

Spreadsheet

CIPFA.ORG | NEWS FOR MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

FEBRUARY 2014

CIPFA wins the prestigious

accountancy body of the year

at the PQ Magazine Awards



Adrian Pulham, Education & Membership Director, receiving the Accountancy Body of the Year Award from Jenny Birch, Kaplan – Financial category sponsor, and comedian Chris Martin trying to get in on the act.
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PQ MAGAZINE

in this issue

[Our CEO, Rob Whiteman, outlines CIPFA's new direction](#)

[The members' survey results are now in](#)

[CIPFA opposes Government proposal to ditch DIPs](#)

[Booking now open for the CIPFA Annual Conference 2014](#)

CIPFA \

Message from the President

Happy New Year to all our members and students! Since my last message so much has been happening it's difficult to know where to start. Some organisations slow down as they go into the holiday period—but not CIPFA!

Much of the agenda in CIPFA Council, at my meetings and on my travels is directly related to our emerging new strategic development plan to ensure CIPFA is relevant and successful with increasing influence. Rob, our new chief executive, and the management team have been working hard on forging a new direction for the organisation—with a new sense of purpose and ambition, endorsed at the December Council meeting. Underpinning that strategy are ambitions to strengthen: support to members and students; the position and profile of the Institute in the UK—especially in markets where we have been less active; and to build on our efforts in international markets where we have seen positive growth in 2013.

In November it was a great pleasure to welcome new members into the Yorkshire and Humber region and South East region. I have also been working closely with Rob and the team on areas where we see significant growth coming in the future, such as in the UK health market. The integration of health and social care presents a real and present opportunity for CIPFA to help bridge the divide between these great ships of

state in order to deliver both financial efficiency, but more importantly, the continuity and quality of care our ageing population needs and deserves. It is reassuring to see how positively our leading members in those sectors are responding and we are particularly grateful for their expertise and support in helping the Institute develop its strategy.

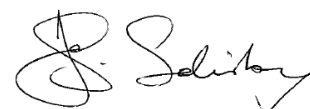
At the end of October I attended the CIPFA European branch's annual seminar, a really well run event that amply demonstrated how much a part of the European community infrastructure our members are. As the home of many transnational government organisations, like NATO, Brussels is an increasingly important hub for us. Equally with the hotly debated move to international public sector accounting standards across the EU, it's important that CIPFA is seen to be taking an active role there.

In November the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) held its annual council meeting in Seoul, South Korea. While there we actively encouraged the assembled professional accountancy bodies to join CIPFA in raising public financial management standards around the world. You can read more about this new initiative, Taking Responsibility, on page 4. As we go to press we are finalising the details of a memorandum of understanding with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Pakistan, a direct result of those

discussions. This demonstrates there is a significant appetite for collaborating with CIPFA, to build strategic alliances globally.

Whether it's on the home front, wrestling with the challenges of re-constructing our health and social services, banging the drum for fairer local government finances, ensuring the effective implementation of good financial management, or globally forging alliances and developing training programmes to build the capacity and capability of government accounting—this will be a busy year!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best in your own endeavours—I hope to meet lots more of you. Please do not forget to take advantage of the help and support that CIPFA can provide. I know these continue to be very challenging times.



**Jaki Salisbury,
President**



PHOTOGRAPHY: SAM KESTEVEN

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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.



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Technical and policy round-up

Enforcement change – are you ready?

In April 2014 the Government will introduce the *Taking Control of Goods Regulations*. This is the first of three elements of change that support the Government’s aim of creating a transparent framework that ensures both debtor and creditor operate within a clearly defined and costed process. The key changes include:

- the introduction of a seven day notice of enforcement, designed to encourage early payment where possible
- restrictions on the days and hours that enforcement action can take place

‘What debtors, creditors and bailiffs all need is a straight forward, effective and proportionate system with a transparent and fair costs structure’

Transforming bailiff action consultation paper, Ministry of Justice

- restrictions on the goods an enforcement agent can take
- changes to how any sale of goods will be handled and how a debtor can pay the debt to prevent this.

For many local authorities this will mean revisiting current processes and ensuring outsourced contractors comply. Reputational and financial risk is always increased during a period of change and enforcement action is often a high profile area.

Should you need some help on these new regulation please contact Joanne.Pitt@cipfa.org

Innovation and excellence in public service auditing

Are you an audit innovator? If so, there is still time to submit an entry, before the 8 March closing date, for CIPFA’s Cliff Nicholson Award (for innovation and excellence in public service auditing).

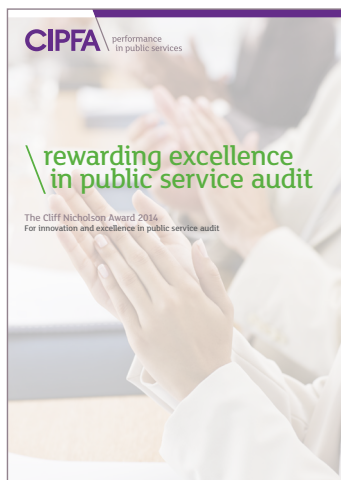
The winner receives a beautifully engraved crystal bowl trophy and a framed certificate for the winning

organisation to keep. Also as award winners you and your team will be invited to the formal awards dinner on the first evening of the CIPFA Audit Conference.

