

Spreadsheet

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The online magazine for CIPFA members and students

NOVEMBER 2012

the long downturn

Challenges for the Chancellor

In this issue:

- CIPFA guidance for new Police and Crime Commissioners
- Save the date for CIPFA Conference 2013 on 9-11 July
- Volunteer to help with regulatory committees and CIPFA exams

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of
Public Finance & Accountancy



Leading change

As I write this, politics and public finances in this country feel like they are balanced on a knife edge. We have just had party conferences with each of the party leaders setting out their stall for the coming year, and we're waiting with bated breath for what the Chancellor's Autumn Statement on 5 December might bring.

Recent growth forecasts look promising at 0.7% in the last quarter, but with a boost from the Olympics this is a fragile recovery and economic commentators are already highlighting the risk of a 'triple dip' recession.

It is in this climate that CIPFA has recently published its report *The Long Downturn* for which I have written the foreword. This report highlights some of the key actions that need to be taken by Government and public services to stimulate a recovery. These include fairness, judicious investment and continuing austerity measures.

More than the Government acknowledges, one key factor that needs to be taken into consideration to stimulate growth is the skills and expertise of public sector leaders, which the report emphasises. With the combination of cuts, reforms and ambitious change programmes, it is almost inevitable that things will go wrong and so skilled public sector managers will be required to cope with these unforeseen challenges.

As members on the ground, you are ones leading this change and we would love to receive feedback on your experiences, thoughts and comments on this report. To get in touch please email us at corporate@cipfa.org.

Sir Tony Redmond, President

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We welcome your contributions to, and feedback on Spreadsheet. Please send contributions comments and suggestions for future articles to danielle.holme@cipfa.org

Keeping up with CIPFA

Join us on LinkedIn, follow CIPFA on Twitter at twitter.com/cipfa, or 'like' us on Facebook for instant news and to join discussions with fellow CIPFA members. Follow the links below, or within the footer of the CIPFA website.



Spreadsheet

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CIPFA report highlights huge challenges facing the Chancellor

CIPFA has published a new report examining the formidable challenges facing the Chancellor of the Exchequer as he prepares his Autumn Statement. *The Long Downturn*, published at the end of October provides a commentary on the current state of the UK economy.

Beginning with the growth forecasts, ambitions and policies set by the Coalition Government in 2010 it moves on to what needs to happen in the future, concluding that the worst may still be yet to come.

The Government's current economic strategy relies on balancing austerity with growth. To date, plans to cut back spending have stayed firmly on track, while growth has been disappointingly elusive.

Going forward there is every likelihood that more emphasis will need to be placed on efforts to stimulate growth – perhaps via tax incentivisation of private sector investment or by public sector investment in capital infrastructure projects. Any major investment will have to be paid for, however, which may require further tightening of public spending in other areas.

The report concludes that in any event, cuts in public spending will need to be managed with very high levels of skill and care by public sector organisations. Public support for, and tolerance of, cuts is likely to become increasingly strained as public bodies are forced to contemplate reductions in sensitive services. Meanwhile perceptions of fairness, reflecting where cuts ultimately land and whom they most affect, will be a critical barometer.

Steve Freer said, "The Chancellor is having to drive with one foot on the growth accelerator and the other on the austerity brake. The on-going problems in the Eurozone are severe hazards on the road ahead.

"The story on austerity is 'so far, so good' but there is no room for complacency. He will want to continue reining back public spending as aggressively as possible, while crucially staying on the right side of the public's tolerance of cuts.

"On growth, the story is much less positive. He is likely to be searching for more levers to stimulate the economy, but will also be mindful that these initiatives have to be paid for, potentially by further tightening of spending plans.

"The critical bottom line is that both strands of the strategy have to be working to deliver the deficit and debt reduction results required."



Log into the CIPFA website to download your copy of *The Long Downturn* at: www.cipfa.org/thelongdownturn. Registering on the website is easy, and you only need do this once, simply follow these steps:

- Go to www.cipfa.org/register and enter your CIPFA contact reference number along with your title, first name and surname.
- You will also need to provide an email address, password, screen name and the answer to a security question.
- Keep a note of both your screen name and password.
- We will send you an email. Click on the link in the email to activate your registration.
- This will take you to your My CIPFA page on the site.

Once you're registered, simply head to the long downturn page and the PDF link will start working as if by magic.

CIPFA advises police finance practitioners as Police and Crime Commissioners take office

CIPFA has released the *CIPFA statement on the role of the chief finance officer of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) of the Chief Constable*. The statement is designed to help existing and new police finance colleagues to better understand the role of the CFO in the reformed English and Welsh police service.

The election of 41 new police and crime commissioners across England and Wales marks a new era of more public engagement in local policing, but the new policing landscape also raises some awkward accounting issues, not least because of the two separate police bodies.

CIPFA's statement, prepared with help from members of the Institute's Police Panel, provides detailed advice on how the two roles should operate and where the boundaries of accountability lie. It is vital that there is no room for ambiguity that could lead to breakdowns in financial management or failures in carrying out the Section 151 role effectively.

The principles outlined have been prepared in accordance with the Home Office *Financial Management Code of Practice*, and the statement provides a basis for the local application of these principles in each force area.

Questions or comments in relation to the statement, or other matters concerning the police finance function, can be sent to CIPFA's Police Panel by emailing: julian.smith@cipfa.org.

A range of assistance and information for the police service on finance and other strategic policing matters is also available from CIPFA's Police Network – for more details please contact: alison.dewhirst@cipfa.org.

CIPFA is grateful to the members of the Institute's Police Panel for their help in preparing this statement, in particular Bob Summers from Norfolk Police Authority for his drafting and editing work.



Honorary Officers for 2013/14 announced

The Honorary Officers for 2013/14 have been announced. From the AGM in July 2013, Jaki Salisbury will be the next CIPFA President and Mike Owen, Vice President. Ian Perkin will continue as Honorary Treasurer, on another two year term, from 2013 to the 2015 AGM.

Jaki is an independent consultant, Mike is Executive Director of Resources at Bury Metropolitan Borough Council, and Ian is Treasurer of Surrey Police Authority.

Council elections will take place in April 2013.

Chief Executive receives recognition

At the Government Finance Profession (GFP) Awards 2012, Steve Freer received an award in recognition of his personal contribution to the profession and in acknowledgement of his service to public finance generally.

Richard Douglas, Head of the Government Finance Profession, presented the award and highlighted Steve's 'enthusiastic' support for GFP Advisory Panels, Heads of the Profession, his service on Whitehall committees and his advocacy for better financial management in the public sector.

New IPSAS qualification

CIPFA has launched a new qualification to support public sector practitioners around the world as more countries are making preparations to adopt International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) – based on IFRS.

The new Certificate in International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Cert IPSAS), the first IPSAS qualification from any leading global public finance body, is designed to give students a deep understanding of the standards and how to apply them.

Certificate holders will have formal recognition to demonstrate their expertise in this technically demanding area to employers, colleagues and others. The course will also provide a far deeper understanding of the intricacies of IPSAS than a short course could offer. This qualification could also potentially open the doors for practitioners to work in a variety of countries that are adopting the new standards.

To find out more about this new qualification go to: www.cipfa.org/CertIPSAS

International Public Financial Management Qualification – advancing our global ambitions

CIPFA has entered into a new partnership in order to be able to offer the Institute's Professional Qualification in International Public Financial Management to more students around the world. An important milestone in growing the membership internationally.

The partnership with FreeBalance, a leading vendor of software to Governments, grants accreditation to the company to provide training to students who enrol on CIPFA's International PFM courses in those countries where FreeBalance operates. Students who complete the qualification will be entitled to apply for membership of CIPFA and to use the designation Chartered Public Finance Accountant (CPFA).

