

President's Report 2021-2022

What a difference a year makes!

Indeed, it does. Last year's AGM was a zoom event and TESLA never happened. Now we are post Covid restrictions and TESLA have a showroom in Thames Valley. I have therefore been able to bring the event to Reading this year. I do hope as many of you as possible will turn out as it has taken some arranging. There will be a 'driving experience' and a chance to see and hear about TESLA close up. If you have not been to an AGM before why not give it a try this year. Hope to see you there.

This report is from September 2021 to May 2022 as that is the extended period of my tenure. I started in September 2020 so have really only been President during the period when zoom ran the world. We however, met a number of members that we have not seen before so not all bad. We are getting back to normal and we will arrange as many physical events as possible, which many feel is the only way to network properly.

Planning this year has been on events during the next year when Julia Penny becomes the first National President from Thames Valley. The plan is for her to spend a day in Thames Valley early in her year. Unfortunately, she has a clash for the Thames Valley Golf day on 1st July but she will attend the dinner at Oxford College on September 30th. As I write this, we are also trying to arrange a 'big event' in November with a well known speaker. I have personally spoken to Julia about this, but she has a busy November, mainly outside the UK, so we are matching diaries as I write this.

I worked on an ICAEW working party last year discussing the future of District Societies and a number of that groups working party recommendations were discussed and agreed at Council. One of the more controversial ones regarding future funding of District Societies has gone to a sub committee to look at the options and I am pleased to say that this coming year's Vice President Biyi Oloko is on that committee, so we have a voice.

I would still encourage all members to read [Chartam](#) when it comes out and to communicate with any committee member or our secretariate if you have any interests you believe we at Thames Valley could share with fellow members.

Practice Support Groups (PSGs)

We still have two PSGs, one which covers Oxford and Banbury, and one which covers Henley and surrounding areas. These groups are predominantly for smaller practices which are run by members, specifically for members. The members help each other with technical questions, advice and support. These groups meet around once a quarter. They are now returning to physical meetings, but we will also use zoom meetings where it makes sense. We are still looking to expand with another group so please get in contact if you wish us to start one in your area.

Business Breakfasts.

Business meetings for members in business have been virtual and will be a mix with a breakfast going forward. Much more conducive for networking before and after the meeting. Members have had interesting speakers attend the Oxford Business Breakfast and the Reading and Maidenhead Business Breakfasts. The members have also discussed the business confidence monitor as well as local topical issues taking place in the Thames Valley.

Both groups will continue to meet as appropriate.

Accounting update courses at Voco

Last year's course was unfortunately cancelled, but most members have carried forward their booking for the 2022 course. Please watch the Thames Valley pages for information on its return if of interest.

Women's Networking

Thames Valley have started a Women's Networking group that has been well attended in 2021. These events are hosted by our Past President Fiona Mckenzie and touch on different topics at every meeting. If you are interested in helping to run this group, please contact Fiona through the [secretariate](#).

Twinning

Thames Valley's relationship with the Experts Comptables de Normandie, the Normandy accountants, has become closer over the last few years. Post Brexit this continues to be the case.

Now we are able to start to plan proper meetings, we will be arranging joint meetings again. They have already been invited to the 2022 Annual Dinner at Oxford. See details later in this report.

Meet the Presidents 2022

Nick Lloyd your 2022/2023 President is still hoping to visit the whole of Thames Valley with Julia Penny sometime after her appointment in June. She has kindly agreed to spend a day with Nick to tour Thames Valley to meet Thames Valley members across our District. The current plan is to meet members in Reading for a Breakfast time meeting, Oxford for a lunch time meeting and finally High Wycombe for an early evening meeting.

They will both be available to meet as many of you that can make it and to answer any questions you have about being a member of Thames Valley and the ICAEW. Look out for the next issue of Chartam for the complete day's itinerary.

Thames Valley Annual Dinner 2022

All arrangements have now been agreed with Exeter College in Oxford which is fixed for **Friday, 30 September 2022.**

Thames Valley has arranged to hold this prestigious event at Exeter College in Oxford when Julia Penny will be present. Thames Valley members will recall Julia Penny was a Thames Valley District Society President in 2001/2002. She is our First National President from Thames Valley so we are making the most of celebrating 2022/2023 with her and Thames Valley. Speakers have already been arranged and details should be in the current Spring Edition of Chartam.

Thames Valley President's Golf Day 2022.

At Burnham Beeches Golf Club on Friday 1 July 2022. Golfers amongst you please make a note in your diaries and find the booking details in the current edition of Chartam.

Council Representation.

Please do remember that Thames Valley have three dedicated members on Council representing the views of Thames Valley members. Graham Durgan, John Stout and Bindi Palmer attend Council meetings during the year at ICAEW and keep your Main Committee up to date with what is going on at the Institute. They are always available to all Thames Valley members if there is any issue that needs addressing so, please use them wisely.

Main Committee.

This has been a busy year at Thames Valley with probably more meetings virtually than we would otherwise have held. Our meetings are now attempting to be physical as it is useful to have informal meetings before and after the main agenda items. All main committee members are active representing you all locally but if any of you feel you have a contribution to make, we do have vacancies that we would like to fill. We also have sub committees that need younger members to bring new ideas so the same applies here.

Please join me at the AGM on **Monday 30 May 2022 at 18.00.** Or before and after if you are wanting the TESLA 'driving experience'. [Click here to book onto the AGM.](#) Full details of the event are in the Spring edition of Chartam.

Paul Wagstaff FCA., FBIM

President Thames Valley