Good entries are likely to build on existing good quality audit work which will have already been presented in existing reports or presentations, so entering shouldn’t be too onerous. For more information visit the awards page at: www.cipfa.org/about-cipfa/awards, or contact matthew.allen@cipfa.org.

Our directory lists the courses that will keep you up-to-date and informed about key finance, audit, governance, leadership and business change topics.

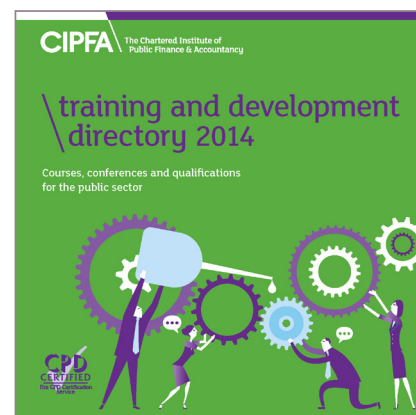
If you didn’t receive the print edition, download the PDF at: www.cipfa.org/trainingdirectory. You can also search, view and book all our events directly on the CIPFA site at www.cipfa.org/events.



Download CIPFA’s new Training and Development Directory 2014

Our annual guide to our extensive range of CIPFA courses and qualifications is now available.

Including over 500 courses, qualifications and conferences around the UK, the guide details countless CPD opportunities to refresh your knowledge.





Chris Page and Lee Woodcock receiving the award last year

Are you a technical whizz?

Nominate yourself, or a colleague, for our annual Harry Page Award by 9 May 2014, which recognises an outstanding piece of work, or initiative, focused on a particular technical matter in public service accounting and financial management.

Nominations for the award may: come from any part of the public services or those working with a public service(s), focus on the work of an individual or a group of colleagues, be made personally, or recommend the work of others.

The nomination form is now available from: www.cipfa.org/about-cipfa/awards or if you would prefer a form to be sent to you direct when nominations open, please email julian.smith@cipfa.org

Public service mutual legislation and tax modernises

The Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Bill had its second reading on 13 January and moved one step closer to its goal of modernising existing legislation. The consolidating bill will reduce legal complexity for new and existing societies. A number of public service mutuals, including many leisure trusts, are registered under this legislation.

In addition, as announced in the Autumn Statement, the Government is increasing the maximum value of shares that employees can acquire under all-employee Share Incentive Plans (SIP), and Save As You Earn option schemes (SAYE) from 6 April 2014. There are signs that this is already boosting interest in employee-owned business models.

Find out more about public service mutuals including employee ownership at the CIPFA TISonline Charities & Social Enterprises information stream www.tisonline.net/socialenterprise/default.asp

CIPFA says don't ditch the DIPs

Rob Whiteman has publicly stated CIPFA's opposition to a Government proposal to ditch the designated independent person protection against dismissal offered to council Section 151 officers, warning that it could undermine the post's statutory responsibility to ensure financial probity.

In a letter to DCLG, the CIPFA CEO re-stated the Institute's concerns about the effect and timing of the proposed change.

He noted that Section 151 officers had a fiduciary duty to act in the interests of local taxpayers and that the current financial pressures being placed on local authorities and the need to ensure decision-making takes account of long-term financial implications was increasingly likely to lead to a 'divergence of views' between members and officers.

'The potential for conflict between financial imperatives and political priorities makes it essential that Section 151 officers have adequate protection in the exercise of their statutory functions, so that they can carry out their statutory duties without fear or favour,' Whiteman wrote.

'I am bound to ask the question, "What is the problem this change is seeking to address?"...CIPFA would argue that any change should be on the basis on ensuring that role can be executed properly, rather than taking a risk to undermine the execution of these duties for an unclear reason that has not been raised by professional bodies or commentators.'

Governance and institute matters

CIPFA's new direction

Our new Chief Executive Rob Whiteman explains CIPFA's strategy to ride out the on-going decline in public spending.

As we enter the new year it is just over three months since I took up the reins as chief executive of CIPFA, a privilege and honour which still thrills me every day. In that short period of time I have been developing, with council, honorary officers, directors and staff members my own plans for transforming and improving the organisation. I would like to communicate the flavour of these plans to you now that they have been approved by Council as part of our business plan before the Christmas break.

First and foremost, we are intent on rebuilding CIPFA's UK market share of training and membership in public sector organisations and supporting accountancy bodies. We will respond actively to developments in the local public audit environment and evolve our qualifications in line with the requirements of trainees and their employers.

As I emphasised at the brilliant conference for the regions in October, developing this refreshed member offer and better support for individual members and our regional bodies will not be possible without the input of our volunteers—who are the heart of the membership.

At the same time we are expanding rapidly on an international basis and CIPFA will transform from a UK-based organisation, with international interests, into a genuinely global organisation with a strong UK base.

Our new international chairman, Ian Ball and I have recently set out that CIPFA will partner with fellow institutes to deliver a global offer, wherever it is needed around the world, to support capability and capacity in government accounting and public financial management—in our document [Public financial management: taking responsibility](#), the follow-up to the Fixing the Foundations initiative.

Globally, and in the UK, we will be responding to members' regular feedback that we need to strengthen

our positioning, sharpen the clarity and consistency of our public voice, develop our profile in the media, and our public policy related to financial management and governance.

