

Spreadsheet

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The online magazine for CIPFA members and students

MAY 2012

strategies for survival

CIPFA conference comes to Liverpool

Arena and Convention Centre Liverpool

In this issue:

- Election results 2012/13
- Audit Lincolnshire wins Cliff Nicholson Award
- Congratulations to the annual prize winners

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of
Public Finance & Accountancy



Cautious optimism

This morning, I signed the Institute's financial statements for 2011 and thought it timely for me to update you on the Institute's overall financial position.

The Government's austerity plan was never going to pass the Institute by without leaving its mark. The vast majority of our revenues come from the public sector and a large proportion comes from commercial activities. That is a defining feature of the business model of which we can be very proud, but it doesn't work quite so well when public sector funding is being reduced.

To put this into some perspective, our turnover in 2009 was over £40m, whilst our budget for 2012 is £26m. You can imagine the scale of change which that transition has meant for CIPFA. We have undergone several waves of cost reduction drives, staff reductions and we are now in our third year of pay freezes. This is all reflected in our financial results for 2011 which show a deficit.

Your Council, and the management team led by the Chief Executive, has worked tremendously hard to steady the ship and to put the Institute in a strong position. Our budget for 2012 is realistic and prudent and indeed, at this early stage in the year, our forecasts suggest that we are marginally ahead of target. We have also strengthened our balance sheet very significantly.

So, looking forward into 2012 and beyond, we are cautiously optimistic but we will of course continue to be vigilant in our governance of your Institute.

C Bilsland

Chris Bilsland, President

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We welcome your feedback on Spreadsheet.

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

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

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Election results 2012/13 now available

The results of the 2012/13 officers and the election of 11 seats on Institute Council 2012/13 have been announced. The full list of Council members will be posted on the website after the AGM.

The 2012/13 officers will be:-

Sir Tony Redmond, President,
Jaki Salisbury, Vice President
Ian Perkin, Treasurer
Chris Bilsland, Past President

Results of the Election for 2012/13 Institute Council

Names in **bold** indicate the candidates elected.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT - 5 to elect		
CANDIDATE	NUMBER OF VOTES	EMPLOYER AT THE TIME OF THE BALLOT
GRAVIL, Claire	1040	North East Lincolnshire Council
MILLS-EVANS, Carole	1001	Nottingham City Council
OWEN, Mike	959	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
ROBERTS, Brian	950	Leicestershire County Council
FINCH, Ken	789	Conwy County Borough Council
WHITEHOUSE, Leigh	665	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
FINCH, Alan	520	London Borough of Tower Hamlets

HEALTH - 2 elected uncontested		
CANDIDATE	NUMBER OF VOTES	EMPLOYER AT THE TIME OF THE BALLOT
DAY, Mark		Community Health Partnerships
MATHESON, John		Scottish Government Health & Social Care Directorate

STATUTORY EXTERNAL AUDIT - 1 elected uncontested		
CANDIDATE	NUMBER OF VOTES	EMPLOYER AT THE TIME OF THE BALLOT
SINCLAIR, Martin		National Audit Office

OTHER EMPLOYMENT - 3 to elect		
CANDIDATE	NUMBER OF VOTES	EMPLOYER AT THE TIME OF THE BALLOT
CUTHBERTSON, Jane	833	BT South Tyneside Ltd
SWEETING, Alison	719	Self-employed
HARBORD, Richard	562	MRF UK Ltd
THORNTON, John	406	e-ssential Resources
MILNE, Lesley	394	European Commission
OWEN, Ian	331	Capita
WAITE, Adrian	239	AWICS Ltd
MATTOCKS, Gordon	191	GSM Board Assurance
PAGE, Grenville	151	Grenville Page Consulting Ltd

Audit Lincolnshire wins Cliff Nicholson Award



Ground-breaking internal audit work has earned Audit Lincolnshire the Cliff Nicholson Award for Innovation and Excellence in Public Service Audit.

The team, made up of professionals from Lincolnshire County Council and the City of Lincoln Council, established two initiatives that have helped to widen their assurance coverage as well as enabling management to think more deeply about their own appetites for risk. Together with a risk appetite model, the practical assurance mapping process has led to risk-based audit planning that filters through to all members of the audit team as they undertake their work.

The award will be presented to Lucy Pledge, Head of Audit and Risk Management, at CIPFA's annual Audit Conference dinner in Nottingham on 23rd May by Chris Bilisland.

On learning that the team at Audit Lincolnshire had won the Cliff Nicholson award, Lucy Pledge said:

"I'm delighted that Audit Lincolnshire's work has been recognised by CIPFA for its innovation – I hope others will find it equally helpful when they wrestle with the tricky areas of 'risk appetite' and 'assurance mapping'. We found that it has certainly raised our profile with our clients and has helped them think about risk in a different way, whilst improving accountability and their assurance frameworks."

Lucy will be presenting a session at the CIPFA Audit Conference next month, based on the practical steps that other organisations can take to implement the initiatives developed by the Audit Lincolnshire team.

Find out more about the Audit Conference at:
<http://seminars.cipfa.org.uk/events/auditconference>.



About the CIPFA Audit conference

The CIPFA Audit Conference 2012: audit in an era of change is being held on 23 to the 24 May 2012, in Nottingham.

The leading audit event in the public sector calendar once again provides both strategic insight and practical support for those working in public sector audit. This year's conference will include an update on the draft Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, the role of the Internal Audit Standards Advisory Board and results from a major survey on internal audit in the public services.

Find out more, and read the latest programme at:
<http://seminars.cipfa.org.uk/events/auditconference>.

Congratulations to the annual prize winners



The annual prize winners

Congratulations to the top-performing Professional Qualification students who received prizes at this year's prize winners' ceremony. All bar one of the winners attended tuition courses at the CIPFA Education and Training Centre.

The ceremony took place on 19 April and rewarded students with the best results in the final test examinations.

Prize winners included Anna Lancaster, who won the Arthur Collins Memorial Medal, Sarah Burden who won the Richard Emmott Memorial Medal and the Eric Gilliland Memorial Medal was awarded jointly to Jennie Keeley and Amy Richards.

Chris Bilisland, CIPFA President, who awarded the prizes, said,

“It is always a pleasure to see our students who have done well receive the recognition that they deserve. It was an honour for me to be here and to present the awards. These students represent the future of the profession and I am certain that they will go on to achieve a great deal in their careers.”

Prize	Criteria	Winner	Employer
Arthur Collins Memorial Medal	Best Overall in Case Study and SBM	Anna Lancaster	London Borough of Wandsworth
First Place and Richard Emmott Memorial Prize	Best Performance in Case Study	Sarah Burden	KPMG LLP
Second Place and Prize for the Case Study	2nd Best Performance in Case Study	Anna Lancaster	London Borough of Wandsworth
Third Place and Prize for the Case Study	3rd Best Performance in Case Study	Matthew Hopson	London Borough of Greenwich
		Alison Chubbock	Breckland District Council
Eric Gilliland* Memorial Prize	Best performance in Strategic Business Management (SBM)	Amy Richards	Warwickshire County Council
		Jennie Keeley	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Second Place and Prize in SBM	2nd Best Performance in SBM	Isabel Jones	City of York Council (now at Veritau Company Ltd)
Third Place and Prize in SBM	Best Performance in SBM	Daniel Bird	Audit Commission
		Matthew Cooling	Mazars LLP
		Nick Hogben	National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Health
		Terence Rickeard	Audit Commission
Audit Commission Prize	Best Performance in Case Study and SBM	Daniel Bird	Audit Commission
Health Service Prize	Best NHS Performance in Case Study & SBM	Nick Hogben	National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Health

Strategies for survival – Annual Conference, Liverpool 2012

The Annual Conference workshop programme will profile an exciting programme of events that will inform and give the insight into key topics that you need to help your organisation adapt to the rapidly changing and hostile environment that is the public sector. You will also get the opportunity to network with peers and browse the buzzing exhibition arena.

