

President's message

2021 begins and at the time of writing it feels no better than the situation in March 2020, with the country in lockdown and many individuals and businesses worried about the future.

Over the last year I have seen so many accountants working incredibly hard to help their firm or business plan, manage cash flows and look after the staff, while at the same time ensuring they remain compliant with the various accounting and auditing standards and the ever-changing tax and funding landscape.

This juggling of different pressures was something I don't remember considering as a trainee, however I now see it as such an important skill. In any context, failure to balance the long-term plans with short-term needs is fatal. In the same way, there is a need to make sure customer service is maintained but also that the needs of the staff are considered as, ultimately, they are the ones providing the goods and services that the business sells.

As we endure another season of lockdown with the schools closed, I am sure many of us could add the academic and mental health needs of our kids to the list of things to juggle. This week I have mixed board

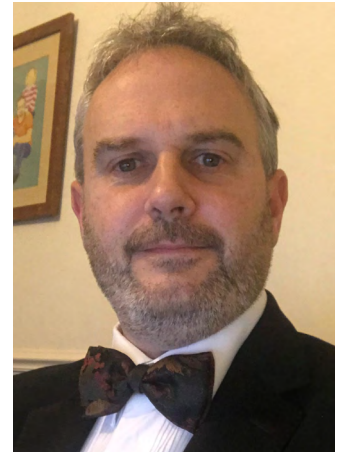
meetings, client meetings and ISA 315 research, with helping my son through a drum lesson, chocolate brownie making and a poetry workshop.

If you are finding these times a struggle, then do consider reaching out to CABA for help (www.caba.org.uk) they have a range of materials that are extremely useful. As a district we continue to run our town groups and business member discussion groups where you can share concerns and hear how other members are coping. Or perhaps you have found innovative ways of working and can bring some inspiration to others in these groups?

Some of you reading this may want to be mentored or to offer help to fellow members on a one-to-one basis. If you fall into either of these categories, please email Trudi (trudi.coles@icaew.com) and she will make sure you are listened to.

So we look forward to the coming months, which will no doubt be hard but, by supporting each other and using the resources available, we can be confident that we will in fact get through it. And in case anyone is interested, the brownies were delicious, and we got an A for the poem!

David Norris



2021 EXAM QUALIFIED RECEPTION AND ANNUAL DINNER POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE

We really hope that on Friday 25 June we will have the opportunity to dress up and all meet together again, in the same room.

This popular black-tie event will be held at Sandy Park, Exeter from 18:45 to midnight and will include a champagne reception, four-course meal plus coffee, an excellent after dinner speaker, Jo Caulfield, and dancing to local band; Limited Company.

Best-known for her legendary one-woman shows, Jo Caulfield is 'one of the finest female comics at work' (*The Observer*) and has been nominated as 'the best female

Stand-Up in the country' (chortle.co.uk). She performed recently on the 2020 Royal Variety Performance and has appeared on shows such as: *Have I Got News For You*; *Mock The Week* and *Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow*.

Tickets cost £70 +VAT. Round tables of between 8 and 12 guests are available but individuals and smaller groups are equally welcome.

For more details and to book tickets please contact Trudi trudi.coles@icaew.com



Exam Qualified Reception and Student Awards

The original event in April 2020 was postponed until the autumn due to the pandemic, but with the situation not improving it was eventually held via Zoom in December.

However, to try and make it as special as possible, a small bottle of champagne was sent to everyone (kindly sponsored by Mercia) and all were encouraged to put on their DJs and party dresses!

ICAEW SW President, David Norris, welcomed the exam qualified members, training partners and guests. ICAEW immediate past president, Fiona Wilkinson, then gave a speech encouraging everyone to make the most of their membership and enjoy the exciting career that lay ahead of them.

Giovanna Green, who works for Albert Goodman and is Secretary of the local Student Society, gave an excellent speech outlining her journey and the importance of the support given by family and friends while studying.

This was followed by the annual student awards with the winners receiving £150 cheques.

