Spreadsheet

The online magazine for CIPFA members and students

AUGUST 2012

\appointed \in Liverpool

CIPFA welcomes its new president





A great opportunity

This is the first edition of Spreadsheet since I became CIPFA President at our AGM just before conference last month and so this is the first opportunity I have had to write to you here.

It was a wonderful conference. Against a backdrop of a very difficult economic situation and significant austerity in public spending, I was deeply impressed with the positive reaction to the conference theme, the excellent speakers and the sharing of experiences. The professionalism and resilience of delegates represent a remarkable tribute to the CIPFA membership.

But the economic situation also presents a great opportunity for CIPFA members, and for our profession as a whole, to show good leadership and demonstrate by our actions why good public financial management matters – not just to those in government but to every citizen.

So what are my aspirations for the year ahead? I want to reach as many members as I can, wherever you are working, and understand more about the issues you are facing. Knowing how members feel in the current climate is important and getting an appreciation of the challenges and pressures that are ever increasing in your day jobs will give me a much clearer insight into how the Institute might help. I want to get close to the Regions and the very valuable work they contribute to the Institutes' wellbeing. Equally, I will engage with student bodies, both the National Students' Forum and the Regions, to get a measure of what they see as important.

I hope to see you all soon!

Su Tony Redmond

Sir Tony Redmond, President

In this issue

August contents include:

News

Improving public finance training in South America	3
Treasury team wins prestigious public finance award	3
Institutes launch new era for internal audit	4
CIPFA Lecturer receives recognition	4
CIPFA's new and improved website launches	5
June 2012 Professional Qualification exam results	5
South East New Members Evening	6
Region of the Year Award	7
Members President's Diary	8
A flurry of activity in Cymru-Wales	9
2013 Membership Subscriptions	11
Welcome New Members	13
Students	
School pupils run university for the day	15
Meet James Donegan	16
The Great North Student Event	17
Reflections on the NSF Student Conference	17

We welcome your feedback on Spreadsheet.

Please send your comments and suggestions for future articles to danielle.holme@cipfa.org

Keeping up with CIPFA

You can now join us on Linkedin, follow CIPFA on Twitter at twitter.com/cipfa, or 'like' us on Facebook.
Links are provided on the CIPFA website.







Spreadsheet

3 Robert Street London WC2N 6RL T: 020 7543 5600 E: corporate@cipfa.org.uk Editor-in-chief Steve Freer

Acting consultant editor Chris Tidswell

Editor Danielle Holme

Editorial panel Chris Tidswell, Charles Nicholas Consulting Ltd (chair); Joanne Evans, Department of Health; Suzanne Jones, Cross Keys Homes; Ed Roddis, CIPFA.

Improving public finance training in South America



On a recent trip to Colombia, a CIPFA representative signed an historic agreement to develop more Spanishlanguage public sector accountancy training.

Giles Orr, CIPFA's Assistant Director for Education and Training, in conjunction with colleagues from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, signed an agreement with PwC to develop a Spanish-language version of the joint CIPFA/ICAEW Certificate in International Public Sector Financial Reporting (CertIPSFR).

The Certificate has proved incredibly popular, with the large increase in the number of countries that are adopting high-level public sector accountancy standards. Over 300 students are expected to take this assessment over the next 12 months.

Mr Orr also spoke at an international conference in Bogota, Colombia, where he outlined some of the training available around International Public Sector Accountancy Standards (IPSAS).

The conference, hosted by PwC Colombia, included the Accountants-General of Colombia and Peru, who outlined their approaches to IPSAS implementation. Over 1,000 delegates attended the conference, from 7am to 7pm, highlighting the intense interest in IPSAS and IFRS in the region.

Treasury team wins prestigious public finance award

A national award for excellence in UK public finance has been won by HM Treasury's Whole of Government Accounts team. The prize was given to the team in recognition of their work to provide a step change in financial reporting in the UK public sector.

The Sir Harry Page Merit Award is presented annually by CIPFA for an outstanding technical innovation in UK public finances.

The judges' comments included praise for the team having overcome any number of technical and project management challenges to produce a very creditable set of accounts, giving a true and fair view of the finances of UK Government, something only a small handful of countries, with much less complex finances, have achieved.

Last year's winner was Mike Hathorn, in recognition of his contribution as Chair of the International Public Accounting Standards Board. CIPFA's President, Sir Tony Redmond, said: "The team working on Whole of Government Accounts at HM Treasury demonstrated both hard work and technical skill in producing this historic set of accounts on the public finances.

I hope that CIPFA making this Award to the team will encourage colleagues in other public service organisations to be inspired by the commitment, cooperation and resilient approach of the WGA team when tackling financial reporting challenges in their own organisations — a vital area of work as the public rightly expects to know how our money is being used across the public services in hard times."

Institutes launch new era for internal audit

CIPFA and the IIA are pleased to announce the launch of a public consultation on the first unified set of public sector internal audit standards. The collaboration, announced by both CIPFA and the IIA in May 2011, led to an agreement between the Relevant Internal Audit Standard Setters to develop UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

The PSIAS have been based on the mandatory elements of the IIA's International Professional Practices Framework and it is proposed that they will apply across the UK to central and local government and the NHS (excluding foundation trusts), with the opportunity for other areas of the public sector to adopt them. They have been reviewed by the Internal Audit Standards Advisory Board (IASAB), which was formed in March 2012, to provide oversight and challenge for the development of the standards.

It is currently proposed that PSIAS will come into force from 1 April 2013 and, together with the work of the IASAB, they will provide a:

- coherent and consistent public sector internal audit framework
- coordinated update process
- public sector voice in IIA standard setting

CIPFA Chief Executive, Steve Freer, said:

Both institutes have a strong interest in the development of internal audit in the public services and it therefore makes sense for us to collaborate in this area. As the public services adapt to reduced funding and roll out major reform programmes, effective internal audit is more crucial than ever in ensuring transparency and accountability in managing financial and other risks'.

IIA Chief Executive, Dr Ian Peters, said:

'Collaboration between the IIA in the UK and CIPFA demonstrates the commitment of both organisations to work together to develop the internal auditing profession in the public sector. Organisations stand to gain from the consistent framework provided by the new Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, which are based closely on our global standards, and other mandatory elements of our International Professional Practices Framework.

