



REGIONAL NEWS *(ISSUE 5)*

[Section 1 - Welcome from the President](#)

[Section 2 - Upcoming Events](#)

[Section 3 - CIPFA Updates](#)

[Section 4 - Looking back over the last 6 months](#)

[Section 5 - Students](#)

[Section 6 - Mentoring](#)

[Section 7 - Newcastle City Council 'NEWS'](#)

[Section 8 - Secret Accountant](#)

Here at CIPFA North East we would love to hear from you with comments, queries and suggestions, please get in touch via the contact links throughout this newsletter.

Section 1 - Welcome from the President



Dear member

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and some much-needed downtime.

At our AGM in March I took over the presidency from Jim Dafter. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Jim for his leadership, mentorship and the

brilliant job he has done during his tenure, which I hope I am able to continue.

The last 18 months have been tough, particularly so in the North East, and I'm proud of the

contributions and sacrifices our communities have made to help tackle the pandemic.

Now, we can look to the future. It has been great to see life returning more to normal over the last few months. And with this we can now begin to plan face to face CIPFA events again in the North East. We've missed seeing you in person and the benefits of networking with colleagues and can't wait to welcome you back - starting with our annual conference on Friday 12th November 2021! Further information including the conference programme can be found in section 2 of this newsletter.

Finally, thank you for continuing to support our newsletter - if you have any feedback for future editions this will be gladly received. As usual, we hope you will find some useful information - and we have another article from our Secret Accountant!

James Charlton
CIPFA North East President

Section 2 - Upcoming Events



**CIPFA in the North East - Annual Conference
Friday 12th November 2021**

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne

It is with great pleasure that we can confirm our next Annual Conference will be going ahead and is in the final stages of planning. This event promises to deliver another inspiring, thought provoking day. Delving into the challenges and opportunities facing local authorities and the economy. The past few years have been like no other any of us have experienced, this will give us all the chance to look at it from other perspectives and look to a bigger better future. We have a wide range of speakers, highly experienced in their fields already confirmed:

James Ramsbotham, North East Chamber of Commerce

John Fenwick, Nexus: Tyne and Wear Metro

Andy Gouldson, Leeds University

Tony Gates, Northumberland National Park

Paul Dunn and Sarah Rose, Northumberland Healthcare NHSFT

Michelle Percy, Newcastle City Council

More details to follow, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact northeast@cipfa.org

Online Sessions week commencing 20th September 2021

It is not too late to sign up for the following online sessions:

Tuesday 21 September 1 - 2pm

School Funding: An Overview: Fair Funding for All?
Bruce Parvin (CIPFA NE Vice President)

Wednesday 22 September 1 - 2pm

Keep on Moving : Working through challenges and finding opportunities in Transport
John Fenwick, Director of Finance & Resources, Nexus, Catherine Massarella, Head of Network Development, Nexus
and Rebecca Birch, Head of Finance, Nexus.

Thursday 23 September 1 - 2pm

Time to Nerd Up: How I Learned to Love the Numbers as much as the Words
Will Mapplebeck, Public Affairs Manager at Core Cities UK

Please contact northeast@cipfa.org to register your place

[Keep up to date with CIPFA events in the North East](#)

Section 3 - CIPFA Updates

In case you have missed them [CIPFA](#) have published the following items recently, check them out there is some interesting stuff here:

- Consultations on the [Code of Practice for Local Authority Accounting 2022/23](#)
- A [guide](#) to support VFM analysis for public managers
- Effective [governance](#) on collaboration in Policing
- [Code of Practice in public sector pensions, Finance Knowledge and Skills.](#)

And many more in the [CIPFA Thinks](#) and [CIPFA Speaks](#) part of the website.

For those that subscribe to the Technical Information Service ([TIS Online](#)) there has been a recent release of guides covering:

- [Financial Management](#)
- [Transport](#)
- [VAT](#)
- [Pensions and Insurance](#)

As well as many lively discussions on the [forum](#) for you to join....

