

## **David Blanchflower Hon FMS**

David Blanchflower, my good friend and colleague, is standing down from Council after almost 50 years. This is much more than a normal retiral it is a significant event in the history of the Institute. They say that no one is indispensable but I can assure you that David's shoes will be hard to fill.

David's life with the Institute started at Liverpool Polytechnic in 1969 where he studied for the IMS Certificate and completed his Diploma in 1972 after submitting his Project.

In 1973 he was appointed secretary to the Institute's Merseyside Branch which had 500 members. At the same time he served as secretary to the North West Region which had 3,000 members. In his role as Region Secretary, David played an active part in organising region conferences which attracted many members, senior business managers as well as national speakers. He also introduced regular Rating Clinics which were held for several years at Liverpool University and attracted large attendances.

First elected to the Institute's Council of Management in 1977 David has served on many standing committees. One of those committees, with responsibility for the Institute journal, he has served on continuously since then. In the early days, the journal was a monthly publication, 100 pages long with a third of those pages being filled with job adverts. As job advertising declined the journal was reduced to 60 pages but remained a monthly publication. David was involved in two in-depth studies which resulted in major economies in publication costs. He has overseen every major decision in the transformation of the journal from a monthly to a quarterly publication, then its conversion to a digital format. All of this achieved by radically reducing production costs but at the same time, not only maintaining, but enhancing the quality of the journal. So much so that it is now considered one of the finest professional journals in UK.

In terms of the Institute's structure, in 2002 David along with Council trustees Harry Downes and John Lucey, brought about major changes. They closed the Institute head office in Enfield and outsourced the administration to a business in Lichfield. In 2005 they also introduced Life Membership, thus eliminating most of the admin costs associated with the renewal of Annual Membership. These two major changes helped to ensure the viability of the Institute and increased its reserves.

During his long association with the Institute David has held many offices including: Branch Secretary; Region Secretary; Chairs of Membership and the Publications Committee. At National level he has been Company Secretary, Treasurer, Chair of Media, Deputy Chairman and, in 2011 was elected National Chairman a position he held until 2015.

Highly respected by all his colleagues, David has worked tirelessly for the good of the profession, the Institute and its members. He is not the type of individual to seek any personal recognition, nevertheless, he has been recognised by the Institute with an Honorary Fellowship and, in 2011, was elected a Fellow of the World Academy of Productivity Science, one of only 500 Fellows in the world.

I have known David for almost 35 years and a more honest, generous and highly professional individual you could not meet. He has been a stalwart of the Institute for as long as I can remember and his knowledge of all operations at the Institute is second to none. I said at the start that David's shoes will be hard to fill, so much so David has agreed to continue his role with the quarterly journal and the email newsletter.

David on behalf of your colleagues on Council, both current and previous, the membership and all the other professionals you have been involved with over the years can I thank you for all you have done for the Institute and wish you all the very best for the future.

**Dr Andrew Muir Hon FMS**  
**Fellow of the World Academy of Productivity Science**  
**Chairman - Institute of Management Services**