Manuel Pietra, President and CEO of FreeBalance, commented, "FreeBalance and CIPFA are in a unique position to help some of the most progressive countries in the world build the necessary PFM capacity to support good governance and improve public services."

The program consists of the following suite of progressive qualifications:

- Certificate in International Public Financial Management (Cert IPFM)
- Diploma in International Public Financial Management (Dip IPFM)
- Advanced Diploma in International Public Financial Management (Ad Dip IPFM)
- Professional Qualification in International Public Financial Management (PQ IPFM).

More information can be seen at www.cipfa.org/ipfm and in the must read article from the chair of the NSF as published in PQ magazine: www.cipfa.org/Policy-and-Guidance/Articles/can-accountants-save-the-world.

Save the date: CIPFA Annual Conference 2013

CIPFA Annual Conference 2013 will be held on 9-11 July 2013, in London.

You can register your interest with our events team, by emailing Juliette.bond@redactive.co.uk to make sure that you are one of the first to receive our full programme, and early bird offers when they are released.

We hope to see you there for this key event in the public finance calendar packed with thought-leading speakers, specialist seminars, topical debate, and networking.

Visit our conference web page to automatically put the date into your Outlook calendar, and watch videos from last year's conference to give you a flavour of what is to come for the 2013 conference.

www.cipfa.org/About-CIPFA/Annual-Conference-and-Exhibition-2013.

CIPFA in the news

It has been a busy few months for CIPFA in the news. With party conferences dominating a lot of the agenda there have been some major announcements and the release of some significant CIPFA publications.

- CIPFA's release of *The Long Downturn*, mentioned earlier in this edition of Spreadsheet, led to coverage in a number of trade magazines, such as *Accountancy Age* on the report and the important message that it delivers.
- The media has also picked up a number of CIPFA comments in reaction to Government announcements on council tax. The first in response to the Government offering councils money to [freeze council tax](#) for the forthcoming year and the second on the Government making £100m available to councils who implement local [council tax benefit schemes](#) in the 'right' way.
- CIPFA Scotland has raised concerns around the Scottish Government's proposal to [integrate health and social care](#). It is argued that the case for current legislation has not been made and that it may end up being more costly, especially in the short run.
- Gill Kelly from CIPFA Recruitment Services has been busy commenting on public sector staff adapting to a changing environment in *The Evening Standard* and writing an opinion piece for *Accountancy Age*.
- CIPFA's response to the [Public Service Pensions Bill](#), which received its First Reading in Parliament in September, was in the news. In the response Bob Summers, Chair of CIPFA's Pensions Panel, raised concerns around the independence of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- Following her article from a couple of months ago, Lesley Lodge was asked to provide another article for *Education Business* on [academies](#). It seems that being almost completely new autonomous entities, a number of academies are struggling to come to terms with their finances along with their complicated relationship with local authorities.
- On the international front, CIPFA has announced a [partnership with FreeBalance](#), a provider of government resource planning technology, to provide accredited training to FreeBalance customer countries.
- CIPFA also hosted a conference of the international donor community. [MOSAIC](#), or the Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Accountancy and Improve Collaboration, met in October to discuss a draft Global Development Report on strengthening Professional Accountancy Organisations around the world.
- Finally, since the last issue of Spreadsheet, [Steve Freer](#) has announced his intention to step down as Chief Executive of CIPFA.

CIPFA supporting central government

At two key conferences this autumn CIPFA has played a central role.

In September CIPFA held its own annual central government conference at which over 150 delegates were in attendance to hear the likes of Public Accounts Committee chair Margaret Hodge and head of government finance profession Richard Douglas, and to discuss the progress being made on HM Treasury's finance transformation program.

Congratulations to CIPFA member Graeme Hodges, senior business analyst at the Job Centre Plus, on winning the maths challenge set by our employer relations team.

The Institute also featured strongly at November's annual government finance profession conference in Brighton. CIPFA's own experts were in attendance to lead technical update sessions and support workshops on financial management across government. The valuable support offered by the CIPFA's FM model was widely acknowledged.

At the conference dinner, having presented some of the evening's awards himself, the tables were turned on Steve Freer when he was himself presented with a special award for his lifetime's contribution to improving financial management in government.

Renewal of CIPFA membership

The 2013 CIPFA membership renewals, are currently being dispatched, and will be made available to members and students in their MY CIPFA account on the website. Please look out for the email informing you that your renewal invoice is ready for collection.

CIPFA Qualified Members will also be able to access and complete their Annual Members Statement via MY CIPFA.

The few members who have not provided us with a registered email address for their CIPFA membership will receive a renewal pack in the post.



How do I 'collect' my renewal invoice?

Simply log into MY CIPFA on the CIPFA website (<https://www.cipfa.org/Login>) and select My Purchases from the left hand menu. Your membership renewal invoice will be listed here. You will be able to print your invoice and pay your membership fee by credit or debit card.

Why is my renewal invoice in MY CIPFA?

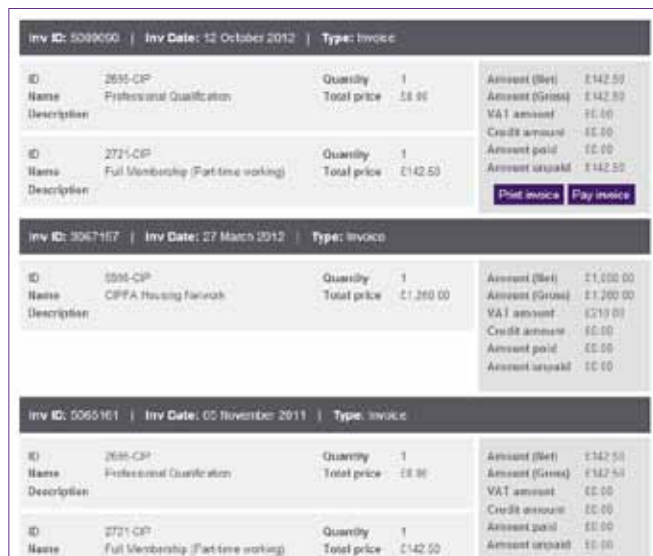
Many members ask for invoices to be emailed to them. In response to this, and to expedite delivery of the membership invoices, we have developed this secure process in our website. We believe this to be a quick and easy way for our members to receive and renew their membership. Invoices can also be re-printed if they are misplaced.

Why should I renew my CIPFA membership?

By renewing your membership you will be securing your position as part of the respected profession of public finance accountants and are able to demonstrate this by using the designatory letters that come with certain types of membership. In addition, you will continue to receive member-only benefits.

From the free copy of Public Finance magazine to unlimited access to our technical advisory service, structured CPD support and a range of savings through our Rewards scheme CIPFA membership continues to represent excellent value.

More on member benefits can be found at: www.cipfa.org/Membership/Benefits-and-Services



Professional membership fees for 2013

Membership fees become due and payable on **1 January 2013**, the renewal covers the period 1 January 2013 - 31 December 2013.

Professional membership fees 2013:	
Full Member	£300
Career Break/Part-time Working Member	£150
Practice Assurance scheme subscription	£258
Retired Member	£47
Life membership for retired members	£300 (one-off payment)
Registered Student	£151

Membership fees for Associate and Affiliate members remain unchanged for 2013.

Full details of the membership fees for 2013, methods of payment and applying for a reduction in membership fees can be found on our website at www.cipfa.org/Membership/Fees-and-Subscriptions

Annual Member's Statement

All CIPFA Qualified Member's are required to complete an Annual Member's Statement each year by 31 January.

This meets your obligation to confirm your participation in or exemption from CIPFA's CPD scheme, whether you need to hold a CIPFA Practising Certificate or not and ensures we hold the correct contact information for you.

There will be a button on the left hand menu in MY CIPFA for you to access your Statement.



Volunteering opportunities

Volunteering opportunities on CIPFA's regulatory committees

CIPFA is looking for volunteers to join its investigations, disciplinary and appeal committees.

