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# NEWS UPDATE

A MAGAZINE FOR CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN THE SOUTH WEST



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### A SUMMER OF SUSTAINABILITY

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**ROS AALA**  
PRESIDENT 2021-2022

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

I am really pleased to have been appointed as our district society president this year. When I first joined the district society committee I was surprised by how much is done to support the members we have in our three counties. We shall continue to support you locally through the CPD and update events, business member breakfasts, practice member town groups, retired member events, young member activities, Female Forum and sector specific groups. We are hoping to set up a tourism and hospitality group to add to the charity sector group we have already set up. South West members can also participate in regional sector groups such as the rural & farming group and the manufacturing group. If there's something we can do to support you, please let us know.

It is traditional for presidents to have a theme for their year. I have chosen social mobility for my term. When we talk to employers we discover that many struggle to recruit the right people. There is a clear demand for trainee accountants. But there seems to be a lack of supply in certain locations. Not enough people seem to aspire to enter our profession. There is a pool of talent out there, but many have never considered being an accountant because of their social background or location. Someone from a 'working class' background may have no one to talk to about what it's like to be an accountant. They have no frame of reference so choose

not to enter our profession. This is the social mobility problem. I thought it would be a useful theme for my year because we may be able to improve social mobility and at the same time increase the pool of aspiring accountants to help with our recruitment problems.

Location is also a factor. The government's social mobility index shows West Somerset and Torridge within our district as social mobility cold spots. Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in these local authorities may have limited opportunities to get on.

We can all help by offering work experience for young people. This will allow them to see what the job of an accountant is all about. ICAEW supports this with a work experience toolkit which includes a suggested programme of activities for five days. ICAEW is also supporting the government's Kickstart Scheme which provides funding for 100% of the national minimum wage plus NI and minimum pension contributions for 25 hours per week for six months. ICAEW is offering a virtual summer programme for work experience and internships to help employers build a diverse talent pipeline and support students in gaining valuable real-life work experiences. Students can register and ICAEW will provide them with activities and try to match them with suitable employers. One of these interns might become a future partner or CEO in your business. Don't forget that authorised training employers can advertise for free on the ICAEW training vacancies website, including work experience opportunities.

You can also help by supporting career events at your local schools and colleges. Allowing some of your staff to attend career events can help spread the word about how great it is to be an accountant!

### Ros Aala

President

### Office Holders for 2021–2022

President	Rosauro Aala
Deputy	Dawn Mills
Vice	Gavin Roberts
Treasurer	Philip Littler

## TOP INDUSTRY LEADERS TO SPEAK AT REGIONAL TOURISM & HOSPITALITY EVENT

The tourism & hospitality sector has certainly been on a roller-coaster ride since March 2020 and the outbreak of COVID-19. This summer the South West has had an extremely busy season but staffing issues caused by Brexit, COVID-19 and the 'pingdemic' have caused major issues for some businesses.

Can this sector now survive the quieter winter months and how do they plan for summer 2022?

We are delighted to have a great panel of ICAEW members working in this sector to discuss these issues and more:

**David Harland**, CEO, Eden Project (Chair), **Colin Stratton**, FD, St Austell Brewery, **Roger Maslin**, CEO, The Ocean Conservation Trust (National Marine Aquarium), **Stuart Reid**, CEO, Isles of Scilly Steamship Group, and **Kevin Jutson**, CFO, Ilchester Estates (Abbotsbury Swannery & Subtropical Gardens).

The event will be held virtually on **Wednesday 3 November** between 16:00 and 17:00. See [page 12](#) to book online or email [Trudi](#).

## SPORT CORNWALL FOUNDATION (SCF)

Sport Cornwall Foundation are looking for two new trustees to support the strategic growth of their revenue, reach and impact. This is an incredible opportunity to change the lives and livelihoods of people facing disadvantage by using sport as a force for good.

Background: Sport Cornwall Foundation is a Charitable Interest Organisation and a partner for the development of the Stadium for Cornwall.

We are committed to promoting community participation in health and wellbeing recreation by providing facilities for the playing of sports capable of improving health and wellbeing in the county of Cornwall.

