

Chartam

THE MAGAZINE FOR ICAEW CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS THAMES VALLEY



*Is the office redundant?
R&D loans
Profile on SESCA*

Welcome

... from your President



Becoming President of Thames Valley during lockdown was not something any of us saw coming. It is a first for Thames Valley to hold a virtual AGM and to hold it using Zoom is something that was very strange.

While it was not my original plan to stand for a second term, there is much change at ICAEW and yet another review of district societies is being undertaken. I have plenty of views on where we should be going and for Thames Valley we have the next three years covered by having a much younger Deputy-President from practice, Nick Lloyd, to take over in 2022 and a commercial Vice-President, Ian Blleloch, to take over in 2023.

I am sure a number of you have been members long enough to know that I started getting involved when I was a student and way back then was Chair of CASSL - the Chartered Accountants

Student Society of London (Reading Branch).

Indeed, that was before the revised TVSCA was set up as a district. In those early days I joined what was then the Slough Group, eventually joined the Main Committee and have been lucky to take on most of the roles on the Main Committee. I was also an early editor of *Chartam* and brought in the first colour copy when it was printed by Cliveden Press in Maidenhead as an A5 magazine.

I was a council member representing Thames Valley from 1997 to 2013 and we are now lucky to have three council members currently putting our views across at Moorgate Place: Graham Durgan, Jeffrey Smith and John Stout.

Will Brooks, the current national Deputy-President, joined Council in 2011 so I have worked with him on committees

at Moorgate Place for a couple of years. His wife Barbara is heavily involved with The Chartered Accountants' Livery Company of which I am a member so I am looking forward to his year as national president. Julia Penny, the current Vice-President, will become national president in Nick Lloyd's year and that will be special for Thames Valley as I am sure a number of you will remember she was Thames Valley president in 2001/2002. Julia will be the first national president from Thames Valley and we must make the most of it.

One of my aims is to meet as many of you as possible during my term as President. This has inevitably been challenging and will continue to be over the next few months, but all being well we can hold a face-to-face AGM next year. Golfers among you will know I organise the Thames Valley golf day at Burnham Beeches Golf Course where I am Finance Director. If you have never joined us, I can recommend the day to you and you can even bring a client or friend to share our hospitality. I also play for the Chartered Accountants' Livery Company and CAGS (Chartered Accountants Golf Society). Any members who play golf can join CAGS.

If you're a Thames Valley member then we welcome your views and if any of you want to be even slightly involved with helping us run the society for all ICAEW Chartered Accountants in Thames Valley, please do get in touch.

PAUL WAGSTAFF FCA, FBIM

Thames Valley President

president.thamesvalley@icaew.com

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Welcome

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of *Chartam*

Once again we are digital but now on the ICAEW platform which gives us a slightly different look but still retains the character of *Chartam*.

As the pandemic continues many of you are working from home and finding it is becoming the new normal. Going to the office every day seems a distant memory for many, so is the office a thing of the past? In this issue we have asked a selection of members across a number of areas for their thoughts on the future of the office. Not surprisingly, views are mixed but the consensus seem to be that it is down but not yet out.

We also hear from Laure, our French correspondent, with an update about what is happening in our twinned society in Normandy. The pandemic also means that the requirement for training and CPD is more important than ever and, as well as the usual information on courses, we have a profile on SESCO our main training providers and Amelia Morris, the director in charge. Also, as usual we have reports on what has been (virtually!) happening round the region and upcoming events.

We would also like to mention the Business Support Group that may be of interest, started by Nick Lloyd, which is aimed at FDs looking to progress to CFOs.

This is my last edition of *Chartam* as Editor, something that I have found interesting and stimulating. The baton has passed to James Pennington,



a long-standing member of the *Chartam* committee who will no doubt continue to provide a useful and interesting magazine. In addition Biyi Oloko (who is also featured in 'a quick word with') is joining as sub editor. I wish them well and look forward to seeing their take on *Chartam*. The production of this magazine would not take place without the involvement of a good number of people, the *Chartam* committee, Emily Russell our Regional Executive, Kate Winter in the ICAEW Brand department and of course our great correspondents. To them all, my personal thanks for all their help and hard work while I have been Editor.