We especially (but not exclusively) welcome members who have worked at director of finance level within public and private sector organisations.

Volunteers will have an interest in improving standards through professional self-regulation, be willing to bring their professional experience to bear on issues that may affect the livelihood of fellow CIPFA members, possess the ability to understand and analyse complex issues and be able to demonstrate sound judgement.

- Successful applicants to the Disciplinary and Competency Scheme committees will be required to complete a one-day training programme before appointments are confirmed.
- CIPFA will pay travel and subsistence expenses incurred on committee business.
- Appointments will normally be for a period of three to five years.
- The time commitment is approximately six days per annum plus attendance at a training day each year for the Disciplinary and Competency Schemes.

Application packs are available on CIPFA's website at www.cipfa.org/About-CIPFA/Volunteers/regulatory-committees-CIPFA-members or by emailing dsadmin@cipfa.org. The closing date for applications is 5 December 2012. Interviews will take place in early January 2013 at CIPFA's offices in Central London.

About the Disciplinary Scheme

CIPFA's Disciplinary Scheme provides a process for consideration of alleged unethical or unprofessional conduct by CIPFA members and students.

- The investigations, disciplinary and appeal committees each consist of CIPFA members and independent members (ie non-accountants).
- The Investigations Committee assesses whether matters coming to the attention of the Institute should be formally investigated and, following any investigation, whether the member / student has a case to answer.
- The Disciplinary Committee adjudicates on disciplinary cases referred by the Investigations Committee at public hearings. This committee may impose reprimands, make orders for suspension or expulsion from the Institute, require members to reimburse client fees and impose fines of up to £10,000.
- The Appeal Committee considers appeals from the Disciplinary Committee and may confirm, vary or rescind any order of the Disciplinary Committee.
- Both the disciplinary and appeal committees conduct business at hearings which are open to the public. The process is adversarial and an independent legal assessor attends all hearings to advise on law and procedure.

Volunteering opportunities

About the Competency Scheme

Members of the Disciplinary Scheme committees also sit on CIPFA's Competency Scheme committees.

The Competency Scheme considers the competency of members who have become bankrupt, made arrangements with their creditors or whose competence or efficiency may be impaired by reason of physical or mental health.

As with the Disciplinary Scheme, each stage of an investigation is considered by a separate committee. However, all hearings are held in private and the powers of the committees are limited to orders for suspension or exclusion from membership.

Volunteering opportunities for CIPFA Examination Panel

We are looking for volunteers for our Examination Panel. The panel is a crucial part of CIPFA governance and consists of two streams (each meets twice a year):

- The assessment stream approves examination papers for the forthcoming assessment diet – full-day meetings are held in early March and early September (in CIPFA's Robert Street office, London).
- The results stream approves examination results and reviews applications for special considerations – half-day meetings are held in late January and late July in (in CIPFA's Borough High Street office, London).

We're currently looking for subject champions (with responsibility for specific paper(s)) and lay members (whose role is to oversee the process has been carried out in line with agreed process).

The panel members are not expected to be CIPFA members. So please feel free to suggest the role to colleagues you think may be interested. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Aga Jop, CIPFA Education Manager on aga.jop@cipfa.org for further information and an application form.

Examiners and moderators wanted!

CIPFA is looking to recruit new members of its examination team. Paid roles for examiners, moderators and question setters are available to qualified CCAB members. We currently have vacancies in CIPFA Accelerated Route for Executives and International Public Financial Management examination teams.

Examiners are required to:

- produce original examination papers which are balanced in terms of assessment of the syllabus and are at the appropriate level of difficulty
- produce detailed marking schemes showing mark allocation and an examiner's report, all for publication
- ensure that CIPFA examinations are of the highest quality and are technically, numerically and conceptually correct
- take responsibility for the marking of examination scripts and to ensure consistency and accuracy in marking scripts.

Moderators are required to:

- review examination papers and marking schemes to ensure that they are balanced in terms of assessment of the syllabus and are at the appropriate level of difficulty
- ensure that all CIPFA examinations are of the highest quality and are technically, numerically and conceptually correct and that marking of examinations is consistent and appropriate.

For further information or to register interest, please contact Hannah Cannon, Assessment Co-ordinator at Hannah.cannon@cipfa.org.

President's diary



After a rather hectic conference schedule in July, August was a relatively quiet month but one of the highlights was a thoroughly enjoyable dinner – organised by the CIPFA Midlands Students Society, in Nottingham – which I attended with my wife Christine. I'd like to say a big thank you to Caroline and all those who helped to organise the event.

Of course August included much of the wonderful Olympic activity, and my family and I were fortunate to be able to see some Paralympic football, swimming, athletics and rowing. The feel good factor that emerged from the Games was genuinely infectious.

September included a dinner at Robert Street for the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies (CCAB) presidents, which was both productive and enjoyable. This was particularly important from CIPFA's perspective as I am currently the Chair of CCAB, the first time the post has been held by a CIPFA President.

The following weekend I attended the CIPFA South East Summer School at Wantage Hall (Reading University). After a few words to the delegates and an excellent dinner I became a Dragon in a mock up Dragon's Den competition. A good time was had by all. I was also persuaded to sing 'You'll never walk alone' in the Karaoke! Thank you to the organising committee for putting on another great show.

My last engagement in September was to attend the Northern Ireland Conference in Belfast, at which I heard from a very impressive set of speakers addressing the significant economic pressures and public service challenges currently facing CIPFA members. It would be remiss of me not to mention Northern Ireland's excellent hospitality!

October included the Group Board and council meetings which inevitably focussed on the economic downturn and its implications for the Institute and its members. Encouragingly, both the finances and student numbers are improving for which credit must go to the efforts of Robert Street staff and regional volunteers. This is a positive result but much still needs to be done.

One slightly different engagement, which I spoke at in October, was a reception of the international donor community following the MOSAIC (Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Accountancy and Improve Collaboration) conference which CIPFA was privileged to host (see also page 6 CIPFA in the News). The conference included delegates from around the world and considered a draft Global Development Report which looked at how to develop and improve professional accountancy organisations.

November will be a busy month with planned visits to the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber and North East. I am certain I will have a lot more to report on these visits next time.

Best wishes,

Tony

Institute thanks Neil Hunter

CIPFA recognises the contribution of Neil Hunter, past Chair of CIPFA Board for the Regions, who has volunteered for CIPFA for over 15 years and won this year's Dr Hedley Marshall award presented at CIPFA conference in Liverpool.

CIPFA's volunteers are an integral part of the way that CIPFA operates, around 10% of CIPFA's 14,000 members are involved as volunteers in one form or another and without their valuable contribution CIPFA could not be the vibrant and member focussed organisation it is today.

With so many members giving so much to the Institute, it is always difficult to choose just one to win the Dr Hedley Marshall award, but Neil Hunter's untiring contribution over many years has led many to question just why he has not won it sooner!

Neil has been an active volunteer in the regions for over 15 years, firstly with CIPFA North East and the Southern region and currently with the relatively newly formed Yorkshire and Humber region. Up to this Summer, he was also Chair of the Board for the Regions for three years.

Neil qualified via the Senior Officers Route. While studying, and immediately post qualification, he was building a successful career and also starting a family. He has now risen to be Head of Internal Audit at Leeds City Council.

In 2005 Neil became Chair of the North Eastern region. He worked hard to develop a vibrant event programme across the region and he was instrumental in creating the North East and Yorkshire and Humber regions.

Neil took on his role as Chair of Board for the Regions in 2009. Over the three years in office he helped make the regions more visible and more professional.

In 2009 he was instrumental as a part of the working group that delivered a memorable Conference for the Regions and helped to introduce more of a business focus to this event.

Beyond all these tangible achievements, Neil's passion and commitment to the regions has helped to inspire numerous other volunteers, a number of whom have gone on to become regional chairs, National Student Forum chairs and members of Institute Council.