Helping to provide and assist in providing facilities for sport, recreation and other leisure occupation of people who have the need for such facilities by reason of their age, disability, social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their lifestyle.

Educate through sport, recreation, and leisure time activities and to develop character, physical health, mental health, and spiritual capacities. To make an impact on health and wellbeing within the whole county of Cornwall for ONE AND ALL.

We are looking for two new trustees to support the strategic growth of their revenue, reach and impact. This is an incredible opportunity to change the lives and livelihoods of people facing disadvantage by using sport as a force for good.

Our board of trustees are responsible for the overall governance, financial health, and strategic direction of the charity, developing its organisational aims, objectives and goals in accordance with the governing document, legal and regulatory guidelines.

As a member of the board of trustees, there is a shared responsibility for the strategic direction of the organisation, supporting the charitable objectives of AK and ensuring sound governance. In addition to the statutory duties, each Trustee uses their specific skills, knowledge and experience they have to help the Board of Trustees reach sound decisions.

Please send any expression of interest to [info@sportcornwall.org](mailto:info@sportcornwall.org) or contact Nikki on +44 (0)7818 176 528.



## VIRTUAL COMEDY GIG

When it became clear earlier this year that the 2021 Annual Dinner was going to be postponed, we were left with a problem with a certain comedian. The previous District Society President had booked Jo Caulfield to perform at the 2020 Annual Dinner (which was cancelled), and then we agreed to book her for the 2021 dinner which was also ruined by COVID. So what to do?

In the end we decided to host the district's first virtual comedy gig on Zoom. This was a great opportunity to meet (virtually) with some members of the district, to enjoy some much-needed laughs and to increase the fundraising total for Trussell Trust that we had been running since Christmas.

So with much trepidation I joined the Zoom meeting on 6 May to see what would happen! Would anyone turn up? Would Jo be funny over Zoom? Would anyone donate to the charity?

The answer to every question was a resounding YES! About 30 members logged in and it was great to see everyone. Jo had researched the various firms on the attendance list and gently mocked our websites and marvelled at some delegated home décor!



And perhaps most importantly, we increased the district's fundraising total to over £1,000.

So thank you to everyone who logged in and took part and a special thank you to those who gave to the Trussell Trust. The JustGiving page is still open so if you would like to give to this vital charity, please [click here](#). If you'd like to find out more about Jo Caulfield then please see her webpage [here](#).

**David Norris**  
Past President (2020/21)

## TOP NATIONAL AWARDS FOR ACCOUNTANTS AT PKF FRANCIS CLARK

Two members of staff from South West based accountants and business advisers PKF Francis Clark, have been recognised as top performers by ICAEW.

Both based at the firm's Plymouth office as seniors, **Becky Walters** (left) has achieved first place and the 'Pegler prize' for her result in Financial Accounting and Reporting, while **Lily Gammon** (right) has achieved first place and the 'Knox prize' for her result in Tax Compliance. They both scored 100% for their papers.



Due to restrictions still being in place, both were recognised for their accomplishments in a virtual ceremony that took place on 26 May 2021.

Giles Hutchings, Partner at PKF Francis Clark said:

“

**We are so thrilled for both Becky and Lily for such fantastic achievements in their exams. They really are amazing people and a lot of hard work and determination went into achieving these results and we're very proud of them. We have a lot of talented staff within the firm and results like these really do reflect how we are competing at the highest level. It really demonstrates that you can live in a beautiful part of the country and have a great career at the same time.**

## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW OPPORTUNITY?

The South West Technical Advisory Committee is looking for new members who have an interest in any, or all, technical aspects of the profession.

The committee is formed on an agile basis such that we have a core of regular attendees, and also a group of less frequent attendees who drop in on our virtual meetings when they are able to spare the time or when there is a particular topic of interest.

We would very much to like to hear from any South West members who have a particular specialism or interest or enjoy technical discussions in general so that we can continue to grow and strengthen the committee and contribute to as many discussion papers and consultations as possible. Not only will this enable you to give back and ensure that the voice of the South West is heard, but you will also get the opportunity to widen your own technical support network.

If this is something that you may be interested in, then please do get in touch with [Trudi Coles](#) who will be happy to discuss the committee with you in more detail.