CIPFA Lecturer receives recognition

The Tom Sowerby award, recognising outstanding service to student education, has been won by Ian Bowler for his commitment to CIPFA students spanning 20 years at Nottingham Business School. The award was presented to Mr Bowler by Sir Tony Redmond, CIPFA's newly appointed president, during CIPFA's National Student Conference 2012.

Ian is a popular and integral part of the course at Nottingham Business School. He joined the school directly after qualifying himself and has now been a Principal Lecturer and the course leader there for over twenty years.

Speaking at the CIPFA National Student Conference, Sir Tony Redmond said: "There is no doubt that Ian is dedicated to his students, both past and present. He is a calm, encouraging and inspirational presence in the classroom, understanding the needs of individual students, and he regularly goes above and beyond what is required of him – by staying late, offering out-of-hours tuition and keeping in touch with his former students."

The Tom Sowerby Award is given every year by CIPFA for outstanding service to students. Last year's winner was Bob Smith, a long-serving CIPFA Education and Training Centre tutor.



CIPFA's new and improved website has launched

We are pleased to announce the launch of the first phase of our new website. We've made a number of improvements with our members and students in mind:

- A new 'My CIPFA' area where you can access your details and manage your own account, tell us what you are interested in and find out what CIPFA services your organisation is subscribed to;
- Better and easier navigation to help you find the information you need;
- Refreshed student webpages with relevant up-to-date content in one place;
- CETC pages including course dates and access to learning materials integrated into main CIPFA website;
- New regional webpages to keep members up to date with the latest CIPFA news and regional events in their area;
- Simpler ways to purchase our publications and book courses and events – pay online by credit/debit card or invoice.

We are still developing several parts of the new site, so some of the services are not yet updated, but are still available on the old site, such as:

- Purchasing exam mark sheets, script feedback, and registering for exams;
- Paying membership fees via the CIPFA Shop and using the CIPFA Learning Centre to access CPD records and Practice Assurance Help sheets.

We have also changed the website address to www.cipfa.org to reflect the increased level of work we do internationally.

In order to have access to My CIPFA as well as the members and students only area, you will need to register on the site by referring to the email we sent you recently. If you have any problems registering, or have questions about the new site, you can email us on online@cipfa.org or call 020 7543 5752.



CIPFA publishes June 2012 Professional Qualification exam results

Students from CIPFA have achieved another strong set of results in the June 2012 CIPFA Professional Qualification examinations.

This was the first sitting of the new syllabus at the Professional Certificate and Professional Diploma stages and it is pleasing to see that the overall pass rate of 70% is in-line with the pass rate in recent sittings.

CIPFA Education and Membership Director, Adrian Pulham said: "I would like to offer my congratulations to all the students for their hard work. This is the first set of results from our new Professional Qualification syllabus – it is clear that the qualification continues to offer those working in public finance a brilliant opportunity to advance their careers."

CIPFA South East New Members Evening



Those receiving certificates were:

- Neil Aitken, (Audit Commission)
- Rachel Ashley-Caunt, (Cambridgeshire CC)
- Matthew Baird, (Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust)
- Adrian Balmer, (Audit Commission)
- Matt Barlow, (Oxfordshire CC)
- Sarah Bellerby, (Capita Children's Services)
- Daniel Bird (Audit Commission)
- Toby Cowper, (Kings Lynn and West Norfolk BC)
- Sarah Crozier, (Kent CC)
- Heather Day, (Lewisham LBC)
- Hazel Greenstreet, (Hillingdon LBC)

- Zakaria Hussain, (Tower Hamlets LBC)
- Lauren Massoud, (Audit Commission)
- Daniel Maton, (Grant Thornton)
- Michael Neumann, (Lambeth LBC)
- James O'Donoghue, (Barts Health NHS Trust)
- Daniel Omisore, (Lambeth LBC)
- Roshan Teeluck, (British Heart Foundation)
- Tefe Uvieghara, (Metropolitan Police Service)
- Marcus Ward, (Audit Commission)
- Timur Wolf, (KPMG)
- Victoria Wilkinson, (Audit Commission)

Twenty-two brand new CIPFA members made their way to Robert Street on 23rd May 2012 to receive their membership certificates from CIPFA president, Chris Bilsland, and to be welcomed to the South East Region by regional president, John Thornton.

Accompanied by family and friends they celebrated their achievement with CIPFA and CETC staff and South East Region volunteers.

The new members were congratulated on their success by the president, who also paid tribute to the support given by those close to them during the years of study. He spoke of the career opportunities that lay ahead thanks to a professional qualification that is recognised around the world.

In welcoming the new members to the region, John Thornton referred to the support available through regional activities and encouraged them to take part and join the ranks of volunteers.

After the presentations, food and drink were consumed and a great deal of chatting, networking and reminiscing went on before the close.

The next ceremony will be on 21st November 2012.

Well done - everyone!









CIPFA office contacts

London, Robert Street

T: 020 7543 5600

CIPFA Scotland

T: 0131 550 7530

CIPFA Northern Ireland

T: 028 9026 6770

CIPFA in the Republic of Ireland

T: 00 35 31 668 6233

CIPFA Cymru·Wales

T: 029 2052 3470

CIPFA Property

T: 01244 399 699

Technical enquiry service

T: 020 7543 5888

Member and Student Operations

T: 020 3117 1882

Business Development (E&T)

T: 020 7543 5851

Student Support

T: 020 3117 1870

Regional and volunteer support

T: 020 7543 5781

Recruitment services

T: 020 8667 1144

Region of the Year

On 3rd July, CSE were presented with the Region of the Year Award by the Board for the Regions.

They were chosen due to their:

- greatly increased programme of member/student CPD events
- joint event delivery with colleagues in CSW and CIM
- rapidly growing student network
- exciting retired members' programme
- and the development of more effective communication with the employer network in the region.

In accepting the award from Neil Hunter, John Thornton acknowledged the tremendous enthusiasm of his predecessor, Nick White, and his leadership and support for the diversity of activities which have regenerated the CSE region.

A Most Improved Region Award was presented to the new Wales and was accepted by Gill Lewis.



