

## **EDITORIAL**

This is the second post-2017 Edinburgh Conference Issue. Anyway, I/we think that most of the 60+ participants enjoyed and profited from the Conference.

We have been waiting for the papers from that February Conference for four months and have only received two; so we have decided to publish an issue with those two and including our backlog of submitted papers, and make the next issue the 2017 Conference papers.

The first Conference paper is by Professor Cathcart on the low level of trust in journalists in the UK, reviewing a wide range of disparate and fragmentary survey evidence over several years finding no particular trend; and comparing with levels of trust in journalists in other European countries. The levels of trust do not appear to respond to any specific political event; the most likely explanation is that the public do not trust journalists because they have seen them not telling the truth.

The second Conference paper is by Michael Dougan reviewing the 'research' that was meant to back up the claims of the Leave alliance in its deceitful campaign about the Brexit referendum. He focuses on the mysterious 'statistical' so-called arguments they put forward; and shows that there was no basis to any of their evidence.

Then there is another poem by Larry Lesser – this time on a 'Test for Normality' - whilst we have retained his original poem from the last issue on the cover page. He has also provided a rare political statistical joke.

We end with the second paper by John Read on the historical analysis of UK population data focussing on trends in mortality rates. He carries out a thorough analysis and suggests that the evidence shows that the population pyramid is stabilising.

Once again, I have to make an appeal for papers – we are down to only one, apart from outstanding Edinburgh Conference papers - or are we simply running into a technology trap?