## LEAVING YOUR COMFORT ZONE: THE CAREER-CHANGING POWER OF DISRUPTION

### Female Forum – Tuesday 2 November, 18:00–19:30

Being disruptive takes guts and may make you feel uncomfortable – but learning to do things differently is a powerful way of being more visible. If you want to raise your profile, then join us for this session.

In this 90-minute online session we'll explore how to stand out from the crowd by leaving your comfort zone, taking calculated risks and being more strategic about where you place your focus, time and attention. Following the rules can stop your career in its tracks; learning to spot opportunities, seize chances and even create your own can make the difference to the trajectory of your future plans.

At the end of the session, you'll be able to:

- think differently about disrupting the status quo and feel more confident and comfortable in doing so;
- review elements of your interpersonal style and behaviour so that you can confidently step out of your comfort zone and take action that gets you noticed; and
- be more comfortable speaking up and sharing your ideas.

This session will be delivered by [Susan Ritchie](#), Author and Personal Development Coach. Please see back cover on how to book online or email [Trudi](#).

## KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH BUSINESS MEMBERS

The coronavirus pandemic continues although significant progress toward some sort of normality has started and will, perhaps, improve the ways in which we are able to keep in touch with our members in the business community.

Nevertheless, the value of more regular meetings has been appreciated by the four groups from Somerset, Cornwall, Plymouth and Exeter that have been meeting for 'breakfast' virtually since March 2020. For this reason, I have arranged for each group to have two meetings during the autumn period, one virtual and one face-to-face at our usual venues. The dates of these are:

	FACE-TO-FACE	VIRTUAL
Plymouth	24 September	5 November
Somerset	12 November	1 October
Cornwall	15 October	19 November
Exeter	26 November	22 October

Face-to-face meetings will be held from 07:30 to 09:00 and virtual from 08:00 to 09:00. I hope that more of our business members will be able to join us for these meetings and share information and opinions on what is happening with their work and businesses and, more generally, in their areas and business sectors. You can book your place(s) via the [ICAEW event web page](#) or email [trudi.coles@icaew.com](mailto:trudi.coles@icaew.com). You are welcome to attend at more than one location.

During the summer period the discussions have centred around COVID-19 and the changes that have been brought about by Brexit with new regulations and procedures having to be implemented. It will be interesting to learn the extent to which various sectors of our economy in the south west have benefitted (or not) from the easing of the pandemic restrictions in July.

In addition to the breakfast meetings, the regular half-yearly updates for business members will also return with a face-to-face event on 23 November at Exeter Racecourse from 08.45 to 13.00. Subjects will include the usual tax, VAT and financial reporting updates with a session on sustainability and net zero planning which will be very topical with the Climate Change Summit taking place in Glasgow at the beginning of November. This event is free to business members.

### John Ashley



**THE ACA CREATES  
COMMERCIAL,  
ETHICAL AND  
DATA-DRIVEN  
PROFESSIONALS.**

**FIND OUT MORE**




### ICAEW BUSINESS COMMITTEE

I'm pleased to announce that I was recently nominated to sit on the ICAEW Business Committee, which is a Members' Board that feeds into the main ICAEW Board and Council. The committee's main role is to help advise ICAEW and represent the views of members in industry.

I am very impressed at the range of industries and size of businesses that are represented on the committee, which can therefore provide such valuable insight and feedback into ICAEW. I have only attended one meeting so far and to give a bit of a flavour the topics discussed included the BEIS White Paper and the ICAEW strategy for training in industry.

I am very much looking forward to my term on the committee, helping to represent the views of small businesses, the South West and the Marine sector.

### Alice Bessell



**WINNERS OF THE HARVEY FROST MEMORIAL TROPHY 2021  
HAMISH ADAM (LEFT) AND  
DALE BAND (RIGHT)**

## ICAEW SOUTH WEST GOLF GUEST DAY 17 JUNE 2021

Into Cornwall this year (postponed from 2020 for viral reasons) at Trethorne Golf Club for this year's battle for the Harvey Frost Memorial Trophy. This competition continues to be the only regional annual Chartered Accountants' golf day in the South West.

