

# centrep<sub>age</sub>

## Hello everyone. Welcome to Spring edition of Centrepage.

This year is CIPFA's 125th Anniversary year and so to mark the occasion CIPFA Midlands is more busy than ever planning events for members and students.

Inside you'll see articles about our recent AGM and CIPFA National President's visit as well as news of our recently re-invigorated Students Society, our popular CATS audit seminars, and a 'soft skills workshop' which is a new venture for CM.

And make a note in your diary for the popular Annual Regional Seminar and Dinner being held at the Hyatt Regency in Birmingham on 5th November, more details inside.



This year we are expanding our unique 6th Form Management Team games to 6 games, this year including Aberystwyth University for the first time.

All the regular items are inside, please have a read and find out what's going on, and as always news of all events, past and future can be found on the website at [www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid)

All the work we do is done by volunteers, so why not think about joining us? Email Sue Smith at [cim@cipfa.org](mailto:cim@cipfa.org) to find out what it's all about.

Hope to see you at one of our many events very soon.

**Steve Wellings**  
CM President



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The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy was founded in 1885 and it aims to be the leading accountancy body for financial managers working in and with the public services.

CIPFA in the Midlands is one of ten regional organisations that provide an annual programme of activities which update members and students on current issues and enhance professional skills as well as offering a range of social activities.

[www.cipfamidlands.org.uk](http://www.cipfamidlands.org.uk)

# CIPFA Midlands development event including the AGM



**On 11 March 2010, over 80 people attended this event held at the offices of Deloitte in Brindley Place, Birmingham. The event attracted existing members as well as the 11 newly qualified members who were attending**

**to receive their certificates from Roger Latham the CIPFA National President (pictured).**

This is the second successful joint development and AGM event held by CIPFA Midlands who, once again, are leading the way in developing high quality events tied in with the AGM.

After a wonderful lunch overlooking the canal development in Birmingham, the formal AGM commenced with the approval of the continued service of the CM President and Vice President, the Regional Secretary and the Honorary Regional Treasurer for a further year. Steve Wellings gave an informative, and at times humorous, view of the past year and the developments to come in the next.

We were proud to welcome two external speakers whose role it was to develop and entertain the audience which were delivered in style.

Damon Lawrenson, Assistant Chief Executive at Northampton used his personal style to encourage us to embrace change, develop ourselves and welcome the new world that is opening up for qualified accountants. His view on removing us all out of our comfort zones and striving for success was summed up in a number of ways including the use of the "Four Vs - Vision, Values, Value-added and Vitality – which are the essential ingredients of effective leadership. And something close to all accountants' hearts, a quote by Harry Truman,

*"You can accomplish anything in life, provided that you do not mind who gets the credit."*

Further information regarding Damon can be found at <http://www.ddl-consultancy.com/index.html>

Stuart Pedley-Smith from Kaplan gave the audience a taster in Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) and how pictures and metaphors can last in the mind long after



**Damon Lawrenson**  
Assistant Chief Executive,  
Northampton Borough Council

the words had disappeared. His topic was headed.....

*Do you ever get frustrated because people don't do what you want, they fail to see it from your point of view, which of course is the right one...Telling a story is an*

*incredibly powerful way of influencing people and getting them to change their minds.*



**Stuart Pedley-Smith  
Kaplan**

His use of visuals and phrases certainly remained with me far longer than the traditional spoken word of the day. Quotes from Frank Bruno were used to illustrate these points, including his take on

golf.....I'm the best, I just haven't played yet! The effective use of stories can be illustrated by viewing the clip at the following site <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1R-jKKp3NA> Stuart can be contacted at [stuart.pedley-smith@kaplan.co.uk](mailto:stuart.pedley-smith@kaplan.co.uk)

The National President, Roger Latham, titled his address, Life, the Universe and Everything. He looked at different ways of looking at organisations. The descriptions of swallows and penguins were metaphors that stayed with me showing how organisations protect each other and move forward with change. His light hearted and warm personality was a perfect end to a perfect day.

