CIPFA South West Region

Vice Presidents Blog – August 2017

It feels a quiet time of the year, with many people taking time off during the kid’s summer break. But it also gives us time to catch up on a few housekeeping issues, both at work and at home. I have been doing the same, but with seeing how I can work with Joanna, our CSW support, and Danny, in reviewing our website; make sure we can get out our newsletter regularly and how I can re-ignite interest in our northern – “West of England” - hub for the region. In this edition I also want to say a little bit more about the volunteer opportunities I have pursued outside of the Regional societies, and hope to generate a bit of interest from you as CSW member in involving yourself in the wider activities you can do supporting your CPD and CIPFA.

**CSW Region Council meeting – 13 September**

I am looking forward to our next meeting in a few weeks’ time. We will be discussion our 2018 Development Plan for the Region. We can only do that with your help and support – on what you would like us to do in supporting you in the workplace, and providing networking opportunities. Let me know what you would be interested in, from topics to speakers to supporting you in wider career development opportunities. Would you like to buddy up to a mentor, for example? Find out who our CSW Council members are [here](http://www.cipfa.org/members/regions/south-west/whos-in-your-region)

**Regional Autumn Forum – 6/7 November in Edinburgh**

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Did you know that Regional Forums are the networking we do across all the Regional volunteers following the Governance Review? You may have been to one of the previous Conferences of the Regions, which were brilliant events that toured the Regions in turn. Now we are very business-like, with the second in this new format being hosted by the Scottish Region. I am one of our party, with Danny and John Bloomer, our CSW Regional Representative. We are more than happy to take any comments you have with us, particularly on the debate around the support we as members get from CIPFA HQ.

**West of England hub **

Some of you based in the northern part of our Region got a direct email from me asking for your support in relaunching our efforts in support of our members in the Bristol/Bath/Gloucester and Swindon areas. If you are interested in supporting our efforts, do let me know, but I hope to get more folk together to identify ideas on how we can offer more local based support. Some of you may have missed that last year, CSW organised a fabulous event in Bristol about the implications of Brexit, to be hosted by Grant Thornton in Bristol. After only 4 signing up for it (including me) we had to cancel. Such a shame! I am working with colleagues to see if we can rerun it, and other events, soon. But we need your support to help set up and then attend events.

**Opportunities with other professional bodies in our region**

I am working with Danny to see how we can share opportunities in our CSW area that we find out about that you may find of interest too. We were extended a great complimentary free place at a **CIMA South West England and South Wales Area Conference** being run in Newport on **6 October**, which I will attend and report back to you all on. Find the link [here](http://www.cimaglobal.com/Documents/Events%20and%20CPD%20courses%20docs/Local%20event%20docs/Region%202/Conference%20flyer%20final%20email%20links%20061017.pdf) if you are interested in attending too. Looks good! I have also made contact with their Regional network and hope to join up for some joint events with them. On behalf of CSW I attended an event organised by the Chartered Management Institute. My paper can be found on our website [here](http://www.cipfa.org/members/regions/south-west/useful-documents). [CMI](http://www.managers.org.uk/) have 3 local regional groups in our area. And not forgetting our AAT colleagues. I am already booked at the **AAT joint Bristol/Swindon Branch** event on **23rd September** on **Ethics**, to be held in **Bristol** and led by Tim Light, a past AAT president that used to work at Hampshire County Council. Let me know if you want to go and are not an AAT member.

Let’s hope the weather improves for our last week before term starts again in September!

Best wishes,

Christina

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