20 players competed (10 pairs) with both Somerset and Devon represented this year, although disappointingly again not Cornwall (even though the county hosted!). The parkland course was in excellent condition and weather ideal so an enjoyable day was reported by all, despite some remaining Covid restrictions being in operation.

The main trophy was won by Hamish Adam of Richard J Smith & Co and his guest Dale Band, with an impressive 47 points in the pairs better ball competition. Second with 45 points were Mark Holt and Gordon McCaw of Mark Holt & Co.

The individual competition was won by Andy Nicholls, with 38 points, just ahead of Vaughan Jones, who finished with 37 points.

The longest drive was won by Dale Band and nearest the pin by Jon Trembath. Nearest the pin in two was also won by Jon Trembath. Twos were recorded by Dave Hollow and Steve Hawkey.

Numbers attending are still on the low side but all who attend unanimously wish the event to continue. It would be good to expand numbers if it is to continue.

I am therefore seeking to get others involved in the organisation of the event please. I would encourage maybe a younger golfing member of the Society to come forward to assist in organising next year's event with me (venue to be advised) hopefully in June 2022. Please contact me by email if you would like to be involved next year; also if you intend to enter a team (dates permitting),

please also email me as this will give me an idea of the level of support for the event. My thanks to all who supported the event this year and I hope the event will run again next year.



**TONY JOPSON (GOLF SECRETARY) CONGRATULATING RUNNER UP – MARK HOLT (WEARING COVID REMINDERS!)**

**Tony Jopson**  
Secretary ICAEW South West Golf  
[tony@tonyjopson.co.uk](mailto:tony@tonyjopson.co.uk)

## CONTACTS

**Ros Aala** President, ICAEW SW  
[ros@accountancylearning.ac.uk](mailto:ros@accountancylearning.ac.uk)

**Trudi Coles** Regional Executive, ICAEW T +44 (0)117 370 1463  
[trudi.coles@icaew.com](mailto:trudi.coles@icaew.com)

**Dawn Mills** Deputy-President, ICAEW SW  
Editor, ICAEW South West News  
[dawn.mills@albertgoodman.co.uk](mailto:dawn.mills@albertgoodman.co.uk)

**Beverley Waters** Regional Director, ICAEW  
[beverley.waters@icaew.com](mailto:beverley.waters@icaew.com)

## ICAEW LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Are you coming up to retirement? Do you really want to sever your ties with your profession? Are you going to take on some voluntary work such as a trusteeship? Consider joining ICAEW as a life member.

I retired some seven years ago but as a long-standing member of ICAEW, did not wish to relinquish my membership. As I was not going to take any paid employment after retirement, I opted to join as a life member. For a one-off payment, I was able to continue my association with ICAEW at no further cost and it has proved to be real value for money. I have taken advantage of all of the following.

### Free membership of the Charity Finance Professionals Community

As one of my activities in retirement, I joined a board of trustees. This meant of course that I had to stay up to date with charity accounting and audit. Happily, ICAEW offers free membership of the charity community which helped keep me up to date. A particular benefit of being a life member was I did not have to pay for trustee indemnity insurance, as ICAEW has an insurance policy which covers members undertaking voluntary work as trustees, in itself a great saving.

### Library services and access to the latest information

When you leave employment, you may still wish to keep up to date or to access information for your own personal purposes, so this is a very useful benefit.

### Access to business and accountancy resource and research services

Similarly, you continue to have access to the resources on ICAEW's website.

### Use of the Business Centre at Chartered Accountants' Hall

If you spend time in the London area or make the occasional trip to London, you can still pop into Chartered Accountants' Hall to meet up with friends or just enjoy a hot drink and snack in comfort and peace and quiet!

### Confidential advice and support helplines

ICAEW offers considerable support to its members through its helplines and CABA, including advice on state benefits.

### Offers

There is a wide range of discounts and offers available specifically to retired ICAEW members. These range from motor assistance, access to private GP consultations and Interflora, to membership of English Heritage and hotel stays. You still have access to the standard ICAEW membership benefits as well as [ICAEW Member Rewards \(pagesuite-professional.co.uk\)](https://www.icaew.co.uk/membership-rewards). I took advantage of a substantial discount on a new car when I retired and gave up my company vehicle. I saved several £000s by simply quoting my ICAEW membership number.