Section 4 - The Last 6 Months

CIPFA North East AGM 2020

The CIPFA NE 2020 AGM was held virtually on the 24th March. Preceding the main meeting, online presentations were delivered by key public finance figures from across the North East, including Tony Kirkham (Director of Resources, Newcastle City Council), Sir James Mackey (Chief Executive, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust) and Lindsey Whiterod CBE OBE (Chief Executive, Tyne College and Academy Trust).

Interesting and insightful commentary was provided and all three gave their thoughts and perspectives around the role of finance in addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by COVID-19.

The AGM covered the usual items including the financial statements, reflection on the past year and appointment/re-appointment of executive members. The meeting concluded with the handover of the presidency to James Charlton, who will be ably assisted by Bruce Parvin as vice president for the next two years.

A massive thanks were given to Jim Dafter, the outgoing regional President, who led the North East region magnificently through the most challenging socioeconomic crisis of our time.

The AGM followed with a pub quiz which went down a storm and brought the curtain down on the AGM for another year.

Section 5 - Students

David Clark Award

This award is presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to supporting their fellow students or has made an outstanding contribution in general to CIPFA in the North East. Jason Smith, winner of the 2019 David Clark Award talks to us about his award:

“Hi, my name is Jason Smith, I currently work for Newcastle City Council as a CIPFA qualified accountant within the Financial Accounting team. I was nominated by a fellow colleague at the council for the David Clark Award during my time as CIPFA trainee to recognise the work I was doing to enhance the learning and understanding of fellow trainees on the CIPFA PQ road. A few of the tasks I completed included:

Organising monthly catchups with the trainees at the Council, to discuss any issues we may have been having with examinations or pass on any tips and tricks that may assist trainees earlier in their qualification.

Furthermore, I organised for guest speakers from around the council who could provide some background on their work and how our studies may be intertwined in their day to day work. For example, we had a representative come in from Procurement to discuss their work ahead of students sitting the Business and Change Management exam, where procurement is taught.

CIPFA had recently rolled out the apprenticeship scheme and I tried to understand the new requirements, I began working closely with my CIPFA training coach. After this I relayed the new requirements and systems that would be used to managers ensuring they understood the differences between students who were and were not on the apprenticeship scheme.

I was honored to be nominated and winning the David Clark award, I continue to assist with the monthly meetings for students and have begun mentoring a new trainee.”

Do you know of a student who has made an outstanding contribution to the CIPFA North East region or to supporting their fellow students? If so, please consider nominating them for the David Clark Award - it's easy to do, and it could really make a difference to the morale and self-confidence of a student. Please send your nomination to regnea.president@cipfa.org by Friday 15th October.



Jason Smith and Jim Dafter, CIPFA NE Annual Dinner 2019

The CIPFA Student Network

The CIPFA Student Network, CSN, changed its constitution. Sophie Darlington who works within NHS is the new CSN president.

Her priorities for the next year are:

1. Greater engagement with students and regional students network
2. Supporting students with their studies and career
3. Providing virtual events to increase accessibility for all

CSN would love to hear students' thoughts on what help they might need and the sorts of events they would like to attend (whether these be for technical training, soft skills, social or wellbeing). If they do have any suggestions, please do get in touch via our student mailbox, which is csn@cipfa.org. CSN is always looking for new volunteers to join the Student Network as well.

We would like to encourage students to feedback any topics they would like covered in this section. Please get in touch at northeast@cipfa.org

Section 6 - Mentoring

Mentoring is a great way of sharing experience, knowledge and advice and there are benefits for both mentor and mentee. Mentoring is beneficial for all stages in your career, and even reverse mentoring where a more junior employee mentors a more senior person can work really well.

At CIPFA NE we'd like to try and pilot a mentoring matching service. If you'd be interested in either becoming a mentor or a mentee please get in touch. We'll provide more details on how mentoring could work and match you up with another member.

