded a bottle of wine as a token of our appreciation (and insists on not being thanked publicly on the night ... can't promise that, Paula!). Not only this but the Dinner Team is trialling a new format this year with some added surprises. The charity raffle that Diana organises is taking on a Sussex theme with several of the prizes celebrating our county heritage. There may be an extra surprise announcement on the evening as Richard and his wife, Becci, are expecting the birth of their first baby that week. Traditionally it is the Deputy President's pleasant duty to announce the raffle and encourage us all to dig deep. This year, as Richard may be otherwise engaged, Zoe Thomas has volunteered to take on the task. Do remember you can have several entries and all the prizes will be well worth winning!

Finally, it will not have gone unnoticed that many of the names I have mentioned are graduates of our 2020 initiative. I'd like to thank Pauline for the amazing success of the Company Champions team. We now have 18 Champions covering 15 companies and this is enabling us to engage with more IIS members each week.



Secretary's Soundbites ('Susan's Stamp!')

Simply Scrumptious!

We ended our 2015 events programme on a high note with Friday's Christmas Networking Lunch at The Gallery Restaurant, City College, in Brighton. It was lovely to welcome some new faces as well as familiar ones, and for us all to get to know each other better over a relaxing meal. Our varied backgrounds - general insurance, financial services and two friends from our Sussex Seniors group - ensured that we had plenty to talk about. Mark officiated as Mine Host at the head of the table, getting into the festive spirit by wearing a blue party hat instead of his usual presidential chain of office! I won't let him live this down in a hurry!



Christmas Networking Lunch 2015



Our scrumptious learning objectives were:

How to appreciate:

- curried parsnip soup or game terrine or chilli cheese croquettes
- roast turkey or braised beef or vegetarian cottage pie
- Christmas pudding or iced lemon parfait or baked cheese cake
- mincemeat parmiers and tea or coffee

It was a very special occasion and I'm so glad that we were able to hold our Christmas lunch this year. Many thanks to Stacey, Kasia and their fantastic catering students for preparing and serving us such a delicious and well-presented three-course feast.



Paula Cook and Zoe Thomas shared some good news with us too. Paula begins a new managerial role at JLT this week and Zoe's promotion to Product Manager, Internal Schemes at The Caravan Club, will start from January. Congratulations to you both!



Most of us have probably started Christmas shopping by now. I'm very envious of anyone who has actually bought everything and wrapped it up alreadyand can remember where they have put it! Don't forget that as a CII/PFS member, you can use your CII Perks to obtain retail cash back on your Christmas purchases from a variety of major retailers including Boots, Debenhams, Currys, PC World, M&S and Sainsbury's. And if the UK weather is getting you down, how about a discounted package holiday to somewhere warm and sunny? To access your Perks, just visit [cii membership perks](#) and log in using your CII PIN and password.

Finally, best of luck if you're awaiting written exam results on Friday - I'll be keeping my fingers and toes very tightly crossed for you!

Best wishes.

(Simply Sussex will take a holiday over the Christmas and New Year break from 21 December and resume on 11 January.)



Dates for the Diary:

December		January	February	March	April
<i>Minimal bookings due to availability</i>			<i>AMM Review date tba</i>	<i>Possible CSR evening talk</i>	<i>Add Notes</i>
1 Tu	COUNCIL RC to run	1 Fr New Year's Day	1 Mo	1 Tu 2xNetworking SS	1 Fr
2 We		2 Sa	2 Tu Info gathering skills SS	2 We	2 Sa
3 Th		3 Su	3 We	3 Th Council reports deadline	3 Su
4 Fr	Christmas lunch SS	4 Mo	4 Th	4 Fr	4 Mo
5 Sa		5 Tu	5 Fr	5 Sa	5 Tu
6 Su		6 We	6 Sa	6 Su	6 We <i>Eastbourne Pier fire ?</i>
7 Mo		7 Th	7 Su	7 Mo	7 Th
8 Tu		8 Fr	8 Mo	8 Tu	8 Fr
9 We		9 Sa	9 Tu	9 We CPD TBA or new da	9 Sa
10 Th		10 Su	10 We Clandon fire talk ML	10 Th	10 Su
11 Fr		11 Mo	11 Th	11 Fr STRATEGY GROUPGJ	11 Mo CII Written Exams prop
12 Sa		12 Tu PROGRAMME PB	12 Fr	12 Sa	12 Tu CII Written Exams prop
13 Su		13 We	13 Sa	13 Su	13 CII Written Exams prop
14 Mo		14 Th	14 Su	14 Mo	14 Th
15 Tu	Expenses deadline	15 Fr	15 Mo	15 Tu	15 Fr
16 We		16 Sa	16 Tu	16 We	16 Sa
17 Th		17 Su	17 We	17 Th COUNCIL ML	17 Su
18 Fr		18 Mo	18 Th	18 Fr	18 Mo
19 Sa		19 Tu	19 Fr	19 Sa	19 Tu
20 Su		20 We Donoghue v Stevenson	20 Sa	20 Su	20 We
21 Mo		21 Th	21 Su	21 Mo	21 Th Structural defects PB
22 Tu		22 Fr	22 Mo	22 Tu	22 Fr
23 We		23 Sa	23 Tu	23 We	23 Sa
24 Th		24 Su	24 We	24 Th	24 Su
25 Fr	Christmas Day	25 Mo	25 Th	25 Fr Good Friday	25 Mo
26 Sa	Boxing Day	26 Tu Insurance Act talk PB	26 Fr Review IIS H&S policy (SS)	26 Sa	26 Tu
27 Su		27 We	27 Sa	27 Su	27 We AGM/Awards Dinner
28 Mo	B/H	28 Th	28 Su	28 Mo Easter Monday	28 Th
29 Tu		29 Fr ANNUAL DINNER	29 Mo	29 Tu	29 Fr
30 We		30 Sa		30 We	30 Sa
31 Th		31 Su		31 Th	Network News deadline 2 May