President's diary



Being elected to the Presidency of CIPFA in my home city of Liverpool was very special indeed! Presiding over the CIPFA conference in a centre just a few metres from the Royal Liver building where I commenced my career with Liverpool City Council brought back great memories and considerable satisfaction.

I was also delighted to accept the Regions' invitation to tour the sights of Liverpool and then have dinner at Liverpool Town Hall. Thank you to the North West Region for hosting the occasion and for letting me revisit the Council Chamber where many, many interesting hours were spent at meetings!

But becoming President of CIPFA wasn't the only honour I received that week, I also became Chair of the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies (CCAB), the first non-ICAEW President to do so. I very much look forward to helping CCAB to represent the profession effectively at this extremely important time.

My duties as CIPFA President began fairly quickly. I was very pleased to sign the renewal of our Mutual Recognition Agreement with CPA Australia. Coincidentally I have visited Australia and spoken at a couple of CPA conferences over the past few years. They are a very generous group and I was delighted to accept their offer of honorary membership.

Shortly after conference we held two induction sessions for new Council Members. Having two sessions allowed for smaller groups which were more intimate and effective. There is a lot for new members to learn when they join Council, so getting everyone up to speed as quickly as possible is an important priority at the outset of the year.

Shortly after conference we held two induction sessions for new Council Members. Having two sessions allowed for smaller groups which were more intimate and effective. I attended my first board meetings (MSDB, PFMB) as president; I have my first Group Board Meeting in September.

Last month I attended the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors' Annual Dinner and earlier this month I attended the Midland's Student Society Dinner. Next month I have a couple of further regional events with CIPFA South East's summer school and shortly afterwards I will be speaking at CIPFA in the Midlands' Student AGM. Finally, at the end of September I am looking forward to a return to Belfast for CIPFA Northern Ireland's Annual Conference where I will also be speaking.

My other commitments have been keeping me busy, too. I am a Commissioner on the Local Government Boundary Commission and my responsibilities have seen me travel around the country to places like North Dorset, Tunbridge Wells and Warwick to review electoral balance.

In September, in my role as Treasurer of UNICEF UK, I oversee its financial processes, ensuring that they meet the necessary standards; this latest meeting will focus on risk and budgetary control.

I also have a number of meetings with Thames Water. In March they engaged me to provide independent customer challenge to their five year strategy and business plan. Understanding the service has given me the opportunity to explore a sewer!

Finally, I have Paralympic tickets for the end of August and, after all of the excitement of the Olympics, I can't wait!

Best wishes,

Tony

A flurry of activity in CIPFA Cymru-Wales

What a wonderful surprise to be awarded 'most improved region' at this year's Conference!

A credit to all the hard work of CIPFA members in Wales — thank you all for playing your part!

One of our Branch objectives is to create a better-connected and more active membership. We are using our CPD programme as a way of delivering this and are finding real interest amongst members to do more — and to help the Branch Exec in doing so too.

CIPFA member Peter Curran is the Vice Principal (Resources) for the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. He approached the Branch Exec and offered to host a CPD session at the college back in April. Members received a fascinating insight into the work of the college and the changes that have been made to deliver a successful operating model following a multi-million pound expansion project. You will have spotted reference to this visit in the President's dispatches in the last *Spreadsheet* – we were delighted Chris Bilsland could join us that day.

At that event, another CIPFA member, Martin Veale, Head of Finance & ICT of the Forestry Commission Wales, stepped forward with an offer to host. So, this September, CIPFA members will be heading for a half-day tour of the proposed Pen y Cymoedd windfarm development — a planned 76 turbine development in the county boroughs of Neath Port Talbot and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Another member used his personal contacts to set up an event with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. In early July, members escaped the office to visit Craig Y Nos Country Park in the Swansea Valley. The Authority's Chief Executive, John Cook, and Director of Countryside and Land Management, Julian Atkins, gave an interesting talk about the financial challenges the Authority faces in managing the protected landscape. Members then enjoyed a walk around the beautiful Country Park, whist hearing about the ongoing conservation works taking place to enhance this popular tourist attraction. We also welcomed a newly-qualified member to this event: Dan Paley of Powys County Council – many congrats, Dan!

The Branch Exec was delighted to hear from one of our students attending the National Conference in Liverpool this month. Ryan Oliver tells us of his experience on page 16.

Looking forward, again in September, we'll be visiting Parc Y Scarlets in Llanelli to hear about a multi-million pound strategic business park development at Cross Hands.

All events can be found on, and booked via, our CIPFA Cymru-Wales website.



We are always looking for willing volunteers to host CPD events — our members within Wales boast a wealth of knowledge and experience across public and private services, so let's capitalise on it!

Please email CIPFA Cymru-Wales President, steven.o'donoghue@wales.gov.uk, to discuss your ideas.

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

Anne Homer

Anne.Homer@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

Lee Yale Helms

CIPFANW@cipfa.org

Northern Ireland

Jonathan Adams

jonathan@belb.co.uk

Republic of Ireland

Jim Kelly

Jim_Kelly@dublincity.ie

Scotland

Ronnie Erskine

lynnronnie@talktalk.net

South East

John Thornton

president@cipfasoutheast.org.uk

South West

Peter Stabb

cipfaswwe@cipfa.org

Wales

Steve O'Donoghue

steven.o'donoghue@wales.gov.uk

Yorkshire and Humber

Clare Maidment

yorksandhumber@cipfa.org

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on 3rd July in Liverpool. The Institute's Report and Accounts for 2011 and the reappointment of Crowe Clark Whitehill as the Institute's auditors for 2013 were approved, in addition to the motion to increase the 2013 membership subscriptions.

The other Resolutions for consideration by the AGM – amending the Institute's Bye-Laws as they relate to future fees and subscriptions, and clarifying a number of points in the Bye-Laws about Council membership and Honorary Officers – were all approved. The proposed Bye-Law changes must be approved by the Privy Council Office, and it is expected that this approval will be granted in the autumn.

CIPFA Learning Zone

How many math's problems can you solve in one minute? Our Education and Training Centre (CETC) and Kaplan Financial, set this challenge to the 650 attendees of this year's Annual Conference in Liverpool.