Hopefully you will already have noticed considerable progress on this front since my arrival in October. It needs to be a two way dialogue so I'd warmly welcome your feedback and further thoughts.

Organisationally, I recognise that to deliver on a global stage and at pace and scale, there will need to be structural and cultural changes in the organisation to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the pursuit of the above goals and in support of the growing membership. In the run-up to Christmas we were already well down the path of refreshing our structures and directors' accountabilities, and I expect to see those bedding in very shortly.

Wishing you all a great new year. I am very much looking forward to meeting you around the country, in the next few months.

CIPFA scoops top accountancy award

CIPFA won the prestigious Accountancy Body of the Year accolade at the PQ Magazine Awards, seeing off competition from the likes of ACCA, CIMA and ICAEW.

The judges highlighted CIPFA's recent innovations (such as its Nottinghamshire cooperative, and West Midlands finance apprenticeship pilot programme) and its forward-looking, global, approach as the main reasons for its success.

Find out more at: www.cipfa.org/accountancybodyoftheyear



Former CIPFA president victim of Caribbean attack

Messages of sympathy and support have been sent to former CIPFA president Margaret Pratt after she and her husband Roger were the victims of a violent attack while on holiday in St Lucia.

Current President Jaki Salisbury said, "Our deepest sympathies are with Margaret and her family at what must be an incredibly difficult time."

We would be happy to forward messages of sympathy to Margaret, please send them to either: president@cipfa.org or: Lynn Starr, CIPFA, 3 Robert Street, London, WC2N 6RL

Booking now open for the CIPFA Annual Conference 2014

Booking is now open for the annual conference, which will take place 1–3 July in London. The theme is Risk, Resilience, Reform: creating a sustainable future.

This year’s conference will provide delegates with in-depth insight and analysis, exploring the challenges and suggesting solutions to the most pressing issues facing us all in a post-recession world. As well as stimulating thought-led debate we will look at the practical tools and techniques needed to create sustainable public services in 2014 and beyond.

Now is time to rethink, refocus and reinvent, share your vision and play your part in creating sustainable future.

Book your place early to benefit from our early bird discount. Members can currently save £100 on a full conference ticket and £350 on a single day ticket – book now at: www.cvent.com/d/74qlbr/4W

The members survey results are in

Some of the results of our members survey are now out, after 1,700 members kindly responded. The annual survey is invaluable in helping us better understand the issues and challenges facing our members and helps us plan ahead to ensure that the members offering in future reflects their needs in a challenging market.

Key findings included:

- overall satisfaction with the Institute remains very high – with 69% saying they were very / fairly happy – up from 55% in 2011
- over 80% of respondents believed that CIPFA membership / qualification has positively helped them through their career.



Stephanie Flanders speaking at last year’s conference

- in times of austerity, the amount of time members spend on CPD training has declined since 2011. However, over 90% of members access some CPD through the Institute, with more of it than ever being delivered online.
- tough times mean that members are concerned about membership cost and the value they get out of it. This is something we are actively working on – watch this space.
- some respondents mentioned difficulty contacting parts of the Institute – we’re really sorry and are working to improve this in the near future.
- Public Finance – magazine and website – are still highly valued by members as important information sources.
- more of you are now reading regional newsletters than in 2011 and social media is becoming a more significant part of our communication with members.
- over 90% of our members have now registered on the new website.

69%

of members were very / fairly happy

80%

believed CIPFA membership / qualification positively helped them through their career.

90%

of members are registered on the new website.

Annual Members' Statement

CIPFA Qualified Members need to have submitted their Annual Members' Statements by **31 March 2014**. If you have not yet submitted your members' statement you must do so immediately.

All designated CPFA's are required to complete the members' statement annually as this is your declaration that you have participated in continuing development in 2013, or that you have been granted exemption. It is also confirmation as to whether you need to hold a CIPFA Practising Certificate or not.

The Annual Members' Statement can be accessed via 'My CIPFA' in the CIPFA website at www.cipfa.org.

If you are unsure of your position or require assistance accessing your statement please contact the membership team at membership@cipfa.org.

Renewal of CIPFA Membership

Renewal of membership fees became due on **1 January 2014**.

Renewal invoices are located in 'My Purchases' within your 'My CIPFA' area of the website, where you can pay securely by credit or debit card receiving an instant receipt, or you can print off your invoice to pass to your employer (if they pay your membership on your behalf).

Please be aware that the latest date for payments to be received is now 31 March 2014, but you can spread the cost of paying by signing up to pay by direct debit. Payment can be taken monthly up to June.

Full details of how to pay your membership fee, including by direct debit, can be found on the website at: www.cipfa.org/Membership/Fees-and-Subscriptions/How-to-Pay.

Members in practice event

CIPFA Members in Practice Steering Group is pleased to inform members of their forthcoming CPD/networking event on Monday 31 March 2014, free for CIPFA members in practice. This event will include an inspirational guest speaker presentation, and cover current technology solutions for the public sector from Oracle.

Registration will begin at 15.30 for a 16.00 start. The guest speaker presentation will take place for 45 minutes, with 15 minutes of Q&A, and discussions and networking for two hours. Members will be eligible for two hours of CPD for attending this event

The event will take place at Oracle Corporation, 1 South Place, Moorgate, London EC2M 2RB.

