



# REGIONAL NEWS *(ISSUE 8)*

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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



It is with great pride that I welcome you as newly elected President to the 8th edition of the CIPFA North East Newsletter.

It is an honour to be asked to serve as North East President after serving for over 25 years on the Regional Executive. Joining the Executive as Secretary as a newly qualified Accountant to support Don McLure as Regional President having qualified with Gateshead Council, my involvement with CIPFA has introduced me to many great people, some of whom I am honoured to call friends. Many many great memories, of which some may be revealed at my inaugural speech, at the next event. I am delighted to announce the return of the CIPFA North East Dinner, after a 4 year hiatus, please see section 2 for further details.

This newsletter, the Regional Executive and the annual programme of events would not be possible without the contribution from a team of committed volunteers and their networks so please support

your regional activities. I am particularly interested to hear from members in the south of the Region around Teeside to gauge the interest and involvement in our members south of the River Wear.

When I was encouraged to join the Regional Executive back in the 1990s I would scarcely have believed the CIPFA journey I had in store. Back then, as a recently qualified member, I don't think I would have had the courage or the confidence to lead the region as President but have watched the assured leadership of James over the last 2 years with a sense of awe. While he will no longer be President, I hope and trust he will continue to serve the Region as an integral part of the Executive, together with a number of other ex-Presidents for whose continuing contributions I am extremely grateful.

Any group is reliant on a refresh of its membership and it is particularly encouraging to see the contribution of Catherine and Harriot as part of an active student network – Please get involved and take the opportunity to meet up – I am so glad I did, a long time ago !

**Bruce Parvin**  
**CIPFA North East President**  
[northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org)

## Section 2 – Upcoming Events



### SAVE THE DATES

<b>CIPFA NE Pub Quiz</b>	Friday 5 May	Offshore44, Newcastle 5:30pm
<b>CIPFA NE Annual Dinner (Booking Form on next page)</b>	Friday 12 May	Crowne Plaza, Newcastle 7:30pm
<b>CIPFA NE 6<sup>th</sup> Form Games</b>	Friday 16 June	Venue TBC
<b>CIPFA NE Professional Update</b>	Friday 7 July	Venue TBC
<b>CIPFA NE 6<sup>th</sup> Form Games</b>	Friday 14 July	Venue TBC

Please contact [northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org) with any questions or suggestions and feedback on events.

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

## Section 3 – CIPFA Updates

Don't forget to catch up on the latest [publications](#) from CIPFA.

Remember [CPD Bites service](#) is a useful tool to help keep your CPD up to date.

You will find up to date information in the [CIPFA Thinks](#) and [CIPFA Speaks](#) part of the website.

Make sure you visit [CIPFA](#) to check out their guidance, all articles provide insight and support, definitely worth a visit.

For those that subscribe to the Technical Information Service ([TIS Online](#)) there are several updates to note, as well as many lively discussions on the [forum](#) for you to join....



**CIPFA in the North East - Annual Dinner**  
**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022**  
**Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne**

As President of CIPFA North East, I would like to invite you to join us at this year's Annual Dinner, which will be held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in the Locomotion Suite, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle Stephenson Quarter, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3SA to commence with a Reception at 7.30pm with the meal served at 8.00pm.

Frankly it's been far too long, and I look forward to welcoming new attendees and returning guests after a 4 year hiatus.

We are also pleased to announce Mazars are again sponsoring the Dinner, our thanks to them for their generous and ongoing support.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind potential guests of the excellent value that the Dinner represents. As well as an excellent 3 course meal, we provide a complimentary drinks reception plus free wine is also provided for each table. In a further move to encourage members to support the Dinner, tickets for the 2023 Dinner are only £36 (or £30 + VAT if you prefer!), which frankly represents exceptional value.

The dress code is "lounge suit" though evening wear / "black tie" is also acceptable according to your preference.

The Bar will remain open until 12.30 a.m. so there will be plenty of opportunity to catch up with other friends and colleagues and enjoy some networking and entertainment. This also provides an excellent opportunity to welcome our newly qualified CIPFA members and students who are being offered free places, but these are limited, please contact me a.s.a.p. for further details.