With £100 of John Lewis vouchers at stake, we saw students, employers and lifelong members take up the mathematical gauntlet armed with just an iPad and steely nerves. It seemed certain Wayne Pollard would win, having held the top spot right up until the last few minutes of the conference.

A late challenge from Business Analyst Rizwan Dhanani of Birmingham City Council saw him steal victory away with an impressive 43 correct answers in 60 seconds. Congratulations Rizwan!

More information on CETC and Kaplan courses and support for the December exams can be seen on the website.

10 reasons to study with CIPFA Education and Training Centre

- 1. Consistently high pass rate at all levels
- 2. CIPFA's 'in-house' training centre
- 3. Market leader for nearly 25 years
- 4. Creators of high-quality materials used by all CIPFA students
- 5. Specialist tutors with extensive public services experience
- 6. Consistent and reliable provision across the UK and internationally
- 7. Provider of choice for over 350 public services employers
- 8. Supportive and challenging learning environment with extensive and flexible study support
- 9. Systematic reviews of student progress with constructive feedback
- 10. Excellent value for money

2013 Membership Subscriptions

From 1st January 2013 the annual member subscriptions and application fees are as follows:

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)
Application to membership	£150
Application to membership >1 year	£300

Definition of categories

- Part-time working for members who work part-time or occasionally (up to and including 18 hours per week on average over a year);
- Career break specifically for those members who take a break in their career to, for example, look after their family, go travelling or return to full-time studying and are not working in any capacity;
- Retired member members who retire from paid employment or business activity in the previous year and who are at least 55 years of age or who retire on the grounds of ill-health;
- Life member members who retire from paid employment or business activity in the previous year and who are at least 55 years of age or who retire on the grounds of ill-health and do not intend to work again. The member pays a one-off fee equivalent to the current year's full member subscription and no payment thereafter.

In addition to the increase in the membership subscriptions, we have also made some changes to the way in which members' subscriptions are calculated and these too will come into effect from 1st January 2013.

- A Member's employment status will be determined on 1st January each year, or, in the year of admission to membership, on the date of admission;
- A Member who wishes to apply for a reduced subscription for any year must do so by 30th June of that year, and no such application will be allowed in respect of previous years.

Full details of the Membership Fee Regulations can be downloaded from the website. Invoices for the 2013 membership period will be issued in November to members and students with the amount becoming due and payable on 1st January 2013.

Membership subscriptions can be paid for by debit or credit card (but not American Express), by cheque or by online banking. CIPFA also offers payment by direct debit annually or monthly.

Why not pay by direct debit – it could not be simpler, 6,000 members already do.

At no extra charge you can spread the cost of your membership by paying by direct debit. You also do not have no remember to renew your membership each year as a direct debit is a continuous authority.

All you have to do is complete the direct debit form that will be enclosed with your membership renewal. You can choose to pay in six monthly instalments running from January to June or annually in January.

CIPFA membership – demonstrating your expertise, advancing your career and saving you money

Being a CIPFA member demonstrates to others that you are a member of the respected, regulated accountancy profession, complying with ethical and technical standards. Membership also gives you access to a range of career-enhancing and money-saving benefits.

From key resources and technical support to discounts on a range of services, membership can drive forward your career, help you better perform in your role and connect you with the people and issues advancing today's public finance. Take a look at what our membership package offers you.

Access to specialist professional resources

As the global body for public finance you can be sure that as a member working in, or with, public services you have access to authoritative and current technical information, guidance, news and analysis.

To help you stay abreast of regulatory, technical and policy developments your membership entitles you to receive a free copy of the industry magazine Public Finance, a free copy of members' magazine Spreadsheet, and free and unlimited access to our members-only Technical Enquiry Service.

Structured professional development

Membership can help further your career and support your ongoing development with a professional development scheme and a range of publications and courses to help, many free or at little cost.

As well as the professional status membership brings, our range of bespoke qualifications and training courses help ensure that you are able to learn, develop and perform throughout your career.

Important professional connections

Expand your network and meet other public finance professionals at local, regional and national events via our Regional branches, seminars and conferences.

Stay connected online via our social networks – our range of sector specific announcements and discussions on LinkedIn and Twitter bring public finance professionals with industry knowledge together.

Savings with CIPFA Rewards

Keep up-to-date with great offers from CIPFA Rewards, our exclusive membership benefits scheme. With discounts on many professional, social and lifestyle items from holidays, insurance, eating-out to days-out; we have negotiated these rates to help you make the most out of your CIPFA membership.

Volunteering

Whether you are just starting out on your CIPFA journey or have progressed to senior management level, volunteering is a great way you can make a difference to your own personal development, your professional body, the accountancy profession and society at large.

From organising a seminar for members and students to encouraging fellow members to participate in the CPD Scheme, to contributing to the development of new professional guidance - there are many ways you can get involved. Volunteering can help you make new contacts and develop invaluable skills, knowledge and ideas. Visit www.cipfa.org for more information.

Job vacancies and advice

If you are looking for a new interim or permanent public sector role, or you are looking to expand your team, CIPFA Recruitment Services have the unrivalled expertise to help you take the next step on the career ladder or find the very best candidates. As part of your CIPFA membership you are able to access www.pfjobs.com - the bespoke public sector jobs board brought to you by Public Finance magazine.

For some impartial advice or to find out how to advertise a role with CIPFA Recruitment Services – please visit our website: www.cipfa.org/recruitment. If you are looking to increase your CIPFA trainees, we provide a Graduate Trainee Vacancy service to help support you in future-proofing your organisation. To find out more contact our Employer Relations team: employers@cipfa.org.uk.

For more information on Membership and the many benefits you are eligible for, please contact the team on 020 7543 5665, membership@cipfa.org

Welcome New Members

Congratulations to our new members on their recent success in obtaining CIPFA Professional Membership. May we wish you a warm welcome and the very best of luck in your careers!

