

Chairmans Report 2007-2008

This year has been one of considerable change for both CILIP and the regional branches. Moves from London to streamline services and provide greater cost efficiency have resulted in our branch taking the bold decision to subsidise more events and hold our own, the much applauded Members Day which was held on 23rd November 2007, and from which we were able to gather much-needed feedback on the content of future events, particularly in relation to CPD, specifically mentioned by 46% of comments given on the day.

This event, together with our continued support of regional events provided by the Yorkshire Career Development Group (CDG) is a risk under the current financial constraints, but in the view of both myself and the executive, a calculated one, in that it increases our visibility to our membership, who may, in future years, be required to make a conscious choice to remain a member of the Y&H group, as well as tapping a rich seam of need within our region, to receive good quality and cost effective CPD opportunities delivered within all parts of the region itself.

Other moves within CILIP towards centralisation have produced the recently formed Policy Forum, the inaugural meeting of which will be held on 19th March. The forum has been created to be the key policy generating body of the Institute focusing on the overall mission and direction of CILIP; long-term policy formulation; professional issues and it will make recommendations to Council accordingly. CILIP have invited all branches and groups to submit a regular member to attend and I will be attending this meeting myself on behalf of the branch, in a few days time. Needless to say, feedback from these meetings will form an integral part of future Chairs reports from now on.

In terms of the activities of our Branch Executive, the Members day last November was a feat of considerable achievement, and I would like to personally thank all of the Executive who took part on the day, and particularly Andrew Walsh and Andrew Jones for their tireless organisational skills. Our council member representative, Ronan O'Beirne continued to supply us with useful information on the activities being planned at CILIP HQ and Alison Harling also continued to amaze us with her ability to coax articles from members

to produce our quarterly newsletter. Our Honorary Secretary, Sue Cook, was a tower of strength to me last year when my health was still shaky following my brain haemorrhage at the end of 2006.

Finally I'd like to echo the wise words of Sue in the most recent edition of our newsletter and take the opportunity to bid a fond farewell to one of our longest serving committee members, John Aldred, who has taken the decision to take a well deserved retirement from committee matters. John told me recently that he had served in almost every single capacity in the Executive Committee during his many years guiding the branch through the trials and tribulations of library policy and practice which have shaped our profession over past decades.

To conclude, I would say that the calculated risk we decided to take 12 short months ago is paying off and I would like to once again thank the branch members and executive for their many hands which have made light work of a very successful year of activity.

Daniel Park
March 2007