On the main stage we are proud to have confirmed Amyas Morse, Comptroller and Auditor General NAO, Paul Mason, Economic Editor of Newsnight, Michael Parkinson CBE, Director of the European Institute for Urban Affairs, and Sir Bob Kerslake, Permanent Secretary at DCLG and Head of the Civil Service – visit the website for an update www.cipfaannualconference.org.uk/

This year's workshops

The workshops form an important part of the conference allowing practitioners to get more insight on topics and themes that might affect them day-to-day. We have a diverse programme planned over the two days with 11 workshops covering everything from business rates to managing energy wisely.

Our workshops will give you the chance to talk to people who are setting standards; you will get the opportunity to hear about the changes that will affect how you work and enable you to engage and debate some of the detail.

We are working with fantastic partners to make sure we are giving you the best advice and knowledge around burning issues like pensions and how the recent code of practice will shape the way financial reporting is presented in the future. Following the NHS Bill massive changes are afoot in public health and we will be exploring how councils and health bodies can work closer together to achieve significant results with some case studies of models that have tackled endemic disease.

As councils and organisations look at new ways to deliver services there are huge possibilities in new formations for public services

and how high quality services can be provided by the voluntary and community sector, or the private sector. This in turn will affect tax issues in particular the VAT relief for shared services. We will also be looking at tax issues that affect other areas of the public sector. We will be looking at new funding models and how TIFs and the loan rate from the Public Works Loan Board may be more attractive than local authority bonds.

Transforming service delivery now will ensure we can build more sustainable public services for the future – we will explore the best ways to determine what will really benefit an organisation and how to evaluate the next steps to make a real difference.

Workshops

- Identifying and managing new risks in a shifting landscape
- Exploring new funding models
- Flatter, faster, streamlined government
- Merging, sharing or spinning off: new formations for public services
- CFOs and the CIPFA Code of Practice of Pensions Knowledge and Skills
- Fitter societies and communities: shared health agendas
- Energy performance strategy; overcoming the common stumbling blocks
- Tax services masterclass
- IFRS Post implementation review

To keep up to date with new information on the workshops:
www.cipfaannualconference.org.uk/programme/workshops

The Annual Conference is being held at ACC Liverpool, 3-5 July, 2012

Special Chatham House Summit for Chief Finance Officers

Recognising that these are uniquely challenging times, CIPFA is convening a Special Chatham House Summit for Chief Finance Officers of public bodies (or their nominees) as a prelude to this year's Conference. It will take place on Tuesday 3rd July at the the ACC Liverpool, commencing at 10:30am, running til 3.30pm.

The Summit will review the current and forecast position of the UK's public finances and government spending and the nature and scale of the challenges and risks which lie ahead. It will focus on the key strategic options available to public bodies as they attempt to steer a course forward, and review "survival strategies in action" - case studies from a range of organisations which have developed interesting and distinctive game-plans from which we can all learn.

We also anticipate that the event will be a significant input to a new report which CIPFA is currently preparing on the impacts and medium to long term implications of the ongoing austerity programme.

Have your say on Emerging Stronger

The consultation on *Emerging Stronger: Shaping the finance function to meet new and future challenges* ends on 1 June 2012.

The discussion paper aims to stimulate debate around leadership in public finance, and to help finance leaders to develop a finance function that is fit for the future. It was launched at CIPFA's 5th World Class Performance Symposium on 15 March, hosted in partnership with HM Treasury.

The paper identifies four key areas in which finance must contribute strongly; leading innovation, adding value, managing risk and cutting costs. This in turn focuses thinking on four critical roles: innovator, business partner, steward and provider/commissioner. The paper argues that through these core roles the finance function has the opportunity to showcase its importance in taking the organisation forward and to emerge stronger post austerity.

Ian Carruthers, Director of Policy and Technical at CIPFA, said:

"This paper seeks to bring together the knowledge and experiences of finance professionals to help develop the finance function. Public sector organisations are facing unprecedented challenges. The need for a high performing finance team to lead innovation, add value, manage risk and cut costs has never been more urgent."

Responses to the consultation questions and/or comments on any aspects of the document should be submitted, preferably by email, so that they will be received by 1 June 2012. All comments will be considered as a matter of public record.



**Comments on the paper should be sent to: Manj Kalar
Policy & Technical Directorate CIPFA 3 Robert Street
London WC2N 6RL, Email: manj.kalar@cipfa.org.uk.**

CIPFA in the news

The Institute regularly features in national and local news, with spokespeople commenting on, and providing expert advice, on the latest public finance issues or in coverage of recent work from the institute. Thanks to feedback from Conference for the Regions, we will keep you up-to-date with our media coverage via Spreadsheet.

The 1 March saw the publication of CIPFA's *Council Tax Survey*. The survey showed that although 85% of authorities were freezing council tax, over 40% of households would see an increase of some kind. The story was reported on *BBC News*, the *Today Programme* and it appeared in the *Financial Times* and on the front page of *The Daily Telegraph*.

CIPFA's National Student Forum was given the award for Student Body of the Year at the *PQ Magazine Awards 2012*

in London, which was picked up in a number of publications including *Holyrood Magazine*.

At the end of March it was announced that Caroline Gardner, former CIPFA President, would become the next Auditor General of Scotland. There was also some coverage of *CIPFA's World Class Performance Symposium* which saw Chloe Smith, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, speak about the Government's Finance Transformation Programme.

In April Danny Alexander, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, announced that all Government departments would have to find an extra 5% of their budgets which could be used in case 'unforeseen needs arise'. CIPFA's response was published.

Become CIPFA qualified, quicker

New route for finance directors

A new route to membership has been specifically designed for Finance Directors and executive managers from across the public and third sectors that do not hold a professional accountancy qualification, but may already hold senior financial responsibilities.

The new accelerated route enables senior staff to become qualified in just two years, rather than the standard three, and provides a study route that recognises and complements their role and work commitments.

The programme starts in January 2013. It provides an intensive, challenging and highly rewarding route through the CIPFA Professional Qualification, recognising the experience and professionalism of senior executives working in roles with substantial strategic and financial responsibilities

To find out more about this new route, whether you are eligible, or to download the enrolment form go to www.cipfa.org.uk/cetc/accelerated.

To enrol you will need to complete the enrolment form and submit it with your current CV to the CIPFA Accelerated Route Coordinator (as instructed within the form). Application is subject to an interview.

Fast track for ACCA, CIMA, ICAEW, ICAI and ICAS qualified members

CIPFA offers a fast track route to CIPFA qualification in as little as six months for qualified members of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICAI) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS).

Full members of one of these bodies are entitled to maximum exemptions, leaving only two exams to become a Chartered Public Finance Accountant (CPFA). These are Public Sector Financial Reporting and Governance, Public Policy and Ethics which can both be sat in one sitting. Entrants via the fast track route pay no exemption fees and are exempt from our work experience requirements.

Mohamed Jeewa, Salford City Council entered CIPFA via the Fast Track Route following his ACCA qualification, he said:

“The study and training provided by CIPFA is particularly catered towards a career in the public sector. As you are granted exemption from work experience as well as all but two of the final exams of the CIPFA syllabus, the continued studying isn’t that onerous, especially through additional study options provided by my college. Holding the CIPFA qualification allows me to build on my knowledge and training from my other qualification and to hone these to allow me to learn more about public finance. It also gives the option to tap into the networking opportunities provided by both qualifications and the opportunity to meet, learn and share ideas with a lot of people who hold either of these reputable qualifications.”

To get started, you will need to register as a new student on our website at www.cipfa.org.uk/career

Exams take place in June and December with closing dates in March and September respectively. We have a range of study options to suit including classroom tuition, revision and exam support, learning materials and webinars.

