

BIPC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

As I write this, the country is starting to loosen the restrictions placed upon us, allowing us to see more of our family and friends, get out and do more and even enjoy international travel (although that is still mired with uncertainty). Our Club has happily been able to plan to hold a number of social events in the Autumn and, while these are likely to be restricted in numbers, it is a big step forward. I just hope the country can avoid another lockdown during or post this winter. I'd like to especially thank all the organisers of the various Club social events for their time and effort in these exceptional times.

The past 12 months or so have not been easy ones for many of us but the majority of adults in the UK have now been fully vaccinated and we can be more optimistic about the future.

Our Club remains in excellent financial health and I am pleased to report that the Bank has been extremely generous to all Pensioners Clubs allocating grants this year at exactly the same level as last year despite no social events (where attendance is a key element of how our grant is calculated) being held. All Clubs have appreciated that level of support which we had not been expecting. This will allow us to continue to generously subsidise our major social events this year and hopefully into next.

While we have been unable to meet physically, your Committee has met regularly on Zoom keeping the Club's wheels of administration in motion. I must thank all my colleagues on the Committee for the time and effort they put in for the Club ensuring we comply with legislation, keep our technology secure and up to date, checking out social venues, updating membership lists and so on.

Mike Cummins, Denis Flaherty and Trevor Martin are all standing down at this year's AGM after many years of dedicated service for which all members are extremely grateful. Their departures do leave vacancies on the Committee however. We have, through the Newsletter, sought volunteers to come on board but so far there has been no one stepping forward.

The Club cannot run itself – it needs a Committee to coordinate activities, liaise with the Bank and other organisations as well as communicate with its members. If you have some time to offer and would like to give something back to the Club, please contact me or indeed any Committee member. There is no obligation to join, just come along to one of our meetings as a guest and see what we do. You will hopefully find it interesting, rewarding and fun!

I intended to stand down as Chairman at the end of 2020 but, as a result of the pandemic, extended my tenure until the AGM this year. I will be handing over to Simon Culliford who I know will do a great job as Chair. I shall continue to serve as a member of the Committee. It has been a real privilege to have been Chairman of our Club and I thank you for your support. I have enjoyed meeting many of you at our social events and I hope I will continue to do so in the years ahead.

I wish you all continued good health.

Andy Fair