

## DeVarga Commentary – February 2018

### No need to go for the tissues

I write this newsletter from our new offices. Sounds grand I know. The reality is we have moved from the ground floor to the first floor of Parker House but not before major works. Last year I extended Parker House, stripped the existing part back to its basic walls and fully refurbished it to bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We now operate from Comfort Cooled state of the art (IT-wise) offices.

To compliment this move I introduce to you Tim Godwin MRICS. Tim has just joined us as consultant surveyor. He has vast experience in valuation, rent reviews and new lease negotiations. I can vouch for his expertise. He represented one of the parties on a property where I was appointed as an Arbitrator. His submissions were, in my view, one of the classiest acts I have seen.

This has enabled me to return to my studies. Again, I hear some people say. I must have a few brain cells left as after a period of study and associated exams I am now a qualified mediator and entitled to carry the title RICS Accredited Mediator. This adds more meat to my ADR qualifications thus providing a more solid ADR platform, offering our clients a more comprehensive cross section of services but not at the expense of our existing clients and their non-ADR needs – hence Tim.

It is remiss of me not to have introduced Julie Caddick who joined us in 2016. A valuable admin officer who keeps me on my toes and turns out a cracking amount of typing. She along with Mary, Simon and Tim keep this Company alive.

On the business front I admit I am no economist but cannot help but note that UK PLC borrowing for the year to date [2017-18] is at its lowest level since the financial crisis – so says the Office for National statistics. This may be something to do with tax receipts (mine included) coming into No 11 before 31<sup>st</sup> January. By contrast, GDP grew by 0.4% in the period October-to-December down from an earlier estimate of 0.5%. Yet across the pond, the US Federal Reserve is preparing for stronger than expected growth this year. It is often said that when USA sneezes the world catches a cold. I believe that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction so in my unsure economic mind strong economic growth in USA must make the rest of the world smile as opposed to sneezing.

That is why I believe things are not all that bad except for the uncertainty of Brexit negotiations. Too many cooks and not enough Chefs. We shall see. But in my mind property is still a good bet because of limited supply. The trend is still upward.

Working-off my father's famous edit – *buy land, preferably Freehold, they have stopped making it.*

**Matthew S Martin FRICS FCI Arb**