CORPORATE REPORTING - SPONSORED BY ICAEW SOUTH WEST

July 2019 joint winners:
Amelia Gayton and Claire Machin

Nov 2019 winner: **Carys Annear**

STRATEGIC BUSINESS MANAGEMENT - KINDLY SPONSORED BY MERCIA

July 2019 joint winners:
Amelia Gayton and Jenna Rose Richardson

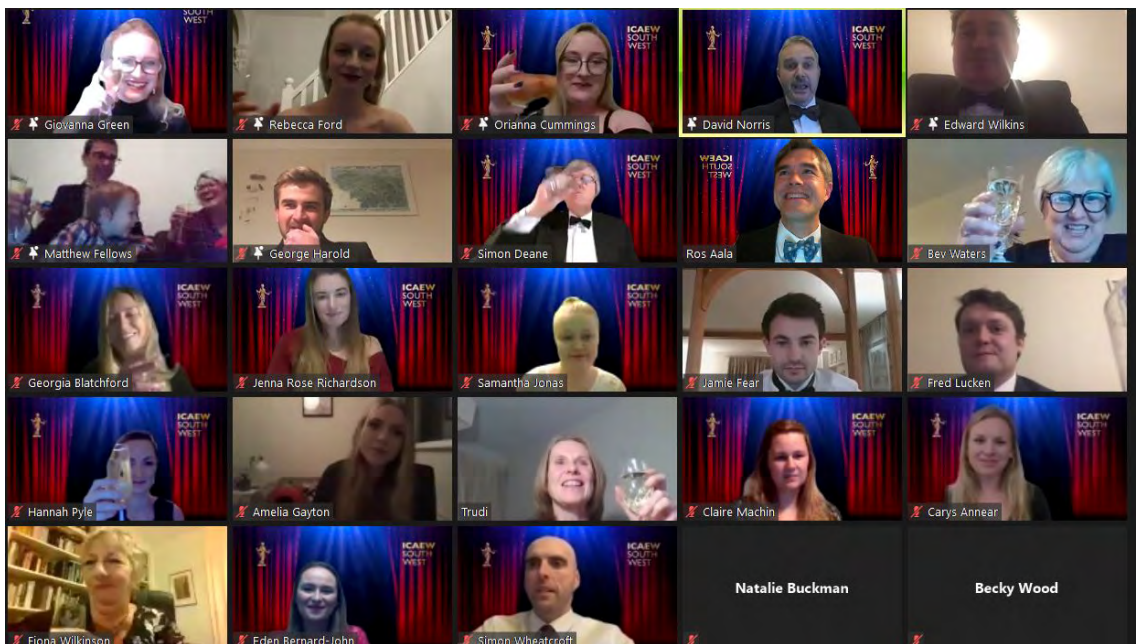
Nov 2019: **Frederick Lucken**

CASE STUDY - KINDLY SPONSORED BY ACCOUNTANCY LEARNING

July 2019: **Claire Machin**

Nov 2019: **Frederick Lucken**

Simon Wheatcroft, a truly inspirational speaker, then completed proceedings. Going blind at 17 meant he had to adapt and, with technology and willpower as his only guides, Simon achieved the impossible when he learned to run road races and complete ultra-marathons without his sight.



Sustainability and ICAEW

REVIEW OF *OUR PLANET, TOO BIG TO FAIL* SUSTAINABILITY EVENT.



On the morning of 6 November we once again embraced lockdown, and took to Zoom in order to share, support and develop our learning around sustainability, climate change and ICAEW.

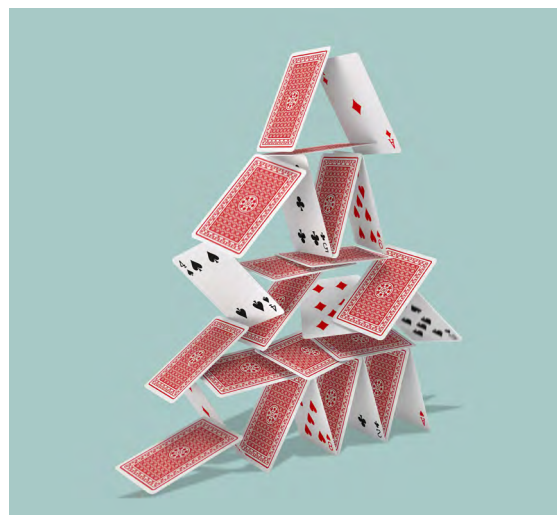
Many of us acknowledge that climate change is now akin to a runaway train, and c.40 members from the South West and Wales joined the call to seek answers and learn what we need to do to turn the tide, using our skills as finance professionals.

The film pulled on some fantastic threads, highlighting the far-reaching consequences of how we invest our finances, even when we don't realise we are doing so. Behemoth climate change communicators such as David Attenborough and Mark Carney continue to put their weight behind the movement, however, this film also demonstrated the significant change developing in the general public with consumers now expecting more, wanting a product that is transparently produced and has a lower impact on the planet, supporting the growth of Earth before the economy. At an individual level, this is translated into one of the most influential investments you probably own - your pension. Pension companies hold significant weight as shareholders, and their strength as a shareholder is underpinned by our investment in them.

The discussion following the film was facilitated by WWF's Rhiannon Shah, who put it to us that we should be interrogating our clients' and company's strategies to align them with the realities of the future ahead. If your company's ethos, product and supply chain is not compatible with a Net Zero Economy, how are you going to address that - because the message is clear, if you don't, your customers will do it for you. The film highlighted the message loud and clear that the next generation, and current generations, will not knowingly support businesses that are not taking responsibility for the impact of their products or services. Our personal challenge is to understand where we are making these investment decisions, whether directly, or indirectly, and to ensure that they are supporting the kind of world we want to

live in. As finance professionals the WWF is also raising the expectation that we will challenge our clients and industries to critically assess our resilience in a Net Zero world and to substantiate the changes we need to make to continue as a going concern.

