



I last contributed to this column at the end of July, last year. At that time, I referred to Churchill's quote about the 'end of the beginning'.

How wrong I was!

After some encouraging signs, the promised second wave duly arrived, followed by the virus's latest incarnation. The positivity of the new vaccines appears to have been diluted somewhat by the level of contagion of these new variants; more cases and more deaths – a very worrying time indeed.

For many businesses too, particularly in North Wales, this is a time of great concern and uncertainty. Whilst there is support out there in many guises, these cover costs incurred, and do not allow any fat to be put back on the weary bones. Many businesses will find the next few months extremely difficult. Repayments on loans taken out in the early weeks of the first lockdown will soon be starting to add a further burden to already stretched cashflows.

Never mind 'Eat out to help out', we must all make a mental note to support these local businesses, be they shops, pubs, restaurants or attractions, as soon as they can reopen, and we are able.

At least we have heard the end of Brexit! Or have we! I imagine there will be quite a few bumps in the road along the way, but, whatever outcome we hoped for at the time, Remain or Leave, let's all pull together over the coming months and years. If we adopt a 'can-do' approach to business, then I hope that we can, collectively, push Britain right up to the top of the league.

The North Wales Business Club continues to provide advice and support, through our newsletters and specific mail outs and we are about to recommence our monthly networking events, the second Tuesday of each month, from February. If you have not joined us before now, then please do so; there is an insight into a local business and some informal networking to look forward to.

All wound up within an hour or so.

Further information on this and lots more on the club website

www.nwbc.org.uk.

I was thrilled to be asked by the club committee to take on the role of Chairman, with effect from 1st January. My predecessor, Mel Herman, now Vice-Chairman, has done great work since taking on the role just over two years ago. During his Chairmanship, we have produced a club Newsletter and, I believe, significantly improved our communication with members. This is particularly pleasing taking into account the events of the last 12 months or so. My grateful thanks to Mel and the members of the committee.

I see no reason to alter the club's modus operandi and am really looking forward to when we can next meet our members and guests, in a physical as opposed to virtual setting, over some good food and great conversation.

I hope that we will be inspired by our guest speakers, most of whom will have had great success in their chosen field, to look ahead and, especially, find ways of developing and nurturing our young people. They are our future and have had a pretty rotten deal recently.

We are hoping that our first such event will be on the 18th June, fingers crossed!

If you are not yet a member, please do visit the club's website, membership is just £20 per year, which I believe to be very good value for money.

I hope that everyone keeps safe and well over the next few months and that we can eventually emerge from these dark times, eager to do business with each other and move towards a new 'normal'.

Jeremy Salisbury

Chairman

North Wales Business Club

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