



Chairman's Corner February 2017

The year of the Rooster has started!!! Hsin Nien Kwai Loh, Gong Hsi Fa Tsai, and for the lucky ones amongst you the Hong Pao Na Lai!

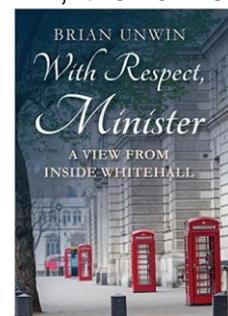
We celebrated the crowning of Emperor Trump and the prospect of the Chinese Lunar New Year by holding a dinner party at the 1e Klas restaurant last month instead of a lunch. 25 of us partied the evening away in the private dining room, and it seems that everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. In some cases so much that they found difficulty recalling how the evening ended!



As you may have heard, the year of the Rooster will bring golden eggs to those who rise early, work hard and don't give up. Certainly stamina will be a requirement for this year, as will forbearance and focus. There are too many distractions from across the Atlantic, so I'm treating that particular issue by ignoring it, and concentrating on our own threats and opportunities in Europe in this short brief.



The Apollo is being refurbished! It is likely that the lobby, bar and La Sirene restaurant will be out of action until May. I'm not yet sure where we will be meeting up on the 17th, but expect it may be the Harbour Bar. The lunch will take place upstairs, hopefully well away from building noise. The kitchen is planning an excellent lunch for us, and our speaker this month is Sir Brian Unwin, the former President of the European Investment Bank. His views on the challenges of the Brexit negotiations are relevant and trenchant, and he has a reputation for plain-speaking so you can look forward to an interesting and interactive discourse on how the process may affect us in both the macro and micro economic fields. We will once again be welcoming guests from the IoD, NBCC and PAiE who wish to attend, and Sir Brian will bring along a few copies of his latest book, "With Respect Minister" for sale.



Three CADS have resigned this year. Dylan Pels and Sharif Oraby are young businessmen who did not find much opportunity to attend, but I hope they may be sufficiently successful in the future to rejoin when they have time. Michael Bell on the other hand will be well-known to you all, and he has decided that it is time to hang up his CADS tie and concentrate on looking after Judith now that he has retired. Please join me in wishing them all well, and we still hope to see Michael at some future events. However, one result of this is that we have several spaces to recruit new members, and the board have agreed a lavish incentive for members. When you successfully introduce a new CAD this year, you will receive a bottle of wine as a reward! So bring a colleague or business contact along and let them find out what a CADS lunch is about ☺

As well as Sir Brian, later on in the year we will have Bernard Hammelburg, Eberhard van der Laan and Sir Geoffrey Adams amongst our speakers, so there is a very good line up and I'm looking forward to a successful year ☺