The next event is scheduled to take place on 10 March 2011 at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry,

where the external speaker will be Jon Moon who will teach us all how his "WiT" can change the way we all work. For further details of this event please contact Steph Simcox on [simcoxs@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:simcoxs@walsall.gov.uk) or Sue Smith at [CIM@cipfa.org](mailto:CIM@cipfa.org)

## Newly elected members receive their certificates

As part of the Development Event and AGM 11 newly elected members received their certificates from Roger Latham the National President.



Those receiving their certificates were:

Pauline Foster, Walsall  
Karen Griffin, Walsall  
Adrian Griffiths, BEN PCT  
Jon Illingworth, North Warwickshire  
Suzanne Letts, Walsall  
Jennifer McGregor, Dudley  
Aimee Proctor, Coventry  
Ian Riley, Warwickshire  
Martin Randall, HM Revenues & Customs  
Jason Rollinson, Leicester  
Mark Smith, Warwick

# 6 games for 6th Forms

**CIPFA Midlands will once again be holding their popular 6th form management team games across the Midlands (and beyond!) in June and July 2010.**

The games are valued by 6th form students and teaching staff alike and many of their comments from previous games can be found on the dedicated web page  
[http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/management\\_team.cfm](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/management_team.cfm).

*"On behalf of the staff and students I would like to thank you for organising this event. It is a very valuable experience for the students and so professionally organised. The students were very excited on the mini bus home and compared the experience to the Apprentice."*

Students on Business Studies courses particularly benefit from being involved, but the event is open to any students studying in (or about to be in) Years 12 or 13. Teams are supported and encouraged throughout the day by CIPFA students, members and retired



members who have volunteered their time to assist with the game and we are always looking for more volunteers.

## **The objectives of the game are:**

- To allow players to gain an insight into the issues facing public sector organisations, particularly those of a financial nature
- To demonstrate the challenges of managing under time pressure with uncertain outcomes
- To develop team and individual skills
- To be fun to play; and
- for CIPFA, an opportunity to introduce 6th form students to public sector accountancy and our own institute

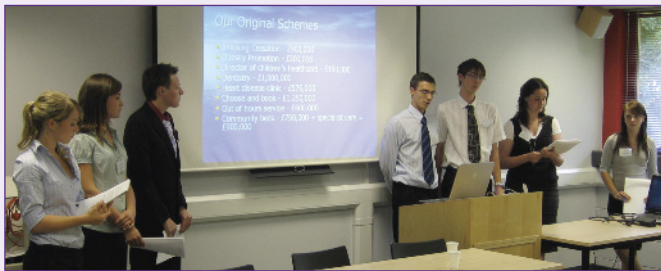
This year's games will take place at the following venues from 9.30am to 4pm, unless stated:

30 June	De Montfort University, Leicester
30 June	Aberystwyth University (9.45am start)
7 July	Nottingham Trent University
7 July	Tally Ho Police Training Centre, Edgbaston, Birmingham
14 July	University of Worcester
21 July	Staffordshire University, Stoke

The game involves certain aspects of running a fictitious public body, with each school providing a 7 member "management team" for the organisation involved.

The management game is organised on a case study basis, allowing team members to participate as much as possible, as they each take up a specific role within the management team. The game is usually divided into 2 rounds, with the team producing a major piece of work in each round, either in the form of a written report or an oral presentation. As in real life, work on this will be interrupted by a number of

tasks and the team will need to agree the best way to deal with the interruptions.



The game tests presentational, organisation and communication skills as well as providing a small element of financial awareness, but assessors are asked to mark performance by the way each team handles problems, the relevance of answers, the approach taken to the tasks in hand and the quality and content of written and oral reports.



The day is an excellent introduction to the world of work and a way of developing and strengthening teamwork, leadership, management and organisational skills.

Prizes and certificates are provided by CIPFA, together with materials, equipment and stationery and a buffet lunch. There is no charge for schools, but they are responsible for the team's travel arrangements to and from the event, as well as taking on board any requirement for health and safety assessments.

We are looking for 6 teams at each venue and if, as a parent, governor or school support officer,



you have contact with a school 6th form or College that you think would be interested in taking part then it would be helpful if you could introduce them to this opportunity. Show them this article or direct them to the web page and ask them to contact the lead volunteer for the games [chris.gill@tesco.net](mailto:chris.gill@tesco.net) to check where there are still place available.

