

Simply Sussex

No.26 25 October 2015



President's Round Up - Mark Longford Mid term!

In a week when key political figures are under pressure for contemplating or conducting U Turns, I thought of Margaret Thatcher's famous words "You turn [Uturn] if you want to. The lady's not for turning". Mid way through our IIS year we have adapted when required and remain on course. I am incredibly proud that we are delivering a dynamic programme with something for everyone, attracting and engaging an increasingly diverse membership and supporting our Sussex community. I am looking forward to the next six months!

At the start of the year, Council members agreed to make our 2016 Annual Dinner a celebration of our change of name and achievements. Paula took on the challenge with Colin's experienced support and we have seen the new format emerging. The introduction of a band for those wishing to party is an innovation. Speeches will complement the evening and we will have a comedian to provide the link between the formal dinner and the informal party. Like our programme, something for everyone!



With nearly half of our target 200 ticket sales made (fabulous!), we are asking everyone to get behind this event by supporting Paula and Colin to promote it. Pauline's network of Company Champions is growing and on Friday we agreed a plan to make it easy to promote all events including the Dinner, with support material and a downloadable poster collection accessible on the website. Details of concessionary ticket prices for those actively supporting IIS will be announced soon.

Charlotte Roch, CSR Leader. One of the challenges of welcoming working professionals to our team is that they may move on during the year. Charlotte has resigned as Business Support Leader at Zurich/N&G. Charlotte has offered to lead the CSR team until the end of the year but it is likely that future work commitments, possibly in London, will prevent her from serving her full term with us. Please join me in thanking Charlotte for her commitment to IIS and for laying the foundations for Corporate Social Responsibility in our inaugural 'Sussex' year. We wish her well as she takes her new career step which I'm sure will have a leaning towards supporting the wider community.

The CSR team is strong, growing and has many projects in the pipeline. We have all seen how the 'fellowship' ethos I described following my election at the AGM, has impacted on all teams as we reach out beyond our traditional base. Charlotte has asked if anyone in her team is willing to work with her and lead from December and we are waiting to hear. I am confident we will find a way forward that will support our members and the wider community.

Effective Communication. As we grow and become more successful, the number of emails and attachments circulating is spiralling and several people have asked if we can help reduce this 'information overload'. It is now vital that we progress with our plan to adopt Microsoft SharePoint and the following clip gives a good overview of how this will help https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s12Jb5Z2xaE. I plan to use the next few weeks, coinciding with my garden leave from Zurich, to commission SharePoint and arrange licences. Alongside this we have Twitter and LinkedIn as well as the refreshed website.





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



Don't bat an eyelid.....

Can you focus your eyes on a fixed point to the far left of your vision and move your gaze slowly to a fixed point on the far right, without jerking your eyes or blinking? Hard, isn't it! Now try doing this with a long string of numbers and see how many you register correctly. Even harder still!



These were the tricky challenges that Hugh Murray, master accuracy trainer, set us at the start of his seminar last Wednesday, on reducing the cost of error. The good news is that data accuracy is trainable and Hugh then went on to share his top 10 tips for getting it right first time, every time, with opportunities to practice the techniques. I'd better watch out as all of our audience are now trained up and waiting to spot every single typo in my articles and emails!

Let me tell you about two special CPD events coming up shortly.

On 12 November, Lembit Opik will be sharing his insights into 'Managing Mavericks' at the University of Brighton Business School, and IIS members are invited along with members of other local professional associations. This will be a fascinating talk from a guest speaker who can never be accused of mainstream thinking! However the Cheeky Girls are not scheduled to drop in as far as I'm aware!



On 17 November, Bernie De Souza will be presenting a breakfast seminar at Clair Hall, Haywards Heath, entitled 'How to build instant trust with your clients and understand the secret language of your prospects'.

Bernie is a keynote speaker, business coach and author, specialising in selling topics, with a particular interest in getting more diary activity. He has given presentations all over the world

and has worked recently with St James's Place, Openwork, Barclays and HSBC to name but a few. He also has a passion for sport and has given motivational performance coaching to international sports teams, several Olympians and the England Women's Cricket Team. Bernie's book credits include the highly successful 'Success is hidden in your daily routine'.

In his 2 hour session designed specifically for financial advisers, Bernie will explain how you can gain instant rapport, trust and belief from sceptical prospects, overcome their scepticism and have meaningful conversations with them.







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This promises to be a dynamic seminar on sales communication skills; not to be missed, and is free of charge to all IIS members and their guests.

Bookings are currently open for both events and I hope you will be able to join us - just visit our website.

Best wishes as always.

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The following A4 PDF posters designed by Nigel are available from Susan – aren't they great! Mark







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