Places are strictly limited and are on a first-come-first served basis. For registration please contact Practice Assurance on practiceassurance@cipfa.org.

Action under CIPFA's Disciplinary Scheme

The Institute's independent regulatory committees have taken the following actions in relation to Institute members/former members:

MR GRAEME BOOTH

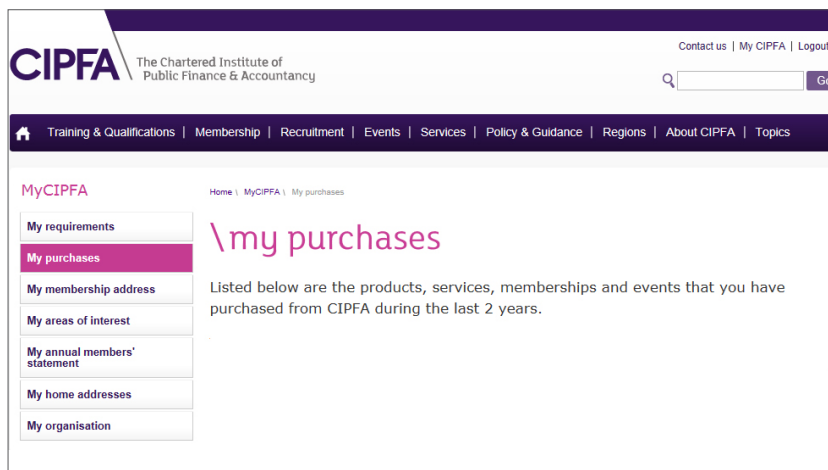
With the consent of Mr Booth the Institute's Investigations Committee issued him with a reprimand on the 26 June 2013 in respect of matters relating to treasury management at Restormel Borough Council.

Fuller details of the matter will be available in due course at: www.cipfa.org/press.

MR MICHAEL PAUL STEVENS

After a hearing held on the 14 October 2013 the Disciplinary Committee determined to expel Mr Stevens from the Institute in respect of his conviction and failure to notify the Institute of that conviction.

Fuller details of the matter will be available in due course at: www.cipfa.org/press.



the My Purchases page on the CIPFA website



Students in Bangladesh



Nicola with a colleague (of CIPFA's training partner, LCBS) in a Dhaka classroom

A CIPFA trainer in Bangladesh

International Training Manager, Nicola Campbell, reports back from her nine month assignment in Bangladesh.

I've been living and working in Dhaka for almost three months now and there have definitely been ups and downs. There have been some of the usual problems you'd expect in a developing country including: IT problems (we get those at home too) and power cuts. There have also been some unexpected problems; the inability to courier exam papers to London because of violent protests here regarding sentences handed down in a war crimes tribunal. It definitely hasn't been dull.

Despite these things, I can honestly say that it has been an amazing experience so far, I cannot believe I am a third of the way through my time here. I've watched the project I am working on and the colleagues I am working with begin to blossom. So much so that 316 people applied to be part of the next batch of 70 students studying towards becoming CIPFA members.

Outside of work I have seen some amazing things: elephants walking down the street, wild monkeys swinging through the trees and tea and rubber plantations. I've even been to the wedding of one of our colleagues at our training partner, LCBS. That was quite an experience and it never fails to amaze me every day how welcoming the people here are and how comfortable and at home they want to make me feel.

Working abroad has its challenges, for sure. It was a huge and scary decision and I definitely miss friends and colleagues from home, but so far I have to say the benefits far outweigh those challenges.



Nicola presenting an accredited training partner certificate to the CEO of LCBS Dhaka our training partner

Welcome to new members

A warm welcome goes out to the people listed below who became CIPFA qualified members in December.

May we wish you a long and prosperous career. Don't forget that as a **CIPFA Member** you can use the designation **CPFA** and term yourself a Chartered Public Finance Accountant.

Mark Barlow

Preston City Council

Andrew Paul Barnett

London Borough of Bromley

Kenneth Martin Blackburn

Isle of Man Government

Mairead Brehony

Department for Employment and Learning

David Burbidge

Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Neil Andrew

Cartlidge Audit Scotland

Eric Cheung

Home office

Reesa Chowdhury

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Jennifer Clinton

East Renfrewshire Council

Eleri Davies

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Ross Duncan

East Renfrewshire Council

Alexandra Elizabeth Durning

Newcastle City Council

Claire Eeles

Hampshire County Council

Tony Ewing

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Hasan Garip

Jobcentre Plus

Jason Hedges

London Borough of Croydon

Matthew Hopson

Royal Borough of Greenwich

Liam James Hull

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Thomas James

Oxfordshire County Council

Rossa Keown

Northern Ireland Audit Office

Joanne Maynard

Reading Borough Council

Laura Mary McCullagh

Northern Ireland Audit Office

Robert Morrison

Hampshire County Council

Elizabeth Jane Mundy

Department for Transport

Amg Nesbitt

KPMG

Nish Popat

London Borough of Hackney

Karl Read

Swindon Borough Council

Kelly Rose

Middlesbrough Council

Sharon Rutheford

Northern Ireland Civil Service

Thomas James Skeen

London Borough of Ealing

Leah Stevenson

Habinteg

Harriet Charlotte Christina

Taylor Hulla & Co Huma Dynamics KG

Adele Tomlinson

Hyndburn Borough Council

Danny Tran

Federal Government of Canada

Jonathan Andrew Tully

Fenland District Council

Jin Wang

Birmingham City Council

James David Kendall Williams

Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council

Rifath Yaksambi

North East Wales NHS Trust

Regions

CIPFA Cymru-Wales Branch Executive – business planning

The CIPFA Cymru-Wales Branch Executive held their annual business planning meeting on 5 and 6 December 2013, building on the Chief Executive’s strategic overview and setting out a work plan for Wales for 2014 and beyond.