The title of the film gives a nod to the financial crisis of 2007, and the incorrect assumption that banks were 'Too big to fail' and here we see also that this is attributable to our own planet. We assume it is too big to fail, but we've been doing a pretty good job of pushing it to the edge.



If you weren't able to attend, there's still a chance to watch the film at www.ourplanet.com/finance

In addition to this, Trudi Coles shared some really useful links with attendees that were discussed:

The Make My Money Matter team provides some resources for people to see how they can ask questions of their employers and pension providers on their pensions. <https://makemymoneymatter.co.uk>

Also, making your company aware of the risks to business related to badly managed resources. The WEF Global Risk Assessment named biodiversity and nature loss as one of the top 10 risks to business in coming decades: www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-risks-report-2020

www.annual-report-triodos.com/2019

There's a lot on the Bank of England website about what they require the financial industry to do in the way of stress tests, many of these considerations and issues are also applicable to non-financial businesses because that is where the investment risks lie. www.bankofengland.co.uk/climate-change

WWF Carbon Footprint Calculator: <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#>

zero.giki.earth is a tool used by a lot of Triodos co-workers <https://zero.giki.earth> for measuring personal footprint and taking action to reduce it

www.communityimpactchallenge.org for ideas for personal action.

Keeping in touch with business members during the pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic of 2020 which, sadly, shows only limited signs of an early ending as we move into 2021, has changed how we keep in touch with our members in the business community. It has not been possible for the four groups from Somerset, Cornwall, Plymouth and Exeter to meet for face-to-face breakfast meetings at our usual venues and the half-yearly updates on topical subjects have had to move online.

However, all has not been doom and gloom as each of the four groups has been able to meet for virtual breakfast meetings on Friday mornings roughly once a month in rotation. These will continue until face-to-face meetings are once again possible and, maybe, for longer as we embrace these new ways of communicating.

Details of the next round of meetings can be found on the back page. I hope more of you will be able to join the discussions which start at 08:00 on a Friday morning and last for around an hour so that we can finish in time for the normal start of the business day. You can book through the ICAEW events website events.icaew.com and select 'South West' under Country/Region – the meetings are listed as ICAEW South West business member discussion groups.

The numbers are not always large but there is no doubt that those joining the meetings welcome the opportunity to share information and opinions on what is happening with their work and businesses and, more generally, in their areas and business sectors.

We are often joined by a member of the Business and Industrial Strategy Department of ICAEW. This enables the department to obtain useful information to feed back to the relevant government ministries and agencies. As the pandemic has progressed, it has been possible to identify some small changes in government policies that could be linked to comments from our meetings.

Inevitably, many of the discussions have centred around COVID-19 and the effects that are being experienced in these challenging times. Ironically, some sectors have benefitted from the enforced

changes to the normal ways of working. Others have had to adapt to the new conditions where possible. The tourism and hospitality sectors have probably suffered the greatest downturns and continue to struggle with the restrictions, especially with the post-Christmas nationwide lockdown, although many have found alternative ways of generating revenue.

Although the job retention (furlough) scheme has been extended, among the four groups the number of employees on furlough is considerably lower at the start of 2021 than during the first lockdown in the first half of 2020. However, I suspect we have not seen the last of the redundancies and business failures.

The Brexit saga was much discussed in the latter part of 2020 and many will have welcomed the eleventh-hour trade agreement with the EU, seen as a much more preferable outcome to a no-deal scenario.

A number of our members in business are being affected directly by the changes that are now in force. The main problem is getting used to the new regulations and requirements for additional documents. There are others who do not import or export directly who are being affected in some way, mainly through delays in deliveries and price increases as a result of extra import costs.

On both of these topics, there is a wealth of information on the ICAEW Coronavirus and Brexit website hubs. The Tax Faculty also provides a lot of detail on the government financial support packages. If you need information, the [ICAEW website](#) is a good source. There have also been some very helpful webinars on topics aimed at members in business.

There is no doubt that we will emerge from this pandemic. Exactly when is difficult to predict even with the huge vaccination programme now underway. How we will be communicating with our members, whether in business, practice or retired, in a year's time remains to be seen. I doubt we will be returning completely to the old ways and all of us will have to embrace the 'new normal'.

