



Chair's Annual Report 2008

This is my second and final annual report given that my term of office ends today. As you will appreciate – there has been significant focus during the year on the development of CIPFA in the North East as a Region in its own right. You will recall that we have existed only since 1 January 2008. In supporting this development I must thank the local executive and I am confident that we can build on this in the coming year through, in particular:

- the increased focus within CIPFA on supporting the Regions;
- our developing liaison with other institutes; and,
- because we have a number of enthusiastic new members on the executive.

Professional events

In 2008 we again had a varied programme of events over the year through:

- Divisional Events - including Newcastle City Treasurer Paul Woods speaking on 'Capital Investment used to aid Regeneration';
- Audit Group Events -including David Jennings, Comprehensive Area Assessment Lead, Audit Commission speaking along with others on CAA; and
- Students Society Events - with a significant exam focus

Thanks to all who made these events happen. As well as some excellent speakers, there has been good debate and discussion, with local members sharing their own experiences and knowledge.

Can I take this opportunity to remind everyone that the CIPFA in the North East Region's website publicises future events www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/ne together with slidepacks from the presentations we have had over the year.

Social events

We continue to include social events within our annual programme funded by charges and sponsorship. The annual dinner in March 2008 was very successful with an excellent attendance of almost 120, with some attending for the first time and a number of old faces we had not seen for some years. It was particularly pleasing to see such a cross section of members from student and newly qualified to retired members, with members from all the sectors that Cipfa members work in. The sponsorship of Deloitte, NRG, the Co-op and the NAO is much appreciated. Special thanks must again go to Bruce Parvin for his organisational skills, which were again in evidence at the recent 2009 dinner.

One development that came to fruition at the 2008 dinner was David Clarke's personally instituted award to Richard Martin in recognition of his contribution as a New College student. Thanks to David for that. I am pleased to say that our 2009 Dinner also incorporated this award and a

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reception for newly qualified students and we are focused on ensuring that we take the opportunity to celebrate success whenever possible.

The annual golf was sadly washed out but thanks to new sponsors KPMG for taking on the role and agreeing to carry this forward to 2009 and to our other sponsor HAYS for their continued support.

Finally I would like to highlight the joint CIPFA/CIMA/ACCA quiz held in October at St James Park and the ACCA Wayne Hemmingway event in December which were attended by many CIPFA colleagues. Going forward joint events with the other institutes will be an excellent mechanism for ensuring a diverse programme of educational and social events.

A Wider Contribution

In 2008, CIPFA sponsored the NE Accountancy Awards – Public Sector Team of the Year Award. I was privileged to judge and present this award but the most pleasing aspect of the event was that public sector accountants shared a number of awards. Nominations for this year's award close on 30 April and I would encourage you all to nominate colleagues where possible. Full details are on the website:

www.accountancyawards.co.uk

Looking forward

Cipfa in the NE has a strong base going forward thanks to:

- the active audit group led by Phil Chamberlin and Malcolm Campbell with support from a steering group
- the active Students Society led by Tim Seagrave and Eleanor Platt
- the evolving Divisional Events sub committee involving a number of exec members
- the retired member's group led by David Clarke

As recorded in the accounts we have a healthy balance to support development plans going forward.

Thanks Yous

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Divisional Executive for their continuing contribution over the year. Their time, energy, ideas and efforts have helped deliver another successful year of activity. Thanks to:

Secretary: Jane Cuthbertson
Treasurer: Chris Little
Auditor: Noel Adamson

Executive members: George Clark – incoming Chair
Bruce Parvin
David Clarke
Michael Brodie
Peter Sullivan (for the website)
Tracy Wood
Katy Laing

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We continue to aim to fund social events from sponsorship and charges. We are grateful to the Co-operative bank, NRG, KPMG, for their sponsorship of the annual dinner and to PWC and Hays for the golf. ¶

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Richard Martin
Sheila Ramsay – CPD Advisor
Janice Stait
Ian Renwick

Chris Little and Sheila Ramsay are standing down from the Committee. Can I thank them for their efforts in recent years – their contribution has been exceptional and they will be a great miss. I am pleased to say that Matt Calvert will be joining the committee as Treasurer.

Whilst the role of the Executive is important, the support of local members is also essential. Please support local events and encourage colleagues to do so. Our regional meetings welcome CIPFA members, students and also other finance professionals from the public sector and always receive good feedback from those attending. If you have good ideas for events please let me know – we will always consider funding events that are likely to be of benefit to members.

And Finally

I would like to take this opportunity to wish George Clark every success in his forthcoming year as Chair. George has been a Cipfa volunteer for many years and I am sure that this experience will help move Cipfa in the NE forward with resulting positive benefits for all Cipfa Members in the Region.

Kevin Suttie

Chair – Cipfa in the North East Region

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both the number of events, attendances and have re-established the Audit Group successfully. As in every area of our work these days, Cipfa in the regions is charged with a number of targets each year, and I am pleased to say that the Division action has again contributed to the achievement of these targets for CIPFA North East Region.

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Accounts closure and financial reporting
Effective financial management
Ethical standards and sustainability reporting.

As well as some excellent speakers, there has been good debate and discussion, with local members sharing their own experiences and knowledge.

The Audit Group got off to an excellent start in March 2006, with Kevin Suttie as Chairman and Jim Farquhar as secretary. All three meetings have been well attended, covering:

- Statements on internal control and the implications of new International Standards of Auditing
- The role of the auditor working with Audit Committees
- How IT audit can support service delivery.

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publishes all Northern Division future events (www.cipfa.org.uk),

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CPD
Sheila Ramsey, the Divisional CPD adviser has continued to support members and raise awareness on Cipfa's CPD requirements.

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. There were increased numbers attending (98 – our best for many years),

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The excellent feedback is a testament to

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continued skilled and flawless organisation of the dinner.

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Executive has agreed to investigate the possibility of an annual award and trophy for a Cipfa New College Durham student. This has been instigated by David Clark with a generous offer of funding. David has been a career-long supporter of the Division and past Regional Cipfa Chairman. Given his significant contribution, I think this is a fitting recognition of his years of support.

We are also looking at the possibility of a retired members group. Anyone interested in this please contact our secretary, Jane Cuthbertson (Jane.Cuthbertson@northtyneside.gov.uk).