In considering their vision for what CIPFA in Wales will look like in 2016, they identified four key themes for their activities in 2014:

- establishing a clear ‘member offer’, setting out what members can expect from the branch and the Institute
- continuing to raise CIPFA’s profile in Wales



CIPFA Cymru-Wales Branch Executive – planning for the new year.

- working to ensure a thriving student base and
- ensuring there is a seamless link between the Institute, the CIPFA Wales office and the branch.

This presents a challenging agenda for the branch executive, which, in line with the fourth theme above, will require an emphasis on collaborative partnership with the Institute and its office in Wales.

CIPFA North East conference

CIPFA in the North East held their third Annual Conference at The Sage, Gateshead, on Friday 22 November 2013. The event was chaired by Sir Tony Redmond, Past President of CIPFA, who introduced a wide range of speakers from the public and private sectors on the theme of Local, Regional, Global, including:

- Paul Woolston, PwC senior partner, and Chair of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership,
- Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England
- James Ramsbotham of the North East Chamber of Commerce
- Ian Dormer, Chair of the Institute of Directors
- Rob Gee of the Sellick Group, and
- Rob Whiteman, CIPFA’s new Chief Executive.



Sir Tony Redmond, Past President of CIPFA, chairing the conference for the third successive year.

A summary of the speakers’ main points is available on the website at:

www.cipfa.org/regions/north-east/whats-going-on/annual-conference

as are links to copies of their presentations at:

www.cipfa.org/regions/north-east/useful-documents-and-downloads

CIPFA European Group Annual Seminar 2013

The CIPFA European Group annual seminar and members’ meeting 2013 took place on 31 October at the Conference Centre of the Federation of European Accountants (FEE) in Brussels, Belgium (preceded by a gala dinner the previous evening).

The seminar opened with a welcome from Jaki Salisbury, President of CIPFA, and then André Killesse, FEE President, who also summarised key challenges and initiatives for the FEE.

Rob Whiteman, Chief Executive then reviewed CIPFA's work on governance, the impact of the International Framework for Good Governance in the Public Sector, and recognised good governance in the public sector.

Olivier Boutellis-Taft, Chief Executive, FEE, then gave an update on the development and implementation of European Public Sector Accounting Standards (EPSAS).

After CIPFA's President, Jaki Salisbury, hosted a lunch and reception for members and guests she updated them on current CIPFA developments and ways of ensuring high levels of regional engagement.

Rob Whiteman then briefed members on his vision: *21st century CIPFA – shaping the future*, which included key membership priorities, plans to serve specific sectors and CIPFA's global ambition.

CIPFA's global ambitions were explained in more detail by Alan Edwards, CIPFA International Director. The European Group considered ways that they could support these plans, particularly in the light of the fact that trans-national bodies are now adopting CIPFA training, and opportunities arising from the move to EPSAS.

Finally, European Group members took part in their Annual General Meeting which included election of officers.

Robert Parkinson

CIPFA North West is sad to announce that Robert Parkinson, former Finance Director at Chorley Borough Council for 30 years, and CIPFA member, has died on 1 January 2014.

Robert Parkinson, known as Bob, moved to Chorley in 1968 to take up the role of deputy treasurer. He was promoted to director of finance in 1982 and stayed there until his retirement in 1997.

Bob was born in Atherton, Wigan, and served as an accounts clerk in the RAF. He started his career in local government in Leigh, Wigan, before promotions saw him move to Surrey, Bolton, Barrow-in-Furness, Doncaster and finally Chorley.

After retiring from Chorley Council, Bob worked part-time as an accountant for the Environmental Fund until last year. He was also involved in setting up Astley Hall Society and Chorley's Citizens' Advice Bureau.

CIPFA sends condolences to his wife of 53 years, Barbara, children, and grandchildren.

Retired members ploughman's lunch on the Bluebell Railway

Eric Keighley reports back from the latest CIPFA South East Retired Members event on the Bluebell railway, a heritage line – using steam trains – it runs for 11 miles along the border between East and West Sussex.

Sixteen retired members woke to a balmy autumn morning on 25 September 2013 to enjoy a ploughman's lunch on the Bluebell Railway, traveling from Sheffield Park to East Grinstead and back.