Members Elected following completion of FTPC & IPDS

Zaber Ahmed	London Borough of Tower Hamlets	
Farhana Begum	London Borough of Barnet	
Jonathan Brookman	Liverpool City Council	
Owen Campbell	Leicester City Council	
Stephen Kenneth Chandler	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	
Elaine Ann Conway	University of Derby	
Christopher Cooke	Audit Commission	
Mathew Cooling	Mazars LLP	
Sabine Marianne May Dalheim	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	
Shaun Michael Darcy	Leicestershire County Council	
Joanna Corinne Donnachie	Lancashire County Council	
Marie Clare Embery	Lancashire County Council	
Amy Louise Gaskell	Ribble Valley Borough Council	
Paul Griffin	Somerset County Council	
Claire Marie Hammond	University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	
Peter Haynes	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	
Angela Herrity	South Lanarkshire Council	
Naomi Hopkins	Hampshire County Council	
Michelle Howell	Wolverhampton City Council	
Rhys Evan Jenkins	Grant Thornton UK LLP	

Mark Alexander Johnson	Somerset County Council	
Ian Johnston	University College London	
Jennie Dawn Keeley	Cheshire West and Chester Council	
Susannah Louise Rose Kirkland-Walton	Wiltshire Council	
Gurpreet Singh Kooner	Leicestershire County Council	
Muhammad Laher	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	
Crystal Lee- Dewsbury	Vela Group	
Lillian Manning	London Borough of Waltham Forest	
Catherine Sarah McNeill	Social Security Agency Northern Ireland	
James McNulty	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	
Sarah Lauren Michael	London Borough of Barnet	
Casey Millar	NHS Tayside	
Hema Praful Mistry	Lloyds Pharmacy	
Graham Nicholson	Alan Dick Communications	
Daniel Paley	Powys County Council	
Dawn Barbara Richardson	Derby City Council	
Lisa Ritchie	Birmingham City Council	
Michelle Louise Rowley	Elmbridge Borough Council	

Members Elected following completion of FTPC & IPDS

Gavin Richard Savage	Audit Commission	
Alexis Schultz	Hertfordshire County Council	
Gigi-fung Chi Shum	Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill	
Andrew Neil Smith	Eastleigh Borough Council	
Christopher Stephen Smith	Cheshire West and Chester Council	
David Mark Smith	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	
Jonas Smith	West Lancashire Borough Council	
Sachvir Sohal	London Borough of Camden	

Ranjit Arthur Solomon	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
Leanne Taylor	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Andrew Anthony Thompson	Department for Work and Pensions
John Anthony Turvey	Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Chloe Tyler	Oxfam GB
Rakesh Kishore Vaitha	Deloitte LLP
Danielle Louise Wragg	London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Members Elected through the CMA/CIPFA Dual Designation Programme

Tamara Chiu	Public Works and Government Services Canada	
James Hollett	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada	
Jillian A Moore	Human Resources and Skills Development Canada	
Peter Ryan	Canadian Air Transport Security Authority	
Harigopal Vaidyanathan	Cornell Australia	

Have you recently completed all elements of the PQ qualification and been informed you are eligible to apply for membership?

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

That was the year that was... with Carl Ford

I can't believe that it has been over a year since the Birmingham 2011 National Student Conference, where I became Chair of the National Student Forum (NSF). The past 12 months have been the busiest, most stressful yet rewarding and enjoyable that I've ever experienced.



When I became Chair the first objective that I set was to make the NSF more accessible to students – for the past few years the NSF has worked behind the scenes sitting on various CIPFA Boards and arranging the National Student Conference, and the regional student societies have been the 'front line'. However, the current economic situation has

added additional pressures to everyone's ability to volunteer and I felt it was the NSFs duty to step up and support the regions and students.

As part of making the NSF more accessible, it was decided that we would host our quarterly meetings out in the regions and then, to help stimulate student engagement, we would host a regional student event. The first event of the year was held in Bristol, back in February 2012. It commenced with an open meeting; this was an opportunity for the local students to interact with the NSF Members, find out how the NSF could help them and get involved with planning the National Student Conference. The open meeting was immensely successful, especially with the level of engagement from local students expressing theirs views on what they would like from the National Conference.

Next up it was the turn of Newcastle to host the NSF, at the amazing venue The Great North Museum. For me, this was the most eagerly anticipated meeting because in many ways Newcastle and the North East region was the birth place of the NSF. We had an action-packed afternoon lined up for the local students, with presentations from CIPFA on IPDS, Alastair McMillen on Final Test preparation and also Kaplan. The attendance was fantastic, with students attending from the North East, but also Scotland and the Yorkshire and Humber region.

The final big event of my 12 months was the National Student Conference 2012 in Liverpool. This is the pinnacle event of the NSF calendar, the culmination of 12 months of hard work. This years conference marked the 10th Anniversary of the NSF, so I wanted to make it a truly memorable event, so I was over the moon to discover we attracted a record 120 student delegates. We had organised a stellar line-up of presentations, including Liverpool's very own Wendy Simons and institute President Sir Tony Redmond. The Conference was a tremendous success, all the delegates that I spoke to at the end of the day left on a high, feeling really positively charged – and armed with some new skills as a result of the presentations.

Organising these 3 events really does highlight what the NSF is all about, and also what the volunteers can gain from participating on the NSF. Arranging the events was stressful, but after they were successfully delivered, I couldn't have been prouder, and the skills gained from them is an important factor in why volunteering is so fulfilling – how many times in your day job do you get the opportunity to organise a conference? But these events would not have been able to take place without the hard work of my fellow NSF colleagues, and also the support of many people up and down the country (far too many people to mention), but some of those that were instrumental in the helping these 3 events become a success were Grant Thornton's in Bristol, Jane Cuthbertson and Eleanor Goodman from the North East and CIPFA's Aga Jop.



In February the NSF was recognised for all of the hard work that it puts in, PQ Magazine awarded it 'Student Body of the Year 2012'.

This was an enormous honour and really does go a long way

in making the hard work worthwhile. Now I hand the reign over to Alastair McMillen and wish him all the best for his 12 months at the helm of the National Student Forum.

Midlands school pupils run university for the day

Sixth form students from across the Midlands have been given the opportunity to run a university for the day.

The fictitious academic institute, Cromwell University, was created as part of the annual Sixth Form Management Games. The students each assumed the role of a member of the university's management team and were tasked with juggling the relationship between the university budget, student needs and many other, often contradictory, objectives.