**Detailed and dedicated advice is available by contacting our Student Recruitment team:
t: 020 7543 5656, e: students@cipfa.org.uk, www.cipfa.org.uk/fasttrack.**



New Certificate in Charity Finance & Accountancy syllabus out now

The joint CIPFA and London South Bank University (LSBU) Certificate in Charity Finance & Accountancy (CCFA) has a new updated syllabus, as enrolment opens for the fifth year of the successful course.

The one-year qualification is aimed at charity and social enterprise finance professionals who don't hold a recognised qualification and gives them the opportunity to build new skills and knowledge, and advance their career.

The syllabus changes reflect the changing landscape in public service delivery which has seen an increasing number of social enterprises formed and the commissioning of services to charities. The syllabus covers the codes and standards that those working in the third sector, including housing associations, need to know as well as building expertise in areas such as tax reliefs and VAT, management accounting, risk management, commissioning, mergers, funding and investment approaches.

Chris Gilbert, Assistant Director Business & Performance at London Transport Museum and CCFA graduate said: "I have twenty years of public sector accounting experience but when my organisation became a charity I soon realised how much more I had to learn. The CCFA qualification gave me the technical knowledge I needed to manage our charity's accounts and.... has also been invaluable in helping me to create the right culture and environment for our charity."

It reassures stakeholders that those working in a financial capacity within the third sector are qualified and in turn boosts the confidence and abilities of the student to support the financial management of the organisation. Successful students can then choose to continue their studies and take advantage of the Professional Qualification exemptions on offer to CCFA graduates.

Teaching is through blended learning, or fully taught at LSBU, and starts in October. For more information visit www.cipfa.org/charities or email students@cipfa.org.uk.



CIPFA The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy

Certificate in Charity Finance and Accountancy

advance your career

Professional development for charity and social enterprise professionals

'The best thing about the course was learning practical skills; it helped me implement specific charity accounting knowledge to keep the organisation delivering to the Charities Act 2006.'

Eve Thomas, CCFA Graduate 2011

Do more public service executives need commercial skills?

At the beginning of May the Public Accounts Committee criticised the use of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) within a report and Margaret Hodge, Committee chair, called for “a private finance funding model that allows flexible delivery of public services and ends the era of investors receiving eye-wateringly high rewards while taking ever-decreasing risks’ and said ‘We have even seen evidence of excess profits being priced into projects from the start.’

The report itself stated: “The Treasury acknowledges that a key issue in creating delay and adding to the cost of procurement is that many PFI contracts are developed and negotiated locally.

“This inevitably leaves local officials, who generally do not have the necessary commercial experience, exposed to commercially astute private sector counterparts which must impact on the value for money being achieved.”

PFI is obviously only one approach to involving the private sector in public service delivery. But any attempt to outsource to the private sector, or establish a joint partnership, requires certain commercial skills that can be at odds with those usually needed in a public service senior manager’s repertoire.

This lack of skills was backed up by a Totaljobs survey which asked 100 senior managers across local government and central government whether they felt that they had the skills to outsource to the private sector and manage contracts. Over half (55%) said that improved project management skills were needed and a third admitted a lack of skills was the key reason for cancelling outsourcing contracts in 2011.

This led CIPFA to decide to run a new two day course *Negotiating Outsourcing and Joint Ventures with the Private Sector* to help public service senior managers improve their negotiating techniques and commercial acumen. Attendees will find out how to hone their existing skills to survive in a quasi- private sector role and gain invaluable new negotiating skills for improved contracts, better partnerships and increased cost-effectiveness. The course is being run on 29 May in London, 12 June in Leeds and 14 November in London.

To find out more about the course go to: www.cipfa.org.uk/training. The Public Accounts Committee report, *Equity Investment in privately financed projects* is available on the parliament website.

CIPFA and Ernst & Young join forces to improve global PFM

CIPFA is now working with Ernst & Young to help organisations and governments around the world improve their public financial management (PFM) systems and arrangements.

The alliance focuses particularly on offering support with the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) to public and not-for-profit organisations. IPSAS have been developed and are maintained by the Independent Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB).

This initiative brings together Ernst & Young’s experience working on IPSAS projects around the world and CIPFA’s experience in professional capacity development and certified financial management training.

Ian Carruthers, CIPFA Director of Policy and Technical, commented, “This initiative is about creating a unique resource for the international public sector. The global financial crisis has demonstrated the urgent need to strengthen public sector accounting standards and financial

management around the world. Our alliance brings together the expert professional skills needed to deliver complex change programmes successfully with real tangible benefits for public sector organisations, the people who rely upon their services and wider society.”

Thomas Müller-Marqués Berger, Ernst & Young Global Head of International Public Sector Accounting, said: “The global financial crisis has exposed the seriousness of sub-standard reporting by governments. Decisions made are suffering due to short-term reporting cycles, archaic accounting and the hidden costs of social provisions. Governments are beginning to recognise that IPSAS represent the future of PFM and can help to alleviate these economic pressures by better decision making as well as allowing public money to be better tracked and spent more efficiently.”

This alliance is aimed at providing an integrated service for public organisations that want to modernize their accounting methodologies and continue the momentum towards widespread use of IPSAS.



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Technical enquiry service

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Business Development (E&T)

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Education and training

T: 020 7543 5678

Regional and volunteer support

T: 020 7543 5781

Recruitment services

T: 020 8667 1144

Planning to work for yourself, as an interim or through an agency?

If you are planning to work for yourself, as an interim or through an agency providing accountancy services then you must apply for a CIPFA Practising Certificate. At this time of year, some members are undertaking short term temporary finance roles and may not be considering their position in regards to the scheme.

So, what is the Practice Assurance scheme and how can you find out if you need to register?

The Scheme came into effect in January 2008 to reflect changes in the regulatory environment affecting professional accountants in the UK and worldwide. Primarily, it brought us in line with the other UK accountancy bodies and helped us to meet our membership obligations with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

We also took into account the Money Laundering Regulations that came into force at the end of 2007. Under these new requirements accountants working in practice are required by law to be independently regulated. CIPFA members providing “accountancy services” to third parties (i.e. other than to their employers) therefore have no choice but to register for supervision if they wish to continue in business lawfully.

Put simply, if you are providing accountancy services to clients rather than direct to an employer, you will almost certainly need a practising certificate. You will also need a practising certificate if you invoice your client, if you work via an agency or umbrella group that invoices your client, or if you are a partner or director in a business that invoices the client.

Your agency or umbrella company or even your client may not be aware of your requirement for this and you, as a member are responsible for checking whether or not you need to hold a practising certificate.

You can check your status by reviewing the Council Statement in Public Practice at www.cipfa.org.uk/practiceassurance/handbook.crm, which outlines the scope of the scheme and will tell you if you need to apply.

If you need help or advice on determining your position you should contact CIPFA’s Practice Assurance Coordinator by emailing practiceassurance@cipfa.org.uk or by telephoning 020 3117 1881.

President's diary



My first CIPFA Engagement in 2012 was a visit to Belfast for the region's Special Awards ceremony. I think I have said before, these kinds of regional events are the best and this was no exception. It's a great opportunity to meet members, to find out what is on people's minds and also to learn more about regional activities.

My next engagement in February was a presentation on procurement shared services. This was not actually a public sector event at all, but a global conference for finance and procurement professionals. In talking to my public sector colleagues, I find that making savings through better procurement is becoming more and more important and it was interesting to see that this is very much the same in the private sector.

My next regional visit was back to Belfast, for the annual lunch and AGM. I was very impressed with the talk I heard from the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. With the new Titanic exhibition, and the attractions of golf with so many of the world's best players from Northern Ireland, and the most beautiful countryside and coast, there is much to be optimistic about on the tourism front.

In March, I was delighted to be invited to attend the Scottish AGM and annual dinner. This was held in Dundee – a city I had not been to before but intend to return to. And yet another city with great ambitions for regeneration with plans for a new V & A museum well advanced.

From Dundee, down to Newcastle – a city I do know although it is much changed from my youth. The North East regional dinner was a lovely event and it was a particular pleasure to award prizes to our students.