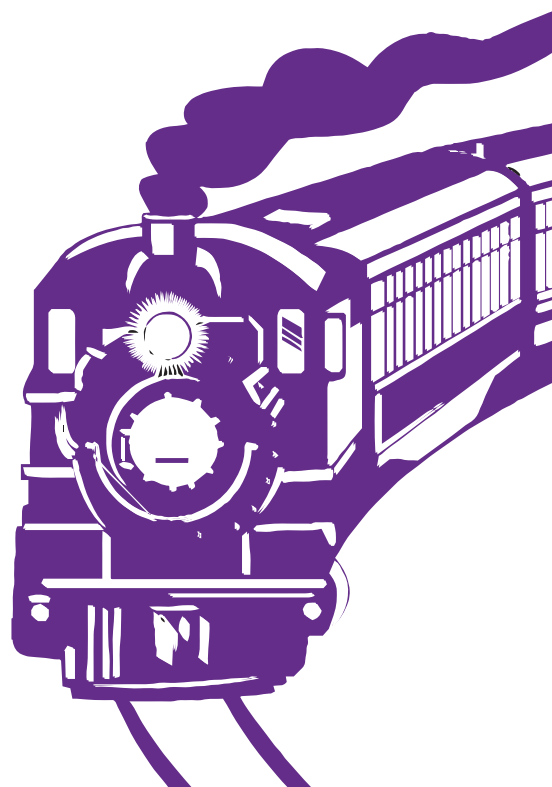
We steamed past the Greenwich meridian which passes diagonally through Sheffield Park station close to the signal box. We then spotted some Roe deer before pausing at Horsted Keynes.

The train then faced a continuous climb to West Hoathly tunnel which is 731 yards long, and the longest on a United Kingdom heritage railway. The train then passed the disused West Hoathly station before calling at Kingscote.

This is a fine example of a small country station of mid-20th century. From here the train climbed once more and then crossed Hill Place viaduct before entering East Grinstead station.

As we left East Grinstead the sun was still shining, and everybody enjoyed the journey which was enhanced by an excellent lunch and convivial company.

If you are interested in future events for retired members in the South East Email: secretary@cipfasoutheast.org.uk.



Students

Syllabus and learning materials updates

Every January CIPFA publishes updates to the Professional Qualification (PQ) syllabus, associated syllabus guidelines and assessment strategy and the CIPFA learning materials are updated accordingly.

Students planning to study for PQ exams in 2014 should therefore ensure they are familiar with the 2014 syllabuses, which are available on the CIPFA website and that they access the 2014 edition of the learning materials which will be available from 7 February.

The changes are generally minor updates to ensure that the content remains up to date in a few modules.



However, the changes to Financial Accounting and Management Accounting are a little more substantive. A document that summarises the syllabus and assessment strategy changes, which will be especially useful to students who are resitting or deferring modules from 2013, is available on the CIPFA website.

Find out more at: www.cipfa.org/training-and-qualifications/professional-qualification/student-news

CIPFA applying for Registered Qualifying Body status for local audit

CIPFA is shortly applying to the Financial Reporting Council to be a Registered Qualifying Body (RQB) in relation to local public audit, flowing from the Local Audit and Accountability bill that is progressing through Parliament.

Securing RQB status necessitates the creation of a local public audit version of the CIPFA Professional Qualification which will be available for enrolment, by those working in public audit, from the second half of 2014.

One of the key elements of this audit stream of the qualification is expected to be a new module focused specifically on public audit principles and practices, which will also be made available to experienced auditors who need to develop their public audit understanding and skills.

As CIPFA has developed this new 'local public audit stream,' members working

in audit have supported the proposal that the qualification is subsequently also developed to include company audit content to reflect the developing importance of the private and third sectors in the delivery of public services.

The team is therefore exploring how best to revive CIPFA's RQB status for Company Audit so that the Institute is able to prepare members for senior audit responsibility in any sector.

Growth in CIPFA international qualifications students

Not far short of 1000 exams in around 80 countries were sat by students taking CIPFA's International Public Financial Management (IPFM) qualifications last December, demonstrating significant growth in IPFM activity over the last 12 months.

Prominent in this growth are a few hundred United Nations Development Programme staff, who receive live online tuition from Kaplan Financial. In addition over 100 staff of the Office of

the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh are studying the IPFM as part of a large donor-funded project in which CIPFA is a key partner.

Additionally a large number of students in Lesotho and Nigeria took IPFM exams in this sitting. Prospects are good for significant further growth in IPFM students in 2014 and beyond.

2014 exam dates

Dates for both June and December 2014 examinations have been published at www.cipfa.org/training-and-qualifications/professional-qualification/exams/dates



Get ready to submit PEP

It is time to submit your Practical Experience Portfolios (PEP). PEPs should include:

- a log of 400 days of relevant work experience
- written content on the completion of three workplace activities
- a reflective statement of learning from the whole training period, including future personal learning and development goals.

The three workplace activities are expected to be pieces of work that students would be doing anyway, not created specifically for PEP. Students' portfolios need to include content on the planning and execution of these activities, their learning from them and an analysis of the ethical considerations associated with each activity.

The focus on ethics in the PEP is a key new dimension, forming a crucial link with the coverage of ethics in the examined syllabus.

Top tips from the PEP reviewer are:

- don't consider PEP as a chore
- read the student guide—it is very clear
- when choosing the activities to write about remember we are interested in examples showing your growth and learning, and
- the learning you have been through and still require should flow nicely into CPD.



Roger Davis receiving the Tom Sowerby award last year by CIPFA President Jaki Salisbury
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Tom Sowerby Award 2013

Do you have a favourite lecturer, course tutor or someone who you think has provided an outstanding service to CIPFA students?

If the answer is yes, now is your chance to nominate them for the prestigious Tom Sowerby award.