### Local society membership and CABA

Last but not least, you may choose to remain a member of your local society. ICAEW SW is probably unique in that it has a retired member representative. Often in association with CABA, it runs events specifically for members coming up to retirement and retired members, including retirement courses and member teas. Partners are welcome at many events, which provide an opportunity to catch up with old friends and professional acquaintances. Every effort is made to ensure that the venues are disability-friendly, and we have been able to accommodate the needs of wheelchair users, for example. These events have all been very popular. A recent online event gave charity trustees the opportunity to learn what was new and to discuss participants' problems in a friendly environment. Please ensure your ICAEW preferences are kept up to date so that you continue to receive the district society's newsletters and emails. CABA also runs online events in which you can participate and provides newsletters offering help and advice.

Life membership currently costs £592.50. Stay in touch and sign up – it's a bargain!

### Teresa Sienkiewicz

Former Retired Member Representative

## RETIRED MEMBER REQUIRED FOR ICAEW SW COMMITTEE

The ICAEW South West committee is looking for a retired member to represent this member sector. The role will include attending five committee meetings each year, two face to face and three virtual as well as supporting Trudi in the organisation of local events. This is a great opportunity to meet other members based within Devon, Cornwall & Somerset. Please contact Trudi at [trudi.coles@icaew.com](mailto:trudi.coles@icaew.com) or +44 (0)7876 035 925 to discuss further or express your interest.

## OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of our friends and colleagues:

Alan Adams  
Colin Child  
Susan Coates  
John Crockford  
Steven De Boer  
Thomas Giles  
David Griffin  
Adrian Knight  
Alan Matthews  
Richard Rendall  
Stephen Swetenham  
Marian Wiseman



## OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My presidential year was the year we:

- ☹️ Did not have an annual dinner
- ☹️ Did not have any face-to-face committee meetings
- ☹️ Did not meet anyone in the district face-to-face
- ☹️ Did not get to travel to meet other district presidents
- ☹️ Did not attend ICAEW meetings in London and get to hear from the national president

But it was also the year we:

- 😊 Did spend a lot more time at home and with the family
- 😊 Did enjoy the lack of travelling
- 😊 Did notice an improvement in air quality due to a lack of traffic
- 😊 Did learn how to use Zoom and spent time talking to colleagues
- 😊 Did holiday locally and gained a new appreciation for this part of the country

So as I look back, I can certainly see the many things that had to stop because of the COVID-19 restrictions but there were also many positives to be thankful for. It was also amazing to see how firms - and the district - were able to adapt to the situation and provide support for colleagues and clients through an incredibly challenging period.

As we look to the future, I wish Ros Aala all the best for his year and am excited to see how the district (and more broadly the profession) takes the things we have learnt forward to a 'new normal', with perhaps an updated set of priorities for how we spend our time.

### David Norris

Past President 2020/21

## ICAEW SOUTH & SOUTH WEST TECH WEEK

The ICAEW South & South West regional team will be running a series of live virtual seminars during October which will focus on bringing you key updates and the latest thinking on aspects of technology affecting you.

We want these to be interactive sessions so that you get the best out of them, giving you the opportunity to get expert advice from each of the speakers.

### How technology trends are changing business and trust

Monday 11 October 2021

Kirstin Gillon, Technical Manager ICAEW.

This session will give an overview of the biggest technology trends for accountants today. She will discuss how automation and AI are changing business, how blockchain and cryptocurrency are purporting to change the face of trust, and how cybersecurity has come to dominate the agenda.

### Finding your ideal client in this digital age

Tuesday 12 October 2021

Aynsley Damery, CEO & Founder, Clarity.

In this fast-paced and interactive session, Aynsley will talk about how you can:

- identify your ideal client, what they want and what they value;
- find and connect with them in this competitive and online world; and
- importantly, keep them as clients for many years to come.

### Cyber security – everything you ought to know, but probably don't

Wednesday 13 October 2021

Mark Moore, Director, The Cyber Resilience Centre for the South West.

This presentation will include ways in which business owners and directors can make themselves more cyber resilient. From the basics of good cyber practice through to the right questions to ask at board level.

### A practical workshop on digitalising your practice

Thursday 14 October 2021

Jessica Pillow, Founder, Pillow May.