Schools should hear back within a few days as to whether they have a place in the game or not.

The schools taking part will then be sent briefing notes and guidance about the logistics of the event two weeks before the start of the game.



If you think you could volunteer to help, then this can take two forms - mentoring a school for the duration of the game, by sitting with them and "encouraging" them along the way; or being part of the

enabling team, staging the interruptions and marking and assessing the work of the students.

Ideally we are looking for 15 volunteer days for each game, a total of 90 volunteer days for this year's games.

## 6 games for 6th Forms continued

Volunteers will be supplied with a copy of the game and further notes of guidance before the day and it is hoped that volunteers can spend some time reading through these in advance of the game so they are prepared for anything that may come their way!

Lunch is also provided for volunteers and CIPFA will meet expenses for travel on the day where these cannot be recovered from an employer.



As an added incentive for CIPFA students we have identified that the mentoring role can count as one of the evidenced activities for their IPDS submission and qualified members may want to use the games as part of their CPD activity.

Volunteers are asked to try and arrive at the game venue at least 15 minutes before the game start and if possible to stay for a short while after the schools leave to help tidy up. It is always helpful if some volunteers can arrive earlier, to help set up, and this can also provide an opportunity to address any concerns that need to be resolved before the teams arrive.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with any of the games and your employer is happy to release you for a day then please sign up by contacting the lead volunteer for the games [chris.gill@tesco.net](mailto:chris.gill@tesco.net), who will also be happy to answer any questions you might have.

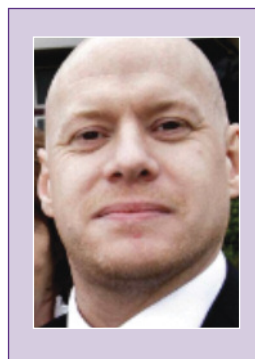
## CATS – CIPFA in the Midlands Audit Training Seminars

As many of you already know the CATS Organising Committee run four separate seminars at Scarman House at the University of Warwickshire every Autumn. Dates and themes of this years programme are shown at the end of this article.

To keep everyone informed of the CATS events this year, as well as the CM website, facebook and twitter pages have been developed, the details of which are shown below.

Become a fan on **facebook**, once logged onto facebook search for CIPFA CATS. Follow us on **twitter**, once logged onto twitter, search for CIPFA%B2CATS

The Organising Committee is always looking for additional volunteers to help organise these events, and anyone wishing to offer their help can contact Peter Farrow, the Chair of the Committee by email at [peter\\_farrow@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:peter_farrow@sandwell.gov.uk)



Peter, the Chief Auditor at Sandwell MBC and the West Midlands Fire Service, who recently took on the Chair's role commented that *"as a past attendee at CATS events, I always found them to be informative, good value and provide an excellent opportunity to network with other auditors. Now as the Chair I am keen that we continue with this tradition"*.

Dates and themes for this years CATS seminars:

- |                  |             |                                |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Seminar 1</b> | 8 October   | Governance and Risk Management |
| <b>Seminar 2</b> | 4 November  | IT                             |
| <b>Seminar 3</b> | 24 November | General Audit Issues           |
| <b>Seminar 4</b> | 2 December  | Fraud                          |

Further details will be available soon.

## **As we write recruitment is underway for the September 2010 intake to the Staffordshire Trainee Accountant Scheme.**

Chris Gill, our scheme co-ordinator, has just completed a presentation to students at a second key university partner and requests for further information continue to reach his phone at regular intervals. The demand for places is always high and in the current economic climate it is expected to be even higher this year.

It is a competitive process and our aim is that the best candidates choose Staffordshire so that we can recruit the best candidates.

### **What makes our scheme work?**

Our experience and feedback tells us that there are many ingredients, with valuable input from many people, but the key elements are quality, opportunity and support.

