



CIPFA
Cymru • Wales
Branch

Newsletter winter 2014-15

Welcome

The Wales Cymru branch was established in 2011 and has over 1,000 members in total, including student members and retired members.

I hope that you can find the time to read through this document and that it inspires you to attend a CIPFA Cymru Wales event or even consider joining our dedicated team of volunteers in supporting the Institute's activities in the region.

Aim of the newsletter

This newsletter aims to serve a number of purposes:

- It provides information on the branch, its activities and funding.
- It sets out 'Our Priorities', highlighting how we will continue to represent our members' interests both locally and nationally throughout the year.
- How you can participate in branch activities, including volunteering as mentors and local CIPFA champions
- Developments relating to CIPFA in Wales:
 - Diary of events
 - Retired members section
 - CIPFA Professional qualification in Wales
 - Our annual conference and dinner

Gill Lewis

CIPFA Cymru Wales
President



Further information on the branch is on web site, we would love to hear from you or see you soon.

www.cipfa.org/regions/wales

Branch review 2014-15

2014-15 has been another busy and successful year for the branch. Highlights of the year so far have included:

- 6 free CPD events for CIPFA members;
- Three events for retired members;
- Employer engagement events at Ceredigion County Council and North East Wales;
- Facilitating the development of CIPFA's finance apprenticeship scheme in Wales; and
- The second CIPFA Cymru/Wales Annual Conference and Dinner; this was held on 20 November 2014, at Ty Hywel, the home of the National Assembly for Wales. The combined event attracted over 50 participants.

CIPFA Wales Office 2014

Chris Tidswell

Head of CIPFA Wales



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2014 has been a successful year for the Institute in Wales. Our presence and impact continues to mature across the public sector. In my role as Head of CIPFA in Wales I have responsibility for coordinating the Institute in three main ways;

- Developing CIPFA's **profile and voice** with key organisations and individuals.
- Ensuring there is **support for the membership** and public bodies through training and events.
- Supporting the **policy and technical** agenda of the Institute in Wales.
- Key themes have included
 - Governance and scrutiny.
 - Reorganisation.
 - Priority and key Areas shown here:



*2014 has been an exciting year with the Chief Executive and us all striving to ensure that CIPFA continues to grow, supports the membership and has a clear voice in promoting strong governance and public financial management. **As always I am happy to hear your views and comments.***

Branch strategy and priorities

The Branch Committee's vision for CIPFA Cymru/Wales 2016 is for the Branch to be: **'leading, shaping and driving public services, financial management and governance in Wales'**

The key aspects for achieving the vision are:

- Better promulgation and support of the membership and the 'member offer'
- To heighten CIPFA's profile in Wales
- A thriving student base; and
- A seamless link between the Institute, the CIPFA Wales Office and Branch

To help realise these objectives we identified an ambitious set of priorities for 2014. These are summarised in the table below, together with the progress already made. The Branch Executive is currently finalising updated priorities for 2015.

Iolo Llewelyn

CIPFA Cymru Wales
Vice President



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Priority area	Progress update
1. Developing the members' events programme	Members' programme developed – events being advertised
2. Producing a CIPFA Cymru/Wales Newsletter	1 st edition to be published Winter 2015
3. Identify CIPFA 'champions' in key bodies	Champions currently being recruited
4. Establish a Technical & Policy panel and other standing panels	Not now being progressed as further support being provided by CIPFA officers.
5. Respond to relevant consultations	Responses submitted on draft Wales Bill and LG White Paper.
6. Establish a support group for students and newly qualified members, including a pool of mentors	Support group established – mentors currently being recruited
7. Support CIPFA centrally in developing a finance apprenticeship cooperative scheme	Outstanding, but branch input to promoting the professional qualification

The CIPFA Qualification in Wales

You will have received a letter from the Chief Executive of CIPFA, Rob Whiteman, outlining proposals for a new syllabus for the professional qualification starting from January 2015. The proposed new modules will add real value to the qualification, and deliver a more fit for purpose all round learning proposition.

In addition, good progress has been made across many parts of the UK in rolling out the Cooperative scheme and the new Apprentice scheme. Both offer huge attractions to employers, particularly smaller organisations.

The proposals are being developed in more detail, through broad discussion with the aim of shaping delivery in Wales and the way forward for the public sector finance profession.

A joint commitment by CIPFA and employers to develop CIPFA training and a thriving student and talent pipeline is essential to any option and the removal of barriers to study in Wales.

	Face to face Cardiff	Online Kaplan	Self study CETC materials
The CIPFA Professional Qualification The routes, delivery and indicative costs <small>Excluding VAT where applicable. Institute fees (membership, exams etc. may also apply).</small>			
Graduate Trainees - employed by each organisation	£12270	£9296	£1640
Cooperative Scheme - trainees shared across organisations	£12270	£9296	£1640
AAT Apprentices - employed by CIPFA, working in partner orgs	£20000		
CCAB Conversion - demonstrate expertise in the public sector	£1715		£480

If you would like to discuss this further contact Chris Tidswell, contact details above.

Volunteering

CIPFA Cymru/Wales relies on the help of willing volunteers to help deliver a full programme of CPD events to CIPFA members in Wales, support the development of CIPFA members and students and to act as a conduit between members in the various employing bodies the Branch. You can help CIPFA Cymru/Wales to support members and students, in a variety of ways as a regional volunteer.



There are huge personal and career-related benefits to volunteering. Volunteering helps you to develop and practice new skills, give something back to members that helped you through your professional qualifications, help students to succeed in their exams, and network with friends and colleagues (to benefit your career and for fun).

There are a broad range of opportunities for any member or student who is interested in getting involved.

