

RICHARD WILDING

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CELEBRATING
35 YEARS OF
FOCUS



Celebrating 35 years of 'Focus'

When you read this magazine, the Institute that we know today as the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) will have been in existence for 98 years. I don't think that when Sir Robert Lawrence sat down to write his very first 'Message from the Chairman' for *Focus* Vol 1 Issue 1, 35 years ago, he could have imagined the current success and scale of our Institute. His message celebrated reaching 2,500 members (we are now at around 18,000 in the UK) and that *Focus* was to be published six times a year.

Sir Robert Lawrence was, of course, the Chairman of the then Institute of Physical Distribution Management, which over the years merged with other institutes and become the CILT we know today; and much like CILT's recent integration with the Institute of Operations Management, we are all delighted that our Institute continues to grow in prominence, membership and professional recognition.

It's always good to make time to take stock, reflect on our progress and consider the future. This is something we have done a lot during my first year as Chairman, as we head in a new direction, introducing a clear vision and a clear mission celebrating that we are all involved in the movement of goods and people and their associated supply chains through the management and design of infrastructure, processes, information flows and effective organisations. Interestingly, it is also 35 years since the term 'supply chain' was first used in the context we use it today by Keith Oliver of Booz Allen Hamilton.

In his original message, Sir Robert Lawrence referred to the creation of the 'physical distribution management technical library'. Today, CILT is home to The Knowledge Centre, an unrivalled logistics and transport library with more than 50,000 industry journals and

invaluable databases and catalogues that puts our individual members and corporate members ahead of their peers and competitors.

Perhaps one of the most important ventures we have started in 2017 is encouraging our Public Policy Committee to make its voice heard in Westminster and beyond. I'm pleased to say that we have become an influential, impartial voice around the Brexit debate, as we consider the opportunities arising and provide coherent balanced advice to government.

The CILT Annual Conference 2017 will no doubt be another huge success for the Institute. The vast number of top-calibre speakers who will be attending and the topics that these leading minds will be analysing shows the great strides that CILT is making to be the leader in shaping our profession. It is somewhat ironic that I write this as we reminisce on years gone by, but this is an Institute that is looking forward and undoubtedly influencing your future. I am passionate that during my term of Chairman that the Institute will become strong and sustainable for a further 35 years.

It has been 35 years since the first *Focus* was produced and it speaks volumes for the platform it has become that it is still around today. *Focus* is the touchpoint to the Institute for many of our members and continues to be one of the primary vehicles through which we can communicate with our members.

Some things never change, so I will take this opportunity to echo Sir Robert Lawrence's message of 35 years ago. CILT will only continue to grow and improve its work if we all make a contribution. This is an active Institute that requires active members, and I, like Sir Robert, ask each of you to continue to give your active support and passion to our aims.

**Professor Richard Wilding OBE FCILT,
Chairman, CILT**