The tone for the trainee scheme is set by the four working principles adopted by the Finance Directorate of Staffordshire County Council to outline its approach and values to achieving the overall directorate vision *"to deliver excellent financial management and provide great value for money for the people of Staffordshire"*:

- Understanding our customers purpose
- Develop our people
- Take personal responsibility
- Seek continuous improvement

The desire to seek continuous improvement within the scheme has led to a number of key changes recently, which will hopefully benefit individual trainees and the profession as a whole.

Prior to 2008 the County Council policy had been to appoint up to 2 trainees each year, but on occasions the quality of applicants was such that the decision was taken to appoint 3 trainees, leaving the trainee co-ordinator with the challenging task of finding more quality placements.

### **Working together and investing in our future**

As part of the search for more placements, discussions were initiated with other authorities within Staffordshire and in 2009 the scheme was extended to include placements at Stoke-on-Trent City Council, our neighbouring Unitary Authority. Discussions continue with the District Councils and other public sector organisations within the County to try and deliver a broader and more varied programme of quality placements to enhance the opportunities available to develop our future finance managers. In the meantime our development with Stoke has enabled the size of the annual intake to be increased on a regular basis with a new approach committing to take on 3 trainees each year where there are sufficient quality candidates.

The quality of applicants has undoubtedly been a key feature of the scheme as evidenced by the 2006 trainee intake. This was the first time that Staffordshire had taken on 3 trainees and it proved to be a very wise move as all 3 have passed every exam (and their IPDS) first time, with 2 of them achieving national prizes in the Strategic Business Management exam. Congratulations to Nikki Lycett, Joe Williams (3rd prize) and Tim Byford (1st prize).

Joe has now gone to work overseas in the Charity Sector, whilst Tim and Nikki have been appointed as Accountants within the County

Council. Both have offered themselves as mentors to the next trainee intake and this will continue and strengthen the excellent support network that is a feature of the Staffordshire Scheme. In fact this particular intake of trainees have themselves been instrumental in developing the network across their peer group and with trainees of other disciplines within the County Council and this has been of considerable benefit to the scheme.

### Support is critical

Support is also given to trainees through the Trainee Co-ordinator who is available to trainees most of the time and who meets quarterly with each trainee on a 1-2-1 basis. Andy Burns, Director of Finance, takes a personal interest in the scheme, particularly in the appointment process where it is recognised the best applicants have to choose Staffordshire as well as Staffordshire having to choose the best applicants! In order to try and make the scheme as attractive as possible, current trainees are involved in the selection process, providing their experiences of the scheme, being available to answer questions and with one of them being involved in the shortlisting and final selection. National first prize winner Tim Byford explains:

*"The support we received throughout the scheme, both from colleagues and financially, was brilliant. At college, when discussing the support received from different councils and organisations, Staffordshire was always up there with the best"*

For 2010 there has also been a change to the way in which the scheme vacancies have been advertised, concentrating on CIPFA's trainee

vacancy page and e-mail alerts and the County Council's own website, with details also being circulated through 8 key University partners with whom we have developed links in recent years.

It remains to be seen how successful this strategy will be, but the County Council remains committed to improving and enhancing its scheme to ensure that they contribute to developing quality financial managers for the future, both in Staffordshire and wherever else its trainees may venture



### Prize giving day at CIPFA's HQ in Robert Street, London – Wednesday 28 April.

Tim Byford (left) and Joe Williams with CIPFA President Roger Latham

Director of Finance Andy Burns adds



*"With an estimated whole life training cost in the region of £100k per trainee this is a significant investment in the future of both Staffordshire and CIPFA."*



*"I'm confident that our newly qualified accountants will repay this investment many times over and deliver great value for tax-payers money."*

If you want to know more about the Staffordshire Scheme then please do not hesitate to contact:

Andy Burns, Director of Finance:  
[andrew.burns@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.burns@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Chris Gill, Trainee Scheme Co-ordinator:  
[chris.gill@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.gill@staffordshire.gov.uk)

# CIPFA Focus on recruitment

# Conference for the Regions

**Within CIPFA's Business, Development and Marketing teams, we are taking recruitment very seriously. We annually attend around 80 of the country's biggest careers fairs, actively promoting the CIPFA Professional Qualification and encouraging students to study with us.**

We canvas employers up and down the country, developing strong relationships with clients across the public services, and we regularly represent CIPFA at university panel meetings going head to head with the other accountancy bodies.