The game, devised and run by CIPFA, is intended to help fill a gap in business studies courses, which concentrate on commercial activities and often do not cover the public sector in any way. The management games have now taken place across the Midlands, including in Nottingham, Stafford, Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Leicester.

All the participants were mentored during their day by student or qualified CIPFA accountants who advised their charges on all aspects of what proved to be a daunting but exciting experience.

Chris Gill, the lead volunteer said: "These games provide a useful and fun opportunity for sixth form students to gain exposure to the challenges associated with running a public sector organization... I would not be surprised if some of the students involved in these games go on to become the public sector finance leaders of the future."

When asked what they had learnt during the day, one of the winning students from Trinity School in Nottingham said, "The problems that can occur (in the public sector) and how to handle some hard decisions between role players – how to communicate effectively between people"

A teacher from King Edward VI School in Lichfield commented, "The event was really enjoyed by all the students and is the best run business / management competition around, with the students having to cope with the real issues of working life — dealing with tight deadlines, working in teams and having to cope with unexpected external issues... The CIPFA competition is the one competition I will always be looking to enter my sixth form students in."

List of winners and runners-up to date:

Location	Birmingham	Stoke	Wolverhampton	Nottingham
Date	20 June	21 June	27 June	4 July
Winner	Kingsley College, Redditch	JCB Academy, Rocester	Walton High School, Stafford	Trinity School, Nottingham
Runner-up	St Edmund Campion, Birmingham. Pershore School, Worcestershire.	Adams Grammar, Newport	St. Edmund's Wolverhampton	Colonel Frank Seeley, Nottingham.
Other participating schools	South Staffs College. The Coleshill School, Warwickshire. Lordwoods Girls, Birmingham. Small Heath School, Birmingham.	Biddulph High, North Staffordshire. King Edward VI, Lichfield. Moorlands 6th form College, Cheadle. Caroline Chisholm School, Northampton	St Peter's, Wolverhampton.	Harry Carlton School, Rushcliffe.

Meet James Donegan



The NSF interviews James Donegan, Vice-Chair of National Student Forum.

When did you join the institute?

Back in September 2008 when I joined the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on a finance graduate scheme.

Why did you choose CIPFA?

The MPS only offered the CIPFA qualification as a route to qualifying as an accountant. However, even if I had been given a choice I would have chosen CIPFA as it provides the necessary skills to develop my career within the public sector.

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

Stand out. You need to have experience and skills that make your CV different from the others; go that extra mile to be unique and look for opportunities to broaden your experience from the rest of your peers.

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

IPDS! IPDS! IPDS! So many people told me this when I started the qualification. Although I started well, I soon let it slip and now the majority of my time is currently spent trying to catch up! My advice would be to keep on top of it, then when the final exam is over you are well prepared to submit and get those letters after your name.

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

I can't name one person in particular but since the Olympic Torch has been travelling around the country I am addicted to following it. I think it would have been cool to be Torchbearer; I think it is an incredible event and I have been really impressed by the crowds of people that have come out to watch it pass.

What's your favourite animal?

After a recent visit to London Zoo I think it's got to be the black footed penguin; especially during feeding time. I was so impressed to see all the penguins get in an orderly line, even before the zookeeper had even stepped into the enclosure. Before my visit to the zoo I naively thought that all penguins live in snow and ice, but I was quickly corrected and discovered that the black footed penguin lives in the cold currents along the coast of South Africa.

What was the last book you read?

A Kiss Gone Bad by Jeff Abbot. The story revolves around a Texan judge who gets too involved in solving a murder case he is working on. The story was gripping in parts and made the long and arduous return flight from west coast America hurry by.

What was the last movie you watched?

After listening to Paul Mason at the CIPFA Conference in Liverpool, and his analogy of acid blood from the film *Alien* (to describe the turbulence of the financial world since 2008), I decided to re-watch the film. I had forgotten what a classic it is and how remarkable the graphics are given the year it was released. Next on the agenda is to watch the other films from the franchise!

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

I recently downloaded *Now That's What I Call Running!* Although some of the music is incredibly cheesy, it actually does help me run and strive towards the finish line (i.e. home to recuperate!)

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

It has to be Kiefer Sutherland. I am a massive fan of 24 (recently bought the box set) and could see him playing me during an exciting 24 hours in the life of an accountant. It would have to be on one of my more exciting days, where I create complex formulas or post countless journals!

The Great North CIPFA Student Event

The CIPFA National Student Forum (NSF) decided to host their 2012 quarterly meetings out in the regions, and to host a student-focused event afterwards – in May it was the turn of Newcastle.

Following on from the success of the February NSF Student Event in Bristol, the NSF headed to Newcastle on 17 May, primed with an event that was bursting at the seams with presentations, all aimed at improving students' chances of passing their upcoming exams, while boosting their knowledge of the all important Initial Professional Development Scheme (IPDS). The NSF were really excited to be heading to The Great North Museum in Newcastle because Newcastle is arguably the birth place of the NSF.

The afternoon kicked off with a welcome lunch, which was sponsored by CIPFA North West regional council (current president is Jane Cuthbertson, a former Chair of the NSF). Once everybody had feasted on the tasty sandwich selection we moved onto the open meeting part of the day. The NSF host an open meeting so that students can meet NSF representatives and find out what the NSF is all about, as well as discussing any needs that the local students may have. This was a really useful session and there was a genuine energy in the room, with students getting involved and taking charge of their own needs.

James Platt (CIPFA Business Development) was on hand to present on IPDS and Continual Professional Development (CPD). IPDS is the practical element of CIPFA studies, and it is the students' opportunity to demonstrate how they have put their academic knowledge into practice. James also presented on the importance of CPD, and how planning your CPD is crucial to newly-qualified CPFAs development.

Next, Alastair McMillen, the incoming Chair of the NSF, presented on the pre-seen material element of the final level

examinations. The pre-seen element gives the students an opportunity to explore and develop their research skills, and Alastair gave hints and tips from his personal 'awardwinning' experience of final test examination.

After a brief refreshment break, Carl Ford, the current Chair of the NSF, presented to the student delegates about how to develop their speed reading techniques. Being able to read fast and accurately is an important skill for all exams, but especially at final test level when you have to read through a 20-page case file before you begin answering questions, and of course there's also the dreaded 'quick-fire' question 1!

