

SEASONAL GREETINGS 2017



Warmest greetings to all members and their families as this festive season approaches.

At this time of year, there are lots of communications sent to us and it is difficult to get time to read all these. So I will confine it to good cheer and update you in more detail, as to the progress of the past year.

Only to say I hope that the general strategic direction of the fbe and that in the /near future you will see greater collaboration with our team and the branches and that we are receptive to suggestions from our members.

I hope that some of the major changes which are taking place within the fbe and those for our younger members in fft will be apparent through developments such as the new website and the use of other digital communication strategies. Over the past year, the head office team have got to know branch representatives and are working well together.

It's normal, and this year is no exception to say thanks to our head office team, particularly noting Kirsty, Tracey and Charlotte and Amy for the service they provide and I'm sure you would all wish me to do so.

At this time of year it is heart warming to know that our organisation, respecting that most of our members are privileged in that they are a part of a largely successful industry, have in mind those who have to overcome pressures not of their making. Branches across the country have raised money, at certain events, for charity. Some more specific which adds to the variety of branch events and services.

Cycling seems to gather interest and participation and Cambria Branch are amongst those heavily committed. This greatly adds to their charity contributions. Great Western and East Midlands, as do others, choose a Chairman's Charity each year making significant contributions to charity. As you know the National Chairman's chosen charity is Wooden Spoon and on behalf of all Chairmen, thanks you so much for yours and your guests generous contributions.

We have had some changes at on the board over the year which I should mention.

In keeping with our rotation of Directors Warren Perceval, Graham Booth and Jeannine Cavaghan announced their retirement from the board and stepped down during the year. We would like to thank them sincerely for their dedication and service. At the same time, we welcomed the arrival of David Jones and Chris Jude to strengthen the Board.

On behalf of fellow Directors and the whole team at our HO we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during 2017.

We wish you and your families peace and joy over the festivities and a safe and very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Howard Gadd
National Chairman