Beyond CIPFA he is Chair of the City of York Athletics Club and has been using his expertise, and working hard, to build a community stadium. Planning permission for this stadium, containing 6000 seats, was granted on 17 May.

It has been said that Neil can 'ruffle a few feathers' in his determination to do a good job, but it is exactly that passion and commitment that led him to win this award.

Without his work, CIPFA's regional groups would not be anywhere near as developed as they are today and for this CIPFA and all of its members owe Neil a great deal.



Neil Hunter (right) receives the Dr Hedley Marshall Award from Sir Tony Redmond (left)

Congratulations new members

A warm welcome goes out to all our newest members from September and October, may we wish you a long and prosperous career! Don't forget that, as long as you are a member you may use your designatory letters, CPFA and term yourself a Chartered Public Finance Accountant.

New Members In September/October 2012

Paul Anwyl	Tameside MBC
Faridah Ariori	Hounslow LBC
Suleman Asghar	Leeds City Council
Elise Linda Christina Black	North Lanarkshire CC
Marc Brady	Audit Commission
Benjamin Martyn George Brown	Royal Borough Of Windsor And Maidenhead
Daniel Burbeck	UK Border Agency
Nicola Susan Burgess	Audit Commission
Gerard Byrne	Northern Ireland Audit Office
Omar Cader	Interval International Limited
Sarah Elizabeth Caldwell	Northern Ireland Audit Office
Michael Clifford	London Borough of Newham
Michael Stuart Cram	Neath Porth Talbot County BC
Stuart David Dickson	Scottish Government
Anneliese Dixon	Hounslow LBC
Chris Duncan	Leeds City Council
Gareth Lawrence Evans	Southwark LBC
Marian Eyre-Walker	KPMG UK LLP
Philippa Stacey Farrell	Ealing LBC
Lynsey Jane Ford	Basildon BC
Gavin Alexander Forrest	Cambridgeshire CC
Matthew Ronald Alexander Geddes	KPMG UK LLP
Ann-Marie Glancy	East Lothian Council
Emma Louise Grant	Exeter City Council
Christopher Hall	Audit Commission
Jemma Hatton	North East Lincolnshire Council
Joanna Louise Heal	Audit Commission
Joanne Henry	Department Of Finance And Personnel Northern Ireland
Louise Jane Hibbert	Derbyshire CC
Graeme John Holmes	Audit Commission
Catherine Michelle Hughes	Sunderland City Council
Victoria Hundleby	NHS Lincolnshire
Maclan Manuel Kankhomba	Malawi College Of Accountancy
Rukshana Khanom	Oldham MBC
Gerry Kinsella	Middletown Centre For Autism
Adrian Kolodziej	Audit Scotland
Kayleigh Kristionson	Hull City Council

Jennifer Jane Large	Oldham MBC
Jillian Lowe	Fife Council
Alison Lorraine McDougall	KPMG UK LLP
Joe Melton	Home Office
Helen Millington	Stoke On Trent City Council
Dean Mitchell	Kettering BC
Lewis Paul Montgomery	Coventry City Council
Irene Muirhead	Fife Council
Catherine Elizabeth Newbold	Lancashire CC
Penelope Norman	North Yorkshire CC
Tracy Michelle Othen	Shropshire Fire And Rescue
Mark Andrew Paddon	City Of London Corporation
Graeme Pratt	Department Of Justice Northern Ireland
Timothy Pulham	Wandsworth LBC
Louise Emily Quinn	Stoke On Trent City Council
Mohammed Rab	Leicestershire County And Rutland PCT
Amanda Richardson	North Yorkshire CC
Gareth James Robinson	Lambeth LBC
Faye Rodney	Newham LBC
Munira Sagir	Lancashire CC
Callum Smith	City of Edinburgh Council
Douglas McCall Smith	Audit Scotland
Flora Smith	Audit Commission
Mary Elizabeth Springer	Audit Commission
Sharon Stubbs	Shropshire CC
Tahera Sultana	Hazel Grove High School
Praveen Sunar	Barnet LBC
Victoria Jane Swann	North Lanarkshire CC
Thomas Tandy	Audit Commission
Sarah Jane Wainwright	Derbyshire CC
Joseph Peter Wellicome	Serco
Nichola White	Department Of The Environment Northern Ireland
Charlene Marguerite Whyte	Lambeth LBC
Aaron James Williams	Audit Commission
Vicky Woolf	City of Edinburgh Council
Marta Agnieszka Zuk	Bournemouth BC

If you've recently completed all elements of the Professional Qualification, and been informed you are eligible to apply for membership, you can still apply for membership at our next election on 10 December.

If you have any questions about the process please contact Joanna Hall, Membership Administrator on 020 3117 1881 or email joanna.hall@cipfa.org

Regional contact details

If you would like to get involved with your region or find out more about member events and activities, contact details for the Regional Chairs are:

Channel Islands

Laura Rowley
L.Rowley@gov.je

Europe

Leslie Milne
Europe@cipfa.org

Midlands

Lisa Commane
Lisa.Commane@coventry.gov.uk

North East

Jane Cuthbertson
jane.cuthbertson@southtyneside.gov.uk

North West

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When should I apply for a CIPFA practising certificate?

As part of the forthcoming annual member's statement, members will be asked to confirm whether or not they are required to hold a practising certificate. We provide advice below in case you are unsure whether you fall within the scope of our practice assurance scheme.

If you are providing accountancy services to clients rather than direct to your employer, the answer is almost certainly yes. You will need a practising certificate if you invoice your client, if you work via an agency or umbrella group that invoices your client, or if you are a partner or director in a business that invoices the client. If you are on the payroll of an employment agency you will still need to hold a practising certificate.

If you are an employee of a business that provides services to clients, but are not a partner, director, or equivalent, then you probably do not need a certificate.

There is an exemption for members who provide services to family and friends, or to charitable or voluntary organisations, provided that the honorarium from any one individual or organisation is no more than £250.00 per annum, with a maximum of £1,000.00 per annum in total.

CIPFA's definition of accountancy services can be found in the Council Statement on Public Practice, at www.cipfa.org/Membership/Practice-Assurance-Scheme.

Annual Returns for 2013

If you are already part of the Practice Assurance scheme, you will now have been emailed your annual return to complete electronically.

The document is an essential requirement of the scheme and enables you to renew your certificate for the coming year. It should be completed and returned by 31 December 2012, so that we can ensure you start the new year with your new certificate.

If your circumstances have changed, or will be changing and you plan to withdraw from the scheme, you must formalise this in writing, stating the reason for your withdrawal. You may do this by email to the address given below.

Please remember to look out for your return and let us know if you haven't received it.

For advice about the scheme please contact Joanna Hall, Practice Assurance Coordinator on 020 3117 1881 or email practiceassurance@cipfa.org.

North East school manages its way to victory

Sixth form students from across the North East were given the opportunity to run a university for the day, in the inaugural CIPFA North East Region Sixth Form Management Games, held at the Newcastle University Business School on Friday 26 October.

St Thomas More RC Academy emerged victorious in a closely fought contest with Heaton Manor School and Cramlington Learning Village. Only four points separated the teams.

The students each assumed the role of a member of a fictional university's management team – Cromwell University – and were tasked with identifying revenue savings whilst at the same time coming up with schemes to spend a £14m capital allocation, and then building in the costs arising from their proposed schemes. They had to draft a report outlining their proposals and then deliver a presentation to the Board of Governors.

Throughout the day students were faced with a variety of interruptions including facing a very irate union official, the local press and a disgruntled old boy peer, each of whom tried to influence the teams in their decision making. These interruptions were designed to give teams a flavour of everyday working life in the public sector, with constant interruptions, and constantly-changing objectives.

The winners each received a £15 iTunes voucher. Each mentor nominated a star of the day from each team and they were presented with a £15 iTunes voucher from CIPFA North East President Jane Cuthbertson.

