



# REGIONAL NEWS *(ISSUE 9)*

[Section 1](#) – Welcome from the President

[Section 2](#) – Upcoming Events

[Section 3](#) – CIPFA Updates

[Section 4](#) – The Last Six Months

[Section 5](#) – Students

[Section 6](#) – Secret Accountant “The Time’s They are a Changing”

Here at CIPFA North East we would love to hear from you with comments, queries and suggestions, please get in touch via the contact links throughout this newsletter.

## Section 1 – Welcome from the President



I hope you have taken a chance to rest and refresh over the Summer, as there is every indication that it is going to be an interesting Autumn.

I look forward also to joining fellow CIPFA volunteers from across the country at the Conference for the Regions in Bournemouth this October, it is important that we take the opportunity to hear what is going on both in CIPFA centrally and across the Regions. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see we have a busy programme of events, culminating in the North East Conference on Friday 17 November 2023

You may of course now be aware that on Monday 11 September CIPFA and the ICAEW announced a new fast track route for newly qualified accountants and an ever closer strategic alignment, aiming to provide greater flexibility for CPFA and ACA chartered accountants to work across the public and private sectors. In short this will hopefully make pursuing

CIPFA an even more attractive option for student training.

There have always been alternative routes of course, my first interview for a CIPFA Trainee placement was with a large firm of Chartered Accountants – still in existence! But ultimately I was unsuccessful, that was perhaps one of my “Sliding Doors” moments in life and I trained with Gateshead Council instead which gave me great experience and obviously a real taste for public finance. And I don’t regret a minute of it, making many friends while at Gateshead that I still remain in touch with over 30 years later.

Part of the attraction of the CIPFA qualification at that point was that I felt this gave me the opportunity to punch “above my weight” (a task I would find significantly harder now!) in that while we may have represented a minority of qualifying accountants each year, in Public Finance we were dealing with over 40% of GDP – and despite cuts to public expenditure, I think we still are “punching above”!

As a wise old Director of Finance said to me once; “On qualifying you have a number of options open to you; – You can go to work in industry, and work towards improving your profits, and increasing your share price. Or look at a career with a firm looking to

reduce tax bills and generating investment. But a career in the public sector gives you a chance to influence people's lives, helping put more teachers in classrooms, providing care to support vulnerable people or improving and regenerating the environment."

I am so pleased I chose the last option!

**Bruce Parvin**  
**CIPFA North East President**  
**[northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org)**

## Section 2 – Upcoming Events



### SAVE THE DATES

<b>IFRS16 Technical Update</b>	Wednesday 25 October 2023 (Lunchtime session 12.30pm)	Virtual Event
<b>CIPFA NE Annual Conference</b>	Friday 17 November 2023 (More details on next page)	Crowne Plaza, Newcastle
<b>Women in Leadership</b>	Thursday 24 January 2024	TBC
<b>CIPFA NE Annual General Meeting</b>	March 2024	TBC

Please contact [northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org) with any questions or suggestions and feedback on events.

[Keep up to date with CIPFA events in the North East](#)

## Section 3 – CIPFA Updates

### Exciting News – CIPFA/ICAEW

CIPFA has been working more closely with ICAEW (the leading accountancy body for the private sector) since 2021, to endeavour to deliver better outcomes for the accountancy profession, including providing wider career opportunities for CIPFA and ICAEW members and students.

Launching in early 2024, the CIPFA/ICAEW dual membership will enable CPFA (CIPFA) qualified accountants to also gain the ACA designation and vice versa. [You can find more details here.](#)

Don't forget to catch up on the latest [publications](#) from CIPFA.

Remember [CPD Bites service](#) is a useful tool to help keep your CPD up to date.



## CIPFA in the North East - Annual Conference

Friday 17th November 2023

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne

Join us for an insightful, motivating and intriguing day, examining how digital advances are transforming the way we operate in Public Services and how working together across sectors can provide opportunities and innovative practices to overcome the challenges we face.

