CIPFA North West Society

**Presidents Blog – June 2016**

**Well Hello June!** I think summer fever has got to me, either that or the fact that it’s the National Conference next month!

We’ve been cracking on with the plan for the regional stand and have some great ideas for regional treats, a quiz and a prize draw so if you are going, head on over to see us, we’ll be up the escalator outside the auditorium.

So it’s been a funny old month, dominated by the EU referendum and the eventual result. Whatever you voted the decision has been made and I expect we are all waiting for what will happen now.

**Ethics Working Group**

I was very pleased to be asked to join the CIPFA Ethics Working Group this month. The group is tasked with reviewing the CIPFA Statement of Professional Practice and preparing it for a re-launch next year. It’s quite heavy but in light of many examples and cases where Directors of Finance have found themselves in need of support from their professional body following decisions they have made in good faith, it’s more important than ever that Members have something that they can turn to if in doubt that is easy to read. We are hoping to make it as user friendly as possible, potentially in a toolkit style with some training available to follow.

The Group is chaired by former CIPFA President Margaret Pratt and I was delighted to meet her as she had an extensive career, and still does, in the public sector and is very highly respected. She even has a room names after her in Mansell Street! As usual I couldn’t resist a quick picture of the new CIPFA stand for the 2016 Conference and posted it on Twitter, most probably spoiling the surprise. Afterwards I had a bit of time to take in some sights on the way to the tube and saw the Queen’s barge! Well, it was exciting for me anyway

**June Events**

During the month I attended an Integrated Health and Social Care Conference in Liverpool arranged by Liverpool City Council and CIPFA. It was an excellent event, with some high profile speakers including CIPFA President John Matheson and CIPFA Chief Executive, Rob Whiteman. It was very well attended from both the Local Authority and Health side and in the afternoon Health provided a session to LA delegates to explain health facts and figures. This was a brilliant session as it used games to engage delegates to make it fun and memorable. My favourites were pin the cost on the body part (lung transplant £35k) and which Lego man weighs the same as 10 paramedics! I think we might see if they can come and do a session for a NW event as it was really good.

**Man VS Ocean**

I had to share this with you as it’s not strictly CIPFA related, but in my spare time I’m a school governor and this month I attended a Chair of Governors Conference. One of the speakers blew me away – Adam Walker – the only Briton to swim the seven oceans. His story was amazing and truly motivational and I think definitely a contender to be a speaker at our Regional Conference next year. I was so impressed I bought his book and he even signed it for me! If you get chance to read about his challenge, that started with watching a film on his holiday flight, then I would encourage you to check out his website at: <http://adamwalkeroceans7.co.uk/manvsocean.html>

His presentation was about resilience and not giving up, which was the message he promotes to children, however I think we could definitely take heart with this in the public sector as it is at the moment!

**And finally…..**

Well after a slow May I’ve had a busy June. In an attempt to escape from football every night with Euro 2016 (now I do like football don’t get me wrong but every night???) I took myself off to Ibiza for 4 days of sun. Then no sooner as I had a rest I was in the pouring rain watching the legendary Stone Roses at the Etihad stadium. All topped off with the Waverton fun run. I’m worn out just writing this

**Shaer**

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