

- The voice of professionals in Coventry & Warwickshire
- Developing relationships that grow business
- Events that provide valuable business insights

## A look back from our Chair

John Rimmer, Director of BRI Business Recovery and Insolvency, took over as Chairman from Ian McKinney at Arthur J. Gallagher in the summer and said “I am thrilled to take up the position of Chair. I would like to thank Ian for getting us out and about networking once again and steadily returning during his year to a business-as-usual approach to our events programme. I’m also delighted to have been joined by Alister Foye from The Leader Marketing Partnership as Vice Chair.”

One of my first actions as Chairman was to set up a Strategy Working Group with Alister and Board members to review and fine-tune both what we do for members and how we do it. The emphasis remains on continuing to provide relevant, timely and useful events and networking opportunities. Our events programme is almost back to (pre covid) frequency with many being at capacity, so the emphasis is firmly on the fine-tuning to ensure they remain as well attended and supported as possible.

We have received a steady stream of membership enquiries throughout this year and have been very pleased to welcome several new members to the Coventry & Warwickshire First “family”. I have enjoyed personally introducing lots of new faces to our long-established members at our First Friday networking lunches and through our social media channels. We’ve also held two Breakfast Briefings, and an informal FirstPint social gathering in the summer, and the teams at our recent quiz were even more competitive than last year, if that’s possible!

I will draw to a close by thanking each and every one of our members for your support this year, and I look forward very much to seeing you and your colleagues at some of the many unusual, quirky and memorable places that we plan to visit in 2023.



John Rimmer



John Rimmer and Alister Foye during the handover in July



## Young Professionals relaunched

Our Young Professionals group are recognised as the next generation of movers and shakers in the professional world in Coventry and Warwickshire. The work that they do to focus on bringing an opportunity for relaxed, friendly and fun networking in the region is so important. We wish our Young Professionals board and their attendees the very best of success with their plans for 2023.



## We focused on networking

Our First Friday networking lunch programme quickly settled back into its familiar pattern again with visits to a wide range of locations including WMG, UKBIC, Drapers Hall, the former Ikea Building, CBS Arena, Warwickshire Skills Hub, Charterhouse, 1 Mill Street and The Neighbourhood.

Our Breakfast Briefings also returned with a focus on business growth, with speakers from CWLEP Growth Hub and Coventry City Council & Warwickshire County Council. We hosted a First Pint informal drinks gathering in August and then our new annual Quiz returned in November, won by HB&O (again!). If there is somewhere you would like to visit or a speaker you'd like to hear from, please let us know [Lorraine@coventryfirst.co.uk](mailto:Lorraine@coventryfirst.co.uk).



## Welcome to new members

This year we have been very pleased to welcome lots of lovely new members:

ActionCOACH, Azets, Brindley Twist Taft & James, Clare Harding Coaching, Illuminate VR, Tamarant Consulting and The Yellow Growth Company.

We receive most of our new member enquiries as a result of recommendations from current members. Thank you all for your support and please do keep the introductions coming!



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