John Ashley

OBITUARIES

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

Nigel Beswetherick

Christopher Edworthy

John Lambert

James Stewart

Peter Bowyer

Michael Grant

Eric Lomax

Frederick Tucker

Kenneth Brown

David Harrison

Peter Margetts

Derek Watts

Raymund Davies

Alfred Haywood

Donald Simpson

John Young

HELP YOUR CLIENTS INCREASE SALES WITH THE POWER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE



Department for International Trade

Following the recent warning from the Bank of England that the future of the UK's economy is 'unusually uncertain', trading internationally can provide a business with much needed added income through 2021 and beyond. To help UK businesses succeed in export, the UK Government's Department for International Trade (DIT) is on hand to offer your clients tailored support and guidance to navigate existing and potential trade barriers.

HOW DIT CAN HELP YOUR CLIENTS

DIT offers a range of export support services to suit businesses of all shapes and sizes. If eligible, your client may be offered access to a dedicated International Trade Advisor (ITA) who will have a wealth of knowledge and experience in their particular sector. The ITA will be able to guide them through the most suitable avenues of support, while providing access to any funding that is currently available.

Here is a brief list of support that DIT can offer in order to help your clients better understand their export potential and, in turn, increase profits:

- Identify export opportunities in new markets
- Reach customers/business partners otherwise not accessible
- Overcome barriers to market entry or expansion
- Access to powerful market research to inform key decisions
- Improve overseas marketing strategy
- Access to a range of 'enhanced trade' initiatives

HOW TO GET YOUR CLIENTS INVOLVED

If you'd like to hear more about what DIT can offer your clients then please call Mark Rogers, our region's Trade Manager. Mark will be on hand to tell you more about how DIT can help South West businesses to trade internationally or you can sign-post your clients directly to Mark
E mark.rogers@mobile.trade.gov.uk

Plus ICAEW has teamed up with DIT to bring you the following two virtual sessions:

3 March Support and advice to help local businesses to export - 11:00 to 12:00

19 March Exporting, a practical insight into key stages - 10:00 to 11:30

For more details and booking: events.icaew.com or email trudi.coles@icaew.com

COMMITTEE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS WITH TECHNICAL INTEREST



I am pleased to report that my vision for the ICAEW SW technical advisory committee is starting to come to light. We had a successful two-hour meeting in December, over a virtual cuppa and a festive flapjack as opposed to a Christmas lunch, discussing a trio of audit, fraud and corporate reporting consultation papers. It was pleasing that we not only had long standing, familiar faces leading the papers but also newer members who are already taking an active role. This is adding to the diversity and relevance of our discussions, capturing wider ranging views from across the South West and bringing together people at different stages of their careers who are all sharing their experiences.

We are still looking to grow the pool of volunteers on whom we can call for specialist or niche consultation papers, so if you have a technical interest please do get in touch with Trudi Coles (trudi.coles@icaew.com) setting out the scope of your interests and experience. Being part of the committee is not onerous in terms of time; all that is required is a couple of virtual hours either setting up or finishing off your day and in return you will benefit from valuable CPD, the insight of others and an enhancement to your own professional network. If you are looking for a new challenge, we would be very pleased to hear from you and welcome you to our next meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS

To all our friends and colleagues who have reached the milestone of 50 years of membership

AUGUST 2020 - DECEMBER 2020

John Anson	John Longmuir
Michael Atkinson	Neil Marshall
John Bunnell	Veronica Norton
Roger Charlesworth	David Plummer
Jeremy Colson	Philip Postlethwaite
Richard Dyer	Robert Preston
Martyn Fray	Peter Sanders
Kerry Hawkins	John Swain
Roberta Hunt	David Thorp
Gillian Johnson	Paul Wattam
Barry Lewis	Paul Yates

30 Days to Sustainable Ways – April 2021 Challenge

The ICAEW SW is running a region wide sustainability challenge in April 2021 – get daily inspiration to change your working and living habits over the course of a month.

The 30 Days to Sustainable Ways Challenge springboards from the successful firm wide event run by South West Accountancy firm Albert Goodman in September 2020. Join the ICAEW SW committee in testing more sustainable ways of working and living over the course of the month completing the challenge either as an individual, as a company or team, or with friends and family.

There is no mandatory format to the challenge, remain flexible, mix it up and whether you are at home or in the office engage in the level that is right for you. Here are just some of the ways in which you can get involved:

- pledge to complete every day of the challenge;
- work with others to split the month between you;
- focus on the weekend challenges;
- commit to a challenge a week,

The most important thing is getting creative and having some spring-time fun!

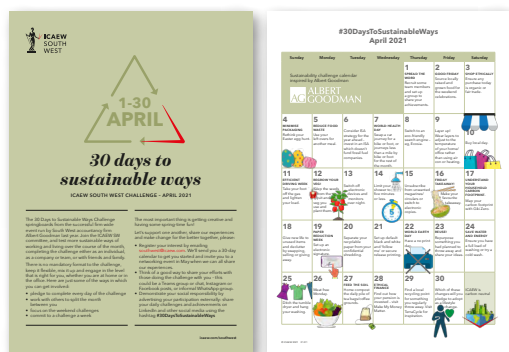
We are keen to engage with you so that we can support one another and make change for the better together, so please do:

Register your interest by emailing trudi.coles@icaew.com. We'll send you an electronic 30 Days Calendar to get you started, share with your teams, and invite you to a networking event in May where we can all share our experiences.

