

Tempus Fugit. (Time Flies!)

It's hard to believe the Residents Association was established in Billericay 90 years ago, many congratulations to all involved and long may your good work for the Town continue.

I remember writing my first article for the "Resident" it was about State pensions and set out how to obtain a State Pension Forecast, which was paper-based at that time. Nothing has changed, we still ask folk to get a forecast, it's an essential part of planning, but it's now on-line and almost instant.

The Independent Financial Advice Centre was established in Billericay by Mike Joslin in February 1988 and he kindly invited me to join him in 1990, which is a staggering 26 years we have spent together trying to help Residents of the town with their investments and pensions.

There are supposed to be two certainties in life; Death and Taxes, but I would add a third Change. No sooner do we think we've got to grips with something when the rules change and we start again.

I'm not sure who came up with the "strap line" on our door "Making sense of a complicated world" but it sums up in a nutshell what we try to do. It's about the only thing that has not changed!

The door has changed a few times from 22 to 39 and for the last seven years 97 but the High Street has always been our home and long may it continue. We have been next to Amber's Beauty Salon, above the Co-op which changed to the Blue Boar, and now above Santander.

Acronyms change as well, in the 90's our regulator was FIMBRA (Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers regulatory Association) which became the PIA (Personal Investment Authority) which became the FSA the Financial Services Authority which became the FCA the Financial Conduct Authority. All that regulation and people still lose millions of pounds to crooks, makes one wonder what they achieve.

As far as complications are concerned, there is no doubt the world is even more complex than it was in the 90's and noughties. (?) Current changes to Pension Schemes, ISA's, income Tax, Capital gains tax, tax on dividends and many others keep us very busy.

We have a new younger generation of Independent Financial Advisers working with us in the Advice Centre today, with higher qualifications than we ever needed to enable them to continue dealing with changes in an ever more complex world.

May the Residents Association enjoy another 90 years ensuring that any change is good for the Town and its residents. I'm sure the next 26 years will "fly past" as fast as the last.