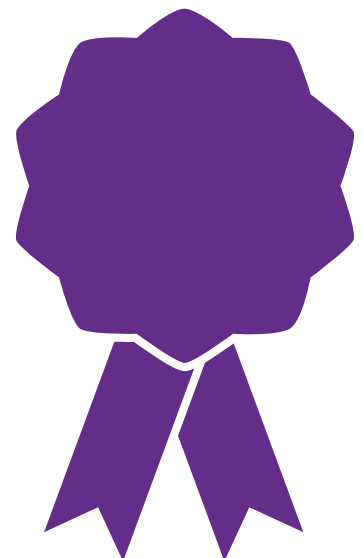
Designed to recognise excellence in education and to reward those who have gone the extra mile for CIPFA students, a Tom Sowerby award nomination is the perfect way for you to say thank you.

Closing date

Friday 28 March 2014

For more information, and to make your nomination, visit:

www.cipfa.org/sowerby



Events

Conferences

CIPFA SCOTLAND PUBLIC FINANCE CONFERENCE 2014

6 & 7 March, New venue:
Beardmore Hotel, Clydebank, nr. Glasgow

CIPFA Scotland's Public Finance Conference is a key event in the calendar for all those working in the public services in Scotland. View the programme and book at:

www.cipfa.org/events/cipfa-scotland-public-finance-conference-2014

CIPFA AUDIT CONFERENCE 2014

May 14-15 May, Winchester.

The only national conference dedicated to audit in the public services. This conference will address the challenges and risks at the top of the audit agenda – providing the essential public sector context.

To register your interest please contact Rikki.Ellsmore@cipfa.org. For sponsorship and exhibition opportunities please contact Brett.Crabtree@cipfa.org

THE FUTURE OF POLICING: A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

5 March, London

How do we ensure our resources go into the right areas to best deliver local policing services?

How do we transform our work with local emergency services, community safety partners and criminal justice agencies?

How do we tell the story to the public to ensure we are transparent and to improve public confidence?

Find out at this one day police conference, which will take a strategic look at the next phase of police reform in the context of the economic outlook over the years ahead.

www.cipfa.org/events/t/the-future-of-policing-a-fresh-perspective-20140305
michael.lewis@cipfa.org

CIPFA TREASURY MANAGEMENT NETWORK CONFERENCE

6 March, London:

The economic downturn which so many had hoped would be a sprint to recovery has turned out to be much more of an endurance trial. What challenges lie ahead for public sector treasury managers? Is there light at the end of the tunnel? This event explores the road ahead.

Treasury professionals, S151 officers, elected members of local councils and housing finance officers will hear sessions on the fate of the UK and global economies – whether shared services for treasury management bring meaningful or mythical savings and how corporate treasurers are navigating these difficult times with a chance to compare approaches.

www.cipfa.org/events/c/cipfa-treasury-management-network-conference-2014-20140306

DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES FINANCE

20 March, London

Aimed at local government practitioners involved in children's services finance, this event is a vital update on various education and children's social care finance issues. Delivered by CIPFA's Children's Services Finance Network, it will raise awareness of the current requirements and impact of government announcements on children's services finance and operations.

www.cipfa.org/events/rikki.ellsmore@cipfa.org

SOCIAL HOUSING IS BIG BUSINESS: COMMERCIALISATION AND SOCIAL VALUE

May, London

www.cipfa.org/events/michael.lewis@cipfa.org

Training

BUSINESS INNOVATION WORKOUT PROGRAMME

26 February, London

A course that boosts the capability of managers to innovate using the latest thinking on how to drive business innovation effectively.

www.cipfa.org/events/b/business-innovation-workout-programme-20140226

IMPLEMENTING SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC SECTOR SHARED SERVICES

}} " 0427, London

Ensure you don't make expensive mistakes by understanding the underlying principles of successful collaborations and shared services. More www.cipfa.org/events/i/implementing-successful-public-sector-shared-services-20140311

BUSINESS PARTNERING – MAKING THE TRANSITION

3 March, London

Limited resources and a move towards a more commercial ethos mean efficiency and innovation is the key. This is a key course for finance professionals who wish to step up to become partners / business advisers.

www.cipfa.org/events/b/business-partnering-making-the-transition-20140303

MANAGING BUDGETS IN TIMES OF AUSTERITY

13 December, London

This event will provide a range of techniques and activities that can assist an organisation in the management of its budgets, particularly in times of expenditure reductions.

www.cipfa.org/events/m/managing-budgets-in-times-of-austerity-20131213

SEE ALL OUR SHORT COURSES ACROSS THESE FOUR MAIN THEMES:

[Finance for non-finance professionals](#)

[Finance for financial professionals](#)

[Governance, audit and risk](#)

[Leadership and business management](#)

Accredited training

CERTIFICATE IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Starts 06 February, Edinburgh

www.cipfa.org/events/c/certificate-in-corporate-governance-scotland-20140206

Starts 18 March, London

www.cipfa.org/events/c/certificate-in-corporate-governance-accredited-20140318

Starts 16 April, Cardiff

www.cipfa.org/events/c/certificate-in-corporate-governance-20140416

CERTIFICATE IN CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

11 March, Edinburgh

<http://www.cipfa.org/events/c/certificate-in-contract-management-20140311>

Partnership Models and Continuous Improvement, 11 February 2014, Edinburgh

www.cipfa.org/events/c/ccm-partnership-models-and-continuous-improvement-20140211