Alongside our promotional literature, we run recruitment campaigns targeting graduates, including email marketing and advertising in graduate focused publications and websites. We have recently launched a new trainee recruitment service named CIPFA Talent, which simplifies the recruitment process and matches potential trainees to employer vacancies.

Despite the economic downturn, we are doing everything within our power to maintain CIPFA's position as the only professional qualification for those looking to pursue a career in public finance.

To find out more go to [www.cipfa.org.uk/certipsfr](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/certipsfr) or contact CIPFA's Student Recruitment team on 020 7543 5656 or [certipsfr@cipfa.org.uk](mailto:certipsfr@cipfa.org.uk)

**CIPFA will publish this year its development strategy. This will outline the key priorities for the coming years and will set the agenda for CIPFA work nationally and for the Regions.**

"Responding to the Development Strategy" is the theme of Conference for the Regions (CfR), which will be held at the Hippodrome Theatre Birmingham on the 23 and 24 September 2010. The conference is an annual event where regional CIPFA council members and national council meet to set an action plan for how the national and regional infrastructure can work together to deliver services to members and students. A project team of volunteers is working to devise the agenda for the day and the practical arrangements for the conference.

We will report back in a future issue of centrepages and our website for the key actions identified at the conference.

For Members and Students interested in supporting the CfR please contact Lisa Commane – [lisa.commane@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.commane@coventry.gov.uk)

# CIPFA Midlands

## Soft Skills Workshops

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**On 15th July this year CM are holding two half day 'soft skills' workshops at Nottingham City Council.**

These two workshops are being provided for CIPFA Midlands by People Development Workshops, and will be delivered by Jim Thomas, who has significant commercial, people and operational experience within the 'fast moving consumer goods' marketplace and a healthy mix of learned knowledge and pragmatic experience gained from performing at a senior level in a highly competitive business environment. Jim has great passion for the development of people and improving the business efficiencies and performances of delegates.

The two workshops can be booked separately, at a cost of £45, or as a whole day at a cost of £80. Lunch will be provided for all delegates. As the workshops will be inter-active, numbers will be limited, so please book early in order to guarantee a place.

Details and a booking form will be emailed to all CM members and students over the next week.

### **Maximising personal productivity when working under pressure**

In our business and personal lives time is one thing we do not usually have enough of, which means we are constantly faced with the daily pressure of too many things to achieve without enough time to complete them.

The aim of this workshop is to equip delegates with a greater understanding of the principles of effective time and task management and how they affect personal productivity, whilst ensuring

they understand the nature and source of pressures working against them. It focuses on typical human reactions to various high pressure situations, how to minimize them and therefore reduce stress and maximize personal productivity and efficiency.

### **By the end of the workshop delegates will be better able to...**

- Perform appropriate self analysis to assess what elements of pressure & stress is self generated through poor time management, organization or perfectionism
- Understand controllables and channel energy more effectively
- Enhance their planning skills and how to prioritise work and tasks more effectively
- Understand goal setting and how to utilize goal setting models
- Understand and define the effects of stress in high pressure situations and implement various coping strategies
- Proactively manage their work and life balance more effectively

### **Mental Toughness**

The aim of this workshop is to help delegates develop the psychological and mental edge that enables them to:

- Generally cope better than others with the many demands that are placed on each of them as individual 'business performers' in areas such as target/budget achievement, negotiation, public speaking, leadership, people management, self development, and lifestyle balance.
- Specifically be more consistent and more capable than others in remaining determined, positive, focused, confident, and 'in control' under pressure.

# Remember, remember, the fifth of November

## Gunpowder, treason and Total Finance

- Build the above skills both for the purposes of both individual development, and as contributors towards the efficiencies and resilience of a high performing team.