Positive feedback was received from the students and their teachers alike and CIPFA North East will be looking to expand the sixth form games next year.

CIPFA extend their thanks to the volunteers who gave up their day to help the students, their teachers, and the students themselves who embraced the challenges and made the whole day so much fun. Special thanks goes to Chris Gill and Kelly Watson from CIPFA Midlands for their support.

Some of the feedback included:

- “Students learned teamwork and independence skills, interview and presentational skills, how to cope under pressure, building confidence. They also learned a lot about themselves and their strengths and weaknesses”.
- “The element of competition and pressure added to the excitement and made it fun”.
- “Students got an insight into the problems you can be faced with in the world of work and learned how to work effectively as a team”.

NI Conference Success

The CIPFA Northern Ireland conference, held on 27 September, was yet again another roaring success keeping up the long tradition of providing a meaningful, practical and enjoyable programme of speakers for regular and new delegates.

It was very difficult to highlight individual speakers in what was a packed and high quality programme. The feedback received from delegates was excellent, and exhibitors and sponsors commented that they benefited greatly from the networking opportunities with CIPFA member and non-member colleagues.

The conference slides will be available on the Northern Ireland area of the CIPFA website in due course.



(L-R) Sir Tony Redmond, CIPFA President; Jon Graham, Managing Director, CIPFA Business; Sammy Wilson MP MLA, Minister for Finance and Personnel; Jonathan Adams, Chairperson, CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch; and Steve Mungavin, Head of CIPFA in Northern Ireland.

CIPFA Cymru-Wales – CIPFA’s most improved region

Cymru-Wales branch executive seeks new volunteers

The Branch Executive is looking to attract new volunteers to join them over the coming months as they head towards the bi-annual election for membership of the executive. The executive is chaired by the Branch President and works to promote CIPFA and provide CPD and networking opportunities for all members in Wales. This work is vital – in promoting the benefits of CIPFA membership, in attracting new members and student take-up, and in providing a local return on your CIPFA investment.

Are you keen to shape the direction of CIPFA in Wales? Are you willing to roll up your sleeves and help with organising events? Do you want to help grow CIPFA and maximise the benefits of membership? Then take a look at: www.cipfa.org/Regions/Wales and email CIPFA Cymru-Wales President, steven.o'donoghue@wales.gov.uk. We need your help!

Being part of the CIPFA Cymru Wales team

Rebecca Nelson, senior manager at Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC) in Cardiff, gives her insight and thoughts on being part of the Wales Branch Executive.

After graduating from university in 2002, I joined PwC as a trainee accountant. Having acquired an economics degree, I specialised in the public sector, finding both public policy and funding fascinating and challenging subjects. I wanted an interesting and fulfilling career in this arena and felt that going into finance and accountancy would be a practical and technical route that I would enjoy. I chose to qualify through the CIPFA route rather than ICAEW, as I wanted a qualification that would be both strong and identifiable in the workplace, but at the same time support my interest in public sector finance.

When the opportunity arose to join the executive for CIPFA in Wales, I jumped at the chance. I have always found tremendous benefit in being CIPFA-qualified, in terms of clearly distinguishing myself from my private sector-qualified peers and connecting with my public sector clients. I feel a strong sense of loyalty to the qualification: not only does CIPFA give you the technical knowledge you need, but the approach to the examinations give you real-life practical

skills in terms of resource management, prioritisation of key issues and the ability to consolidate and understand a lot of information quickly; all of these are skills which I now use every day in my job.

Being on the executive also gives me great insight into the wider CIPFA network and it is amazing how many top professionals, that I come across in my work life – from a variety of sectors – hold the CIPFA qualification. The great network of CIPFA-qualified people we have is an asset to Wales, and it is important that we maintain this network to share ideas, to collaborate where possible and at all times, enjoy being part of CIPFA.

My involvement with the Executive has given me an opportunity to voice my passion for CIPFA. A key objective for us is to re-engage and re-connect similar members. Tapping into the CIPFA network, either attending the many events run by CIPFA Cymru Wales or by just regularly reading our website, is not only interesting and thought-provoking, it can be career-enhancing. Ultimately, I've found that increasing my activity in the CIPFA Wales region has been valuable, sociable and a rewarding way to spend my professional time.

Join CIPFA Cymru-Wales on LinkedIn

CIPFA Wales' new LinkedIn group for CIPFA members and students is a great way to network with professionals across our community. Share information with colleagues, discuss upcoming ideas and stay informed of the many FREE Branch events we hold. It is early days, and we are experimenting, so join now and help us all get the most out of it!

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&qid=4521302&trk=anet_ug_hm

Cymru-Wales events round up

September saw members visit the Forestry Commission Wales where we had a fascinating briefing from Head of Finance and CIPFA member, Martin Veale, on the work of the Forestry Commission Wales and the change programme that is leading to the creation of the new 'Natural Resources Wales' body.

This will see the amalgamation of the Forestry Commission Wales, Countryside Council for Wales and Environment Agency Wales. The group was then taken on a tour of the Rhigos Forest and the site of the proposed Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm development (pictured) – a multi-million pound, 76 turbine, wind energy programme that is in its very early stages – where we were briefed on the environmental and economic impacts of the project.

October tested the brains of members and students attending our Sexy Spreadsheets event, kindly developed and run by Dr Simon Thorne a Senior Lecturer at Cardiff Metropolitan University. If you are interested in learning more about spreadsheet risk, Dr Thorne advises that a good place to start is the European Spreadsheet Risks Interest Group www.eusprig.org. There are various interesting pages on the website, one of the most popular is the horror stories page: www.eusprig.org/horror-stories.htm.

Also in October, Mark Lewis, Director of Finance at Pembrokeshire County Council, kindly hosted the first of our Branch on Tour roadshows. John Dwight – Wales Audit Office (WAO) and Branch Executive member – organised and led the session, which provided an opportunity for the Branch Executive to meet and talk to members to understand their thoughts and views. The session included an update on CIPFA and Branch activity as well as a CPD slot on Ethics. The session was attended by local government, health and WAO members who during the discussion gave us insight and ideas which the Branch will take forward in its planning process for 2013. The session was really valuable and as a consequence we'd like to repeat this type of event so let us know if you would like to play host in the future!

November sees three events for members: approaching retirement (15th, Wrexham Guildhall); the tao of Everest (15th eve, Glyndwr University) and, pensions funds for non-pensions specialists (16th, Cardiff).

More information is available on our website www.cipfa.org/Regions/Wales



Blowin' in the wind – CIPFA Wales members in the Rhigos Forest

55th CIPFA summer conference – Snakes and Ladders: Chance and Circumstance

Rosanne Fleming, chair of the CIPFA South East conference organising committee, reports back from their 55th Summer Conference. Save the date for next year's conference on 12-14 September 2013.

On 14 September, our guest chairman John Thornton, President of CIPFA South East, welcomed a quality and diverse group of delegates.

This year's theme was Snakes and Ladders: Chance and Circumstance, and we looked at how to develop our abilities to turn a threat into an opportunity, and therefore turn a snake into a ladder, perhaps? This followed on from last year's theme examining how to be innovative and resilient in a time of deep and severe budget cuts.

The conference began on a Friday afternoon, rather than the usual Thursday start, due to booking commitments at Wantage Hall. The conference opened with the experienced and knowledgeable Sean Nolan – former County Treasurer, and Director and Deputy Chief Executive at East Sussex County Council with a session titled What can possibly go wrong? – views from near the top! This session gave delegates an entertaining and engaging insight into dealing with different aspects of the life and times of a senior finance officer. He talked about chances taken, and chances he perhaps missed on the way. Sean has served on a number of high profile finance networks and associations and also contributed to the development of recent CIPFA statements on the role of the Finance Director.