Confirmed Speakers include

**Rob Whiteman**, CIPFA Chief Executive Officer

**Craig Anderson**, NHS Business Services Authority

**Max Tse**, Executive Director, National Audit Office and **Andrew Cartner**, Director of Public Spending and Deputy Head of Government Finance Function, HM Treasury

**Michael Crowe and Dean Pegg**, Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust

The event will be chaired throughout the day by **Michael Brodie**, NHS Business Services Authority, Chief Executive Officer

Cost: £42 per delegate (£35 +VAT) which includes lunch and drinks reception.

To book a place email [northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org)

Or you can book online at

[CIPFA North East Regional Annual Conference 2023 | CIPFA](#)

## Section 4 – The Last Six Months

### CIPFA in the North East Annual Dinner

The CIPFA NE Dinner, after a 4-year hiatus, made a welcome return on 12 May 2023. Welcoming students, new members and ahem, more “experienced hands” alike, it was heart-warming to see the NE public finance glitterati get together again, even if there was no CPD points available on this particular occasion.



As new Regional President, Bruce Parvin welcomed all guests, including regional representatives from the ICAEW, CIMA and AAT, and thanked all the regional volunteers and Past Presidents present for all of their efforts, and prior to the meal, previous president Kevin Suttie outlined some of his experiences as a CIPFA Public Finance professional working in Kosovo, Vietnam and Moldova – a great example to the newly qualified members present of just how far your CIPFA qualification can take you! For entertainment, George Clark kindly provided an after dinner mint, sorry quiz, which help stimulate discussion long into the night. A charity raffle raised £275 for which the beneficiary charity was The Samaritans, selected by first prize winner Judith Savage.

The Dinner was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Newcastle, and thanks must go to the staff there who even extended the bar opening hours, such was the

merriment. The event would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship and support of Mazars, who entertained their guests at the Dinner.



After preparations for the 2020 Dinner were interrupted by the small matter of Covid-19 (!) it was great to see North East members come together again in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Hopefully we won't have to wait 4 years for the next one, with a provisional date of 17 May 2024 for next year's Dinner already firmly in the diary !

### Student Quiz

In May, we hosted the first in person student event since COVID; a highly successful Quiz Night, bringing together approximately 15 students and members from various corners of the region. Attendees were faced with challenging questions from music to sport and the winning team had the pleasure of receiving drinks vouchers for the bar. Harriot's Favourites were the successful team (no favouritism!) and they rather generously shared round their drink vouchers with the rest of the teams.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback has left us eager to repeat a similar event in the coming year, so make sure to brush up on your Taylor Swift knowledge and we hope the quiz continues to be a highlight for CIPFA students and members in the North East.



## CIPFA NE 6th Form Management Games

The region hosted the annual 6<sup>th</sup> Form Management Games in July at New College Durham. A new venue for the games, one which was extremely comfortable, warm and welcoming.



Four teams of 6<sup>th</sup> Form students arrived at the venue unaware of the fun challenges they were soon to encounter, facilitated expertly by the dedicated team of volunteers. The day involved a series of activities designed to demonstrate tasks often required of Public Finance Executive Management teams.

Each team member assumed an Executive Director role and worked together to fulfil the challenges of the day via a number of channels, including written reports, role play and group presentations. The activities of the day centred around the fictional town of Midchester, a town facing budgetary pressures and challenges not dissimilar to those we can relate to in our working lives.

On being given the initial task of preparing a report to bridge a £5m budget deficit, teams soon came to realise a day in the life of a Public Sector Official is never without its interruptions and over the course of the day the teams were thrown a number of curveballs and challenges to overcome including meeting with an irate Trade Union representative who had heard rumours of job cuts.

Volunteers were impressed and delighted at the level of engagement from the students and the creative critical thinking witnessed during the course of the day.

The overall winning team at this year's event was Harton Academy.

## CIPFA North East & AAT Professional Update Day – July 2023

The combined CIPFA in the North East & the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) professional update day was held on 7<sup>th</sup> July at Newcastle Civic Centre. The session started with the opportunity to catch up and network over lunch with CIPFA friends and AAT colleagues.



As the first joint AAT event for the region, we were lucky to have Christina Earls, AAT President deliver the first presentation on Ethics, Sustainability and You. Christina discussed a wide range of engaging topics and included how finance can add value to the organisation through reducing liabilities, the people side of sustainability including recruitment costs both money and time, the invisibility of older women in the workplace and the potential of lost value.



