

## **BIPC Chairman's Report 2022**

In what has been our first “normal” year since 2019 we have been able to plan and organise most of the social activities that we have enjoyed in pre-pandemic times. I say “most” as, regrettably, the decision was taken to cancel the Northern Lunch in York in early June, despite the best efforts of Em Lloyd-Davies, as we failed to generate the numbers required to make the event financially viable. If Em is willing, every effort will be made to hold the event in 2023.

Elsewhere, and whilst the numbers were slightly down on pre-pandemic levels, the Spring Lunch in London and the gathering in Bournemouth in May were well attended and provided welcome opportunities for us to re-engage with old friends and colleagues after the restrictions placed on the Club in the preceding two years.

Plans are now well advanced for the Sidmouth lunch on Monday October 10<sup>th</sup> and for this we are grateful to David Cawdery, who has taken on the role of organiser this year. He follows Peter Kenyon who has stepped down after many years arranging this lunch for the club.

Our Chairman of the previous six years, Andy Fair, completed his period in office at last year's AGM, having carried out the role with great distinction and diligence. I am extremely thankful that Andy will continue as a member of the Committee, fulfilling the role of Hon. Auditor and, importantly, giving us the benefit of his experience, wisdom and measured, thoughtful opinions.

We have also said farewell to three of our long-serving Committee members, Mike Cummins, Denis Flaherty and Trevor Martin. All three made long and notable contributions and will be missed by us all, both for their knowledge and wisdom, but also for the humour and the fellowship that each of them has brought to our meetings over the years.

In the meantime, we have been lucky enough to be joined by two new Committee members, Keith White and Roger Wright, who came on board earlier this year. Both have been regular attendees of Club lunches and I'm delighted to have their support within our group.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter, under the heading of “Benevolent Fund”, we are taking the opportunity to remind all Club members, and non-members, of the existence of the fund as a potential source of financial support. It is, of course, of even greater relevance as we are facing a period of challenging and difficult economic conditions over the coming 12 months, and possibly beyond.

As Andy Fair has pointed out in his recent Reports, the Club's financial health remains robust, thanks to the continuing generous support given by the Bank and notwithstanding the inevitable decline in our membership numbers. As such we are confident that we are well placed to continue our core activities as before and for this I'm sure that all members would like to echo my words of thanks to all those who give their time to ensure that the Club continues to thrive.

Simon Culliford  
August 2022