



President's Round Up – Mark Longford I'm now on a diet!



The Annual Dinner is a tradition in all local institutes and forms part of the grant assessment process. Our own in January continued the changes started under Phil and Graham and is a relaxed evening where friends can meet and businesses can entertain their guests.

Part of the CII tradition is to invite the presidents of neighbouring institutes, and of course for our president to attend theirs. I have recently had the pleasure of attending North Downs, Southampton and Royal Tunbridge Wells as a top table guest. I couldn't help thinking that this would have been a little repetitive just ten years ago with identical formats, dress codes and possibly menus.

So what are others doing? Most importantly they are changing to reflect their local memberships. Like us they are appealing to a younger professional audience and must compete against tight budgets and less formal entertainments on a Friday evening. That has led to a complete rethink and the results are exciting.

The Dinner remains the highpoint of an institute's year and deserves more than a nod to formality. Back in 2012 our own 2020 team, when asked about introducing a more relaxed dress code, insisted we maintained 'black tie' standards. Other dinners I attended have done the same.

Dinners now have shorter speeches and the traditional informal table wager on the length of speeches has disappeared. Those who remember this will also remember nothing of the speeches as their concentration was on the ticking of the adjudicator's watch!

Sussex has The Grand as a spectacular venue and thanks to Colin's long standing relationship with the hotel, they work closely with us to deliver an evening to remember. Others I have attended include a country house hotel, a football stadium (The Saints!) and a smaller, bistro hotel.

Entertainment has varied, as did the menus which included a curry. Since our own event I've enjoyed watching 'waiters' spontaneously bursting into opera, a murder mystery, tv personality Roy Walker, a sita player, conjurer and caricaturist. I've also felt privileged to share in publicly honouring those who have won awards as Young Achievers or for examination successes.

Common to all CII Dinners is support for Insurance Charities and monies were raised from auctions, raffles and a quick fire game of 'Heads and Tails' (renamed from 'Kings and Queens'). Over £5,000 was raised from the dinners I attended, proving that we all care for those less fortunate than ourselves... and enjoy participating.

I'm sure Richard, Zoe and the team will have their own ideas for 2017 and I look forward to attending as a guest (hint!). It will also be fantastic to welcome our CII guest of honour, Sian Fisher, to Sussex. If you would like to help organise next year's event, gain experience and add to your cv, please let Richard or Colin know.



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

Quality assured!



I'm sure you recognise this badge – the sign that a CPD event is being run by a CII CPD Accredited training provider and that it meets the CII's exacting quality standards. To gain a licence to use the badge, whether at the initial application or any subsequent renewal, the provider must evidence that its events meet specific criteria. This applies to local institutes too, and Accreditation forms part of our annual grant assessment, to keep us on our toes and ensure we stay there!

Therefore I'm delighted to announce that our licence has been renewed for 2016, so that we can continue to offer you the very best in CII CPD Accredited events. And it made my day when the CII Accreditation team complimented us on the high number of completed delegate feedback forms that we obtain after each event and they asked me to reveal our hot tips for success!

Many thanks to all of you who complete your forms each time. In fact, we had the impressive number of 58 forms after the Eastbourne Pier fire seminar. We do value your feedback and take this into consideration when planning our programmes. A big thank you also to my council colleagues who assist with 'badge mugging' at the end of each event - collecting the completed forms and badges in return for personalised CPD certificates for each delegate.

I keep detailed attendance records for all events so if you ever need retrospective proof or duplicate certificates for any reason, just get in touch and I'll be happy to help.

Over the past five years, forensic scientists from Hawkins have given us fascinating and accessible presentations on a number of different topics, including their investigations into the newsworthy Soham murders and the Potters Bar train crash.

Given Hawkins' previous track record, we have high expectations for next Thursday (5.30 pm on 21 April), when we welcome Ian Major, Chartered Civil Engineer, to present 'Forensic Investigation of Structural Failures in Buildings'. Through the use of case studies, Ian will show how failures of new buildings are often the result of poor construction and that failures due to external influences alone, such as wind and snow, are extremely rare. As this opens up potential for recovery, Ian will outline the types of investigations and technology available to determine defective construction.



We still have some spaces left so if you would like to join us at Clair Hall, Haywards Heath, please visit our website to reserve your free place. [Sussex CII Home Page](#)

As the better weather is underway, it's time to think about planning some outdoor social events. Croquet fans will be pleased to hear that I've booked our annual Croquet Evening for 5 July. I'm telling you all now so you have a chance to get practising and give our resident winners, Tim and Anthea, some healthy competition! Following the success of last year's Lewes guided walks, we are also hoping to explore another Sussex town this summer, possibly Arundel, which is rich in history. Watch this space!

Best wishes.



www.sussexcii.org.uk



@sussex_cii



Sussex CII (IIS)





April	May	June	July
		<i>EU Referendum</i>	<i>Add N</i>
	1 Su	1 We	1 Fr
2 Sa	2 Mo <i>May Bank Holiday</i>	2 Th	2 Sa
3 Su	3 Tu	3 Fr	3 Su
4 Mo	4 We	4 Sa	4 Mo
5 Tu <i>Eastbourne Pier fire AF</i>	5 Th	5 Su	5 Tu <i>Croquet Evening</i>
6 We	6 Fr	6 Mo	6 We
7 Th	7 Sa	7 Tu	7 Th
8 Fr	8 Su	8 We <i>Technology & the future</i>	8 Fr
9 Sa	9 Mo	9 Th	9 Sa
10 Su	10 Tu	10 Fr	10 Su
11 Mo <i>CII Written Exams</i>	11 We	11 Sa	11 Mo
12 Tu <i>CII Written & PFS Q2</i>	12 Th	12 Su	12 Tu
13 We <i>CII Written Exams</i>	13 Fr	13 Mo	13 We
14 Th	14 Sa	14 Tu	14 Th
15 Fr	15 Su	15 We	15 Fr
16 Sa	16 Mo	16 Th	16 Sa
17 Su	17 Tu	17 Fr	17 Su
18 Mo	18 We <i>CII NC2016</i>	18 Sa	18 Mo
19 Tu	19 Th <i>Jt Network Event Btn U</i>	19 Su	19 Tu
20 We	20 Fr	20 Mo	20 We
21 Th <i>Structural defects PB</i>	21 Sa	21 Tu	21 Th
22 Fr	22 Su	22 We	22 Fr
23 Sa	23 Mo	23 Th <i>EU REFERENDUM</i>	23 Sa
24 Su	24 Tu	24 Fr	24 Su
25 Mo	25 We	25 Sa	25 Mo
26 Tu	26 Th <i>D&O talk</i>	26 Su	26 Tu
27 We <i>AGM/Presidents' Eveni</i>	27 Fr	27 Mo	27 We <i>Brighton Sewer tour</i>
28 Th	28 Sa	28 Tu <i>UK Flooding SS</i>	28 Th
29 Fr	29 Su	29 We <i>PFS Q3 Conf</i>	29 Fr
30 Sa	30 Mo <i>Spring Bank Holiday</i>	30 Th	30 Sa
<i>Network News deadline 2 May</i>	31 Tu		31 Su