

## **July's Lunch Club**

July's lunch was another convivial affair with everyone enjoying good food and wine safe from the inclement weather.

This month Treve Rosoman who was the driving force behind the restoration of Eltham Palace, and Peter Scott who I had worked with at Windsor Castle and St James's Palace both met up with us. Treve's current role sees him working with the extensive English Heritage collection which has taken him away from the frontline work on properties whilst Peter remains a key factor in the success of Martin Ashley Architects, working on a whole raft of interesting projects in both the heritage and premiere residential markets.

Ben Colgate of Holloway White Allom was the lone contracting representative who confirmed that whilst the market is buoyant in terms of enquiries it is taking much longer to turn them in to orders. However, the good news for myself and Jasper is that the projects are still coming through, a fact underlined by Chris Pask and Dali Gomez who are both working frantically for their respective companies Charlton Brown Architecture and Casa Forma.

The party was completed by my co-host Jasper Weldon and Philip Moule of Light IQ who as well as being at the forefront of lighting design is also, alongside myself, a member of the new British Institute of Interior Design's, Corporate Committee.

These lunches have, in stark contrast to the general economic news, allowed us to focus on the positives as they have been enlightening and encouraging. Over the last year we have found that the market for premium specialist products and services has stood up well in the residential and historic building sectors. Jasper has just completed his most successful year so far and the current year is looking equally as good. We are also coping well with results at the half year stage equalling those of last year which was a record year for NEJ Stevenson. The general economic downturn has though had an unexpected benefit for our lunches...Just St James has introduced a loyalty discount so perhaps we may have to consider the benefit of two lunches a month!