Think of a good way to share your efforts with those engaging in the challenge with you – this could be a Teams group or chat, Instagram or Facebook posts, or informal WhatsApp group.

Demonstrate your social responsibility by advertising your participation externally: share your daily challenges and achievements on LinkedIn and other social media using the hashtag **#30DaysToSustainableWays**

Jenny Hill – ICAEW SW Sustainability Representative



INTERVIEW WITH SOPHIE PARKHOUSE – ALBERT GOODMAN



Sophie Parkhouse explains the inspiration behind the event and shares her tips:

Albert Goodman created and ran the #30DaysToSustainableWays challenge in September 2020 – what inspired this?

When we were coming out of the first lockdown we felt it would be good to somehow do something that would help to bring all of our people back together again and to encourage the sustainable habits that we had started to form from our new ways of working and living during the lockdown period. More than anything it was about having a bit of fun, coming together and doing some good!

How did you go about it?

Firstly, we set up an Albert Goodman sustainability committee consisting of ambassadors across the departments and offices of the firm who were already passionate about sustainability and wanted to see how they could expand this from their personal lives into the workplace.

We wanted to raise awareness of the work that we were doing and felt that a firm wide challenge would help to boost this profile. We decided on a month and asked all of the committee to put forward ideas for small sustainable changes that people could make. The key was to make these achievable and not ask too much of people. We recognised that people were already feeling under pressure given the uncertain environment we are in and did not want to add pressure to people to do something else. We then pretty much left it up to departments within the business to tackle and split up the challenge as they would like.

What did the challenge achieve?

It got people talking, interested and motivated to try something new. It also helped us to focus on and harness the changes to our ways of working which were resulting in a positive impact for the environment such as the use of Zoom as opposed to driving to every meeting. We shared posts on social media which we hoped would inspire others and also included an area on our website where people could see the positive pledges that our people made at the end of the challenge.

Was there anything from the challenge that as a firm has made you look at doing things differently?

Yes, embracing Zoom and minimal printing over night was a great benefit and one which we are looking to retain as far as possible. The very presence of a sustainability team has lifted the focus of sustainability within the organisation and ensures that there is someone at most team meetings across the firm who is considering our impact. We are still at the beginning of our journey, but we have taken some of the small successes from the challenge from people's personal efforts, such as using Terracycle, into the business. We now collect crisps, confectionery packets and used stationery products and provide these to local businesses and groups who are then able to benefit.

Why AG is teaming up with ICAEW SW for this challenge and what you are looking forward to most

When we completed the challenge and debriefed our successes, we were keen to do another challenge in the spring but really wanted to widen the engagement to increase the impact. We are already involved with ICAEW SW and recognise the wide connections that they have so it was a natural starting point for trying to increase our reach. During my presidential year, I actually invited Jenny Hill to join the ICAEW SW committee as a sustainability representative, so I was already aware of the committee's support and commitment to make a difference in this area.

CORONAVIRUS AND YOUR WELLBEING

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is continuing to affect all of our lives. Every one of us is living with unique circumstances and facing different challenges.

Whether you're worried about redundancy, your finances or managing your emotional wellbeing, CABA are here to help.

CABA's free services are available to past and present ICAEW members, ACA students, ICAEW staff, and close family members including husbands, wives, life partners and dependent children up to the age of 25.

CABA's services include:

- Emotional support - including 1-2-1 counselling
- Financial assistance
- Career development support - including career coaching and free online courses
- Legal advice
- Debt advice
- Health and carer support

If you need to speak to someone at CABA, you can email enquiries@caba.org.uk or call the 24 hour helpline on +44 (0)1788 556 366. For more information and advice to support your wellbeing, visit caba.org.uk/coronavirus

CABA
with you for life

PENRYN CHARITY LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL DIRECTOR



**SEA
SANCTUARY**

Registered charity, Sea Sanctuary, a mental health charity & service based in Penryn, Cornwall is looking to recruit a voluntary financial director to join their dedicated team.

We are looking for someone, preferably an ICAEW Chartered Accountant with industry experience in the South West, to join our board.

An interest in our work would also be essential. You can find out more about us at www.seasanctuary.org.uk

Board members work on a voluntary basis and attend quarterly board meetings, with one meeting a year extended to a longer business strategy day. They are also asked to help to support the continued development of senior staff members, as well as monitoring and stretching the quality and depth of work produced by the team.

