

Chairman:
Robert Ransom FICE

Secretary:
Edward Coe FRICS

Treasurer:
Stephen Terrell MCIQB

18 January 2006

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2005

This report is my first as Chairman and follows another successful twelve months activity for the Forum.

CFCI's Constitution sets its objectives as providing a wider understanding and appreciation of the construction industry, the development of friendly relations amongst members, to promote discussion and to provide charitable support within the industry. In 2005 the Forum sought to fulfil these objectives through an extensive programme of meetings, social events and site visits; a schedule of which is attached to this report,

This year saw a successful change of venue for our **evening meetings** from New Hall to Fitzwilliam College. Attendances have generally been good with numbers up to 100 attending for the more popular events firmly placing CFCI as one of the leading cross discipline organisations within East Anglia.

The attendance at **site visits** has been variable. The change to evening visits during the summer months showed a slight improvement in numbers attending but the Council will consider ways of making the visits more attractive to members.

As in previous years the **Annual Dinner** at King's College on 7 April was fully subscribed once again with a number of disappointed members. This is an issue which is the subject of discussion on Council but the popularity of the event and the restrictions on numbers at the venue are likely to make this a recurring problem. Paul Morrell was an excellent speaker on the evening.

The **Chairman's Garden Party and Reception** on 11 June was held in conjunction with a site visit to new buildings at the Cambridge Botanical Garden. This formula was very successful and will be repeated in 2006.

The **Annual Debate** is a challenge for participants and organisers alike. Due to difficulties in coordinating diaries the event planned for November has been deferred until 20 March 2006.

A further annual event is the **Carol Service** at Robinson College, this year held on Sunday 4 December. It again proved popular but the Council are concerned that the event which includes a wine and mince pies reception does not see many younger members. I can only encourage members who do not attend to come along; it is a very enjoyable lead-in to the Christmas period.

The Forum continues to support **shapeCambridge** with advice and promotion of joint attendance at events such as the annual Christmas lecture for young people, this year held at 'The Junction.' This has been particularly important in 2005 due to the ill health of *shape* director Ben Koralek. The Forum also supports the **Construction and Built Environment summer school**, successfully held again at CRC.

Income generated from Forum events have enabled further funds to be transferred to the **CFCI Charitable Trust** which in turn has granted awards to a number of organisations and individuals. A separate report on Trust activities will be made to the AGM.

Largely due to active promotion by our secretary, Ed Coe, **corporate membership** has grown from 29 in 2004 to 46 in 2005 with a resultant increase in funds.

We welcomed **Gordon Ridgeon** to the Council this year. The status of Councillors presented for election / re-election is scheduled on the Agenda for the AGM.

As Chairman I would like to thank my colleagues on Council for their support over the past twelve months. Innovative ideas are put forward, preconceptions challenged and a willingness shown to assist in both organising and running the events that are the life blood of CFCI.

Thanks also to you, the members. I hope that your will support for the Forum will continue through 2006 and beyond.

Robert Ransom
Chairman