The final presentation of the day was the much anticipated study surgery with Kaplan – the chosen provider of online tuition for CIPFA students, using the Live On-Line (LoL) study platform. This was the first time that Kaplan had worked with the NSF and everybody was looking forward to meeting the online provider face-to-face. John Sharratt (Accountancy Tutor at Kaplan Financial) walked the group through a demonstration of how the LoL platform worked and demonstrated that despite it being an online platform, it was amazingly interactive between the tutor and the students.

That brought the student event to a close, and all that was left to do was head to a local bar and sample some fine Geordie beverages. This might sound like a 'jolly' but going out after events is a brilliant way to network with colleagues and presenters – students can make friends and connections that will stick with them throughout their careers.

The next NSF regional meeting and event is due to take place this October in Leeds. For more information on this event and other student events follow us on Facebook (CipfaNSF) or Twitter (@CIPFA_NSF).

Carl Ford cpfa maat, Past Chair

Reflections on the NSF Student Conference 2012: Ryan Oliver

As I sit on the 18:04 from Liverpool to Crewe, I have a chance to reflect on my first CIPFA Conference. Although it was a day packed with highlights, a few stand out. I enjoyed listening to the range of speakers. These included Newsnight's Paul Mason providing his unique angle on the financial crisis, and Wendy Simon describing how Liverpool City Council is using culture to drive economic and social improvement.

It was great to engage with the many exhibitors, including accountancy practices and recruitment firms. Grabbing the odd 'freebie' was an added bonus, not least a chat and autograph from former Manchester United footballer Dennis Irwin. The awards ceremony was a pleasant reminder of the dedication of our tutors. Finally, it was nice to meet new NSF Chair Alastair McMillen.

I had a great time at the Conference. It gave me an opportunity to meet fellow students and members alike, and to learn from the experiences of others. I look forward to Conference 2013.

Contact the National Student Forum

The National Student Forum (NSF) represents the interests of students on a national level, and we attract representatives from all of CIPFA's regions.

Scotland

Maggie Donald Associate Auditor Grant Thornton

Alastair McMillen – Chair Finance Manager City of Edinburgh Council

Northern Ireland

Vacant

Interested in joining? Then email us to get involved!

North West

Carol McDonnell Senior Auditor St Helens Council

North East

Rachel Smith
Auditor
Sunderland Internal Audit Services

Yorkshire & Humber

Vacant

Interested in joining? Then email us to get involved!

Wales

Owen Smith Associate Auditor Grant Thornton

Midlands

Carl Ford – Past Chair Senior Business Analyst Birmingham City Council

John Bloomer Graduate Trainee Accountant Staffordshire County Council

South West

John Bougeard Senior Accountant Plymouth City Council

South East

Jane Cika Senior Accountant Westminster City Council

James Donegan – Honorary Treasurer Project Officer London Metropolitan Police Service

Contact the National Student Forum

It has never been easier to contact the NSF, you can send us an email, tweet us and/or follow us on Facebook.

nsf@cipfa.org



@CIPFA_NSF



CipfaNSF

Your region

Each CIPFA Region either has it's own Student Society or a dedicated student liaison officer for the region. The NSF has produced this helpful guide to your regions Student Societies Executive and contact details.

Scotland

Chair — Emma McGrotty Vice-Chair — Kirsty Stanners Past-Chair — Keira Shepperson Contact cipfascottishstudents@cipfa.org

Northern Ireland

Chair – Nicola Woods Vice-Chair – Laura McCullagh Past-Chair – Jill Adair Secretary – Lynsey Gardiner Contact – nicola.woods@niauditoffice.gov

North West

Chair – Carol McDonnell Executive – Faria Shaheen Executive – Ruth Baker Executive – Frank Fallon Contact – CIPFANW@cipfa.org

North East

Vacant

Interested in joining?
Then email us to get involved!

Yorkshire & Humber

Vacant

Interested in joining?
Then email us to get involved!

Wales

Representative – Owen Smith Contact – NSF@CIPFA.org

Midlands

Chair – Caroline Slaney Vice-Chair – Victoria Hundleby Past-Chair – Rizwan Dhanani Secretary – Owen Campbell Contact – CMSS@cipfa.org



South West

Chair – John Bougeard Contact – NSF@CIPFA.org

South East

Chair – Mike Godfrey
Vice-Chair – VACANT
Past-Chair – Lillian Manning
Secretary – Andrew Maynard
Treasurer – James Donegan
Contact –
southeaststudent@cipfa.org

Your regions need you! We currently have numerous vacancies across the regional student societies. There has never been a better time to get involved, volunteering for your regional or national student society makes your CV stand out from the crowd and did you know that you can use elements volunteering in your IPDS.

Dates for the Diary

Date	Region	Location	Event
14th September 2012	South East	ТВА	CIPFA in the South East 55th Summer School
14th September 2012	London	ТВА	CIPFA Central Government Finance Conference
25th September 2012	Midlands	Burlington Hotel	Procurement Contract Audit Forum Annual Summit: Facing up to Procurement Contract Risks
27th September 2012	Northern Ireland	Culloden Estate & Spa	CIPFA Northern Ireland 2012 Conference
27th September 2012	South East	Hilton Paddington	CIPFA Insurance Summit 2012
tbc October 2012	Yorkshire & Humber	Leeds	NSF Open Meeting and Student Event - FREE For more information contact NSF@CIPFA.org
tbc February 2013	Midlands	Birmingham	NSF Open Meeting and Student Event - FREE For more information contact NSF@CIPFA.org

Conferences

To book online, and view the latest programme visit our conference pages:-

Procurement & Contract Audit Forum Annual Summit 25 September, London

Entitled 'Facing up to Procurement & Contract Risks' this conference is ideal for all auditors and procurement professionals addressing both strategic and practical issues across the public sector. 020 7543 5854

Alana.burnett@cipfa.org

www.cipfa.org/events

CIPFA Better Governance Forum Summit 18 October, London

The annual summit for all those concerned with governance issues – an ideal platform for everyone responsible for ensuring better governance to come together to explore, debate and resolve issues of concern.