I was home just long enough to unpack and then pack again for the International Federation of Accountant's Global Seminar on the Sovereign Debt Crisis. As you will all know

from the CIPFA prospectus – Fixing the Foundations – this is a cause close to our Institute's heart. Or at least achieving a step change in financial management by governments is.

I'm pleased to say that since we launched our prospectus we have been fielding much support from other like-minded institutions and indeed at the seminar, we launched, with Ernst & Young, our new alliance to help organisations and governments around the world improve their public financial management and systems.

Shortly after arriving home I was then slightly relieved to be on home territory to talk to the CIPFA South East Annual Conference in London. One of the themes of my presentation was the need for us to seriously consider adopting a business partnering approach in the way in which we work with clients and client departments. That went down well with at least two members of the conference. Who were of course, recently appointed as business partners.

And the next day, back to very familiar territory – Taunton, where I worked and lived for fifteen years, to attend the AGM and member's seminar. Again procurement was a dominant theme. But it was lovely to meet up with some old friends.

Back to London that evening to attend the Society of District Treasurers annual dinner. This was very much a treat I must admit as the Society Dinner is one of the highlights of the year.

I was very pleased to receive an invitation to the CIPFA Wales members meeting which was held at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff – or more precisely in their new building, opened less than 12 months ago. In truth, this was a bit of a fact-finding mission for me as I am responsible for a very similar building project at the City for our Guildhall School of Music and Drama which is due to open in September 2013. It is interesting that both these major conservatoire projects have been entrusted to CIPFA members.

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:

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President's diary

I don't quite remember where this was on the syllabus... This was a wonderful building and a great credit to the college.

April finished with three very special events.

Each year we host a dinner for Council for past presidents who are stepping down from CIPFA engagement. This year we were honouring two past presidents – Roger Latham and Caroline Mawhood. The legacy left by past presidents is important, and something I never forget, and the dinner is a wonderful evening to meet up with past presidents. I must tell you that their support and enthusiasm for the Institute is unwavering! The dinner was a lovely way to say thank you.

The following day – back to the future. The prize winner's reception at Robert Street. I can't help admitting a little envy. Not because these were all prize-winners – but because I know that they all have such a wonderful career in front of them with so many opportunities.

The final event was a dinner at Guildhall, hosted by the City Corporation to mark my own Presidency. Those of us active in CIPFA are lucky to have our employers support and we never take it for granted. I am particularly lucky to have the City behind me and the dinner was a great opportunity for me to thank many people who have helped me in my career. The thing about CIPFA is – it's an Institute with very much a 'friends and family' feel about it. The people we train and work with often become lifelong friends. And, it was a delight for me that many of them were at the Guildhall dinner.

And, just in case you think that all the President does is wine and dine and present prizes – well I probably spend twice as much time on other CIPFA business related to the running the Institute, but it doesn't make for great reading I'm afraid.

Best Wishes

Chris

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!

New Members In February 2012

Helen Asher	North Lincolnshire Council
Matthew John Barlow	Oxfordshire CC
Richard Arthur, Barratt	Heart Of England NHS Foundation Trust
Anthony David Bashford	St Georges NHS Healthcare Trust
Jacqueline Diane Brooke	Coventry And Warwickshire Partnership Trust
Esma Jane Brownlee	West Lothian Council
Sarah Burden	KPMG UK LLP
Ian Catling	Yorkshire And The Humber SCG
Peter Edward Chappell	Walsall MBC
Sharon Churchill	Kirklees Council
Tracy Clark	Hull City Council
Thomas James Clarke	Nexus
Michael Cowper	Durham CC
Toby Cowper	Borough Council Of Kings Lynn And West Norfolk
Helena Craske	Great Yarmouth BC
Jessica Curran	Audit Scotland
Heather Day	Lewisham LBC
Gurpreet Dulay	Grant Thornton UK LLP
Inire Evong	Audit Scotland
Natalie Ann Gilmore	Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust
Hazel Greenstreet	Hillingdon LBC
Darren Griffiths	Formerly Cheshire Fire And Rescue Service
Ian Robert Grosvenor	Dudley MBC
David Henry Grundy	Walsall Children's Services - Serco Ltd
Anne Hamilton	Audit Scotland
Jamie Dee Jenkinson	Tameside MBC

Christopher Jones	Coventry And Warwickshire Partnership Trust
Christopher Lee	Northern Ireland Audit Office
Nicol MacLennan	Audit Scotland
Karen Macrae	Manchester City Council
Paul Antony Matravers	Exeter City Council
Sean Joseph McMullan	Waltham Forest Council
Duncan James McNulty	Newcastle City Council
Daniel Patrick Melly	Audit Scotland
Thomas Morrow	KPMG UK LLP
Christopher Matthew Norris	Department For Work And Pensions
Daniel Omisore	Lambeth LBC
Michael Page	Walsall MBC
Amit Patel	Pricewaterhouse Coopers UK LLP
Pinikin Haribhai Patel	City And County Of Swansea
Nina Mary Philippidis	Coventry City Council
Matthew Robin Pillar	KPMG UK LLP
Christopher John Rhodes	Grant Thornton UK
Kate Victoria Ridley	Hampshire CC
Fiona Louise Robertson	North Lanarkshire Council
Andrea Kerri Roe	Newcastle-Under-Lyme BC
Graeme Samson	Audit Scotland
Emma Louise Smith	Walsall MBC
Fiona Stiven	National Waiting Times Centre Board
Laura Jane White	Blackpool Council
Neil Darren Whittall	Charnwood BC
Diane Leslie Wilkinson	Department Of Culture, Arts And Leisure - Northern Ireland
Ian Wilson	Department For Work And Pensions

New Members In April 2012

Neil Adams	KPMG UK LLP	Brian Irving	South Ayrshire Council
Wendy Aitchinson	Tayside NHS Board	Catherine Elizabeth Ivers	Office Of Fair Trading
Neil John Richard Aitken	Audit Commission	Elisheba Abigail Johns	Audit Commission
Carol Alderson	KPMG UK LLP	Harry Oliver Litchfield	Bolton MBC
Katie Alldrit-Rose	BDO	Angela Tait Lochtie	Department Of Justice, Government Of Canada
Rachel Ann Ashley-Caunt	Cambridgeshire CC	Katherine Macarthur	Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar
Matthew John Baird	Guys And St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	Luke Marsh	Norfolk CC
Adrian Samuel Balmer	Audit Commission	Lauren Massoud	Audit Commission
Anna E Biney	Hounslow LBC	Daniel Thomas Maton	Grant Thornton UK LLP
Daniel William Bird	Audit Commission	Josephine Matthews	Hampshire CC
Jennifer Janet Bonsell	North Yorkshire CC	Amit Rajan Mehta	Hammersmith And Fulham LBC
Helen Bowmer	Derbyshire CC	Steven Richard Melville	City Of Edinburgh Council
Cynthia Maria Braithwaite		Richard George Monds	Department For Employment And Learning
Gavin Paul Buckland	Home Office	Greg Mortimer	Southend BC
Dominic Andrew Carrell	KPMG UK LLP	Andrew Mumford	South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
Martin Cichocki	KPMG UK LLP	Michael Neumann	Lambeth LBC
Benjamin Timothy Peter Clarkson	Audit Commission	Claire Marie Oswald	Staffordshire CC
Alexander Godsell Critchley	Audit Commission	Catherine Elizabeth Pantry	Barnsley MBC
Sarah Louise Crozier	Kent CC	Crystal Ann-Lylie Power	NHS Fife (via MRA with CPA Australia)
Andrea Rachael Darkes	Wallsall Council	Ekow Sanni-Thomas	Audit Commission
Stephanie Donaldson	St Helens Council	Peter James Shakespear	Staffordshire CC
Carl Ford	Birmingham City Council	Avtar Singh Sohal	Audit Commission
Lucy Megan Frost	Camden LBC	Roshan Teeluck	British Heart Foundation
Donna Furniss	Staffordshire CC	Wayne Thompson	Greenwich RLBC
Charlotte Geagea	Canadian Federal Government Finance	Steven Mark Tranter	Cheshire West And Chester Council
David Gosling	KPMG UK LLP	Tefe Uvieghara	Metropolitan Police Service
Kathryn Theresa Gough	Audit Commission	Stephen Mark Wade	Camden LBC
Anna Isabella Gourley	Northern Ireland Audit Office	Marcus Robert George Ward	Audit Commission
Michael Joseph Gravelle	Dorset Police Authority	Philip West	West Somerset Council
Nicola Greenwood	Cardiff CC	Victoria Jayne Wilkinson	Audit Commission
Kevin Andrew Harlow	East Hampshire DC	Timur Wolf	KPMG UK LLP
Benjamin Bryan William Heron	Kensington And Chelsea RLBC	Daniel David Woodcock	Audit Commission
Clare Alison Hodges	Audit Commission	Martin Frederick Young	Audit Commission
Zakaria Hussain	Tower Hamlets LBC	Rabia Ullah Zia	Audit Commission
Ross Leon Hutchinson	Derby City Council		