Following on from the informal dinner on Friday night, Luke Webster – Treasury Manager for the Greater London Authority, and an experienced wine judge – presented a taste bud-tingling

taster session of fine dessert wine, cognac, whisky and rum. We were very lucky to have him guide us through these post-prandials with his usual eloquence and great knowledge.

The pub quiz that followed was keenly fought. The Pythons were the overall winners (after some significant grumbling by the Cobras about the difficulty of some of the questions!). Rumour has it that John Voytal and Jonathan Nulty provided musical entertainment via acoustic guitar, an array of percussion instruments, and their harmonious voices until the wee small hours.

On Saturday morning to get us motivated, Roz Gadd, delivered the first of her two interactive sessions titled Camels, Vampires, Fairies and Kissing!, which got us thinking about how learning is not just about listening, but real participation is the key to retaining information. Engaging the nervous system when trying to learn can help us achieve up to 90% retention. Roz also talked about how sometimes you need to give a little and be flexible, in order to achieve wider goals. Roz returned to the conference following her very popular session last year which helped us find out what colour personality we have.

Paul McDermott, a partner and legal expert from Trowers Hamlin LLP, talked to us about how to generate income, and explained how collaborating is not just about saving money, but can genuinely help us succeed. Working cross-region and cross-sector to procure goods and services really can drive down costs and improve quality.



Formal black tie dinner



Roz Gadd

Our afternoon activities this year included the conclusion of the Boules tournament – won this year by first-timer Marit Schofield. There was also a session of Qigong on the quadrant lawn (we were blessed with stunning weather as usual). This is a Chinese exercise/meditation technique, traditionally viewed as a practice to cultivate and balance qi (chi) or what has been translated as ‘intrinsic life energy’. This was run by Roz Gadd and her husband Tony who also run an [academy for Qigong](#). One of our sponsors – Hymans Robertson – also delivered a fascinating drop-in session on the pension time bomb.

CIPFA President, Sir Tony Redmond joined the Conference during the afternoon activities. Prior to our formal black tie dinner on Saturday evening, he talked to us about some of the snakes and ladders he had encountered during his career. He reflected on how, as professionals, we must make the right ethical decision, even if it seems to be the hardest decision, and one which may even jeopardise our own job. Integrity is key in our finance roles in the public sector, but he reminded us that we need to do it all with a sense of humour. He also gave us his views on the current issues facing the Institute, and the potential far-reaching international implications of CIPFA’s publication *Fixing the Foundations*.

After dinner we held our usual group exercise, our take on Dragons’ Den – we call it Pickles’ Pit. Each group pitched their ideas on how to capitalise on the legacy of the 2012 Games, asking Pickles (played by Sir Tony Redmond) and his cohorts, for funding for their ideas. The group presentations were delivered with the usual mix of skill, wit and humour. This exercise helps attendees to develop their presentation skills, reinforces the

messages of the speakers and gets people working together. The Karaoke in the bar was the usual success, with a number of stellar performances, including a rendition by our President of *You’ll Never Walk Alone*.

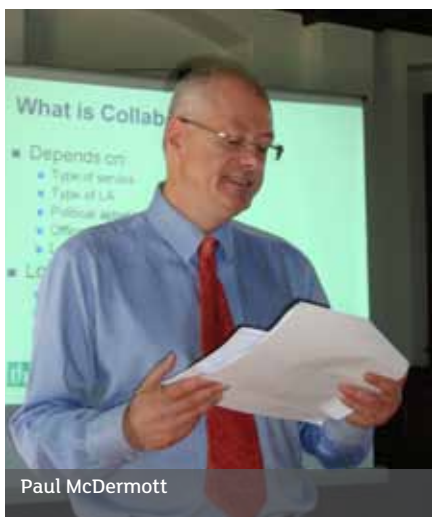
On Sunday morning, Roz Gadd continued her theme from the Saturday session, talking about how to exchange stress and conflict, for happiness and success. CIPFA Vice President Jaki Salisbury also joined us to bring the theme of the conference together with some useful tips about embracing change, being positive, having fun, and being prepared to take a calculated risk to add value and get the desired outcome.

We raised a fantastic £404 for the recently launched Facial Palsy UK charity. Those of you who know Alison Sweeting will know why the conference chose to support this charity. If you don’t know why we would support such a specialist charity, visit their website and make up your own mind. www.facialpalsy.org.uk.

The final act of the conference was the awarding of the coveted John Banford Cup. This year it was awarded jointly to Lyn Myers and Clive Shearsby. They are both regular supporters of the event and were judged to be the delegates who contributed the most to the success of this year’s conference.

Once again, the feedback has been hugely positive, which means that this really is the conference that you should put in your diary for 2013. We hope to see you there.

Rosanne Fleming is a specialist in Internal Audit and Risk Management for Greenbiro Limited.



Paul McDermott



Qigong session by Roz Gadd

South East retired members' visit Lords Cricket Ground

Ray Bolton reports back from the South East retired members' visit to the Lords Cricket Ground, on Wednesday 17 October 2012, where they witnessed a sight not often seen at the ground.



The visit began with a tour of the museum where, as one would expect, members were able to have the history of the Ashes recounted by an excellent guide, whilst admiring the original very small five inch trophy.

This trophy, which is brought to the attention of cricket enthusiasts every two years for the series between England and Australia, is thought to have originally been a ladies perfume bottle presented more as a token of jest at the time, which has become one of sports iconic trophies.

The central part of the visit involved a tour through the pavilion where the guide recounted the history of the ground which is in its third location. From the pavilion the famous

Lords slope was most noticeable with a drop of eight feet across the ground. In the changing rooms the guide explained the superstitions of many test cricketers who always changed at the same position in the dressing room. Throughout the pavilion the dated appearance of the famous listed building had been carefully retained. Many of the walls were covered with paintings depicting many of the famous world cricket venues as well as the great personalities of the game.

The third element of the visit was a walking tour around the ground, ending with a climb up to the award-winning media centre which dominates the side opposite the pavilion. This building was built by contractors experienced in ship building and contains many marine features as well as all the facilities of a modern centre for the world's media who descend on the ground for the big matches. The views of the ground are splendid from this elevated location.

Finally, the sight not often seen was large arrears of the outfield stripped of grass and in the process of being reurfed, the aftermath of hosting Olympic archery competitions earlier in the year. However for the cricket fans, reassurance was given that all would be back to normal for the beginning of the next season.

As is customary the group retired to a local hostelry for a convivial lunch and speculated on ideas for next year's programme.

For further information on the South East retired members events programme contact Eric Keighley via the CIPFA Offices.



Making a dream come true

Claire Grivil, CIPFA Council member, gives an account of her time as a volunteer games maker for the Olympic Games in August.

Since childhood I have had a passion for watching the Olympics, and in 2005 when London won the bid, I remember saying to myself 'I want to be part of that'.

I remember seeing a TV advert with Eddie Izzard asking people to volunteer for over 70,000 roles within the Olympic & Paralympics games. Straight away I applied and out of 250,000 applicants I was over the moon to be chosen for a role through the interview process. I was involved with the technology team based at the Olympic Stadium for the athletics, which was the perfect role for me.

After being accepted for the role, I had to attend a number of training courses to ensure I could carry it out successfully. The training culminated in a venue-specific session at the Olympic Stadium and Park. Upon entering the stadium, I had goose bumps, it was set up for the opening ceremony and it was breathtaking. I recall standing on the track and thinking, my dream has come true. It was also a moment of sheer pride too as I will always be able to say that I was part of the greatest event in the world.

Once the games actually started, I remember walking around the Olympic Park and the atmosphere was electric. People were congregating to watch and share some of the most amazing sporting achievements the world would ever see.

