

Council elections 2017

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

CONSTITUENCY: SOUTH EASTERN

Number of vacancies to be filled: **Three**

Candidates (order of names drawn by lot)



1. Susan Smith FCA

Teaching Fellow, University of Sussex

Personal Statement

I have the passion and objectivity to make a positive contribution to the future development of accountancy. I believe that ICAEW must represent all members from practice to industry and beyond, across private, public and third sectors as well as through every phase of the career journey.

In a world of uncertainty and rapid change ICAEW must be truly inclusive speaking for its members on both the national and international stage. I have the background, skills and ability to help with this.

I am currently the President of the South Eastern Society of Chartered Accountants and representing the constituency on Council would enable me to ensure local members' concerns are raised at the highest levels, holding ICAEW to account.

As a Teaching Fellow at the University of Sussex I am helping develop the next generation of our members. My knowledge of current academic research helps inform ICAEW policy and practice. I am responsible for student employability across the Business and Management Department providing insight into the needs of local employers. Previously I worked in a variety of commercial settings including Fitch Ratings, Cable and Wireless and Arthur Andersen. This varied experience enables me to represent our views at the highest levels.

ICAEW members in all settings face sustained rapid change in the technological and regulatory landscapes. It is important for ICAEW to support members through these changes and empower them to seize the opportunities that arise as by-products of change. This is a task of Council and I would like to help by effectively representing members in the South East.

You can contact me via the following:

Email - susan.smith@sussex.ac.uk

Twitter - @smithysusana

My video link is available here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpZuTIB7EmY&feature=youtu.be>

Nominated by

Colin Andrews FCA

Director, Clanross Ltd

Timothy Bevan BA ACA

Associate Director, Corporate Finance, KPMG

Claire Edwards BA ACA

Teaching fellow, University of Sussex

Alexandra Durrant FCA

Sole Practitioner, Alexandra Durrant Chartered Accountants

David Auckland BSc(Hons) FCA CTA

Finance Leader, Laing O'Rourke



2. Clive Stevens FCA

Chairman, Kreston Reeves LLP

Personal Statement

I have sat as a member of Council, and been directly involved with our District Society, for four years.

I bring to the role not only over 40 years of experience in public practice, where I am currently Chairman of Kreston Reeves LLP, but also from a variety of roles in industry and the charitable sector.

ICAEW members face a number of difficult challenges over the next few years - both in practice and business. Digitalisation, Artificial Intelligence, Making Tax Digital, Professional Conduct in relation to Tax and reviews of Corporate Governance regulation will all need Chartered Accountants to adapt to new circumstances.

I am passionate about safeguarding and enhancing the reputation of our Chartered Accountancy brand, and helping ICAEW use the undoubted skills of its members to make sure that regulation is both proportionate and appropriate in all spheres that affect us. I am equally passionate in making sure ICAEW helps members expand the range of services we can offer to future proof the role of Chartered Accountants. For this reason I am in favour of ICAEW becoming a regulator for reserved legal services. I was one of the first members to become a regulated probate practitioner.

ICAEW has become an international organisation. I have previously served as a Chairman of Kreston International, my firm's international network, where I am currently a Board Director. I bring my experience of working with Chartered Accountants across the world.

In the last four years, alongside my Council role, I have sat on and contributed to the work of the ICAEW Practice Board. I am currently serving as Vice-Chairman of the ICAEW Members and Commercial Board.

I would be honoured to have the opportunity to continue to serve members in the SESCA region as one of your Council representatives.

Nominated by

Heather Cheeseman FCA

Owner, Chichester Accounting

Alexander Spofforth BA FCA

Partner, Kreston Reeves LLP

Andrew Griggs BA FCA CF

Senior Partner, Kreston Reeves LLP

James Peach BSc FCA

Partner, Kreston Reeves LLP

Alexandra Knight BA FCA

Senior Manager, Kreston Reeves LLP



3. Heather Cheesman FCA

Owner, Chichester Accounting

Personal Statement

My ICAEW involvement started when I joined the South-East Society committee, becoming president in 2006/2007 and again in 2014/2016. I still remain active on the South-East Society committee where we all aim to meet the needs of all our members.

After qualifying in 2002 I moved to a mid-tier firm where I was able to put my knowledge to good use, learning many new things. I then set up as a sole practitioner in Chichester in 2012. This experience has given me a broad understanding of the help and support needed from ICAEW, which enables me to ensure that we, as a Council, are considering the needs of all our members. I am also employed as an FD, which gives me the added experience of knowing some of the needs of our members in business.

I've been a Council member for eight years and have a good grasp on the work involved and commitment needed to serve as a Council member. It's been a privilege to serve on Council as one of the younger female members and I'm looking forward to continuing to serve.

My aims on Council are to ensure that there's a good level of communication between Council and members, ensuring that members are aware of the support offered by ICAEW. I've seen the supportive work of ICAEW and been able to report back when members consider things have not worked out.

During my time as a Council member it's been a pleasure to work to ensure that we consider the needs of accountants from small firms, large firms and those in business. I've learnt from older and wiser accountants, enjoying contributing to discussions and bringing fresh ideas. I'm looking forward to continuing to serve for the next four years and value your support.

Nominated by

Celia Sylvester BA ACA
Willow Accountancy

Alexander Spofforth BA FCA
Partner, Kreston Reeves LLP

Alexandra Durrant FCA
Sole Practitioner, Alexandra Durrant Chartered Accountants

Alexander Coote ACA
Financial Accountant, Frazer Nash Consultancy

Samuel Shawcross BSc BSc(Hons) ACA
Accountant, Company



4. Mark Lumsdon-Taylor BA ACA

Group Deputy Principal & CEO, Hadlow College of Agriculture & Horticulture

Personal Statement

I am registering my nomination for ICAEW Council as an individual at the forefront of finance for 20 years. Training and qualifying at MHA MacIntyre Hudson (1997), I developed significant skills in mergers, corporate audit and risk.