Finally, we would like to offer **Catherine Hood of South Somerset DC** a very warm welcome to Professional membership. Catherine was admitted to membership in July 2011, but unfortunately was not included in the New members list at that time, for which we apologise.

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 1881 or email joanna.hall@cipfa.org.uk

CIPFA Cymru-Wales – get an inside view of how the National Assembly for Wales works

The CIPFA Cymru-Wales Annual Meeting was held on 15 March 2012 and included an afternoon session explaining how the Assembly works. Members enjoyed a networking lunch in the Pierhead, Cardiff, followed by briefings on various aspects of the Assembly's work including the Public Accounts Committee and Finance Committee.

Members also heard from the Director of the Wales Governance Centre about an innovative partnership between the centre and the Assembly to create an academic community of parliamentary excellence. An extremely interesting tour of the Senedd (the building where the Assembly meets) followed.

Steven O'Donoghue, Branch President, introduced the first Annual Report of CIPFA Cymru-Wales. It outlined the work done in building strong foundations for a sustainable future. Steve expressed his gratitude for the enthusiasm and commitment of the executive team and their supportive employers, together with CIPFA HQ staff in delivering such a successful year including hosting the Conference for the Regions at the Hilton, Cardiff and Caerphilly Castle. Honorary Treasurer, Rhian Evans, presented the Branch's audited accounts for the year.



Retired member Colin Merrick receives special volunteer award from CIPFA Cymru-Wales President

The Branch Executive was delighted to present 'special volunteer' awards to:

- Neal Frost of Wrexham County Borough Council for maintaining the Branch's website; and
- Colin Merrick and Brian Bennett, retired CIPFA members, for giving of their time so freely through the year.

CIPFA members and students in Wales can get involved and help continue the success of this first year.

There are many ways that you can help as a member in Wales, you can:

- be an active member;
- follow Branch matters and tell us what you want and if what we're doing is helping you;
- attend CPD events;
- offer to host events – we can source topics and speakers but we struggle to find free venues;
- encourage CIPFA colleagues to participate;
- encourage colleagues to study for CIPFA;
- if you're a line-manager, allow CIPFA members in your team to have time to support CIPFA activities;
- contact the Head of CIPFA Wales if there are policy matters you think he should be aware of: chris.tidswell@cipfa.org.uk

If you'd like to become more involved with the work of the Executive or create/join a special interest group, please contact the Branch President via steven.o'donoghue@wales.gov.uk

CIPFA members give a helping hand

We hear from John Chick who was sponsored by CIPFA members in his charity efforts at the Conference for the Regions back in September. John is cycling the 10,000 kilometres there and back from Cardiff to Istanbul in aid of Tŷ Hafen Children's Hospice and Velindre Cancer Centre – two charities that do outstanding work.

CIPFA Members dug deep and donated over £1,000 for www.10000kchallenge.org.uk to sponsor John, who is a colleague in the National Assembly for Wales of the CIPFA Cymru-Wales President, Steven O'Donoghue.

John wanted to thank members, in this edition of Spreadsheet, and said: "CIPFA were the first people to make a large scale donation to our fundraising, when you kindly gave a wonderful contribution of over £1,000 back in the Autumn.

"Since then, we have organised dozens of fund raising events and I am delighted to say we have raised the £10,000. We currently have around 350 Facebook supporters and around 250 Facebook followers. "I'll be setting off from Cardiff Bay on 20 April and have decided to raise £20,000 by the time I get back in five months time."



We have also been lucky enough for a number of companies to make non-cash donations, such as Bike2Power, Brittany Ferries and Cotswold Outdoors.

"The donation from the generous members of CIPFA however came at the perfect time for us as we were just starting out and £10,000 looked an impossible mountain to climb. To get 10% of the target in one go, was just brilliant. Thanks ever so much therefore to everyone at the Conference for the Regions. If you would like to follow my progress please follow the *10,000k challenge* on Facebook, or Twitter."

CIPFA in the Midlands AGM and Development Day 2012 - Birmingham



National Student Forum Chair, Carl Ford reports back from the CIPFA in the Midlands AGM and Development Day.

The 2012 CIPFA in the Midlands AGM and Development Day was held at Deloittes in Birmingham, and in keeping with previous years there was a tremendous line-up of speakers and the event was well attended by members, students and guests.

After the formalities of the AGM CIPFA's Brett Crabtree presented on the new CIPFA Professional Qualification and also received questions from the floor, this was a really valuable presentation and Q&A session as it gave students the opportunity to clarify any concerns that they had about

transitional arrangements to the new qualification, it also offered employers the opportunity to discover what's new about the refreshed qualification.

The CIPFA Vice-President, Sir Tony Redmond, then talked to the midland delegates about the current shape of CIPFA and what the plans for the future include, this was a really insightful presentation and the audience discovered how CIPFA interacts with Governments across the globe, especially with the *Fixing the Foundations* strategy and also the work that CIPFA puts in behind the scenes to influence the UK Government.

The headline speaker of the day was Maria Gilling, Principal of the Walsall Adult and Community College. Maria's presentation was all about developmental thinking and emotional intelligence, with tips on improving inter-personal communication skills. The session was absolutely fantastic, there was a real energy to the presentation and it was incredibly interactive.

Following Maria's presentation it was time for the newly qualified CIPFA members to take the floor, with Sir Tony Redmond presenting certificates to the recently qualified members.

Learning more about the RNLI

Bill Capps reports back from the retired South East members' visit to the RNLI Tower station.

A party of 20 retired South East members assembled at the RNLI Tower station where we were met by the Institution's Lifeboat Visits Officer, a volunteer, who had joined the Institution when he lost his job as a lawyer in the City. He was an excellent speaker. He told us about the RNLI, its organisation and its funding. He also showed us the kit which the crews used and the first aid room. The latter was as well-equipped as an ambulance, so that they could treat injured people until they could be transferred to hospital.

There are more than 230 lifeboat stations around the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, four of which are on the River Thames. Which of the 230 are the busiest? You may be surprised to learn that it is, by a considerable margin, the Tower station on the Thames. In 2011 the RNLI lifeboats in Great Britain (GB) and Republic of Ireland (RoI) were launched on 8,905 occasions, 3,288 of which were in darkness; the Tower boats responded to 522 'shouts', Chiswick to 239 'shouts'.

The Thames stations were established in 2002 following the inquiry into the sinking of the *Martioness* and the loss of over 50 lives. The Tower station was originally adjacent to the Tower of London, but in 2006 moved its present site below the Waterloo Bridge, on a jetty previously used by the Thames River Police.