Industry leaders in Xero, FreeAgent and Dext, Pillow May uses cloud-based automation tools to improve the efficiency and profitability of their clients' businesses – and the same applies to the firm itself. Jessica is happy to share her extensive knowledge and experience of how she digitalised her practice.

### All things blockchain and cryptocurrency

Friday 15 October 2021

David Lyford-Smith, Technical Manager, ICAEW.

This session will cover the key features and abilities of this hot-button technology trend, compare and contrast blockchain from bitcoin, and explain some of the key accounting, tax and auditing implications in the space.

See [page 12](#) for timings.



## A SUMMER OF SUSTAINABILITY

The last six months have seen sustainability embedded as a core part of the events schedule and regional accountants' network.

Thanks to all who took part in the 30 Days To Sustainable Ways initiative during April following its launch in the last magazine. It was fantastic to see participation from a wide number of firms and individuals. There were some great posts on LinkedIn – search for #30DaysToSustainableWays to find them, and feel free to keep sharing your ideas for work and lifestyle changes using this tag.

Alongside this, a Regional Sustainability Group was established in late 2020. The group brings together representatives from the Southern, Wales and South West districts with an interest in supporting and helping ICAEW members keep up to date with the changing landscape, as we target net zero as a country by 2050.

The regional group is running a programme of virtual monthly lunchtime webinars covering a range of sustainability topics. The events bring together a panel of speakers covering different aspects and experiences of the topic along with a Q&A from attendees.

The series kicked off with 'Starting Your Company's Transport Journey to Net Zero' followed by 'Financial Reporting and the Cost of Net Zero'. Both webinars were very well attended – many thanks to attendees and speakers for your time and questions. Speakers included **Soham Gehani** (Grant Thornton), **James Cleeton** (Sustrans), **Simon Whitehead** (Zedify), **Rosie Dunscombe** (ICAEW), **Kit Beazley** (Finance Innovation Lab), **Ian Huggett** (Thomas Westcott) and myself: **Jenny Hill** (Riverford Organic Farmers). Topics on 'green' investments and pensions, and offsetting are planned for the autumn/winter – keep an eye out for dates and book via [Trudi Coles](#) or via the [ICAEW Events page](#).

Nationally, the ICAEW Sustainability team are running a programme of events in the run up to COP26 culminating in the ICAEW Climate Summit 18-22 October: a five-day virtual summit of events, videos, podcasts and articles to help chartered accountants act on climate. To help you stay up to date join the free ICAEW's Sustainability and Climate Change Community which provides regular updates to members. Members may be finding that the consideration of carbon impact, sustainability reporting or green changes to government legislation increasingly factor in business decisions and

client conversations. This is a rapidly developing field, still with a lot of unknowns, risks and lack of regulation (such as in the market for carbon offsets), none of which typically sit comfortably with an accountant's mindset. As this is an entirely new challenge that we are collectively facing, the sharing of knowledge and experience amongst ourselves and in our networks feels to me like the method of gaining momentum and making good decisions.

In attending the recent events, one area that struck me was in relation to current decision making around capital purchases and investment. There are some 'knowns' in the timing of the rollout of policy changes which need to be considered well in advance to avoid 'stranded assets'. These are defined as assets that at some time prior to the end of their economic life, are no longer able to earn an economic return, because of changes associated with the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Current policy dates to be aware of are:

- 2030:** Recycling rate of 70% achieved
- 2032:** 100% of sales of cars and vans are fully electric
- 2033:** Sales of gas boilers to all homes and business phased out
- 2035:** Annual tree-planting rates of 50,000 ha/year
- 2035:** All ore-based steel-making near-zero emissions
- 2040:** Phase out sales of new diesel HGVs

Investment decisions from now on need to be factoring in the lives of assets impacted by changes in policy and considering how a change of focus of these industries will affect the ability to maintain and service 'old style' assets in the future.

With Glasgow hosting COP26 in November, it will be interesting to see how the current roadmap changes as a result.

**Jenny Hill**  
ICAEW SW Sustainability  
Representative



## SWECASS INSIGHTS TALKS

SWECASS hosted the second of their virtual Insights talks 'Insights talks – Practice' in February this year. Five ICAEW members gave short talks about the experiences and challenges they have come across while pursuing a career in their different areas of practice.

