

CIPFA South East Regional President's Annual Report 2015

Presented to the 2016 Regional Annual General Meeting on 5 April 2016

In my first year of representing you as Regional President I am please to report that the Regional Council has continued to deliver a broad programme of regular events that are designed to be inclusive for all our regional members and students. We have also collaborated with other regions and with other providers to encourage sharing of ideas and knowledge. I have very much enjoyed attending regional events, and representing you and CIPFA at a number of functions. I have also been pleased to volunteer at three university open days, encouraging young people to consider a career in public finance.

We have delivered a superb programme through a series of events providing much needed CPD, with the majority of this provided free or at minimal cost. This effort contributed to the South East being chosen as 'Region of the Year' for 2014/15. This is made possible in part through the tireless work of our Regional Secretary, John Barker, who works extremely hard on networking to obtain excellent quality speakers, and persuading them in most cases, to speak for free. He has also been very successful at forging strong links with key business sponsors, which again helps us fund some of our events across the region. Special thanks to Grant Thornton, who once again host us for our AGM and Spring Conference, which allows us to offer free attendance for all our members and students. Supplementing John's work on developing the programme is a growing network of volunteers across the region that helps deliver our member and student events. We are especially pleased with the development of the regional hubs where our volunteers are assisting with venues and organisation for more local events, particularly in Essex, Cambridgeshire, Kent, London, Thames Valley and Wessex.

Our major events have been very successful this year, with the Regional Spring Conference/AGM (April) and the Autumn Conference (October) both attracting a wide range of delegates and reaching capacity numbers. We were pleased to have welcomed the CIPFA President to both these events.

A number of our regional members volunteered at the main CIPFA conference at London West in July, helping delegates find the venue, and attending the regional reception for guests and sponsors in the evening.

The Annual Dinner in November was attended by around 200 members and guests, and this year clashed with another regional dinner much nearer John Matheson's home, so understandably, he attended their dinner, and instead I had the pleasure of sitting next to Brian Roberts, CIPFA's Vice President, as one of our VIP guests for the evening.

We held our Public Finance in Wessex Conference in March at minimal cost jointly with the South West Region, hosted by Hampshire County Council in Winchester. It was well attended and the CIPFA President was a welcome guest speaker.

Our Student Network in the South East has been very active this year, organising a number of events such as induction sessions and revision workshops to encourage networking and volunteering. I was pleased to attend the Student Society and London Division Quiz in September (even more pleased when my team won obviously...). We have welcomed many newly qualified members to the region and we have held our first enjoyable reception at Mansell Street for our new members in November. We were honoured to have the CIPFA President John Matheson at the event to present their certificates. The photos of this and many other regional events are on CIPFA's Flickr pages. You can find links to these, and information about our events from our regional page on the CIPFA website.

www.cipfa.org/members/regions/south-east

Our retired members group continues to embark on a widening variety of interesting activities and visits, including visits to Hogarth House (resulting from their Annual Conference lunch and lecture on Hogarth's life and work) and to Farnborough Airport.

We have continued to forge alliances with other accountancy bodies through attending networking events such as the Pan Accountancy Lunch at the Mansion House (October), the intra professional lunch hosted by CIMA, and a number of other events where ICAS, ACCA, ICAEW and representatives from international accountancy bodies were present. We held a successful joint event with AAT in October, and are planning a joint event with London Society of Chartered Accountants on Devolution and London on 26 May, plus contributing to other accountancy body events that focus debate on the EU Referendum.

Several CSE Council members attended the final Conference for the Regions in October, as the Board for the Regions has been disbanded following the adoption of the revised CIPFA Constitution in July 2015. The SE Region has also updated its Constitution, which was agreed by the SE Council in February 2016. Our Region has taken the lead in developing the replacement arrangements for interaction with other regions, and plans for a Regional Forum event where representatives from all the CIPFA regions and plans are being put together for a Forum in Autumn 2016 at Greenwich.

A number of our CPD and networking events have been kindly hosted by some of our sponsors like PA Consulting Group, CCLA and Grant Thornton. We have also hosted some NHS workshops covering regional and national agendas, and hosted a roundtable event on service integration. We will continue to reach out to our NHS colleagues to encourage greater cross-fertilisation of ideas at this time of increasing collaboration.

Given that the region receives less than £4 per member from CIPFA to operate its regional programme of events, a lot of hard work goes on to make all these events happen. I would like to thank all our regional volunteers, and of course urge many more of you to think about volunteering too, to build on our success.

We remain especially grateful to those sponsors who have supported our events for several years, plus a number of others who have sponsored or supported us for the first time this year – either with funding, hosting or speakers: Grant Thornton, Zurich Municipal, CIPFA Penna, CCLA, Eaton Vance Investment Management, iMPower, Mazars, PA Consulting Group, BDO Hamlyn, PwC, KPMG, Baker Tilly (now RSM).

I should also like to extend thanks to all of the CIPFA HQ staff who have delivered support to our regional activities during the year.

I look forward to seeing you during the rest of 2016 at some of our regional and national events.

Rosanne Fleming
CIPFA South East Regional President 2015/16

March 2016