Full course, starts 11 March 2014, Edinburgh

www.cipfa.org/events/c/certificate-in-contract-management-20140311

CERTIFICATE IN MANAGEMENT PRACTICE: FINANCIAL SKILLS

Starts 5 February, Belfast

www.cipfa.org/events/c/certificate-in-management-practice-financial-skills-20140122

CERTIFICATE OF INVESTIGATIVE PRACTICE

starts 4 March, London

www.cipfa.org/events/c/certificate-of-investigative-practice-qualification-spring-2014-20140304

OPEN BOOK PROCESSES

Starts 2 April, London

www.cipfa.org/events/o/open-book-accounting-3-day-20140402

PRINCE2® FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR E-LEARNING, ONLINE

www.cipfa.org/events/accredited-training/prince-2-e-learning

PRINCE2 FOUNDATION

Starts 24 February, Cardiff

www.cipfa.org/events/p/prince2-foundation-20140224

Starts 17 March, Edinburgh

www.cipfa.org/events/p/prince2-foundation-20140317

PRINCE2 PRACTITIONER

Starts 27 February, Cardiff

www.cipfa.org/events/p/prince2-practitioner-20140227

Starts 20 March, Edinburgh

www.cipfa.org/events/p/prince2-practitioner-20140320

PRINCE2 FOUNDATION AND PRACTITIONER

Starts 24 February, Cardiff

www.cipfa.org/events/p/prince2-foundation-and-practitioner-20140224

Starts 17 March, Edinburgh

www.cipfa.org/events/p/prince2-foundation-and-practitioner-20140317

[See all accredited training from CIPFA](#)

Regional events

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER

*Innovation to meet the continuing challenges in the public sector
22 January, Bradford*

This Professional Development Day will focus upon the continuing challenges facing the public sector and explore innovative solutions to help practitioners respond to austerity and Government reform.

The Vice President of the Institute is speaking at this event, along with senior public sector officials who will enlighten you on initiatives in local authorities, the health sector and police service.
www.cipfa.org/events/c/cipfa-in-yorkshire-and-humber-innovation-to-meet-the-continuing-challenges-in-the-public-sector-20140122

Innovative ways to reward staff during austerity, 19 February, Leeds

Given that austerity is here to stay in 2014 and beyond, join us for this event hosted by KPMG and discover how you can continue to reward and motivate your staff without breaking the bank balance. Places are limited to only 40 participants so book now to attend.
www.cipfa.org/events/c/cipfa-in-yorkshire-and-humber-event-workforce-reward-20140219

MIDLANDS

CIPFA in the Midlands Soft Skills Event: Session 3 Impact of Coaching, 26 February

This event will help you to understand the benefits and uses of coaching, give you the skills to make, meet and exceed personal and professional goals, and give you a structure to help others do the same.

www.cipfa.org/events/c/cipfa-in-the-midlands-soft-skills-event-session-3-impact-of-coaching-20140226



CIPFA in the Midlands AGM and Development Event, 03 March

A key annual event for members in the midlands region, comprising: the formal business of the midlands region annual general meeting; a 90 minute personal development session; and the presentation of certificates to new members.

www.cipfa.org/events/c/cipfa-in-the-midlands-agm-and-development-event-20140306

SOUTH EAST

CIPFA in the South East: London Division Seminar Welfare Reform, 06 February

The programme for this event is being developed. Details will be added to the webpage as they are confirmed. But you can book your free place now.

www.cipfa.org/events/c/cipfa-in-the-south-east-london-division-seminar-welfare-reform-20140206

SOUTH WEST

CIPFA in the South West Annual Seminar / AGM, 14 March

The South West region are organising the finer details of this event, but are able to confirm that CIPFA President, Jaki Salisbury, will be at the event and that they will be following the traditional format of engaging speakers, insightful discussion and a hearty lunch. More details will be posted on the webpage below as they become available, but for the moment please save the date – and book your place now.

www.cipfa.org/events/c/cipfa-in-the-south-west-annual-seminar-agm-20140314

NORTH WEST

CIPFA in the North West audit risk and governance group: annual development training event, 7 March

Attend this event to: find out about the latest advanced visualisation tools that can help you to analyse data that is tricky to interpret by traditional means; work out how much risk your organisation can bear; learn from Oldham Council’s innovative internal audit practices; hear a lawyers viewpoint of the key aspects of procurement fraud; ensure that your assurances are worth more than just the paper they are written on, and ask questions about the audit risk and governance matters that affect you.

www.cipfa.org/events/c/cipfa-in-the-north-west-audit-risk-and-governance-group--annual-development--training-event-20140307

CIPFA in the North West to austerity and beyond: a guide to surviving in the public sector, 14 March

Austerity: we’ve all felt its effects and seen its impact. We’ve seen services closed, curtailed, or changed – and in some cases getting better. With just over a year to the next general election and pundits forecasting cuts until 2020, do we know what the future really holds for our organisations, for our services, and for ourselves? What can we learn from innovative new services, and how can we maximise our potential in this environment?

Come and join CIPFA in the North West at this event to take stock, assess the impact so far and consider the future direction for public finances and the public sector.

www.cipfa.org/events/c/cipfa-in-the-north-west-to-austerity-and-beyond-a-guide-to-surviving-in-the-public-sector-20140314