

## Presidents Address 2022

Dear Consultants, Fellows and Colleagues, I warmly welcome you all to this our 67<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Chiropractors and Podiatrists.

It was in 2014 that I began my journey as President, since then it has been somewhat of a rollercoaster. I am pleased to see some of my ideas finally being adopted and coming to fruition almost 8 years later. Naturally, there have been many changes within the board itself.

I am privileged enough to work along side some amazing people, who have the IOCP's motto at heart "Concordia Victrix" Achievement through united effort, unfortunately now and then you get people who believe they are bigger than the organisation they are meant to serve. However my agenda is the same now as it was on day one, that is to serve all members regardless of their level of membership and to ensure their voices are heard and to fight for member's rights. I do and will always represent the self-employed practitioner, mainly as this is still how I practice.

Therefore I would employ anyone picking up the baton, to know the difference that taking responsibility is a privilege and not a right. The joy of leadership comes from seeing others achieve more than they thought they were capable of.

The Institute appears to be once again at the forefront of innovative treatments. We always have been an organisation that pushes its boundaries and this is what is needed to keep the organisation up to date and a driving force.

Remaining branches seem to be well supported and after the fact we were not able to meet up understandably during Covid, I think we all appreciate being able to once again meet up with colleagues. However when it comes to recruiting branch officials many seem to experience reluctance. I would like to encourage members, especially ones that haven't tried before to give it a go, you never know where it will lead! With the HCPC audit looming volunteering at branch counts towards CPD.

Sadly in the last year, we have lost quite a few well respected, time served members of the Institute. Thanking them posthumously for their contributions, hard work and on going legacies, also to the families for their support and patience throughout.

One such lady was Gladys Reed, whom I had the pleasure of meeting several years ago at a seminar in Portlaoise, Ireland.

Gladys a very pleasant, formidable and foresighted member, who encouraged younger family members to share in her passion for Chiropractic, leaving a new generation to pick up the gauntlet.

As our organization continues to grow in Stature, it is reassuring to know we hold a wealth of knowledge at all levels, creating a constantly changing and diverse dynamic.

It is the EC boards job to withstand scrutiny, cross-examination and to cope with criticism. Important to remember we are ALL practitioners, therefore we should ALL be on a level playing field, as we are members of a democracy and not a

dictatorship. Only by challenging and suggesting more positive ideas will we help to keep the Institute driving forward.

May I take this opportunity to thank members for all your support during the last 8 years, especially fundraising for our own defibrillator (located in 150 Lord St.) and two open day's. I have been invited to and visited many branches and attended lots of seminars all over the UK and Ireland.

Call me "Old School", but I, like a few others I imagine, feel quite nostalgic thinking back to the AGM's from 15+ years ago. Where we looked forward all year to meeting up with friends and colleagues from all over the world. We caught up, gossiped, exchanged ideas, mingled and interacted with trades, who we regarded as extended family. Following lectures and seminars all dressed up to the nines to socialise with members and sometimes their families at the dinner dance.

It was great to showcase the talent within our organisation at the awards ceremony before dancing the night away and in some cases till early hours of the next morning. It seems a world away from where we are now, however it would be a great way of bonding with Members and Trades again.

On a personal note, in November 2021 I was diagnosed with Endometrial Carcinoma and I had a full abdominal hysterectomy on 5<sup>th</sup> January this year. I'm pleased to report the surgery went well and I'm making a good recovery. I would like to thank my consultant Mr A W Pleming and his team who have been brilliant throughout.

Thank you to the all the members who sent get-well wishes cards, flowers and other donations of help, they really cheered me up.

I hope to see you all again very soon, keep well.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Linda Pearson

BSc.Pod.Med. F.Inst.Ch.P.

President

The Institute of Chiropodists and Podiatrists