Since 2002 I have been the Director of Finance and Resources for the initially collapsed and bankrupt Hadlow College, leading its fiscal and brand transformation into a £52m group (2016) encompassing the principles of commercial business within a public/private institution, investing over £100m to date and generating surpluses without exception annually. The models that have been created are seen as a blueprint for the further education sector and have been acknowledged nationally in 2007 (*Accountancy Age* UK Finance Director award), 2012 ICAEW Finance for the Future Awards (FFFA) and most recently winning the IFT transformation awards in 2016.

The business now employs over 1,100 personnel and since 2016 I am Deputy Principal and CEO responsible for global group operations across all disciplines marking the move from finance into strategic business, including creation of a £40m regeneration project in East Kent.

I am passionate about our institute and regularly speak publicly and present to new members ceremonies on my journey from practice into commerce and the career opportunities it offers. I am a judge for FFFA since 2013, seeing ICAEW as a key pillar of financial rigour being important to business as well as practice.

I am a CBI south east Regional councillor, sit on charitable boards and am passionate about the city of London through the fruiterers' livery. I have lived in London and Kent for 20 years and 'live' what I do. My track record is for others to judge, and I am committed to the future of ICAEW and see council as a way to influence for the next generation.

Nominated by

Hugh Summerfield BA(Hons) FCA
Consultant, Summerfield

Duncan Cochrane-Dyet BSc FCA
Partner, MHA MacIntyre Hudson (Kent) LLP

Sarah Dunn ACA
Auditor, MacIntyre Hudson

James Dickman ACA
Audit and Accounts executive, MacIntyre Hudson

Colin Mills ACA DChA
Partner, MHA Macintyre Hudson (Kent) LLP



**5. Anthony Bennewith FCA FCPA
FFA FFTA DChA FRSA**

Principal, AJ Bennewith & Co

Personal Statement

I am seeking re-election to ICAEW Council. My involvement with ICAEW started when I joined the Guildford Town Group of SESCO. After a while I joined the Main Committee of SESCO and then stood as a SESCO Council member. I am currently Chairman of SESCO Enterprises Limited which provides Courses for SESCO, SOSCA, TVSCA and Croydon District Society.

The above sets out what I have already done but I look forward to serving members of ICAEW especially those in practice. I recently joined the ICAEW Practice Committee which is working to improve the lot of practising members. I have spent most of my career in practice as a partner in an international firm and latterly as head of my own practice. However, I have spent a spell as a business member so have experience of the needs of business members.

As a Council member I have opportunity to support the view of, particularly, practising members. I have had opportunity to assist in the amendment of the Ethics Code in conjunction with other Council Members and SPA. Being in practice myself, I am aware of the needs of and pressures on practising members. Members of ICAEW often think that ICAEW is run by the big four. However, there are many of us on Council who are in a position to uphold the views of those in General Practice.

As a training office, I am also aware of the difficulties of training ICAEW students. Through membership of Council I can make a difference to the decision-making process.

I am a responsible individual for audit and am acquainted with the problems faced by those dealing with QAD and Practice Assurance.

I hope you will feel able to cast your vote for me to continue the work I have started.

Nominated by

Jason Saunders FCA
Partner, Bessler Hendrie

Irena Padol BSc FCA
Tax Partner, Bessler Hendrie

Andrea Hollo ACA
Partner, Bessler Hendrie

Jonathan Tippett BSc FCA TEP
Principal, Morley Tippett

Christopher Kirton FCA ATII
Assurance Director, BDO LLP



6. Jennifer Bidnell BA(Hons) ACA

Consultant, JFB Accountancy

Personal Statement

I follow the accounting profession with great interest. I have proven skills, attributes, desire and experience to meet the needs of constituents.

In 2008 I qualified as a Chartered Accountant at Shipleys LLP London. I progressed into corporate finance at BDO LLP working on due diligence assignments, capital market transactions, finance raising projects and mergers and acquisitions. I worked within an award winning 'Transaction Services' team. Our size of client would vary but inevitably would be a multinational PLC which would be subject to IFRS reporting and multicurrency consolidations.

I now work as a consultant responsible for all aspects of a client's company accounts, production of year end accounts and audit management. Aspects of this include business development, tendering, winning new business and cultivating contacts.

I take great pleasure in providing excellent client service and managing family life. My husband (himself a partner in practice) and I are blessed with two young sons. A working parent requires great organisational skills and a positive outlook. Membership in a supportive and strong professional body is invaluable.

ICAEW is a world leading professional membership organisation, it is pivotal in assisting members to maintain and enhance key core skills throughout their careers. Whether this includes career breaks, returnships to work or changing jobs.

If elected I will:

- provide members with knowledge and guidance to assist them whilst working with children to raise
- support members in working to the highest ethical and technical standards whilst managing family life
- promote, develop and supports members' interests within the Southern region
- strive to act in the public interest. Offer insights into business and the economy that help to shape local and central government policy and regulation

Thank you for your attention, professional and character references supplied upon request.

Nominated by

Hannah Van Ross ACA

Lauren Whiterod BSc ACA
Audit and Accounts Manager, Shipleys LLP

Joanna Johnson BA(Hons) ACA
Audit Manager, BDO

Adrian Trimmings MEng ACA
Corporate Finance, Numis Securities Ltd

Helen Hill ACA DChA
Management Accountant, Cats Protection