

# View from THE BRIDGE



*I hope Christmas was pleasant for you and yours and that 2008 holds good promise for us all.*

New Year resolutions and promises are always tested about this time. Our promise to you is that IPA management at all levels; branch, regional and national will be at your service in a practical way. Through our committee structure IPA has representatives in all areas of Ireland. This service has been further enhanced by local volunteers in garda district headquarters and other garda stations. These volunteers have undertaken to ensure that IPA information is exhibited on station notice boards and to keep the branch committee informed of all matters of concern; they will also convey the views of all to the national executive.

Another method to display the benefits of IPA is our 2008 calendar which you will have received with your December copy of *IPA Journal*. A page each month highlights a benefit, activity or pursuit and carries the e mail contact details of the person with responsibility; or if you prefer, call IPA Office at 01 830 2907 and our staff will answer your questions.

With any new venture there are teething problems – or is it just Murphy's Law? You will notice that the month of October is offset by one day; this is being rectified through this magazine, hopefully with the minimum of inconvenience and to everybody's satisfaction. Your views on the calendar project as a whole would be very much appreciated.

- Plans and preparations are well under way for an IPA Trip to Russia in September to coincide with the International Executive Committee meeting.
- Cyprus Section is hosting another popular Friendship Week.
- Golfers are preparing for the regional championships en route to the finals in Enfield, the footballers to represent Section Ireland in Italy at the annual international tournament.
- Photographers and would be film directors can demonstrate their skills by participating in the International Photographic Competition or National Video Competition.
- Local branches will organise many outings, tours, activities, charitable fundraising, social evenings and much more.

Our volunteers deserve support; if you wish to be part of or to support these voluntary enterprises all that is needed is to contact your local secretary; check the IPA website [www.ipaireland.com](http://www.ipaireland.com) or telephone IPA Office at 01 830 2907 and your questions will be answered. If you wish to be updated with news on IPA offers, events and services by e-mail, let your wish be known to [ipairish@indigo.ie](mailto:ipairish@indigo.ie).

The voluntary work of IPA personnel is much appreciated both inside and outside the Association, especially in the areas of social and charitable enterprise. When you hear of the next planned event why not be part of it; if you have participated previously you will be aware of the satisfaction, if it is your first time you will be pleasantly surprised. In every organisation new blood and new ideas are always welcome and very necessary.

To our stalwart crew I say thank you for keeping this ship on a steady course in good times and bad – to new blood that wishes to come on board I say a hearty welcome as we reach together with enthusiasm and expectation for new horizons.

Servo per Amikeco

Billy Saunderson  
President