### By the end of the workshop delegates will be better able to...

- Define mental toughness and its role in their own current business and personal lives
- Understand the four key pillars of mentally resilient performance and learn how to develop these attributes in themselves.
- Develop a visible belief system, which would include demonstration of more positive behaviour and language
- Understand how to regain psychological control following unexpected uncontrollable events.
- Better understand their own 'motivators' and how to best utilise this knowledge in day to day life
- Focus on their priorities and be less susceptible to external distractions or the attitudes of others
- Understand and define the effects of stress in high pressure situations, and implement various coping strategies

**This year's annual seminar will take place on bonfire night at the Birmingham Hyatt Hotel.**

The theme this year is Total Finance and will embrace the public sector financial management issues of the day ranging from the topical total place studies and their future, to new proposals on combined resource and sustainability reporting.

And if you need your fix of bonfire festivities then stay on for the annual dinner and let Fake That relight your fire (groan!). This annual social highlight has been a huge success combining an excellent meal with a different dance band each year. For 2010 Fake That, will take you on the full Fake That journey, a 5 member tribute band with the most excellent testimonials, bring your dancing shoes!

CIPFA Midlands and their supporters are able to bring you these 2 events at the same price as 2009. The full day seminar will be £80 (excl VAT), retired members £50; the dinner plus entertainment just £25. Bookings will be open soon on-line, please reserve the date.



# CIPFA Midlands Students Council



## **Chair**

Carl Ford  
Birmingham City Council

## **Vice Chair**

Rizwan Dhanani  
Birmingham City Council

## **Honorary Secretary**

Steve Vaughan  
Birmingham City Council

## **Past Chair**

Nick Harvey  
Worcestershire County  
Council

## **CMSS Member**

Chris Forrester  
Wolverhampton City Council

## **CMSS Member**

Caroline Slaney  
Nottinghamshire PCT

## **CMSS Member**

Gurpreet Dulay  
Audit Commission

## **CMSS Member**

Chris Perfitt  
NHS Derbyshire County

## **CMSS Member**

Pete Shakespear  
Staffordshire County Council

## **Co-Opted Member**

Siva Kachimba  
Birmingham City Council

## **2010 Student Events**

### **9th June**

CIPFA National Student  
Conference,  
Harrogate

### **8th July**

Effective Networking,  
Birmingham

### **16th September**

Student AGM & development  
session,  
Birmingham

### **24th September**

CIPFA Conference for the  
Regions Student Day,  
Birmingham

### **October**

Study/Exam Tip  
Birmingham/Nottingham/Leic  
ester

### **5th November**

CIPFA Midlands Annual  
Seminar,  
Birmingham

## **Get involved with CIPFA Midlands Student Society**

### **Calling all students!**

CIPFA Midlands Student Council still requires new members to its team. We are finalising our 2010 events calendar and **already** starting to plan 2011 events. Now we need your help to strengthen our student society.

For more information or to offer your support, email us at [cmss@live.co.uk](mailto:cmss@live.co.uk)

# CIPFA EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTRE

By Chris Lees,  
Course Director CETC Midlands

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Firstly, I would like to start by giving my rather belated congratulations to Timothy Byford and Joseph Williams, two former CETC Midlands students who won prizes for Strategic Business Management for their papers in December 2009. Tim won the Eric Gilliland Memorial Prize for the Best performance in SBM and Joseph won the third place award. I had the pleasure of being their lecturer on the course and am not at all surprised by their success. They had to beat some very tough opposition, not least amongst their class mates in what was a very strong Midlands group. Let's hope June's group do just as well.

Secondly, I would like to welcome Giles Orr, who replaced Gary Gilbert as the Head of CETC on 22nd March. Giles attended the Courses Committee meeting in Birmingham in March where he met student representatives and Gill Brown from Birmingham City Council in her capacity as employers' representative. Giles is keen to get closely involved with CETC Midlands and intends to work one day a week from our Birmingham office.

At the moment at CETC we are in the middle of our popular revision course programme. Places are still available on the remaining courses which are listed in the table below.