I was extremely lucky as the volunteer role I had within the Olympic Stadium resulted in me working with the media and broadcasters. This gave me full access to see the finish line for all races. I will never forget the atmosphere on the night of the 100M final and the night three gold medals were won by Greg

Rutherford, Jessica Ennis and Mo Farrah. I am willing to admit I shed a tear or two as the emotions in the stadium for those events was unquantifiable. Some of the memories I will treasure forever were actually when the stadium was empty and athletes were walking around and talking to volunteers and thanking us for all our commitment.

Along the volunteering process so many people have supported me to achieve my dream; I have had messages of support from my family, friends and work colleagues. A kind gesture, from a lady I had never met, allowed me to have accommodation in London for the duration of the Games, in her home.

The Olympic & Paralympics Games would not be possible without the sheer dedication of thousands of volunteer Games Makers and LOCOG staff, so I hope when you were sat watching at home or at an event, you spared a thought for those of us who were working behind the scenes with the athletes at the greatest show on Earth. I have met so many of these volunteers and the motivation and passion that people possess is amazing. Being part of this event will live with me forever.



New Practical Experience Portfolio

Following on from the introduction of the new CIPFA Professional Qualification, which went live in January 2012, the new Practical Experience Portfolio (PEP) has now been launched and comes into effect from January 2013.

This replaces the Initial Professional Development Scheme (IPDS) that has been in existence since 2004. Students will still have the opportunity to submit their portfolios under the IPDS arrangements up to 1 February 2013.

There are a number of changes, which will provide a much more relevant experience for students, while still retaining the main benefits of IPDS and ensuring full compliance with the requirements of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in this area.

Amongst the features of the PEP scheme are:

- enhanced content on ethics, including a compulsory component in all evidenced activities
- fewer activities to complete and report on
- greater flexibility in completing the log of workplace experience, but retaining the same total number of days
- no set submission deadlines – portfolios can be submitted as soon as they are ready
- quicker review of portfolios and issue of results
- integration of the oral presentation within an evidenced activity
- a single guide, for both students and employers
- greater transparency on the process for reviewing portfolios
- simplified results – portfolios will be classed as ‘complete’ or ‘incomplete’ (rather than the three classifications used in IPDS).

Practical experience, gained in a finance context in the workplace, is a crucial component of pre-professional development. These changes are intended to ensure that CIPFA students follow a programme that gives a wide-ranging, thorough and relevant set of experiences and develop the skills that are most relevant to modern organisations. At the same time, the PEP scheme starts to embed the sort of habits that are crucial for CPD throughout a CIPFA member’s career.

Further details, including the new PEP guide are available at www.cipfa.org/Training-and-Qualifications/Current-students/PEP



Meet Maggie Donald



The National Student Forum interviews Maggie Donald, Honorary Secretary of the National Student Forum

When did you join the institute?

I joined the institute in September 2010.

Why did you choose CIPFA?

I work in public sector audit, and I was given the choice of studying Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS) or CIPFA. I thought CIPFA was more relevant to my job, and would give me a better understanding of the clients I work with.

What advice would you offer to current CIPFA students about the current job market?

I'm not sure how well placed I am to answer that, I guess there's always a need for qualified accountants, and given there are fewer students being taken on, it should mean there's less competition for places at a newly qualified level.

What advice would you offer to PQs just embarking upon their CIPFA studies?

Good time management of work and is crucial, and not to leave too much to do in the last week before exams. Something I learnt the hard way!

If you could be anyone for the day, past or present, who would it be?

Pippa Middleton seems to have a pretty cushy life.

What's your favourite animal?

Penguins. It's a bit ridiculous, but one of the reasons I ended up studying in Edinburgh was because I loved visiting the penguin pool at the zoo so much as a kid I got to know the city quite well.

What was the last book you read?

I've just started the *Game of Thrones* series. So far I'm not convinced...

What was the last movie you watched?

The Hangover 2. My boyfriend's choice, but I quite like stupid films like that.

What was the last song/album you purchased (downloaded)?

The Maccabees.

If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would you like to see play the lead role as you?

Rowan Atkinson. I have a habit of walking into things.

Meet Nicola Campbell



The National Student Forum interviews Head of Regions and International, CIPFA Education and Training Centre (CETC).

When did you join the institute?

I started at CIPFA in August 2005 as a trainer at CETC. I still can't believe it has been over seven years. In June of this year I was promoted to my current role heading up all of our activities outside of London.

Why did you choose CIPFA?

If I'm being honest my joining the CIPFA team wasn't a particularly well-planned career move. (If you know Steve Daniels or Gary Gilbert ask them about my interview you'll hear an interesting story.) The important bit is that I've never looked back. CETC is a fairly small organisation but that has huge benefits. I've really gotten to know my students over the years. I teach modules at all levels of the qualification, so I've been able to see students at the very beginning of the journey and, (for some groups more than others), it's a pleasure making sure that they leave at the end. (You know who you are!!)

What advice would you offer to current CIPFA students about the current job market?

There's no doubt the market has changed in recent years. But there are still great jobs out there and you will be able to apply for a wide range of opportunities, thanks to the professional qualification's broad syllabus. All employers want to know that you can think strategically, manage projects, contracts and stakeholders, communicate effectively and implement innovative solutions – all covered in the pq! I landed my dream job at CIPFA by applying my skills and experience in a different way – in my case teaching. Of course, as Head of International & Regions I would also say don't forget the international opportunities CIPFA can give you.

What advice would you offer to PQs just embarking upon their CIPFA studies?

Most students I come into contact with are studying with CETC so I would say, get to class on time, do your homework and listen to your tutor! Not everyone comes to CETC courses but I would strongly recommend getting yourself some kind of tuition support if you can. Make sure you get involved with your local student society so that you get to know your fellow students as they'll be a great support network too. It is a bit of a shock to the system for everyone when they first start studying. There's a lot to learn and with exams every six months it is an intense learning environment, but you will get into the swing of it and find the best way of making it work for you. My best advice, if I can do it so can you, have some faith in yourself!

If you could be anyone for the day, past or present, who would it be?

I think I'd like to be a lady called Sue Thomas, the first deaf undercover agent for the FBI. There was a TV series about her, Sue Thomas: FBEye. She worked undercover lip-reading suspects' conversations. I've been studying sign language (only levels 1 and 2 so far) so I have an interest in that side of things and working undercover for the FBI for a day would just be cool!

What's your favourite animal?

I love pigs. I live next door to a city farm it costs me £1 for a little bag of food, and then I can go in and feed and pet all the animals. It's a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

What was the last book you read?

I'm currently reading *Four Blind Mice*, one of the Alex Cross series by James Patterson.

What was the last movie you watched?

Taken 2. It wasn't as bad as some of the critics said but there's a pretty long 10 minute car chase for the boys which gets a bit boring after about the first 30 seconds.

What was the last song/album you purchased (downloaded)?

Now 82. I'm going to show my age here, my first Now album was Now 11 back in the 80s. In the late 90s I thought I had grown out of it when my last purchase was Now 51. Then, recently, I've been slipping back into old habits and have all the Nows since Now 77. I must be having a mid-life crisis and trying to rediscover my lost youth :0)

If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would you like to see play the lead role as you?

That's a really tough question. Maybe Kathleen Turner, she's funny, or Helen Hunt. I spend a lot of time singing in the shower so it would probably be better for everyone if the chosen actress could sing a lot better than I can - maybe Doris Day.

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[View more information](#) or call **0845 555 3344** quoting **CIPFA**



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Utilities are one of the largest costs facing members and they are rising fast! LSI has over 17 years' experience and work in conjunction with many associations, helping members save money.

To prove they can help reduce your business utility costs, LSI is currently offering all CIPFA members an independent utility assessment FREE of charge.

To see how much you could potentially save, [view more information online](#) or call **0800 019 9595** ensuring you quote **CIPFA** or fill out an [enquiry form](#)

*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. See website for further details. BSA - entire office supply must be switched to the BSA and there must be sufficient evidence to prove that 20% has not been saved on stationery over the course of the entire year. CIPFA Rewards is managed on behalf of CIPFA by Parliament Hill Ltd of 3rd Floor, 127 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BT. Neither are part of the same group as a provider.

