

CIPFA North West Society

Presidents Blog – March



Bumper Edition!

So, it's my last ever blog, it's been great but it had to end sometime. I feel like I should buy cakes or something 🍰

New Officers and Council Members

New officers and members of the Society were agreed and welcomed at the AGM at the end of this month. The results of the nominations to Council for 2017 were:

- Society President- Mike Thomas, Grant Thornton
- Vice-President – Stephanie Donaldson, Merseytravel
- Junior Vice-President – Andrew Buck, Liverpool Council
- Treasurer – Liga Babikir, Wigan Council
- Corporate Member and Assistant Treasurer – Jen Pope, Oldham Council
- Corporate Member – Ian Coleman, Consultant
- Corporate Member – David Taylor-Smith, HCA
- Corporate Member – Chris Pyke, MMU
- Corporate Member – Ric Lee, KPMG

I was sad to give up my President's badge but I know it's in very safe hands and since we have adopted the national CIPFA model of a Junior Vice-President, we have a great succession planning process in place with some super people in line to keep the Society going when I've been long since gone.



EY Engagement

I met with two members of EY this month – Michael Green and Hassan Rohimum from the Manchester office. They have a good national presence within CIPFA and have been partnering with CIPFA on the closure of accounts workshops and they are keen to build up a regional presence now too. They have offered to help us out with providing speakers and venues for our events which means we can still offer events at low cost prices. They are

also keen to get their students involved with the Student Network and can provide opportunities for those students we are working with to complete their PEP to fulfil some of their experience requirements. We very much look forward to working with them this year.

Audit, Risk & Governance Group Weekender

On 10 – 12 March I attended the Audit, Risk and Governance Group weekend conference in Chester. Starting on the Friday evening Rob Whiteman and Diana Melville from CIPFA gave us some great insight into the future of the profession and the audit committees. Very interesting presentation from Rob, as always, highlighting that with the developments in Artificial Intelligence, a lot of the transactional work of audit and accountancy will disappear and our skills will need to concentrate more on consultancy type work and adding value.

I was really excited for the Saturday as motivational speaker Joy Marsden was presenting. I have seen Joy before and she is brilliant. She didn't disappoint once again and I even bought her book 'Keep Stepping'.

The gala dinner was held on the Saturday night and I was lucky enough to win a bottle of bubbly in the raffle and managed to stay on the dancefloor until 1am. Sunday finished the weekend with two more great sessions, one particularly relevant on project governance; especially as local authorities are branching out to more commercial ventures. It was an excellent event and congratulations to the ARRГ for organising such a successful weekend.



Chair of the ARRГ Jean Gleave with me at the gala drinks reception



Here's me with Joy Marsden and a signed copy of her book

And finally.....well, my And Finally this month is all about the volunteers. We have a truly fantastic set of volunteers within the North West, not just on the Society Council and the sub groups but also those who help out on university fairs, contribute to thought leadership pieces, are part of CIPFA panels, working groups, boards and networks. Without these people we wouldn't have a North West regional Society and a very strong

one too. I think it's fair to say that we are the envy of the other regions as a result of our engagement and I really think we are part of a fantastic family.

So many thanks to everyone who has made my Presidential term easy and very enjoyable. But hang on, you won't be getting rid of me that easy, I'm staying on the Society Council for the time being and I'm still a member of the Southern Section exec so I'll still be around. Oh an you know those emails that come from the cipfanwnw@cipfa.org email address – yep, that's me ☺

And because I do allow the rest of the team to have some fun, we went out for a drink after the AGM. Oh and did I mention I was standing for national CIPFA Council? Adios Amigos



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