14 May 2010	Audit & Assurance
17-18 May 2010	Financial Management Systems & Techniques
17-18 May 2010	Governance and Public Policy
18-19 May 2010	Taxation
19-20 May 2010	Financial Accounting
20 May 2010	Leadership & Management
20-21 May 2010	Finance & Management Case Study
21 May 2010	Public Finance
24 May 2010	Strategic Business Management

If there are any students who would like to attend, then give our Courses and Premises Administrator, Sarah Gibbons a call on 0121 200 0990 or complete an enrolment form, which can be found on our website [www.cipfa.org.uk/cetc](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/cetc).

Good luck to all students (let's be honest – particularly mine at CETC Midlands) due to sit the exams, which start with the Finance & Management Case Study on Wednesday 2 June.

A further event to tell you about is our proposed open afternoon on Monday 5 July. The aim of the open afternoon is to give employers and would be students an opportunity to hear about the structure of the CIPFA professional qualification and also to find out what you can expect from CETC's courses and tutors. A current CETC student will also be present to give the student perspective on both CIPFA generally and CETC in particular. The event is timetabled to run from 16.00 to 18.00.

Details from our new prospectus on next semester's courses are being released this week by e-mail to employers, and are also available on the web-site for the attention of new and existing students.

Finally, CETC Midlands is now offering a taught programme for the Certificate in International Public Sector Financial Reporting (Cert IPSFR). The course is scheduled to start at CETC Midlands in September. Details are available from [cetc@cipfa.org.uk](mailto:cetc@cipfa.org.uk). The Cert IPSFR is a unique public sector focused programme which will help develop a fundamental understanding of both the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and their public sector equivalents, International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs). More details are available from the CIPFA website at the following link:

<http://www.cipfa.org.uk/students/prospective/ipsfr.cfm>.

# CIPFA students excel in Nottingham Business School Anniversary Year

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## 30 year Anniversary

This year Nottingham Business School celebrates its 30th anniversary. Over the years, Nottingham Business School has established working relationships with over 800 organisations across the globe and has become one of the UK's leading full service business schools, consistently coming first for the delivery of value added education and in the top ten for graduate prospects.

We have now moved into our award winning and prestigious new facilities in the Newton Building of the city centre campus and are already playing host to a number of public service events including the Public Administration conference in September 2010, the CIPFA in the Midlands 6th form management game, the strategic health authority CIPFA training scheme and the CIPFA National Student Forum regional meeting.

## CIPFA Education and Training excellence at Nottingham Business School

The CIPFA course has been delivered by Nottingham Business School throughout most of its 30 year history. During this time we have built up a close association both with public sector employers throughout the East Midlands as well as CIPFA itself. The CIPFA professional accounting course is delivered by the International Centre for Public Services Management, based within the Accounting and Finance Division of Nottingham Business School, and for many years has consistently achieved above average pass rates. At the December 2009 examination sitting, students that attended Nottingham Business School CIPFA courses achieved fantastic results across all stages of the qualification.

- 100% of students passed in three of the subjects on the course
- all other subjects were significantly above the national average pass rates

Speaking about the course, Martin Jones, CIPFA Programme Leader, said: "this is a fantastic achievement by the students, but also for the CIPFA teaching team who continually go beyond the call of duty to support students both in and out of the classroom. I would like to extend my thanks to the teaching team for all the effort they put in and also congratulate the students on their own achievement".

Similar results are expected for the forthcoming examinations in June 2010 for which revision courses are still available.

We are also now starting recruitment for next course due to start in September 2010 for the December 2010 examinations.

## New Developments in Executive Education and CPD

The success of CIPFA students is an important aspect of the wider service provision provided by Nottingham Business School to public sector organisations. The International Centre for Public Services Management has recently completed a major recruitment of nationally recognised experts in public services management, including current CIPFA president Roger Latham as a visiting fellow. Demand for our expertise has resulted in the establishment of a number of executive education courses aimed specifically at managers within the public services. These two day courses can be CPD accredited and are due to be delivered during the summer and autumn of 2010 and cover the following topics:

- Public Finance for Non-Financial Managers
- Introduction to Leadership and Organisational Change in Public Services
- Partnership, Collaboration and Multi-Agency Team Working
- Commissioning and Procurement in the Public Sector

## **CIPFA = Significant Exemptions from MSc in Public Services Management**

Did you know that if you are CIPFA qualified you can get significant exemptions from Nottingham Business School's Masters Degree in Public Services Management? The MSc in Public Services Management has long been seen as an important qualification for managers within the public services, designed as it is to give the practical skills need for strategic management within the sector.