The great majority of lifeboat crews are volunteers, though the crews of three of the Thames boats do have some full time paid members. The helmsman and the mechanic are paid, the rest of the crew are volunteers. All work a two shift system, 12 hours from 7.00am and from 7.00pm, with the

paid crew doing four days on and four days off. The reason for having all crew members, paid and volunteer, on duty at the station, is that the time allowed from the call to being on the water is only 90 seconds. Speed of response is very important because of the strong current and tide and the dangers faced by any person in the water. Volunteers have a range of occupations and include doctors. For example the RNLI had two crafts shadowing the recent university boat race; when it was realised that a rower had collapsed, one of those craft was available immediately and happened to have a crew member who was an A&E doctor. He was able to look after the unconscious oarsman until he could be transferred to an ambulance.

There are 45 crew members on the Tower station, including, currently, eight women. The other boats are based at Chiswick, Gravesend and Teddington; Chiswick and then Gravesend are the next two busiest stations in the UK and RoI. The lifeboats in use in by the three busier stations on the Thames are specially designed and built to meet the demands placed on them. The main difference is that those are powered by jets of water rather than propellers; this gives them greater speed, over 40 knots, and excellent manoeuvrability and avoids the risk of injuring a casualty in the water. These boats carry a range of equipment, including first aid equipment. Many of the calls relate to individuals who enter the water from bridges, deliberately or otherwise, and who need treatment from the injuries they have received.

Thank you to Eric Keighley, who did his usual excellent job with the paper work, as well as arranging the visit and the pub lunch after the visit.



PQ Awards 2012

The CIPFA National Student Forum is very proud to announce that they won the award for Student Body of the Year at the PQ Magazine Awards. The awards take place every year and recognise some of the best achievements in the accountancy world.

The awards ceremony took place on Wednesday 8th February and was attended by Carl Ford (NSF Chair), Alastair McMillen (NSF Vice-Chair) and Jane Cika (NSF Past Chair).

The current Chair of the CIPFA National Student Forum, Carl Ford, accepted the award on behalf of the forum. He has been involved with the National Student Forum for three years said,

“This award is a great recognition of the brilliant job that the CIPFA National Student Forum does and of the service that it provides to CIPFA students around the country, it also serves as a testament to the hard work that the members of the CIPFA National Student Forum put in, all on a voluntary basis.”

The National Student Forum represents CIPFA students across the country, links all the regional student societies and arranges the national student conference. It holds active representatives throughout CIPFA including on the Board of the Regions, Members & Students Development Board and CIPFA Council.

CIPFA had a really strong presence at the 2012 PQ Awards, not only did the NSF win the Student Body of the Year award, but also Andy Burns CPFA was nominated as Boss of the Year and CETC tutor Graham Foster nominated for Lecturer of the Year.



Meet Alastair McMillen



The NSF interviews Alastair McMillen, Vice-Chair of National Student Forum.

When did you join the institute?

I joined as a student in 2008 when I enrolled in my employer's trainee accountant scheme.

Why did you choose the CIPFA qualification?

The CIPFA qualification was offered by my employer as it was recognised to be the best qualification for operating in public financial management.

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

Getting those four magic letters after your name is a great achievement, but if you want to stand out from the crowd you need to prove to employers that you've actively engaged with the opportunities that come from being part of the institute, such as volunteering for your region or student society. I've also found LinkedIn to be a great way of establishing a professional presence on the web for employers and recruiters to refer to.

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

It's a hard slog but don't lose sight of the end goal. It feels like it's going to take an eternity to reach the end of the qualification when you first start, but it goes quickly enough once you're sitting exams every six months. And keep on top of your IPDS from day one to avoid any last minute panics.

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

Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space. Preferably on the day he was in space.

What's your favourite animal?

The Duck Billed Platypus – one of only five remaining monotremes in the world, and a bit of an evolutionary dead end, but who couldn't love a weird looking, egg-laying mammal with venomous spurs?

What was the last book you read?

21 by Patrick O'Brian. It's the final, unfinished novel of the Master and Commander saga so a poignant read but a worthy end to a series which I highly recommend to anyone.

What was the last movie you watched?

John Carter in IMAX 3D – a decent film, but the audiovisual overload that comes from the IMAX experience left me a bit stunned.

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

I jumped on the bandwagon and bought "21" by Adele after she hoovered up all the Brit Awards going.

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

Physically the best match would probably be someone like Channing Tatum, but I think Colin Firth would do a good job portraying my natural charm and gravitas, not to mention my boundless humility.

Meet Steve Daniels



The National Student Forum interviews Steve Daniels, Assistant Director Education & Membership

When did you join the institute?

1990, shortly after I became a CIPFA member

Why did you choose the CIPFA qualification?

I decided at university that I wanted to work in the public sector in some kind of finance role. I suspect this was partly influenced by my mum and step dad, both of whom worked in local government for a long time. I ended up at the NAO and studying CIPFA was a part of that job.

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

The public sector will always offer plenty of varied opportunities. The skills you develop (opportunities which you should seek to maximise), together with your CIPFA qualification, will leave you well placed to access many of these and opportunities beyond the public sector will open up too if such a career direction appeals.

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

Be realistic that it is very hard work, any professional qualification is. Plan this work in, keep working at it, but also keep up your favourite non-work/study pursuit(s) too. It's very much about being organised and disciplined, realising that hard work for 3 years or so will be well worth it.

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

A difficult one. Maybe someone like Albert Einstein to see what it's like to look at the world in a totally different way to everyone else around you and to be regarded as a genius by your contemporaries!

What's your favourite animal?

Given my life seems to be run by two Bengal cats I guess I have to say the cat.

What was the last book you read?

I've just started *The Appointment* by Herta Muller. Before that it was a tremendous book about Liberia in Charles Taylor's time called *The Darling* by Russell Banks.

What was the last movie you watched?

I haven't got great cinema options near where I live so since moving out of London I have cut my cinema outings dramatically, so much so that I think *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier Spy* was my last cinema film. Most films I fancy seeing don't get shown locally so I tend to catch quite a few on DVD, the last being *The Killer Inside Me*.

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

Now being in Robert St more often, I am dangerously close to Fopp in Covent Garden more often. I had a bit of a splurge there recently picking up 3 CDs: *The Harrow and the Harvest* by Gillian Welch (I was lulled in by the reviews), *Gentle Spirit* by Jonathan Wilson (having seen them support Wilco last year) and *Boots Met My Face* by Admiral Fallow (never heard of them but they feature the drummer from *The Delgados*, an old favourite band of mine).

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

If it has to be someone that looks a bit like me then some (misguided souls?) believe I look like Ricky Gervais, but I'm not convinced by his acting talents! So if I just go for my favourite actor who looks nothing like me, it would have to be Jeff Bridges.

Focus on working in the private sector

Will Mallot – Associate, Grant Thornton, Bristol – gives CIPFA students an idea on what pursuing the CIPFA Professional Qualification is like at a private firm.

I'm currently in the second year of my training contract in government audit at Grant Thornton. We provide external audit services for a wide range of clients in central and local government, the NHS and charities across the South West and Wales.

I joined the firm as a graduate trainee (with a degree in Ecology) and was completely new to accountancy, but passionate about the value of public services. I chose public sector audit as, in my view, I have a personal stake in ensuring taxpayers money is being spent appropriately and provides the best possible value for money. Having made that decision I looked for employers offering the CIPFA qualification. Grant Thornton was my first choice of private firm and luckily for me I made it through the assessments and interviews to secure a graduate training contract.

My training contract is for just over three years and will see me move from financial novice to a chartered member of CIPFA. I'll achieve this through a combination of internal training, professional tuition delivered by the tutors at CETC South West and on the job experience.

It was immediately clear to me that I had a lot to learn and that it was going to be a tough three years. Like many other trainees, I was a complete beginner to accountancy and so I was pleased that upon joining the Firm I was sent on an intense two week course to our dedicated training centre (Bradenham) to give me a good grounding in double entry book-keeping and audit techniques. Following this I attended a bespoke block release course at CETC that covered the first two modules in the certificate stage. In a matter of two months we'd studied and sat these exams. The training provided by CETC is complimented, through the year, by on the job and specialist internal training which provides guidance across all areas of the public sector from central and local government to NHS trusts and PCTs.