Please email northeast@cipfa.org if you're interested.

Section 7 - Other News

We are pleased to report that the Newcastle City Council Finance team will be flying the flag for the region in the 2021 Public Finance Awards to be held in London at the end of the month.

The team have been shortlisted in the 'Finance Training and Development Initiative' in recognition of the digital training offer to both Finance staff and budget managers. In particular the 'Five Minute Finance' series of videos were developed which are bitesize training modules produced by the team to support the roll out and understanding of issues such as the CIPFA Financial Management code, payment processes, Value for Money and year end accounting issues. These have been hugely popular and more modules are in the pipeline.

We wish the team the best of luck at the ceremony at the end of the month.

Section 8 - Secret Accountant

An alternative perspective on the benefits of CIPFA membership



Secret Accountant - Leaving the Sofa

The Government's Furlough scheme has generally been recognised as a success in preventing a massive rise in unemployment, but it is now starting to unwind as we strive to "return to normal". (Not sure we can in fact return somewhere we'd have never been, as rest assured the new "normal" may look nothing like anything we previously knew!).

I consider myself extremely fortunate in that my working life has only been marginally disrupted and that it is certainly not the case elsewhere. The challenges faced by the hospitality sector (an area particularly close to my own heart, and probably responsible for most peoples' first taste of employment) have been well documented.

But spare a thought for the “creatives” whether that’s the music industry, theatre etc all of which waited the longest before reopening and none of whom have returned to pre March 2020 operations yet.

I had thought that TV had been largely exempt (after all what else were we to do when told to stay home). However looking at the dearth of new television programmes, it struck me that “the talent” may still be awaiting a recall to the office whether that be a home one or in the workplace.

Ben Shepherd always struck me as a nice enough fellow but it terrified me to see that the old arcade game of Tuppenny Falls become the peak time extravaganza that’s Tipping Point! For all Ben’s professionalism, I am not convinced this is where the smooth host of Good Morning Britain thought his career path would take him.

But no, satisfied no doubt by viewing figures inflated by those whose remote control batteries have long since lapsed, ye gods at ITV saw fit to commission an entirely new prime time quiz show, where rather than dropping coins down a vertical chute, you instead run them along a horizontal surface instead! Step forward “Rolling in It”! Please!!!! Fronted by the shameless Stephen Mulhearn, the man whose boundless enthusiasm turned filling your car with fuel into prime Saturday TV. Little did I realise when as a child spending a wet Wednesday in an amusement arcade in Blackpool, the future Head of Commissioning for ITV was alongside me! What next?

“**Grabber Grand**” An hour of maneuvering a crane in a bowl of soft toys while trying to get the cash prize
The genre needn’t be confined to quiz shows of course ...

“**International Air Hockey**” - culminating in a champion’s league type final.

“**One Armed Bandits**” - a gripping thriller where Para Olympians, having had their lottery funding withdrawn, need to turn to crime in order to fund their training and further pursuit of gold.

“**Space Invaders**” - It’s a domestic comedy set sometime in the future, where teenage aliens return home after 3 years at Mars University and bring “hilarious chaos” to their middle-aged parents lives!

It’s no wonder that I find myself increasingly draw to the delights of UK Gold and the timeless re-runs of Only Fools and Horses, which even after 40 years still put some of our current “entertainment” to shame.

I was fortunate enough to be in London recently and visited a British institution currently under threat - No, not the Maintained School but the Monarchy!

Well when I say the monarchyit was actually The Windsor’s: End Game, currently playing at the Prince of Wales Theatre. TV may have sustained us through lockdown but it was good, no it was great to be back at live theatre, and I would encourage you all, suitably inoculated to venture forth soon.

It can’t be more hazardous than living with a teenager returning home from the Leeds Festival but embrace all of the Arts I say!

THE SECRET ACCOUNTANT!

Follow us

