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FROM YOUR ONGOING PRESIDENT

Michael Cooper has agreed to be your President in 2011/2012

It's a great honour and pleasure to have been elected to serve as President of the Thames Valley Society of Chartered Accountants for another year. I am supported by an excellent team. Peregrine Chard has been elected as Deputy President and Jeffrey Smith as Vice President for 2011/12. I would like to thank them and all TVSCA members who serve on our various committees and groups, together with our Regional Executive Sue Pye, for their enthusiasm and hard work.

I have been delighted to meet so many members at events over the last year, particularly at our Annual Dinner last September in Marlow, and look forward to meeting more of you in the year ahead. You will find details of forthcoming events and courses in the following

pages. Don't miss our Annual Dinner on Friday 23 September 2011 at **Wolfson College**, Oxford.

Building on the work of previous Presidents my priorities have been to support members through difficult economic times, encourage younger members to become involved with their District Society and strengthen links between the Society and firms employing chartered accountants. I am also seeking to maintain links between the Society and other professional bodies in the area. I would particularly like to congratulate those members of the Society who have initiated the Thames Valley Member Support Group and encourage you to explore this opportunity. The group is not just for chartered accountants who have been made redundant. There are many members who are looking for new opportunities for a variety of reasons. Further details of the group are available at www.tvsca.co.uk.

I should be delighted to hear your thoughts and ideas about the future of the Society. We have set up a TVSCA group on LinkedIn as a forum for discussion between members. The strength of the Society depends on the enthusiasm of its volunteers, so please contact Sue Pye if you would like to become involved in helping to run the Society in any way.

Michael Cooper

Editor: - This is the first of what we hope will be many e-Chartam's, it will be available on the website at the link below, if you need it directly please contact me. Recommendations for distribution methods are also useful. Content will cover what we are and have been doing over the next few months, it will be supplemented by a biannual printed Chartam. If you see a copy of either and you haven't received a copy of your own please email/Twitter/Skype me paul@pmtate.co.uk / [@pmtate](https://twitter.com/pmtate) / [pmtate](https://www.skype.com/pmtate)

icaew.com/tvsca/echartam



ICAEW COUNCIL ELECTIONS

As a result of some changes to the constitution of Council we have two vacancies instead of one this year. Under normal circumstances this year, one of our Council Members, Graeme Gordon, would have to put himself forward for re-election if he wished. With the changes made by Council themselves some Societies lose members whereas we gain a place, bringing our representation to three. Currently we have two members:



Graeme R Gordon BSc FCA
Executive Director / CEO, Praxity
Admitted to the Institute: 1992
Elected to Council: 2004 until June 2011



Paul F Wagstaff FCA FCMI
Partner - Thames Valley, Rouse Partners LLP
Admitted to the Institute: 1974
Elected to Council: 1997 until June 2013

Forms for nomination (applicants must have 10 nominees) can be downloaded from the Institute website from [this page](#). Questions relating to the process can be addressed to Nigel Cresswell or Fiona Lancaster or call +44 (0)20 7920 8560 or 8627, or please contact your President Michael Cooper. Once completed return forms no later than 17:15 18 April, 2011 to: Michael Izza, ICAEW, Chartered Accountants' Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2R 6EA



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE EXPECTED TO STRENGTHEN

Firms in the South East report that turnover grew by 2.4% on average over the last 12 months - a similar level of growth to that reported in the previous two quarters. While this is a noticeable improvement on Q1 2010 when turnover growth was negative (-0.8%), South East firms typically were reporting growth of two or three times these levels before the recession.

Similarly, annual profit growth of 2.4% is reported this quarter – also well below typical pre-recession norms though an improvement compared to the 2.1% decline reported in Q1 2010. The outlook for financial performance is more positive, however, with 4.7% and 4.0% growth expected in turnover and profits respectively.

South East firms are increasingly looking abroad for their growth opportunities as the UK economy rebalances away from domestic demand. Firms in the region report a 2.9% rise in exports over the last 12 months compared with 1.8% growth in domestic sales. [For full report click the image above](#)



ANNUAL DINNER

Friday 23rd September 2011 Wolfson College, Oxford

This year's Annual Dinner will be returning to Wolfson's College where we will again enjoy the beautifully landscaped gardens before dinner and then after the presentations to the ACA students listen to guest speaker Barry Roberts.

Former fire fighter Barry was also scriptwriter to Dave Allen, the Two Ronnies, Spitting Image, News Huddlines, Ken Dodd and the legendary Bob Monkhouse.

The Supporting act will be Clive Parritt, ICAEW President Elect.

This year we will be supporting the local Witney Charity [Cecily's Fund](#) winner of the ICAEW Charities Online Awards 2009 and 2010. A booking form is available on the [ICAEW website](#) or contact Sue Pye for sponsorship opportunities.



BUSINESS ACCOUNTING AND SKILLS EDUCATION GAME (BASE)



In one of the many events that your Society is involved with, we recently hosted a round of the ICAEW Business and Accounting Skills Education (BASE) game. The picture shows the winning Lord Williams School team comprising Matt Brockfield, Laura Chambers, Dan Eyre, Jess Greenhalgh, Hannah Price and Matthew Wingrove. Aimed at 16-18 year olds BASE links schools, students and employers together in a bid to, not only to increase awareness of the career, but to develop employability skills in the future workforce.