The five speakers were our very own SWECASS President, **Dawn Mills** who works in the Business Services department for Albert Goodman; **Freya Hancock** who works in the Audit department of Bishop Fleming; **Scott Bebbington** who is a Senior Manager of the Business Recovery and Insolvency department in Francis Clark; **Kathryn Mansell** who works in the Corporate

Finance department at the Old Mill; and **Jackie Crane** spoke about her time in the Tax department at Francis Clark.

The evening finished off with a Q&A session where the ICAEW students and young members were able to ask our speakers various questions.

What made this SWECASS event rather interesting, was the entire panel were either current or previous SWECASS committee members which shows how valuable and long-lasting building network connections and friendship can be!

**Abbey Short**  
SWECASS Firm Rep

## CAREERS TALKS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

We know many of you get asked to do an accountancy careers talk at their children's school or college. To ensure the best experience for both you and the students, please do let us know so that we can arrange to send you up-to-date information/collateral.

If you would be interested in helping us promote the profession locally then please do let us know and we will add you to our register of volunteers.

Please contact Zoe Stubbings, ICAEW Marketing Executive Student Recruitment on +44 (0)1908 546 324 or [zoe.stubbings@icaew.com](mailto:zoe.stubbings@icaew.com)

## THE BENEFITS OF ATTENDING A LOCAL TOWN GROUP

Over the past few years I have been attending the quarterly meet ups of the South Somerset Town group which covers the Yeovil region.

I have found the events really insightful and beneficial as they not only provide a forum to discuss key issues and experiences that members are facing but also an opportunity to hear from guest speakers on topical matters of interest. For example, we have previously had discussions around Brexit, GDPR and of course managing the global pandemic in recent meetings!

These groups are a great platform to meet other like-minded ICAEW members and engage in meaningful discussions providing mutual support and sharing information.

The events were previously held in person before the pandemic (at which point they transferred to virtual meet ups), but face-to-face meetings will soon be returning across the regions, so if you are interested in coming along please do get in touch with [Trudi](#) who will be more than happy to give you details of upcoming events.

Town groups are aimed at ICAEW members working in practice. We currently have the following groups set up: West Cornwall, East Cornwall, North Devon, South Devon, Plymouth, Mid-Somerset and South Somerset. It is hoped that groups will be started in Exeter and East Devon within the next 12 months.

**Bradley Johnson**  
Albert Goodman LLP

## SWECASS

The SWECASS committee have had a busy time finalising our event timetable for the upcoming year. We have a number of events coming up both virtual and in person.

As always, in September we will be welcoming new students into the society. We are again looking forward to running a virtual New Starters Night in October to meet the new students. Please encourage any new students in your firms to sign up. It is free and there will be goodies sent to all attendees.

Other events that we have in the pipeline are further episodes of our series of Insights talks and a Christmas drinks evening.

The committee will continue to be a voice on the wider ICAEW stage to represent you and to feed back relevant information. I would therefore strongly encourage you to get involved at whatever stage you are at in your studies. We appreciate that finding time between studying and work can be difficult but spending time with people who are going through/have gone through the same challenges, can help you to build a strong support network.

If you would like to get involved or attend the above events, please get in contact via email or find us on [social media!](#)

**Georgina Myles**  
SWECASS Chair  
[GMyles@bishopfleming.co.uk](mailto:GMyles@bishopfleming.co.uk)

## CONGRATULATIONS

To all our friends and colleagues who have reached the milestone of 50 years membership (January 2021–July 2021)

Reginald Bellenie  
Peter Bendall  
Deirdre Boulter  
Graham Briggs  
Ian Chapman  
Paul Creasy  
David Crick  
Peter Di Giuseppe  
Melvyn Greenhalgh  
Paul Griffith  
John Hollow  
Graham Jenks  
Peter Kent

Christopher Leigh  
Peter Levey  
Nicholas Lunt  
Howard Midwinter  
Nigel Morris  
David Myers  
Alan Newman  
Terence Rounsefell  
Richard Sowerby  
Howard Stanlake  
David Whalley  
Vernon Willcocks  
Richard Willmott



## ACCESS ACCOUNTANCY

Established in 2014 as a charity, Access Accountancy is a collaboration of over 25 accountancy firms, professional bodies and organisations trying to improve access to our profession for people from lower socio-economic backgrounds. A Cabinet Office report (Unleashing Aspiration: The Final Report of the Panel on Fair Access to the Professions, July 2009) reports that, 'the biggest decline in social mobility occurred in the professions of journalism and accountancy' and, without change, it's likely that future professionals will be growing up in a family more well off than seven in ten of all families in the UK.