Please contact Molly Gorman, Chairperson, Board of Directors - molly.gorman@seasanctuary.org.uk for a full role profile or further details.

APPRENTICESHIP FUNDING

Apprenticeships

Up to £2k grant for employers per apprentice

The additional government financial incentives for apprenticeships have been extended to 30 April 2021. Funding of up to £2,000 per apprentice is available. This is in addition to the existing £1,000 incentive that employers already receive for taking on an apprentice who meets workplace requirements, and National Insurance savings of 13.8% for apprentices aged 25 years old and under. Discover more to find out if your apprentices qualify for the additional funding available. Contact: Rowena Hawkes:

M: +44 (0)7901 006 898

E: rowena.hawkes@icaew.com

SWECASS MURDER MYSTERY

SWECASS hosted their annual Christmas event 'Murder Mystery at the Mansion' for students and young members, which of course had to be a virtual event!

Hosted via Zoom, the students and young members were split into two teams and given a Murder Mystery evidence pack full of clues, riddles and puzzles to work through together and solve who committed the heinous crime.

Both teams managed to figure out who the culprit was, however, one team came out on top by only a few minutes and each received a £10 Amazon voucher as a prize!

SWECASS NEW STARTERS EVENT

On 27 October, SWECASS held their annual New Starters Event, the first virtual event with many more to come! It was pleasing to see so many new faces, and with such a great turn out, it meant valuable engagement for all those who joined. The committee introduced themselves, their roles, and what SWECASS as a society can provide to students. The attendees then went into break-out sessions where smaller groups could meet others on a more personal level, and a few ice-breaker games were played. Bit of a difference to the previous new starter events, but it goes without saying, it still involved food ... of course! Each attendee received a box of sweeties, just in time for Halloween. There was also an extra box of goodies as a prize to the winner of the accountancy-themed quiz which rounded up the evening.

In such difficult times as these, with home working and the inability to physically meet up, these events are more important than ever to maintain good connections - and even though the scene for the event had to change, the student society is still here to support you and continue to connect to those in the area. If you are a new starter, student or young member, be sure to keep an eye out for our upcoming events and come and network with your fellow local students.

SWECASS Insights: Working in industry

Back in November, SWECASS hosted a Virtual Insights Evening to explore the many dimensions of working in industry. The event had four fantastic speakers: Martin Williams from Rittal, Naomi Pitt from Nu-Heat, Alice Bessell from Brown and Bright, and Simon Drake from City Science.

As a member in practice, it was extremely informative to hear about the financial factors that matter to an accountant in industry. In particular, accountants in industry focus on forward-looking information and the cash flow of the business.

Naomi shared insights into different projects she has worked on since being in industry. These ranged from the revaluation of leases due to the new IFRS rules and the financial modelling of the capacity levels of a business. Alice shared her experience of having to implement a system and controls for her new company. While working on this project she came to realise how different it was to anything she had experienced while in audit.

Martin provided the important advice that, to stand out as an accountant in industry one needs an additional, special, skill. Simon added that with any job you need to find a company that matches your values as a person. Whether it is in practice or in industry, if the company does not suit you then the job will not work out.

All speakers agreed that with any job there is a trade-off between the seniority of the role and the work/life balance that will be achieved. The speakers also discussed how they have been able to use ICAEW resources, and its network, to obtain support and advice in their companies since leaving practice.

These talks were followed by a question-and-answer session which included questions on different career stresses and how to develop one's own personal skill set.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our speakers for taking the time to speak to us and for providing our members with such valuable insights. The information they conveyed will help our students and young members understand and work better with industry accountants.

We are planning a whole series of insight talks, our next one will focus on the different areas in practice. Please visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ICAEW) for more information.

REGIONAL SECTOR GROUPS

Would you find it useful/interesting to meet other ICAEW members who work in the same sector as you? Last year we started a regional Rural & Farming group and will be holding our first Sustainability group meeting this spring. Looking at the membership data, other possible groups could be Tourism & Hospitality, Housing Associations, Private Estates and Construction. Please email Trudi (trudi.coles@icaew.com) for more details/group suggestions.

CPD courses

Mercia will be delivering a mix of virtual and face-to-face courses this year.