Assuming the role of chartered accountants, the students had just two hours to analyse, discuss and decide on the next steps of fictional organisations before presenting their ideas to a panel of businesses professionals.

The event was supported by Richardsons in Thame, Grant Thornton and Oxford Brookes, BDO LLP, Crowe Clark Whitehill, MacIntyre Hudson, and RSM Tenon who formed an exhibition zone for the students to learn more of the career as a Chartered Accountant.

EVENTS COMING UP

The Member Support Group (MSG)

MSG provides a valuable support service to Chartered Accountants looking for jobs and work opportunities, as well as providing an excellent opportunity for networking and creating awareness of member profiles to potential employers. The group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month from 10am until 12 noon in the Sansom Room at Woodclyffe Hostel, Wargrave; there is a 'Pay & Display' car park close by with nominal charges. Full details are on the MSG website: www.tvzca.co.uk/calendar.html

Career Lifecycle

A trio of events exploring various career themes open to the Chartered Accountant. These comprise: International Careers, with speakers from the international stage; Opportunities in Industry, touching on roles and routes into business; and Progression in practice, which will include the debate on succession planning.

Practice Support Groups

There are three groups around the district, Gerrards Cross, Oxford and Reading each holds their own events see the District Society pages on icaew.com/tvsca for more information

Be Involved

e-Chartam and Chartam is always looking for contributors be they Younger, Practice, Business, Retired Members it doesn't matter, There is always room for good content so please contact Paul Tate - paul@pmtate.co.uk

Funding growth— 9 June 2011

An event tailored for local businesses and their Chartered Accountant advisors. Successful and growing businesses rely on ready access to finance to maintain competitiveness and to develop and respond to increasing market demand. With traditional sources of finance becoming increasingly difficult and expensive to access, this event will : * Provide an insight into the requirements of the banking industry * Introduce you to business angel networks * Summarise some of the investment funding options available * Outline the role of the chartered accountant in obtaining finance; and an excellent opportunity to meet other business professionals.

Society AGM

This year's AGM is being held at Stanlake Park Wine Estate, one of the UK's most successful vineyards who also grow the greatest number of grape varieties in England.

After the AGM there will be a tour of the winery and a wine tasting with 5-6 different wines presented by vineyard owner Peter Dart. You will be able to enjoy a welcome glass of Stanlake bubbly and a delicious buffet whilst chatting to friends and colleagues. Learn about the estate's winemaking which takes place within a 17th Century Reformation barn which houses one of the most advanced wineries in Britain, capable of handling some 200 tonnes of fruit in any one season. Plus taste some lovely English wines.

THAMES VALLEY EVENTS DIARY

Date	2011	Event Title	Organiser	Venue	Web
27	April	Fraud and risk – a new look. An update on the current law in place against fraud	SESCA	B	MORE
10	May	Using Excel to make the most of your accounting data	SESCA	O	MORE
10	May	Buying and selling OMB's	SESCA	O	MORE
TBA	May	Career Lifecycle International Careers	TVSCA	SM	MORE
24	May	Half yearly accounting updates for accountants in business (summer)	SESCA	BM	MORE
24	May	Half yearly taxation updates for accountants in business (summer)	SESCA	BM	MORE
26	May	TVSCA AGM & wine tasting. Sample some great wines at Stanlake Park Wine Estate	TVSCA	SM	MORE
7	June	Audit accounting and tax update Bi-annual Blenheim Update	TVSCA	SM	MORE
9	June	Funding Growth	TVSCA	SM	MORE
23	June	Leading and Managing a Team	SESCA	K	MORE
28	June	VAT Review	SESCA	BM	MORE
30	June	Half yearly accounting updates for accountants in business (spring)	SESCA	BM	MORE
30	June	Half yearly taxation updates for accountants in business (spring)	SESCA	BM	MORE

Each quarter our Practice support groups hold regular meetings in Oxford, Reading and Gerrards Cross.

Remember SESCO operate courses on our southern borders for which their Flexi Tickets are equally valid, so always look at www.sesca.co.uk for more information.

We are also bordered by other district societies on the north, west and east, see www.icaew.com/regions

Thames Valley Society of Chartered Accountants reserves the right, where necessary, to change the speakers, dates, venues or content of the courses advertised. For further details on the above events please go to icaew.com/tvsca or contact Sue Pye.

VENUES AND INFORMATION

BLUE MOUNTAIN GOLF AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

BM Wood Lane, Binfield, Bracknell, RG42 4EX
01344 360960

BURNHAM BEECHES HOTEL

B Grove Road, Burnham Bucks SL1 8DP
0844 736 8603

KINGS HOTEL

KH Oxford Road, Stokenchurch High Wycombe,
HP14 3TA 01494 609090

OXFORD BELFRY HOTEL

O Milton Common Near Thame, OX9 2JW
01844 279381

See Website www.icaew.com/tvsca

SM Or click More

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