Whilst there was a lot of pressure adapting to a new job and a new subject area, there was certainly support in place. On joining I was assigned a buddy in my office who is a CIPFA student in the year above and I received support from the other members of my department, the majority of who are CIPFA qualified so have first-hand experience of what it's like studying for the qualification.

With the first two exams under my belt I embarked on the next step, studying four modules simultaneously to be sat in the December sitting. Again there was the pressure of juggling work, study and a social life, but the firm's cultural

environment meant this was possible. As part of our training contract I'm given time off for self-study. Even though the exams come during a busy period for work my need to have time off for revision is catered for, with exam leave forming part of the package of support. This means I can use my annual leave to re-charge my batteries, maintain a healthy work life balance and do some things which are a bit more fun!

I spend much of my working life based at client locations which involves some long distance travel and away jobs. Once the extra workload of studying for the exams is added on top it is even more important that I make arrangements to ensure I maintain a healthy work-life balance. Although I am given adequate study leave I wouldn't be human if I didn't feel the pressure in the final months before the exams. So importantly I make sure I make full use of the evenings during stay aways and any travel time to study so that I can still use my weekends to relax and spend time with my friends and family.

My career in public sector finance is getting a strong start due to the training package on offer and the wider opportunities presented by working for a large private firm. I've represented the firm in a number of charity events including the three peaks challenge. I have also spent three days in London with our communications team as part of social media week, getting involved in a range of projects which I can use towards my IPDS.

I'm sure that the supportive and ambitious attitude encouraged within the firm has a great deal to do with my exam success to date, passing all six modules at the first attempt, meaning I am well on track to become a chartered public finance accountant in just three years, no mean feat!

If anyone is interested in pursuing the CIPFA qualification at Grant Thornton I regularly blog about my role on the firms recruitment website <http://graduates.grant-thornton.co.uk/> or you can follow me on Twitter (@GT_Will) for regular updates on life as a Grant Thornton trainee.



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

Alastair McMillen – Vice Chair
Finance Manager
City of Edinburgh Council

Northern Ireland

Nicola Woods
Auditor
Northern Ireland Audit Office

North West

Carol McDonnell
Senior Auditor
St Helens Council

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

John Bellett
Trainee Accountant
Cardiff City Council

Owen Smith
Associate
Grant Thornton

Midlands

Chris Perfitt – Honorary Secretary
Management Accountant
Derbyshire Community Health Service

Carl Ford
Business Analyst
Birmingham City 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.uk



@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.uk

Northern Ireland

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

North West

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

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

Chair – John Bellett
Contact – NSF@CIPFA.org.uk

Midlands

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



South West

Chair – John Bougeard
Contact – NSF@CIPFA.org.uk

South East

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

Dates for the Diary

Date	Region	Location	Event
17th May 2012	North East	Newcastle	<p>NSF Open Meeting and Student Event - FREE</p> <p>After the success of the recent NSF hosted event in Bristol, the NSF are pleased to announce that we are coming to Newcastle. The event will take place at the Great North Museum in Newcastle city centre on Thursday 17th May, there will be an open meeting for students to find out information about what the NSF are all about and what they get up to. This will be followed by a 2 hours dedicated student event.</p> <p>For more information contact NSF@CIPFA.org.uk</p>
4th July 2012	North West	Liverpool	<p>Adapt, Survive, Thrive – National Student Conference - FREE</p> <p>‘Adapt, Survive, Thrive’ is the theme for this years National Student Conference, taking place in Liverpool on Wednesday 4th July 2012. Speakers already confirmed include Jon Moon, author of “How to make an IMPACT” and Sir Tony Redmond, a commissioner for The Local Government Boundary Commission and incoming CIPFA President.</p> <p>This year’s National Student Conference will mark the 10th anniversary of the NSF, so come along and help the NSF to celebrate this landmark, network with fellow students and members and give your career a boost by learning new, valuable skills.</p> <p>For more information contact NSF@CIPFA.org.uk</p>
10th August 2012	Midlands	Nottingham	<p>Midlands Student Society AGM and Development Day - FREE</p> <p>For more information contact cmss@cipfa.org.uk</p>
10th August 2012	Midlands	Nottingham	<p>Midlands Student Society Annual Dinner - £tbc</p> <p>The CIPFA Midlands Student Society are holding their first Annual Dinner to coincide with the AGM on 10th August in Nottingham. The event is being held at the Alea Casino and will include welcome drinks, a three course dinner, an awards ceremony, quiz and of course the obligatory DJ.</p> <p>The CIPFA Midlands Student Society will be proud to welcome Sir Tony Redmond (incoming CIPFA President) to the event, which is open to all students, Members and their guests. The night will prove to be a fantastic networking opportunity as well as being hugely enjoyable and the perfect opportunity to let your hair down and celebrate the successes of the past year.</p> <p>For More information contact cmss@cipfa.org.uk</p>
tbc October 2012	Yorkshire & Humber	Leeds	<p>NSF Open Meeting and Student Event - FREE</p> <p>For more information contact NSF@CIPFA.org.uk</p>

Recent Events

National Student Forum 'open' meeting and development event – Bristol

The last CIPFA NSF meeting was held in the South West region, at Grant Thornton's office in Bristol and featured a new format of an 'open' meeting and a development session for local students. After becoming aware of the event I decided I would book onto it through the CIPFA website and go along and see what went on, who the NSF were, what they did and whether there would be any value in getting involved with the NSF and attending future events in the region.

The 'open' meeting was well attended with students from the South West and Wales, the NSF Committee and Steve Daniels all providing sufficient numbers to ensure the buffet lunch was finished off! The meeting had started with the NSF committee discussing the up and coming CIPFA NSF Conference and asking us, the local students, for our opinions and suggestions for a number of areas such as speakers, subject matter and overall theme. There was a lot more involvement than had expected going into the meeting, and I really appreciated the chance to contribute to such a flagship event.

Following the 'open' meeting there was an opportunity to discuss the new CIPFA course structure with Steve Daniels

who is the new Assistant Director of Education & Membership. Steve discussed the key changes from the previous syllabus and how the transitional arrangements would work, there was also the chance to ask questions and give feedback on the course in general, course providers and the standard of teaching available to us. The next session of the development event was a softer skills presentation by Carl Ford, the NSF Chair, on speed reading and how to use it effectively. Although it wasn't something I thought would be much use to me, I've actually been surprised at how much I've started to sneak it into my studies and work.

The NSF are keen to expand the number of students that attend regional events, so that CIPFA students around the country can get to know each other and help provide support for students about to embark on exams and IPDS work, so that students don't feel alone in their studies and can get the most out of being a CIPFA student! It doesn't hurt either that it's a really useful opportunity for networking and socialising with other students. I was so impressed with what I saw and heard at the event that I successfully applied to join the NSF.

Owen Smith – Associate, Grant Thornton, Cardiff

CIPFA in Scotland Student Conference 2012 - Dundee

The CIPFA in Scotland Student Conference was held in Dundee on 15 March. Sponsored by Baillie Gifford and running alongside day one of the CIPFA in Scotland Annual Conference's, the event offered an invaluable opportunity for Scottish students to engage in debates at the cutting edge of public financial management in Scotland, meet their peers and develop new contacts among the members of CIPFA in Scotland.

Gillian Houston, Chair of CIPFA in Scotland, kicked off the conference by welcoming delegates and students to Dundee, saying that the students of CIPFA represented the lifeblood of the institute and the future leaders of public sector financial management. Gillian expressed her belief that CIPFA members and students were at the forefront of developing new ideas and possessed the strong leadership required to drive change.

