CIPFA North West Society

**Presidents Blog – April 2016**

Welcome to summer everyone, well at least a very good attempt to lead us into our summer months with anticipation and optimism that we will have glorious weather.

We held our Society Council meeting on 15th April with a jam packed agenda and I was very pleased to welcome James Williams as a newly co-opted member. James will provide the Council link to the NW CIPFA Student Forum and will be the new NW CSN Treasurer. James is already involved with the region as he is Southern Section Treasurer and Secretary and when you see witty titles for the events the Southern Section hold – it’s usually James that’s thought of them!

**Exams**

One of the things I’m very pleased to report is that Council agreed to a proposal brought forward by Student President Jen Pope to fund revision courses for our students who are unable to source funding via their employers. Evidence has shown that students who attend the revision courses gain more success in passing their exams than students who don’t. I’m pleased to say that we funded 7 students as a pilot for this sitting and we will await the outcome of the results. I would encourage employers who are supporting students through their CIPFA studies to include the revision course as part of that commitment as it really key in their success to getting through the qualification.

Good luck to all students taking exams this time, I know how difficult it can be to hold down a full time job and still have some sort of work-life balance whilst studying for exams.

**National Conference**

The day before the National Conference kicks off we are holding an event at Manchester Central on 12 July. The event commences at 9.30am and finishes at 3.15pm just in time for delegates to attend the national AGM at 3.30pm in the same venue. This is a **FREE** event and speakers include:

* Asam Malik, PwC – Cyber Security
* Donna Hall, Wigan Council – Transforming Public Services
* Rob Whiteman, CIPFA – The future of Public Services
* Sharon Senior, North West Employers – Motivation & Resilience

The event and sessions link to the National Conference theme of Powering Growth: Transforming Public Services and if you would like to book a place please email cipfanwnw@cipfa.org

I’m super looking forward to the National Conference this year and I’ve mentioned before that the region is hosting a stand at the event. We’ve now agreed what that might look like and the support we’ll be providing to the conference. There will be lots to do on the stand so come and visit us for a chat. We’ll be positioned right outside the main auditorium and will have regional treats on the stand to taste and there will be a NW region based quiz to participate in where you can win a super prize. We’ll also host the President’s drinks on the Thursday where you can meet the current and past Presidents accompanied with a glass of fizz.

The CIPFA North West Student Network is hosting an event on the Wednesday evening after the regional dinner for students to get together and catch up following the National Student Conference that day. For more details contact Student Past President, Liga Berzina at ligaberzina@hotmail.co.uk

**Future Events**

Our Northern Section are holding a full day event on 17 June entitled ‘Fitness for the Future’ which will look at the latest challenges that members and students need to be aware of and how you can get your financial skills in shape to keep you on top of the game and ready to cope with new realities. Follow this link to book <http://www.cipfa.org/training/c/cipfa-in-the-north-west-northern-section-spring-seminar-20160617>

**Member Benefits**

One thing that I wanted to alert Members to was the benefit for Members to attend one free CIPFA event as part of their membership. To do this, chose the event you want to attend and email cipfabookings@cipfa.org with your membership details (name, email, contact number etc.) and they will arrange the booking for you. Please note when you email them, make it clear that you want to use your free annual member place rather than any organisational pre-paid places. For other Member benefits, check out the website at <https://www.cipfa.org/members/members-benefits>

**And finally…..**

Tough Mudder update – our TM team have been practicing by rolling round in mud when we took part in Race for Life’s Pretty Muddy event in Warrington. Within 5 minutes I was dunked by one of my team mates but I was told it was all good training for our main event in September. Yeahhhh right! My colleague from the Audit, Risk and Governance Group, Cath Fogarty from St Helens Council also took part in the event so we had a good CIPFA contingent!

**Shaer**

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**LinkedIn –** search for the Group CIPFA North West

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**CIPFA Website -** <http://www.cipfa.org/members/regions/north-west>