This information is being sent to all members and others who have previously registered requesting information. Please note that demand is anticipated to be high and places are limited and will be strictly allocated on a first come, first served basis, so in order to reserve your place please complete and return the attached form with details of your requirements as soon as possible and in any case no later than Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023. A menu is attached for your convenience.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel has some accommodation available for the evening, please contact the Hotel directly on (0191) 562 3333 if you wish to explore this. We look forward to seeing you on what should be a tremendous evening. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via [northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org) or via 01670 623431.

Yours sincerely

*Bruce Parvin*

**Bruce Parvin , CIPFA North East Executive Member and Dinner Organiser**

## 2023 CIPFA NORTH EAST ANNUAL DINNER

**7.30pm prompt for 8.00pm on 12 May 2023 – Locomotion Suite, Crowne Plaza Newcastle  
Stephenson Quarter, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3SA  
Tel: (0191) 562 3333**

### *Menu*

#### **Carrot & Coriander Soup**

English carrot and fresh coriander, finished with a mild curry oil (Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten Free, Nut free, Dairy Free)

#### **Lemon & Pepper Marinated Chicken**

Served with sweet English carrots, garlic green beans, saffron potatoes, with a sauce made of shallot and thyme (Gluten Free, Nut free)

or

#### **Gnocchi**

In a creamy truffle and shallot sauce (Vegetarian, Nut free)

#### **Salted Caramel Tart**

Crumbly butter pastry with decadent chocolate and salted caramel, served with maple cream (Vegetarian, Nut free)

#### **Coffee and chocolates**

**Please book your place by returning this form to [northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org) by 28th April 2023.**

Please reserve me places @ £36 / head at the CIPFA Dinner on Friday 12 May 2023. Please pay £36 for each place required via BACS to:

Co-operative Bank plc; Sort Code 08 92 99; A/c No: 65493924

(If an email contact is given, confirmation will be sent to this, otherwise no further correspondence will be sent – no tickets are issued for the Dinner)

**CONTACT NAME:**

**ORGANISATION:**

**CONTACT NUMBER:**

**EMAIL:**

**Names of those attending:**

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Please indicate if a vegetarian meal is required or any special dietary requirements**

## Section 4 – The Last 6 Months

### CIPFA North East's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Over 80 people joined us at the eleventh CIPFA North East annual conference, held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November at the Crowne Plaza hotel, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.



We opened with a welcome from the then CIPFA NE president, James Charlton who introduced our chair for day – former NE President and Chief Executive Officer of NHS Business Services Authority, Michael Brodie CBE.



The first presentation was a recorded video from Rob Whiteman, CIPFA CEO who summarised the key challenges facing public sector organisations, including the global financial context, as well as an update on CIPFA's activities.

Next up was Lorna Smith, Interim Director of Public Health at Newcastle City Council who gave an update on the public health challenges in Newcastle.

Following Lorna was Kevin Meaney from New Tricks Advanced Business Training who gave an interesting presentation exploring the issue of how comfortable team members are in voicing their true opinions without fear of being judged and incurring negative consequences, and that teams that feel psychologically safe can move forward with confidence and enthusiasm.

Jenny Nelson, Head of ICT & Digital Transformation at Newcastle City Council delivered the last session before lunch, sharing the lessons learned from the first four phases of Newcastle City Council's corporate digital transformation journey.



After a short lunch break, the conference resumed with a panel discussion around the challenges and opportunities regarding the public sector workforce – chaired by Bruce Parvin, current CIPFA North East President and Schools Funding Manager at Northumberland County Council, along with Sarah Kilner, the Workforce Lead at North East & North Cumbria ICB and Michael Brodie.

Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources and North Tyneside Council led the next session titled

‘Planning in Uncertain (or Impossible) Times’, taking us through the challenges involved in setting the annual budget for a local authority in such a volatile context.



### **Blackbelt in negotiation webinar – January 2023**

We hosted a webinar on 26<sup>th</sup> January with Tom Flatau of Team Working International. Tom is an international speaker and expert in neuroscience and its application to leadership, sales and negotiation. In this interactive session he introduced attendees to neuroscience-based

### **Women In Finance – January 2023**

In January the Women in Finance event returned to a face to face setting at Northumbria University in Newcastle. With a packed schedule we heard from a diverse range of speakers, starting with Professor Kathryn Haynes of Northumbria University who set out some of her fascinating work on gender and the accounting profession. She explained how office dress code policies impact more on women and can inhibit freedom of expression in the workplace.