In particular CIPFA Cymru/Wales are looking for volunteers to:

- Be CIPFA champions within their employing organisation. The role of champions involves:
 - Acting as a link between CIPFA members in your organisation and CIPFA Cymru/Wales Branch
 - Promote local CIPFA events and information
 - Encourage the take up of CIPFA qualifications by potential trainees
- Mentor CIPFA students and members (see further details below)

Mentoring Scheme

Our mentoring programme will provide CIPFA members and students with career and development support from CIPFA qualified mentors, giving members access to fresh insight into the profession and will provide the opportunity to expand networks.

A mentor is a guide who can help the mentee to find the right direction and who can help them to develop solutions to career issues. Mentors rely upon having had similar experiences to gain an empathy with the mentee and an understanding of their issues.

CIPFA members have a wealth of experience that can be utilised to support other members and students in developing their careers.

We are looking for individuals who will be willing to invest some time in becoming a mentor and the branch will be providing training to facilitate this role.



2014 Annual Conference and Dinner

The second CIPFA Cymru/Wales annual conference and dinner took place on 20 November 2014 at Ty Hywel, the home of the National Assembly for Wales in Cardiff Bay.

The Conference theme was **'Finance: Building for the Future'**. The conference was opened by Gill Lewis, President of CIPFA Cymru/Wales. Our Keynote speaker for the Conference was Steve Thomas CBE, Chief Executive of the Welsh Local Government Association. Presentations were also received from other high-profile speakers from the Welsh Government, PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Bank of England, Anthony Collins Solicitors and Zurich. The conference considered:

- The changing landscape of the public sector in Wales and the challenges faced by public organisations in Wales; and
- Examples of how public bodies are responding by adopting new practices in order to address these challenges.

Finally CIPFA Chief Executive Rob Whiteman spoke on developments in CIPFA and shared his thoughts on what more the Institute can do to support Members through these difficult times.

The dinner started with a concert by Cor Meibion De Cymru, South Wales Male Voice Choir, and the President's drinks reception, followed by a fabulous dinner and a very entertaining and informative talk from our after dinner speaker, Professor Keith Harding CBE, Chief Executive of the Welsh Wound Innovation Centre.

During the dinner, awards were presented to Ken Finch and Beverly Peatling to recognise their long contributions to the CIPFA Cymru Wales branch and its predecessor body.

Retired Members' Section

The registered membership of retired members for the South Wales area is 145 and we try to arrange a West/Mid/East range of venues.

Three events were held during 2014 - Llanelli House, Llanelli on the 1st May, Penderyn Distillery, nr. Hirwaun on the 19th June and a visit the BBC Studios Llandaff on the 2nd September.

Our Annual Lunch was held on Thursday, 13th November at the Old House Inn, Llangynwyd Village. Chris Tidswell, Head of CIPFA Cymru Wales was our pre-lunch speaker.

Please let Arthur know if you wish to be included on the mailing list. His contact details are: E-mail: arthurandeirwen@hotmail.com

Tel: 01656 738264

Planned future events/visits can also be found on the CIPFA Cymru Wales regional website:

www.cipfa.org/regions/wales/retired-members

2014 Diary of Events

Date	Event	Location
13 March 2015	Annual General meeting and members' event	Llandrindod Wells
24 March 2015	Pre-retirement briefing	Cardiff
Various (to be confirmed)	Members' CPD event	Cardiff, Gwynedd, Swansea, Bridgend, Blaenau Gwent
Various	See link below to CIPFA Cymru/Wales website	Swansea Business School

Professional Associations at Swansea Business School

CIPFA Wales/Cymru has recently become a member of the 'Professional Associations at Swansea Business School' group at Trinity Saint David University.

As the name suggests, the group consists of various professional organisations who stage an extensive and exciting programme of events that are open to all members of the participating associations. See attached programme. <http://www.cipfa.org/-/media/files/regions/wales/branch/events%20201415%20fbm.pdf>

Events are held at the Swansea Business School, Ty Bryn Glas Campus off High St, SA1 1NE, at 6pm unless specified.

CIPFA Wales 2014 Training

In addition to the PDP courses provided by the CIPFA Cymru Wales Branch, CIPFA also provides a wide range of training courses at various locations in Wales. These include courses on topics such as introduction to capital accounting, service level agreements, and lean audit and grant funding in the public sector. Details of all forthcoming CIPFA courses in Wales can be found on our website

<http://www.cipfa.org/regions/wales>.

A complete of courses provided by CIPFA can be found at:

<http://www.cipfa.org/training/open-courses>

CIPFA Students in Wales

There are currently over 100 CIPFA students in Wales and one of the key branch aims is to have a thriving and engaged student base, to support students as they progress through their studies and subsequently throughout their professional careers.

We have held a number of working lunches with students covering areas such as the upcoming mentoring scheme and completion of the Practical Experience Portfolio. These have been well received and we will continue to meet with more students to discuss and help with their current and future needs.

Dates of student related events are circulated to all students. It is however proving difficult to engage all CIPFA students in Wales as students are spread out across Wales and at varying stages of their studies. If you have any suggestions as to how the branch could address these difficulties, if you are prepared to volunteer to hold student events in your part of Wales or just want to say hello, please contact me at Tony.Era@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK

It is very important to us a branch that all members feel that they are part of a unique institute and a unique region. We aim to support you through your whole careers, and involvement with the branch is a great opportunity to start networking and meeting fellow finance professionals in a wide variety of industries.

Finally, good luck with the next round of exams!

CIPFA Benefits

We have developed a one-page summary of the tools and benefits available to CIPFA members in Wales. This is a reminder that your membership offers much more than just a badge of competence, and it can be found on the CIPFA Cymru-Wales regional web-site.