ICAEW became chair in October 2020 and this autumn RISE launches. The vision is to offer KS4 students from low socio-economic backgrounds an opportunity to participate in work and life related skills sessions with support from RISE volunteers. The long-term view is to accelerate social mobility in the UK and create sustainable interventions in schools. Improving socio-economic inclusion for access into the accountancy sector will mean organisations will have better opportunities to recruit, promote and retain some of the most under-represented talent in the country.

Participating employers are providing 30-hour work experience placements for lower socio-economic background applicants around the country. The Access Accountancy map here shows a lack of placements in the South West so perhaps you'd like to become involved. You can also help by visiting schools and providing information about the profession to students. For further information and details of how to get involved please contact [access.accountancy@icaew.com](mailto:access.accountancy@icaew.com)

## OCTOBER

**1 Fri, 08:00-09:00**

Somerset business member breakfast

Virtual

**1 Fri, 12:00-13:00**

Sustainable Pensions

Virtual

**6 Wed, 16:00-17:00**

Tourism & Hospitality group (business members)

Virtual

**11 Mon, 11:00-12:00**

How technology trends are changing business and trust

Virtual

**12 Tue, 12:00-13:00**

Finding your ideal client in this digital age

Virtual

**13 Wed, 16:00-17:00**

Cyber security – everything you ought to know, but probably don't

Virtual

**14 Thu, 16:00-17:00**

A practical workshop on digitalising your practice

Virtual

**15 Fri, 07:30-09:00**

Cornwall business member breakfast

Face-to-face

**15 Fri, 09:30-10:30**

All things Blockchain and crypto

Virtual

**20 Wed, 18:30-20:00**

Exam Qualified Reception & Student Awards (Exeter)

Face-to-Face

**22 Fri, 08:00-09:00**

Exeter business member breakfast

Virtual

## NOVEMBER

**2 Tue, 14:00-15:00**

Rural & Farming group meeting - an update from NFU

Virtual

**2 Tue, 18:00-19:30**

Female Forum

Virtual

**3 Wed, 16:00-17:00**

Tourism & Hospitality sector post pandemic

Virtual

**5 Fri, 08:00-09:00**

Plymouth business member breakfast

Virtual

**9 Tue, 10:00-11:00**

Diversity and Inclusion - why it makes business sense to get it right

Virtual

**12 Fri, 07:30-09:00**

Somerset business member breakfast

Face-to-face

**16 Tue, 18:00-20:00**

Joint Professions Networking Group - Bank of England update (Exeter)

Face-to-face

**19 Fri, 08:00-09:00**

Cornwall business member breakfast

Virtual

**23 Tue, 09:00-13:00**

Business Member Update (Exeter)

Face-to-face

**25 Thu, 11:30-12:30**

Bank of England update with Malindi Myers

Virtual

**26 Fri, 07:30-09:00**

Exeter business member breakfast

Face-to-face

**30 Tue, 09:30-12:45**

Mercia course:

OMBs - Practical and Current Tax Issues

Exeter Racecourse - Denman Suite

## DECEMBER

**1 Wed, 09:30-12:45**

Mercia course:

OMBs - Practical and Current Tax Issues

Plymouth

**2 Thu, 09:30-12:45**

Mercia course:

OMBs - Practical and Current Tax Issues

Taunton

We are planning a face-to-face and virtual meeting for each of the town groups - email Trudi at [trudi.coles@icaew.com](mailto:trudi.coles@icaew.com) for more details. Full details and online booking can be found at [events.icaew.com](https://events.icaew.com) choose 'South West' in the 'Country/Region' search box or use dates.