Keep well and keep safe.

JOHN STOUT

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FOLLOW ICAEW THAMES VALLEY



PRACTICE SUPPORT GROUP CHAIRS

If you are a sole practitioner and wish to underpin your practice with a strong support group then contact your local chair.

Henley: Sarah Timbrell
 +44 (0)7780 781 936
henleydistrictpsg@outlook.com

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 +44 (0)1295 788 104
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Is the office redundant or just furloughed?

During these uncertain times we asked ICAEW Thames Valley members to reflect on whether they thought the office was redundant or whether it will still serve a purpose once this crisis is over.

IS THE OFFICE LIKE THE NORWEGIAN BLUE – DECEASED OR MERELY RESTING?

As we enter a second spike of coronavirus, a swift return to the office seems more unlikely and when it does happen, it may never be the same as it used to be. There are some advantages: no commuting, fewer events missed at home due to transport difficulties and more time with the family. But this is not always the case for those among us living alone, homeworking can be very isolating. Contact through Zoom is not quite the same. And not everyone has facilities at home to enable easy home working. If there are two of you, who has priority on meetings or phone calls?

So the situation is not ideal.

What will the future be like? Well, probably a hybrid – some people will happily continue to work from home, others will not be able to get back to the office fast enough. One thing is for sure, things will not be the same.

JOHN STOUT

WHAT'S THE FUTURE OF THE OFFICE?

I haven't seen inside an office for more than six months. So, in some ways it's a simple question because, for many accountants, an office actually isn't necessary for much of the work we do. I can speak to clients and colleagues, manage email and operate efficiently all from the comfort of my home.

However, offices are not just desks. They are social places where colleagues can meet and give a sense of the wider business you belong to through branding, look and feel. They are also places of learning as you see and hear how others around you get their work done, and places where talent can be spotted and nurtured.

So far, while video conferencing works as a replacement for a planned meeting, I'm surprised at how little technology has offered us in finding new ways to replicate this while we are working at home.

My own view is that offices will become smaller and more focused on the social and creative power of bringing people together (a trend already seen in office design before COVID-19), rather than the routine operation of a business.

The real challenge may now lie in persuading people to come back!

KATY RABINDRAN
Tax director BDO LLP

IS THE OFFICE REDUNDANT?

No. Certainly not ours.

The interaction between members of staff in the office is an important part of helping us deal with our clients' work and we can do that more efficiently by being in the same place at the same time, albeit socially distanced.

As far as clients were concerned, since March all meetings were initially virtual, which was a new experience for us. It has quickly become the new normal and even at the end of September virtual meetings are more prevalent than physical ones. Virtual meetings save time as they are often shorter and there's no travel involved and many clients now prefer them. From our point of view, virtual meetings work quite well, certainly with people that we already know. However, they are not so good for people that we have not previously met. It is much more difficult to pick up the nuances of what is really being said when viewing on a screen, particularly if there are more than two people involved in the conversation. The need to avoid speaking over each other sometimes means that a point can be missed.

For businesses with large offices in city centres, I think retaining them will be a very big question over the months ahead. The cost of running such offices, both to the employer and to the employees in terms of commuting, is very significant.





For smaller provincial offices such as our own, where none of our staff use public transport to get to work, I believe we will continue to use our office premises even if not all of our staff are in the office every day.

ERIC KENCH

IS THE OFFICE REDUNDANT OR MERELY FURLOUGHED?

The last six months have kicked us all into using Zoom and many other conferencing facilities which previously needed IT or various experts to set up and keep going. Now we can do it ourselves. I imagine many of us will continue to use this to reduce the number of days we spend commuting each week. However, it doesn't replace the buzz of all being together in one place or at one event. For

me I would be going for core office days of, say, Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday and work Monday/Friday at home.

I can't help but think many of us who commute will take advantage of this and change their work patterns accordingly.

RICHARD KING

THE OFFICE IS DEAD. LONG LIVE THE OFFICE.