Jamie Andrew then shared with the conference his harrowing tale of overcoming adversity and achieving the incredible. Jamie was left without hands and feet following a tragic mountaineering accident that claimed the life of his best

friend, but his rehabilitation and subsequent sporting achievements have proven nothing is impossible; if you can think outside the box and work with the people around you, you can achieve your goals, hopes, ambitions and dreams. Jamie's tale was a truly inspirational example of a man overcoming adversity.

Next, Mike Notman of the Bourton Group shared his vision for delivering sustainable change through transformational leadership. He argued that a change of perspective was required across both the public and private sector when it comes to change management, saying that while tools such as Prince2 and MSP are valuable, it's not project management that's required to deliver fundamental change, rather it's organisational development that's called for. Mike shared his research with delegates which pointed to the vast majority of failed changes being linked to leadership, cultural and people issues, rather than process based implementation tools, and proposed a model to tackle these issues.

After refreshments the students broke off into their own conference, where Gillian Houston returned to impress upon the student delegates the versatility of the CIPFA qualification, demonstrating how her career path had been shaped by the volunteering work she had done for the institute and how being seen across an organisation is the key to furthering your career. She offered a series of 'top tips' to delegates:

- Get the most out of your training by gathering as much varied experience as possible
- Volunteer to expand your horizons and gain new perspective on the institute and financial management
- Build and nurture a network of contacts across the industry
- Think about how your CV looks to potential employers; are there areas you need to address?
- Identify your core skills and build on them
- Always be on the lookout for opportunities

Tom Wright from Baillie Gifford then took students through the latest developments in technology in the healthcare sector, and how those developments offered both an attractive prospect for investors and potential massive savings for the NHS. Tom presented a list of the scientific marvels expected to be available in the next thirty years, and went on to discuss how these would force us to reassess the concept of pension schemes and the burden on the state in the light of extended human longevity.

Next Gary Devlin, Vice Chair of CIPFA in Scotland walked the assembled students through his impressive career, including his time rebuilding the public financial management system in post-war Bosnia & the Baltic States and working with the World Food Programme. He underscored the CIPFA qualification's uniqueness in the world of accountancy in focussing on public financial management and emphasised the high degree of respect earned by CIPFA on the international stage. Gary spoke passionately about how he had managed to maintain his passion for public sector issues and his belief that he could make a difference through his work.

After lunch, the students rejoined the main conference to take part in a discussion on the Scotland Bill and how it would shape the future of public financial management in Scotland. Following an introduction from Linda Fabiani MSP a panel of experts consisting of Professor Jim Gallagher, Jeremy Purvis and Professor Arthur Midwinter engaged in a lively debate on

the issues and technicalities involved in the implementation of the Calman proposals and their relevance in light of the fast moving debate on Scottish independence.

The conference was then treated to a video presentation from Anne Spray Kinney, of the Government Finance Officers Association in the USA. Anne shared the experiences of several American and Canadian municipalities and states in implementing outcome based budgeting, including a new approach to shaping priorities into expenditure items in budgets and working with departments to tailor solutions to desired outcomes.

To finish off the conference the students once again split away from the other delegates to take part in a simulation of international public financial management. This consisted of the assembled students splitting into five "countries", each tasked with creating marketable goods (in the form of paper shapes) using the capital (scissors, compasses, etc) and resources (blank sheets of paper) made available to each nation. Though they did not initially realise it, each country was either "poor", "rich" or "middle-income," with capital and resources allocated to each reflecting the global imbalance. Once the penny dropped, students became involved in a fast paced game of trade and counter trade as the poor countries scrambled for scissors and the rich nations went on the hunt for more resources to consume.

Thanks to the organisers changing the rules (by introducing new technology, changing the market price of certain commodities and auctioning more sheets of paper) students were treated to a fast moving game which touched on many aspects international public financial management and afforded them an excellent opportunity to get to know one another.

Overall the conference was a great opportunity for students to meet new people, tap into the experience of some industry high-fliers and gain fresh perspective on some of the latest development in public financial management in Scotland.

Alastair McMillen
– Finance Manager, Edinburgh City Council

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

Home Insurance

As a CIPFA member you can take advantage of significant savings on your home insurance renewals without compromising on cover or service. Save 20%* off your current insurer's home insurance renewal premium. Includes Free Legal Expenses. For more information or to get a quote, please contact Baxters on 0845 4023 291 quoting CIPFA when you call (9am-5pm Monday to Friday -excluding bank holidays or 9am-4pm Saturday).

Member Energy

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An exclusive broadband deal for CIPFA members -20% off your Broadband Bill! With up to 24Mb* broadband speed, unlimited downloads and a no hassle transfer! As Shebang is a wholesaler of BT's you will not only still be using the BT lines, but will also have exactly the same quality and service – the only difference is you will now pay less.

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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.

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Conferences

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CIPFA IT Audit & IS Update 2012 19 June Birmingham

This year's update looks at cloud computing and information security, common internal network security flaws and web application security threats, current trends in computer forensics and the challenges new technologies bring for investigators, how to improve security without reducing efficiency, and evaluating the cost effectiveness of alternative IT delivery methods such as outsourcing, Shared Services and the Cloud.

CIPFA Treasury Management & Capital Conference 2012 24 October, London

Further details to be announced

CIPFA 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. The Conference is aimed at elected members with pension fund responsibilities, Chief Financial Officers or Directors of Finance and Pension Fund Officers.

Social Care Conference, July, Leeds

This year's conference is being held in Leeds and will gather keynote speakers from across the public health sector. We will be looking to cover as many topics that really affect the delivery of adult and children's social services. There will main plenary sessions mixed with more specific workshops that will give you the opportunity to really address those challenges that you face each day. This conference will inspire you allow you to discuss first hand with peers the issues on policy and best practice.

Please register your interest by emailing Rikki.ellsmore@cipfa.org.uk – check our website for future updates.

Accredited training

NEW: PRINCE2 e-Learning

The PRINCE2® project management methodology is the de-facto standard for project management in the UK. Now offered by CIPFA online for the public services - and accredited by APMG-International – PRINCE2 e-Learning covers the management, control and organisation of a project.

Many organisations, both private and public, use the PRINCE2 methodology and require their staff to be PRINCE2 qualified to undertake roles in project management.

Training course highlights

CIPFA offer training across 4 themes in England. Here are some highlights:

Explaining the Numbers Event: Narrative Reporting under the CIPFA Code of Practice 18 September, Leeds; 19 September, London

This course will focus on narrative reporting in terms of best practice, suggested examples, value for money and minimum statutory disclosure requirements

Negotiating Outsourcing and Joint Ventures with the Private Sector Masterclass- 2 Day 29 May, London; 12 June, Leeds; 14 November, London

This course provides senior public sector executives with invaluable insight into how private sector organisations operate and gives them a strong negotiating platform when faced with complex deals involving commercial partners.

Lean Audit, 20 June, London; 4 September, Leeds; 18 September, London; 4 December, London

This course describes how lean principles and techniques can be used to streamline internal audit activities in order to eliminate waste and maximise impact and value add: two crucial objectives in these cost constrained times.

Economic Appraisal-making The Right Choices, 22 May, London

This course provides practical guidance on economic appraisal using the 'Green Book' (HM Treasury) and Local Government guidance, and the business case as a management tool. These processes ensure that a project is clearly justified, both in financial and non-financial terms, and that the resulting benefits are accurately measured.

The e-version offers:

- Flexible learning – study at a time to suit you
- Great value for money - £950 rather than £1,300 for the non-web based traditional course
- Reduced time away from the office and travel costs - and also potential overnight accommodation eliminated
- Public sector case studies – added value good practice guidance and examples from the public sector
- Visit the Accredited training pages for this and other leading, key training programmes offered by CIPFA

In-house corporate training

All CIPFA's courses and training programmes can be provided in-house at your location.

If you want any of the above - or any other open courses - delivered onsite contact our team or call 020 7543 5842.