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Student Support

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Practice Assurance

T: 020 3117 1881

Regional and volunteer support

T: 020 7543 5781

Recruitment services

T: 020 8667 1144

CIPFA Learning Centre website to close on 30 November

CIPFA Learning Centre (CLC) has helped members maintain their CPD for the last seven years. However, it has now reached the end of its useful life.

Now that members can keep up-to-date with CPD opportunities and change their contact details in the new CIPFA website, the CIPFA Learning Centre website is closing on 30 November.

The new CIPFA website allows members to register and keep their personal details up-to-date. Members can also select preferences to receive emails about the latest CPD opportunities and developments relevant to them. The website also holds all CIPFA events in one place so that you can browse through the latest CPD opportunities with CPD hours detailed on each event. You can also keep up with all the latest publications and technical developments in Policy and Guidance. The website also has topics pages, which bring together all the latest content from the topics that are relevant to you.

If you were using the CIPFA Learning Centre to store copies of your CPD records, you may wish to download them for your own records, before the website closes so that you can access them easily. But we will keep a copy of the CLC database internally for up to seven years so past records will not be lost.

CPD sheets are now available to download from the CPD page on the CIPFA website at: www.cipfa.org/Membership/Continuing-Professional-Development.

All members are asked to confirm participation in the CPD scheme annually, through the Annual Member's Statement. The 2012 Annual Member's Statement is due out in November and will be completed online via the new website.

If you have any problems, queries or comments please contact cpd@cipfa.org. For details on CPD please visit www.cipfa.org/Membership/Continuing-Professional-Development

Conferences

To book online, and view the latest programmes visit our conference pages in the events section of the CIPFA website: www.cipfa.org/events. Specific links are provided below where available.

Income Generation: Maximising revenue, minimising CSR reliance, 22 November, London

This conference will provide the latest legal guidance and outline the wide range of opportunities available to local government to generate more income to help maintain organisations current service levels, without resorting to real cuts in services or raiding their internal reserves and balances. This could include income generated directly as 'sales, fees and charges' through internal departments or through other more collaborative routes such as partnership or social enterprise.

020 7543 5746 Rikki.ellsmore@cipfa.org

www.cipfa.org/Events/I/Income-Generation-Conference

CIPFA North East Annual Conference, 23 November, Gateshead

In its second year, our North East conference themed: 'from here to austerity' will look at turning current challenges into opportunities and using austerity as a catalyst for innovation.

www.cipfa.org/Events/C/CIPFA-North-East-Annual-Conference-20121123

The joint CIPFA & CIH national housing conference, 30 November, London

This conference will help housing providers and their tenants, to better understand the implications of Welfare reform at a practical day-to-day operational level. We will explain what the introduction of Universal Credit actually means for tenants and their providers, both in terms of income, and harnessing the 'power' of new and emerging technologies.

020 7543 5827 chantele.johnson@cipfa.org

www.cipfa.org/Events/H/Housing-Conference

Local Authority Funding and Resilience Conference, 22 January, London

This event will explain the potential impact of the next Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), and provide S151 officers, elected members, treasury, pensions and corporate finance staff with an overview of emerging pressures related to local government financing and the likely impact upon the financial resilience of their organisations over the medium term. We will look at what the CSR might mean for council budgets, what the implications might be for treasury management and pension funds, and what actions councils may need to take to help them cope with these potential effects. This is a CIPFA Treasury Management Network special event, but it is also open to subscribers of other CIPFA Networks.

020 7543 5746 Rikki.ellsmore@cipfa.org

This event will be available soon at: www.cipfa.org/events

Audit Conference, 22 and 23 May, York

Save the date for next year's Audit Conference a must-attend event for auditors across the public sector, whether you work in internal or external audit. Further details of the programme and speakers will be available in due course.

020 7543 5746 Rikki.ellsmore@cipfa.org

[View our audit event listings](#)

Accredited training

Leadership Development Academy for Serving and Aspiring Chief Financial Officers, starting Spring 2013 or Autumn 2013, London

The Leadership Academy is for finance professionals who are currently in a Chief Finance Officer role or have aspirations to move into that role in the near future. Those working in central government, local authorities, police and fire services, NDPB's and other similar bodies will all benefit.

www.cipfa.org/Events/Leadership-Development-Academy

Certificate in Investigative Practice Qualification, starting Spring 2013; or starting Autumn 2013, London

This qualification provides investigators with the essential legal knowledge and skills to carry out professional investigations and secure admissible evidence.

www.cipfa.org/Events/C/Certificate-Of-Investigative-Practice-Qualification--Spring-2013-20130312

www.cipfa.org/Events/C/Certificate-Of-Investigative-Practice-Qualification--Autumn-2013-20130910

Prince2 for the public sector e-learning online, continuous

Prince2 for the public sector is now available in e-learning format. With a number of locations across the UK for sitting the foundation and practitioner examinations, it is a highly flexible way to learn and get the qualification.

www.cipfa.org/Events/Accredited-Training/Prince-2-e-learning

Key Open Courses

View details of programmes and book any of these events at www.cipfa.org/events

For any further information contact our team on cipfatraining@cipfa.org

Introduction to Social Enterprise in Public Service Delivery

20 November, Leeds

Financing Social Enterprise

21 November, Leeds

Advanced Audit Committees

22 November, London

Advanced Component Accounting - Half Day Event

27 November, 29 November
London, Leeds

Introduction to Local Government Finance

4 December, London
6 December, Leeds

Shared Services Architects Programme - 2 Day

4 December, London

Lean Audit

5 December, London

The A - Z of Capital Event

11 December, 13 December
London, Leeds

Negotiating Outsourcing and Joint Ventures with the Private Sector - 2 Day

19 February, London
8 October, Leeds

Business Partnering: Making the Transition

28 February, London
21 March, Manchester

Shared Service Business Case Toolbox

5 March, London

In-house training – for CPD and skills training for your team

CIPFA's courses make fulfilling your team's CPD, and building their skills, simple and cost effective. Training is delivered at your location, at a time that suits you, and it can be up to 50% cheaper than traditional open course delivery.

Choose from our existing [training portfolio](#) – we will then run the course at your site and tailor it to meet your organisation's particular objectives, policies and procedures if required – or commission us to produce a totally bespoke training programme that meets your precise training needs.

CIPFA in the Midlands events

To book online, and view the latest programme visit our conference pages in the events section of the CIPFA website: www.cipfa.org/events. Specific links are provided below where available.

CPD Breakfast Seminar: Shared Services – making it work for you, 23 November, 8:00 – 13:00, Hilton (East Midlands) Hotel, J24 of the M1

This breakfast seminar, brought to you in partnership with Badenoch and Clark, will explore the challenges, successes and further opportunities for savings associated within a successful formal shared service arrangement. You will also be able to learn about the benefits of joining a less formal collaborative partnership arrangement. The seminar will explore how your organisation can best overcome perceived barriers associated with sharing services and you will be able to share thoughts and ideas with peers and industry professionals.

Bookings should be made to: Margarita Fedoseyeva
Margarita.Fedoseyeva@badenochandclark.com
Ticket price: £20 per attendee.

Further event information is available at: www.cipfa.org/Events/CIPFA-in-the-Midlands--CPD-Breakfast-Seminar-Shared-Services---making-it-work-for-you-20121123

CIPFA in the Midlands AGM & Development Day - FREE EVENT, 7 March 2013, The Hive, Worcester

This free event is a fantastic opportunity to hear from CIPFA President Tony Redmond, congratulate the newly qualifieds, have personal development time and meet colleagues old and new!

www.cipfa.org/Events/CIPFA-in-the-Midlands-AGM--Development-Day-20130307