Then on the flipside that the new generation want and expect more from their employers especially in relation to sustainable and green practice. The

session ended discussing will lead sustainability reporting, consultants or accountants? And that sustainability should become part of integrated financial reporting with IFRS leading the way in embedding IFRS in reporting.

Christina directed attendees to CIPFA's website for conduct and ethics:-

[www.cipfa.org/members/conduct-and-ethics](http://www.cipfa.org/members/conduct-and-ethics)

Sarah Logsdail, Government Finance Function, HM Treasury gave an important update on IFRS16 – Leases.

The afternoon ended with an engaging session on Productivity Principles and Methods by Stephen J Mordue, who looked how we manage our self-care and resilience including; emotional, physical and

practical advice, managing stress responses and energy and how our routines and habits can help.

The importance of managing stress response first and then manage energy and resilience and then time and tasks. In terms of task management – “Eat your frogs first”, do the worst task first to set you on the right path for the rest of the day, then eat the elephant one bite at a time - break overwhelming tasks down into smaller chunks, each smaller item completed will give you satisfaction.

## Section 5 - Students

### North East Student Network

We hope you've all had an amazing summer and that the exams went well for those students that sat them in September. After the success of our quiz night in May, we are planning to organise a pizza and pre-seen night for our students studying the case study this term, so keep an eye out for further information on that. We hope to see some of you again at upcoming CIPFA events and know that we are always looking to grow our student network so please be sure to point any new students in our direction!

### Harriot and Catherine - CIPFA NE Student Representatives

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS	
For help with course administration issues	020 7543 5600 <a href="mailto:cetc.enquiries@cipfa.org">cetc.enquiries@cipfa.org</a>
For help with examinations	020 7543 5600 <a href="mailto:studentsupport@cipfa.org">studentsupport@cipfa.org</a>
For any concerns about your training courses	020 7543 5622 <a href="mailto:trainingdeliverymanager@cipfa.org">trainingdeliverymanager@cipfa.org</a>

We would like to encourage students to feedback any topics they would like covered in this section. Please get in touch at [northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org)

## Section 6 – Secret Accountant



### Secret Accountant – “The Time’s They are a Changing”

Sorry to convey sad news but Summer is officially over! Its dark by 8.00 pm, everyone is back at work, and correspondingly there is a drop off in the popularity of “out of office” messages. I am unsure just what is correct protocol around “out of office” messages, they are certainly required over the summer period if someone is fortunate enough to be away on leave for a week or two, but what is the shortest period you will be away from your computer before you feel the need to leave an out of office message. If in a meeting for an hour or two, I certainly wouldn’t think it necessary to inform the world that I wasn’t going to be online, but I have received notifications to that effect ....surely

“I am sorry, I am away from my desk making a brew but will return in 5 minutes to hang on your every word” can’t be far away.

Speaking of modern communication protocols, I recently upgraded my iphone, well I say upgraded but mine stopped working and I got a “pre-loved” (!) “hand me down” discarded by the kids. A degree of setting up was again required and I foolishly set up alerts for when I received an Outlook email – it wasn’t long before I realised what folly that was, when I became a “Lord of the Pings” due to the frequent alerts, (a title I had been previously christened because of my reliance on the microwave oven for all my catering !).

Of course, as is the way of things the changing of the seasons has other compensations for the need to dig the coats out from the back of the cupboard (if indeed you ever put them away this summer!). The Football season is back, and so is school! And while we may have exhausted the supply of bank holidays for the moment, Christmas is only 3 months away.

Perhaps the sudden realisation of impending yuletide greetings may come as a bit of a jolt if you haven’t yet put the suitcases back in the loft after your summer holiday, but please treat it as a gentle reminder of the cyclical nature of things, like leaving all your remaining annual leave until the last two weeks of March when it’s guaranteed to be wet and miserable.

Instead, why not take one day out of the usual routine and join us at the North East Conference on Friday 17 November – further details elsewhere in this Newsletter !

I will of course be there, I’d introduce myself but I wouldn’t be the Secret Accountant then would !!

THE SECRET ACCOUNTANT!