

December 2011

Dear Member

The closing of yet another year is perhaps the best opportunity to reflect on activities and changes which have occurred within the East Midlands during the past twelve months and to consider what we hope to achieve in the coming twelve.

Without doubt, the biggest change to occur in the region has been the gradual formation of the county groups and I'm extremely grateful to our Regional Officer - Alan Major - for the huge amount of work he has put in making this scheme a reality. At the time of writing Derbyshire (Tony Foster at the helm) and Northamptonshire (John Henderson) are firing on all cylinders and Lincolnshire (Les Gillies) is fast catching up; just Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire to get established.

The decision to adopt this policy has proven to be a sound one. Already, many members have come forward to join the county committees and to help shape activities in their area; programmes of events are starting to emerge as well as initiatives to dovetail with, and help deliver, key elements of our regional strategy.

I am particularly heartened by the close working relationships we have developed with other institutes and various local organisations. A prime example of this development in action was the Future Proofing the Food & Drink Sector event run in conjunction with CIPS, IoD, CIMA, CIM, Northamptonshire Enterprise and the Chamber of Commerce in November. It proved to be, not only a valuable lesson in how to mould future events of this type, but also underlined the validity of a "joint venture" approach in securing the backing and input of major companies and influential individuals. Certainly, it has proved a first class platform for taking a multi-disciplinary approach to major business issues, ie being able to examine strategic and tactical issues and potential developments through the eyes of a wide range of experts.

Once again, it looks as though we might be staring down the barrel of another recession and even if this does not materialise we should need no reminders of the need for the UK to deliver maximum value at diminishing cost in the hugely competitive global trading environment. Key to delivering this is the development and sharing of knowledge and expertise – a commitment to innovation and the development of future generations. This has been central to our strategy for the past two years or so and together with the changes made centrally within CILT, I believe we're becoming very well positioned as an Institute to deliver these essential components.

The next twelve months will see all of the county groups fully up and running and the gradual roll out at regional level of plans to engage fully with industry and the educational establishment and so drive the main elements of our strategy forward. Perhaps a down-side of the structural change is the slimming down of the East Midlands regional committee and we will lose people who have been involved with the region for many years. I would therefore like to express my sincere gratitude to them for their valuable contribution and hope that they will continue to be active helping to shape their county groups and make them the success they deserve to be.

To those of you who have joined CILT within the past twelve months, may I warmly welcome you and hope you will get a huge amount of benefit from your membership. If you have any suggestions or points you might like to raise then please get in touch.

To conclude, I should like to wish you compliments of the season and hope that 2012 is a successful year for you.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Screeton', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeff Screeton CMILT
Chairman
East Midlands Region CILT(UK)
Email: emr@ciltuk.org.uk
Tel: 07799 410050