We next heard from Gaye Martin of the North East Regional Organised Crime Unit who spoke candidly about her experiences as a female police officer on the front line, with her top tip of “ask for help when you need it” - simple but something many of us need reminding of. Nicola Seymour from Northumbria Police talked us through their endometriosis support network which is helping to not only support sufferers working in the Force but

Up next Kelly Watson, Head of Local Government Relationships at the CCLA gave a presentation titled ‘Investing in a Better World’ which was an interesting insight into how her organisation is encouraging more sustainable investing as well as helping to tackle issues such as Modern Slavery with their Find it, Fix it, Prevent it initiative.

The final session was delivered by Sarah Kilner who gave an insightful overview of the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

The day ended with attendees taking the opportunity to catch up and network over drinks with CIPFA friends and colleagues.

techniques to ensure win-win outcomes and to build long term, profitable relationships, as well as covering the pitfalls of negotiating remotely. He also explained the 5 stage ‘negotiation funnel’ and the neuroscience behind it.

to also raise awareness and understanding of women’s health issues.

Lin Liu of Cambridgeshire County Council talked about her own battles and challenges and the overriding principle of positive thinking, especially in moments of defeat. Kate Hill of Moore Insight talked us through what it’s like having multiple caring roles and the emotional battle many of us have to endure before we even reach the office – compassion and kindness are simple values that everyone can benefit from in the workplace.

Graeme Tennick of Tennick Accountants spoke about the importance of creating culture within organisations, something we can all do whatever our position in the organisation. It’s important to understand why we’re doing the things we do and bring passion to our work.

Finally Manj Kalar of Kalar Consulting gave delegates some excellent tips on raising your

visibility and profile within the workplace which helped to bring things to a close. After hearing many personal stories and journeys and tips for success, delegates had plenty of content to digest on the way home and we're already planning the next event. We'd love to hear any ideas for future Women in Finance events, including themes, speakers and venues. Speaker slides are available on our website.

### Mary Astell Ceremony – March 2023

CIPFA North East were invited to attend a ceremony at St. Nicholas' Cathedral in Newcastle City Centre on International Women's Day for the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to Mary Astell. Astell has been described as the first feminist, being born in Newcastle in 1666. She advanced ideas and beliefs that many people in modern Britain hold today – the belief that by increasing equality and access to education we can build a better and fairer society. One which invests in the happiness of its people, and doesn't believe that ignorance is bliss.

Also taking place during the day were 'Women Behind the Stones' tours, which highlighted some of the trailblazing women remembered within the Cathedral. A 'Working with Women' showcase event was also held, celebrating the organisations and individuals in the region who support and promote the rights and lives of women.

### CIPFA North East AGM March 2023

The AGM was a virtual meeting held on 23 March 2023. As well as approving the financial report and annual accounts the team had a look back at the past 12 months. CIPFA NE have hosted many successful events; Sixth Form Games, Professional Update Day, Student Graduation Ceremony, CIPFA NE Annual Conference, Women In Finance along with virtual events. CIPFA NE also sponsored two students in July 2022 to attend the Public Finance Live Event. James Charlton also had the pleasure of being on the judging panel at the North East Accountancy Awards, where

This included representatives from schools, heritage, professional services and volunteer-led groups, including CIPFA North East. Judith gave a talk on how we developed the Women in Finance event to support women in our sector and encourage them to reach their full potential. The talks were fascinating listening – there are so many ways that we come together to support women and girls in our community. We also listened to brilliant music from a local band Howay the Lassies who write songs on notable women of the north east.

The plaque is sited on the wall adjoining the Cathedral and Amen Corner and was unveiled by the Sheriff of Newcastle, Councillor Veronica Dunn and Jane Hedges, Acting Dean of Newcastle.



CIPFA NE sponsored the Public Sector Team of the Year Award at this event.

Election of officers and membership of the Executive Committee 2023 also took place:

**President – Bruce Parvin**

**Vice President – Angela Waring**

**Treasurer – Matt Calvert**

**Secretary – Lucy Glister-Byers**

**Website & Social Media – Kevin Johnston**

Bruce thanked and congratulated James Charlton on completing his successful Presidency, and also expressed gratitude for James continuing to serve on the Executive Team, along with other previous presidents.