All Mercia Live courses can be accessed via www.mercia-group.com/train-overview

Face-to-face courses are listed below:

Date	Time	Course	Location	Lecturer
May				
5	pm	Audit Update and Topical Issues	Exeter	Jeremy Williams
June				
15	am	Finance Bill Update	Plymouth	Norman Allison
16	am	Finance Bill Update	Exeter	Norman Allison
28	pm	Finance Bill Update	Taunton	Norman Allison
29	pm	Finance Bill Update	Yeovil	Norman Allison
September				
6	pm	Autumn Tax Update	Taunton	Mark Morton
7	am	Autumn Tax Update	Exeter	Mark Morton
8	am	Autumn Tax Update	Plymouth	Mark Morton
9	am	Autumn Tax Update	Yeovil	Mark Morton
October				
19	pm	Capital Taxes - Key Issues and Developments	Exeter	Norman Allison
20	am	Capital Taxes - Key Issues and Developments	Taunton	Norman Allison
November				
3	pm	VAT Update and Current Issues	Exeter	Malcolm Greenbaum
4	pm	VAT Update and Current Issues	Taunton	Malcolm Greenbaum
30	am	OMBs - Practical and Current Tax Issues	Exeter	Pat Nown
December				
1	am	OMBs - Practical and Current Tax Issues	Plymouth	Pat Nown
2	am	OMBs - Practical and Current Tax Issues	Taunton	Pat Nown

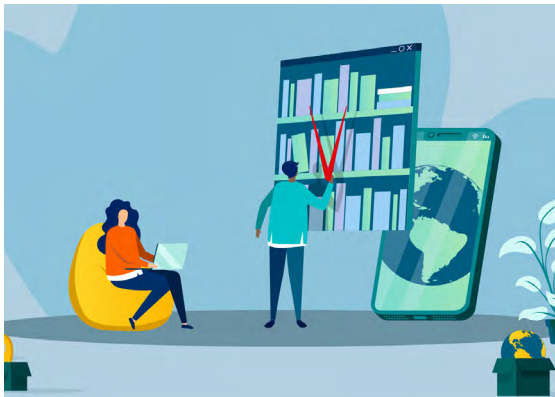
PAST PRESIDENTS VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

Sadly, due to pandemic, our past presidents were unable to get together to enjoy a delicious Christmas lunch at Jack in the Green, but some of them did join committee members for a Zoom catch-up.



ACA TRAINING - SPRING 2021

I am excited to be sharing the fantastic enhancements that ICAEW is introducing to the ACA qualification this year. Following our 2019 employer and student consultations across the UK, we have formulated a great solution, for a qualification that will support our future Chartered Accountants, in an ever-changing world.

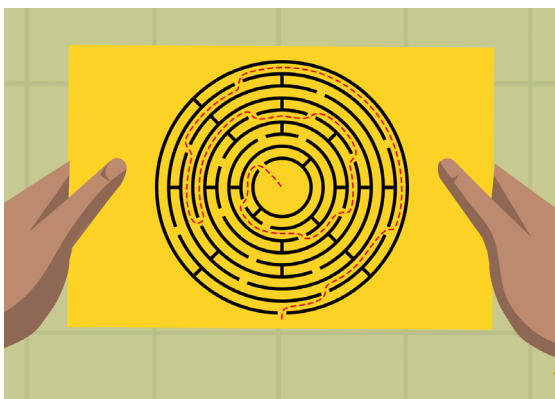
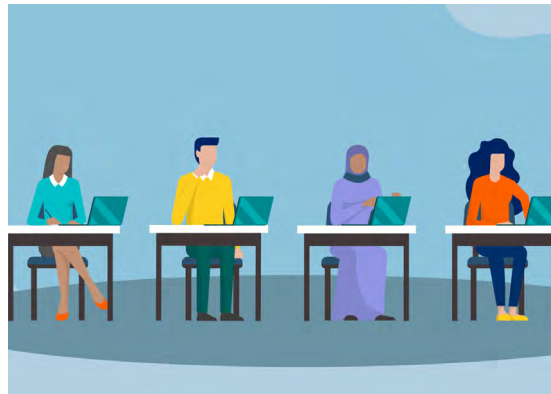


ICAEW BOOKSHELF

To provide greater levels of accessibility, our new **ICAEW bookshelf** of digital learning materials allows a broader user experience, integrated access during open book exams, and saves on printing 262 tonnes of paper each year! Features include the ability to access on and offline, adapt to learning styles and fully annotate as part of a student's exam preparation.

EXAM SOFTWARE

Reflecting the modern finance and accounting practices, our new exam software features pioneering integrations with **data analytics software**, our **digital bookshelf** and all of the ACA exams can be sat in the comfort of a student's home, via **remote invigilation**. We have also improved the system functionality, so that it mirrors the experience of Microsoft Word and Excel. Practice exam software is available for the student to familiarise themselves before sitting a real exam.



ETHICS LEARNING PROGRAMME

ICAEW always has a strong focus on strengthening ethics and integrity in the public interest. Our **new Ethics Learning Programme** is now available on a modernised learning platform, with updated scenarios to reflect today's world and progress tests to attempt before the final assessment. There is a transition phase allowing existing students to complete the previous version of the Ethics Learning Programme up until mid 2021.

If you'd like to find out more about these enhancements or discuss ACA training opportunities in your organisation, then please get in touch: Rowena Hawkes,
M: +44 (0)7901 006 898
E: rowena.hawkes@icaew.com

SUPPORT MEMBERS SCHEME



In times of uncertainty and constant change, the Support Members Scheme is an invaluable resource - providing free, confidential and non-judgemental support to ICAEW members in difficulty.

