

# CIPFA North West Society

## Presidents Blog - October



Halloween cometh, which generally means eat all the sweets myself and pretend I'm not in

### **Society Council Meeting**

This month we had our quarterly Society Council Meeting – the last one in Oldham. This brought about mixed feelings, mainly relief that people could get home at a reasonable time from now on! We co-opted a new member onto Council this month also – Richard Lee from KPMG who we're delighted to have on board and help us with our journey to supporting members and students in the region.

You may have seen in last month's blog that I mentioned we were thinking of a different focus for our student mentoring as we wanted to concentrate on our students who had passed their final exams, sometimes up to years ago, but not completed the PEP. This was given the go ahead at the meeting as the preferred option for our mentoring so if you are a student who has not yet completed your PEP, in the new year we hope to have a package of support for you to help you complete it.

### **Southern Section**

Unfortunately the Southern Section meeting due for December at the Library on 9 December has been rescheduled to next year. This means we miss the mince pies but I'm sure come spring they'll have some equally delicious snacks on offer. The Chair of the Southern Section, Jeremy Valentine, is stepping down from the role in March after many years at the helm. Jeremy will be succeeded by James Williams from PWC who is the current Treasurer of the group but he will be staying on as an exec group member. Taking over from James as Treasurer is Stewart Swift from Warrington Council.

### **Regional Forum**

The inaugural Regional Forum was hosted by CIPFA South East region in Greenwich this month. The Regional Forum replaces the Conference for the Regions as the annual conference for regional volunteers. It provides an opportunity for volunteers from across all regions to come together to share best practice, new ideas and topics and events that they organise for their members and students.

There was good representation from all regions for this two day event and some of the presentation sessions included updates from the different CIPFA faculties – Health, Local Government, Central Government and the Counter Fraud Centre. Did you know that each of the faculties produce a monthly email about what their particular area is doing? It's easy to sign up by going to My CIPFA and specifying your preferences. Having signed up recently for the Health newsletter I can say that it's very informative and easy to read.

The Friday night was the regional dinner sponsored by Penna which saw the presentation of regional awards. I was thoroughly delighted to be presented with the Regional Innovation Award which the North West Region won for the free pre-conference event that we hosted

on the day before the National Conference in November. I was over the moon to be recognised for this as it was hard work to organise and the whole team from the North West did a fantastic job of putting this event on. The feedback we had from delegates was excellent so I'm really glad that it was acknowledged as innovation. As a result we are planning to run the event again next year with the National Conference coming back to Manchester and this time we are hoping to get onto the main Conference bill so that we can open the event up to more people.



Here we are, glasses in hand (well, we were Celebrating) with our award. From L to R Ian Coleman, me, James Williams, Steph Donaldson, Jean Gleave and Nick Atlay. And at The back is Andrew Buck and Ian Cosh. A few people missing and no doubt they are at the bar!

**And finally.....** Well as it is Halloween this month I thought I'd better get into the spirit of things with a spooky trip to Farmageddon. I was not looking forward to it at all and tried almost every reason why I definitely shouldn't go. However I decided to man up and just get on with it. I have to say I loved it, it was brilliant. I didn't know what I thought was going to happen but I had a great time. I won't spoil it for anyone who might be thinking of going but here's a couple of pics so you get the gist and I'd say it is well worth going.



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