

Message from the Chairman, Michael Henning:

Thank you for electing me as Chairman of the 1913 Wilderness Club for the year 2012/2013. I am extremely proud and honoured to lead the Club into its centenary year and I look forward to meeting those of you who are able to attend the dinners and events that have been arranged in this year's programme.

My first duty is to thank my predecessor, Ken Aitken, for his superb chairmanship and hard work throughout a year in which the Club was able to hold a series of successful dinners that raised substantial donations to Lionheart, despite an economically challenging climate. Thanks Ken, you'll be a tough act to follow.

I appreciate that I am very much an unknown quantity (surveyor!) to many members, as my attendance record for Club dinners is weighted quite heavily in the most recent year. However, I will try to ensure that by the end of my term I will be a familiar figure to those of you that I hope will support as many of the forthcoming Club dinners and events as you are able to.

My day job is as a Director at construction and property consultants Summers-Inman, based in Newcastle upon Tyne. I'm the North East of England representative on RICS Governing Council and am the immediate past Chairman of the 1947 Club, which, for the benefit of those of you who are not 1913 Wilderness AND 1947 Club members (and more than 10 of you are), is a networking and support organisation made up of former north east JO/matrics committee members.

My year as Chairman commenced on the 1st July and the first dinner of the session, the Founders Dinner, will be on 19 September at The Athenaeum. The traditional RICS matrics Dinner will be held on 29 November at the St Stephens Club. I vividly remember the corresponding dinner in 1988 when, as a JO committee member, I had my first experience of the 1913 Club. Suffice to say I had a memorable evening meeting senior professionals from the Institution and I hope I can encourage as many of you as possible to attend this dinner in particular, to support the current matrics committee and give them a night to remember. In a positive way!

It has also become a tradition in recent years to hold the February dinner outside of London, and I will be continuing this custom by hosting a dinner at the Northern Counties Club in Newcastle upon Tyne on 15 February. This date is a Friday and I hope you are able to support this dinner, particularly those of you who find it difficult to attend many of the London dinners and may find a dinner in the north east of England more convenient and accessible. In any event I would very much welcome the opportunity to show you the fantastic hospitality my home town can offer.

For the forthcoming year it is my aim to build on the excellent work of my predecessors whilst preparing the ground for my successor and the Club's centenary year celebratory events. In particular I will work to:

- increase Club membership
- increase attendance at Club dinner and events through more member and guest participation, and
- attempt to encourage the formation of local groups similar to the 1913 Wilderness Club and 1947 Club, i.e. former local JO/matrics members who wish to network and offer support to their current local matrics committee.

If you have any comments or suggestions for Club activities please feel free to contact either myself, at [michael.henning@summers-inman.co.uk](mailto:michael.henning@summers-inman.co.uk), or John Williams, the Club Secretary, at [johnwilliams@astonrose.co.uk](mailto:johnwilliams@astonrose.co.uk).

I look forward to seeing you, hopefully at our first dinner on 19 September, or if not, at any of the other dinners and events, when it will be my pleasure and privilege to be your Chairman.

Best regards

Michael