Support is provided through a network of chartered accountant volunteers who act as a listening ear or sounding board and signpost specialist resources where relevant.

Our support members deal with a broad variety of issues, from personal worries about health, money or family, to work-related concerns about professional ethics, regulation and discipline.

Whatever the problem, the support member will listen and help work through the issues.

Your local support members are:

Colin Heal +44 (0)7969 764 570 and
Sophie Parkhouse +44 (0)7715 521 985

Or visit [icaew.com/supportmembers](https://www.icaew.com/supportmembers) for a full list.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES – FUNDRAISING FOR SW FOOD BANKS

It is tradition for the current ICAEW SW Committee to host a Christmas lunch for committee members and past presidents, to celebrate together and thank those who give up their time to promote and connect our members in the region. Unfortunately, this year's situation prevented us from doing so.

Instead, we chose to donate part of the funds that would have been spent on the Christmas lunch to the Trussell Trust, the charity supporting a network of food banks across the region. You could say that we put our money where our mouth is!

Between April and September 2020 food banks in the South West Trussell Trust network provided 99,875 emergency food parcels to people in crisis. More than half a million of these went to children. As a nation, we expect no one should be left hungry or destitute. Illness, disability, family breakdown or the loss of a job can happen to any of us. With fundraising activities of charities curtailed by the coronavirus pandemic, we are proud to have been able to contribute financial support.

We would like to thank all of the people who joined us in donating in a corporate and personal capacity: together we have so far raised £630 plus gift aid.

If you would still like to contribute to our fundraising campaign please visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/icaew-south-west

Jenny Hill - ICAEW SW Sustainability Representative

TOWN GROUPS

Our network of town groups increased last autumn with the launch of South Devon and Mid-Somerset (Taunton/Bridgwater area). These groups aim to improve communication, engagement and support for members in the region.

They are primarily for members in smaller practices, giving the opportunity to discuss topical matters, invite speakers (either from ICAEW or other organisations of interest) and provide mutual support.

Other existing groups are in West Cornwall, North Devon, South Somerset and Plymouth and were, before COVID-19, meeting face to face quarterly. However, since lockdown they have moved to more regular virtual meetings which have proved invaluable for support and information sharing.

Please let Trudi (trudi.coles@icaew.com) know if you would like to join one of these groups.

This year we plan to start a further two groups in East Cornwall and East Devon.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The following events will be held virtually:

Date	Time	Course
February		
23	08:30 - 09:30	Brexit, what is the reality?
23	10:30 - 12:00	Charities Group
24	16:00 - 17:00	West Cornwall Town Group
26	08:00 - 09:00	Exeter business member discussion group
26	11:00 - 12:30	Cyber security & GDPR update
March		
2	12:00 - 13:00	CABA: Looking after your mental wellbeing
2	17:00 - 18:00	Plymouth Town Group
3	11:00 - 12:00	Support & advice to help local businesses to export
3	16:00 - 17:00	South Somerset Town Group
5	08:00 - 09:00	Plymouth business member discussion group
5	12:00 - 13:00	Insolvency - how to try and avoid it and what to do if you can't
9	17:00 - 18:30	Exeter Joint Professions Networking Group
10	12:00 - 13:00	Rural & Farming sector group meeting
10	16:00 - 17:00	North Devon Town Group
12	08:00 - 09:00	Somerset business member discussion group
16	16:00 - 17:00	Mid-Somerset Town Group
17	16:00 - 17:00	South Devon Town Group
19	08:00 - 09:00	Cornwall business member discussion group
19	10:00 - 11:30	Exporting - a practical insight into key stages
23	08:30 - 09:30	Brexit, what is the reality?
23	18:00 - 19:30	Female Forum: Motivation & Confidence
26	08:00 - 09:00	Exeter business member discussion group

More events are currently being planned for April, May and June including:

Annual General Meeting

Friday 14 May

Member in Business Updates

w/c 17 May

CABA:

Leading Resilient Teams

Friday 21 May

Exam Qualified Reception and Student Awards

Friday 25 June

Annual Dinner

Friday 25 June

For full details and online booking: events.icaew.com, choosing 'South West' in the 'Country/Region' search box or email Trudi, trudi.coles@icaew.com

Keep in touch



@ICAEW_SWregion

For the latest news and events that affect you, from ICAEW Chartered Accountants South West and ICAEW generally.



ICAEW Chartered Accountants South West

Network and discuss key messages with other chartered accountants in the South West.

icaew.com/southwest

For a complete listing of all ICAEW events and CPD courses or if you would like to be sent links to any of the above email Trudi Coles trudi.coles@icaew.com

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