Bruce also thanked Clive Johnson for his time as a previous Vice President, and President and member of the Executive team, Clive has recently retired and stood down from his CIPFA role.

Angela Waring was elected as vice president and is greatly looking forward to the role and building on some fantastic events.

**If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Executive Team please contact**

**[northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org)**

## Section 5 - Students

### North East Student Network

It has been a good start to the year for the North East Student Network! We had our first meet up in a long time, a virtual gathering via zoom and we would like to thank those of you who came along, it was great to put some faces to names. We have also developed a WhatsApp group, which if you would like to be a member, please reach out to [northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org).

The next quarter hopes to be even more promising when we have an in person gathering in Newcastle! This will be in the form of a quiz on 5<sup>th</sup> May at Offshore44, 32 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3JF. A small buffet will be on offer and a drinks token will be given to all attendees, as well as extra drinks tokens to the quiz winners! It's a great opportunity to network with other students and members of CIPFA North East, so we hope to see and meet many of you there.

Harriot and Catherine - CIPFA NE Student Representatives

Harriot and Catherine - CIPFA NE Student Representatives

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS	
For help with course administration issues	020 7543 5600 <a href="mailto:cetc.enquiries@cipfa.org">cetc.enquiries@cipfa.org</a>
For help with examinations	020 7543 5600 <a href="mailto:studentsupport@cipfa.org">studentsupport@cipfa.org</a>
For any concerns about your training courses	020 7543 5622 <a href="mailto:trainingdeliverymanager@cipfa.org">trainingdeliverymanager@cipfa.org</a>

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](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org)

## Section 6 – Secret Accountant



### Secret Accountant – “Hold the Back Page”

Has anybody else ever thought our newsletter needed a Sports Column? Happy to give a mention to any representative sports teams active in the North East, as long as they have a strong CIPFA connection. I am of a generation where sport and the workplace seemed to be inextricably linked, I remember fondly footy at New College Durham during my Trainee days – something that would not seem possible in a virtual learning environment – no, FIFA 23 DOESN'T count.

Sadly my sporting involvement is now largely confined to spectating rather than participation, but it was with a greater sense of anticipation than usual that I watch the recent Carabao Cup final, but alas it was not meant to be, and any Newcastle fans reading this must now wait longer before celebrating a first trophy – I am painfully aware that the idea of a Newcastle trophy must be an alien concept to the vast majority of the readership, save the odd sporadic period of hope under Kevin Keegan and Sir Bobby.

Who were you supporting during the final? If not a “black and white” I am conscious that, sadly, it is almost mandatory to adopt the Andy Murray “Anyone But England” position (I think he was joking but am never 100% sure). If following Sunderland, Middlesbrough or anyone else, it is almost mandatory to support Newcastle’s opponents (even when Man \*\*\*\* Utd ???!?!). My appeal to the football gods went unheard and the Red Devils (even their nickname is Satanic!) were triumphant, thus ending the 6 year trophy “drought” – 6 years? That’s not a drought that’s hardly a brief dry spell!

I have previously taken abuse for adopting the “I would just like to see all the North East teams do well” position and will do so again should Middlesbrough and or Sunderland make the playoffs? Would you really rather see another London or North West club in the Premier League instead – WHY? I hope you don’t snub colleagues from neighboring authorities (it does tend to hinder collaboration!) but why then can’t you support their football teams?

As an aside, I always enjoy the politicians taking credit for a “booming economy” during the summer months when we all really know it’s just we are more inclined to be “out and about” when the weather’s fine! Maybe we can adopt ice cream sales as a more general barometer of the economy? Mr Whippy for Chancellor of the Exchequer?

Perhaps the error we all make is to then adopt Premier League footballers as role models? I am aware that there are exceptions that prove the rule – step forward Free School Meal Champion Mr Rashford – but surely the error is then on our part to expect these privileged young men to be paragons of virtue. Let’s instead support our grass roots junior football who provide opportunities every weekend for thousands of young people to play football in a supportive environment, for nothing more than the satisfaction of doing so.

Sadly these grass roots heroes are unlikely to attract the adulations of the crowds or command six figures weekly salaries, but a hand putting the goal nets away would be greatly appreciated!

**THE SECRET ACCOUNTANT!**