As a CIPFA member you will only need to take a "top up" module and the work based final dissertation, saving both time and money. If you would like to discuss any of the issues in this article please contact Martin Jones, the NBS CIPFA Programme Leader, at [martin.jones@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:martin.jones@ntu.ac.uk)

## **NEW IFRS and IPSAS programme for the public sector**

The Certificate in International Public Sector Financial Reporting (Cert IPSFR) is a new e-learning programme developed by CIPFA and the ICAEW. It is a unique public sector focused programme which will help you develop a fundamental understanding of both the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and their public sector equivalents, International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs).

CIPFA and the ICAEW have combined their expertise, to ensure that those working in the public sector are prepared for the impact of these international reporting frameworks and are able to embed the changes adoption brings successfully.

To find out more go to [www.cipfa.org.uk/certipsfr](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/certipsfr) or contact CIPFA's Student Recruitment team on 020 7543 5656 or [certipsfr@cipfa.org.uk](mailto:certipsfr@cipfa.org.uk)

# **The December Club**

As many readers will know, the December Club consists of an informal group of retired CIPFA members living in the Midlands and it has been running, or at least walking, for many years. Our activities consist in the main of an annual lunch in central Birmingham shortly before Christmas and a summer visit to a place of interest which could be anywhere in the region. This year the visit will be to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas on 17 June when Members' partners will also be welcome to join us.

Over 500 retired members are eligible to participate in our events and just over 100 show regular interest, but numbers actually attending are variable and have been less than 30 which is disappointing. We realise that some members are not nearly as mobile as they used to be, whilst others will be engaged in a variety of activities and/or have regular family commitments which make claims upon their time. Nevertheless, we would hope that the old Institute spirit still beats strongly enough to tempt more senior colleagues to keep in touch through the December Club.

Although our activities have so far followed a fairly steady pattern, we are not too set in our ways to consider any other ideas which might be suggested. Perhaps colleagues who have not so far felt able to join in our activities could make a fresh assessment of the pleasure to be gained from mixing occasionally with others of their ilk who have shared such a great variety of experiences over the years. Currently and in co-operation with CIPFA Midlands, we are separately inviting retired members to consider whether they would be able to assist in stewarding or other support duties at either or both of the CIPFA Conference for the Regions in September 2010 or the Institute's national conference in July next year. Both events will be held in central Birmingham.

If you would like to hear more about the December Club, or any of the events and activities mentioned please contact me or Sue Smith, CM Regional Secretary via email at [cim@cipfa.org.uk](mailto:cim@cipfa.org.uk) or on 07800 671891.

**Ken Rose, December Club Chair**

E: [ken@rose203.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:ken@rose203.fsnet.co.uk)

T: 0121 354 3185

# Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Location
17 June	December Club summer outing	Alrewas - National memorial arboretum
30 June	6th Form Management Team Game	Aberystwyth University
30 June	6th Form Management Team Game	De Montford University, Leicester
7 July	6th Form Management Team Game	Nottingham Trent University
8 July	How to network effectively	Grant Thornton, Birmingham
14 July	6th Form Management Team Game	Worcester University
15 July	Soft skills event - full details to be announced shortly	Nottingham City Council
21 July	6th Form Management Team Game	Staffordshire University, Stoke Site
2 September	CV writing and 'Marketing yourself' event	Birmingham, tbc
8 October	CATS Seminar 1: Governance and Risk Management	Scarman House
October	Student event - study tips	tbc
4 November	CATS Seminar 2: IT	Scarman House
5 November	Annual seminar and dinner	Hyatt Regency, Birmingham
24 November	CATS Seminar 3: General Audit Issues	Scarman House
2 December	CATS Seminar 4: Fraud	Scarman House
15 December	December Club annual luncheon	Clarendon Suites, Birmingham

Please visit the website for other details [www.cipfamidlands.org.uk](http://www.cipfamidlands.org.uk)