020 7543 5854

Alana.burnett@cipfa.org

www.cipfa.org/events

CIPFA Treasury Management and Capital Conference 2012 24 October, London

A chance to focus on the challenges facing the sector in 2012 with a full programme to follow shortly.

020 7543 5746

Rikki.ellsmore@cipfa.org

www.cipfa.org/events

Pensions Network Annual Conference 2012 7 November, London

This Conference will consider the key issues in the debate of the future of public sector pensions. Hear the very latest on the continuing crisis in the future of public sector pensions from leading industry professionals.

0207 543 5746

rikki.ellsmore@cipfa.org

www.cipfa.org/events

Accredited courses

England and Wales: 020 7543 5854, cipfatraining@cipfa.org or visit www.cipfa.org/Training-and-Qualifications/Training-courses/Accredited-Training

Scotland: 0131 550 7530, scotland@cipfa.org or visit www.cipfa.org/Regions/Scotland/Training

Northern Ireland: 028 9026 6770, nitraining@cipfa.org or visit www.cipfa.org/Regions/Northern-Ireland/Training

Leadership Development Academy for Serving and Aspiring Chief Financial Officers 2012 7 September

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/Training-and-Qualifications/Training-courses/ Leadership-academy

Certificate in Investigative Practice Qualification 11 September

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

 $www. cipfa. org/Training-and-Qualifications/Training-courses/\\ Accredited-Training$

Open Book Accounting 26 September

This course will help you to develop and improve your practical understanding of the accounting tools and techniques needed to support target contracts and successful project delivery. London www.cipfa.org/Training-and-Qualifications/Training-courses/Accredited-Training

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/Training-and-Qualifications/Training-courses/ Accredited-Training

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

Lean Audit

4 September, Leeds 18 September, London 4 December, London

Explaining the Numbers Event

18 September, 19 September Leeds, London

Essential Skills For Board Members

23 October London

Advanced Component Accounting - Half Day Event

27 November, 29 November London, Leeds

Financial Reporting for Academies Event

21 November, 28 November Leeds, London

Practical Guide to Open Book Accounting

2 October. 6 November London, Leeds

The A - Z of Capital Event

11 December, 13 December London, Leeds

A-Z of Children's Services Finance

13 September, 19 September, London, Leeds

Advanced Audit Committees

26 September, 22 November Leeds, London

Assurance in The Public Sector

5 September, 17 September London, Leeds

Essential Skills for Board Members

23 October, London

Introduction to Internal Audit

26 October, London

Leading Internal Audit in Tough Times - 2 day

16 October, London

Preventing & Detecting Procurement Fraud

25 September, London 11 October, Birmingham

Financing Social Enterprise

14 November, London 21 November, Leeds 2012

Introduction to Social Enterprise in Public Service Delivery

13 November, London 20 November, Leeds

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

14 November, London

Practical Tender Evaluation

8 November, London 15 November, Birmingham

Shared Service Business Case Toolbox

15 November, London

Shared Services Architects Programme - 2 Day

4 December, London

Notice to members and students: amendments to the disciplinary regulations

Notice is hereby given to all Members, Affiliate members, Associate members and Registered Students of the Institute pursuant to Bye-Law 22A. Amendments to the Disciplinary Regulations ('the Regulations') were approved by Council at its meeting on 28th June 2012 and will come into effect on 17th September 2012.

A summary of the changes appears below:

- References to the 'AADB Scheme' (the independent disciplinary scheme for the accountancy profession currently operated by the Accountancy Investigation & Discipline Board, a constituent body of the Financial Reporting Council (FRC)) have been replaced with 'Joint Disciplinary Scheme' to reflect the forthcoming restructuring of the FRC.
- The time limit for complainants to request a review of cases dismissed by the Investigations Committee following an investigation has been extended from 21 to 28 days.
- The current practice of appointing a majority of lay committee members to all panels that consider disciplinary cases is fully enshrined in the Regulations.

The full text of the Regulations is available at: http://www.cipfa.org/Membership/Conduct-and-Ethics



The Latest CIPFA Rewards

CIPFA Rewards has a selection of benefits which can generate significant savings. Below are a few examples:

Car Insurance

As a CIPFA member you can take advantage of significant savings on your car insurance renewals without compromising on cover or service. Save 15%* on your current insurer's home insurance renewal premium. Includes Free Legal Expenses. View more information or to get a quote, please contact Baxters on **0845 4023 298** quoting **CIPFA** when you call (8am-8pm Monday to Friday -excluding bank holidays or 9am-1pm Saturday). If you're renewal isn't due to expire for another 30 days or more, why not set up a reminder request?

Whether it's the latest best-selling novel on your e-reader, or study books on financial accounting, CIPFA members have access to an exclusive 10% discount at Foyles online on ALL titles*. Combined with their existing great 'online prices' that can be more than 50% off the list price! View more information.

CIPFA Rewards student & member survey

Thank you to those students and members who took part in our CIPFA Rewards survey. We are currently analysing the results and we hope to report back in the next edition of Spreadsheet.

QA soft-Skills training

CIPFA members can get **45% off** all professional development training courses from QA. Learn relevant new skills that can be applied back in the workplace to improve performance, for yourself or your organisation. Whatever learning method you choose, when you learn with QA they will provide a rewarding and inspiring learning. All of their training courses include a high quality curriculum, course notes and handouts, comprehensive joining instructions and any pre-reading. Members, and the businesses where they work, qualify for a huge range of discounts. What's more - by utilising the QA soft-skills training offer you are able to add vital CPD hours to your record - so what's stopping you?

View more information or alternatively call Shaf Hussain on 01753 898 352 ensuring you quote PHCIPFA or alternatively email us.

*Terms and conditions apply. See website for further details. Parliament Hill Ltd 127 Cheapside London EC2V 6BT manage the CIPFA rewards scheme. W B Baxter Ltd 263 Cranbrook Road Ilford Essex IG1 4TG provide the motor insurance offer. Both are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority for insurance mediation under registration numbers 308448 and 146480 respectively. You can check this out on the FSA's register by visiting www.fsa.gov.uk. Foyles – a small number of books and e-books are restricted from discounts for contractual reasons with the publishers. Neither Parliament Hill, Baxters nor CIPFA are part of the same group as a provider.





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