Working patterns have changed beyond recognition in 2020. Now it's time to focus on what works best, argues Praxity Executive Director Graeme Gordon.

Evolution is a complicated thing, I doubt anyone would deny that, unless they deny evolution at all. What firms worldwide have all experienced this year is an imposed, super-fast evolution of working practices.

As part of Praxity's commitment to providing topical and insightful content,

we surveyed accounting professionals at member firms to explain changes to working practices forced by COVID-19 and discuss whether any would stick.

The responses show that while the changes themselves are nothing new, such as digitisation and remote working, the speed and extent in which these changes have been introduced has been phenomenal. Normally, this level of transformation would take at least five or 10 years, not five to six months.

If we think about the introduction and use of emails in business life, while this was arguably one of the quicker adoptions, it probably still took over five years to become the 'norm'.

GRAEME GORDON

Why do you think? Please let us know at *Chartam*, we would be delighted to hear from you. Contact Emily Russell: emily.russell@icaew.com



News from over the Channel

Hey! For a few months now we've been living in a new world where we can't work without a mask on our face. But that doesn't matter, we must be present for our clients and we can work online with digital tools.

After the end of lockdown, the team came back to the office. We were happy to see each other after such a long time! And as it was approaching the end of the academic year, we decided to do an outdoor activity: pizza on the beach, followed by tree climbing. We had a fun time.

Although we wanted to enjoy the summer, we were so behind on our work that we decided to stay through July and August working on intern projects. The time passed so fast that we were in September in the blink of an eye.

It's now back to school for all the CPA 'apprentices'. The regional council organised a training day, as they do every year. Training controllers and interns attend the conference, and it's a great way to meet new people and get tips to help you prepare for your exams and find ideas for your dissertation.

We also prepare the first online national congress. A three-day event,

totally digital, where all accounting professionals can join conferences about management, CPA brand and marketing. Several CPAs from Normandy lead a conference and you can register if you are interested. The event happened at the end of September/early October.

During the next months, we plan to welcome our new apprentices, Pierre and Charlotte. We hope they will enjoy working on the team!

We are still offering extra help to our clients because we don't know how long the crisis will last. We are anticipating the first difficulties this winter. In France, firms will start repaying their debts in November so our advice will then be really important.

We hope that you will all have a good autumn.

And though we always say this, it makes even more sense now: Take care!

Laure Bonnamour is an Expert Comptable (French Chartered Accountant) based in Normandy, Northern France and a member of the Normandy District Society with which the Thames Valley is twinned.

Thames Valley Students and Younger members

Due to the current coronavirus situation, we are unable to run any face-to-face events. However, we have a selection of hand-picked events we wanted to talk to you about, these events will be virtual yet powerful!

HOW TO BECOME A NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (NED)

10 November 17:30 - 18:45

So you want to know how to become a NED? Graham Durgan, Chair of the Non-Executive Directors' Association and ICAEW Thames Valley committee member, will be speaking at this event aimed at students and younger members. This will be a discursive session with plenty of opportunity for you to get involved. Graham will take you through the following topics - how good are you at 'strategy, risk, people and performance', where and how to start, what not to do, a few key tips, and finally next steps.

[Book here](#)

SEVEN SHIFTS TOWARDS THE MASTERY OF GREAT LEADERSHIP

26 November 18:00-19:00

Whichever finance specialism we are engaged in - business partnering, accounting, controlling, or transformation - leadership matters. Are great leaders born, or can they be developed? Talita is the former CFO and CHRO of BMW UK Ltd. and BMW Financial Services Ltd. and has led and implemented award-winning cultural transformation programmes in multiple industries. After leaving corporate life at the end of 2016, Talita published her first book, *The Authenticity Dilemma Resolved*® and helped various organisations locally in the UK and internationally, to transform their leadership and cultural approaches. Talita will be talking you through what has the most significant



The team members in a team-building activity. We said goodbye to our three interns!



impact on a team, and how do you unlock full leadership potential? We all have a hypothesis about what makes a great leader. However, it differs, depending on what motivates, inspires and drives individuals.

[Book here](#)

ICAEW updates

ACA CASE EVENT

Kaplan are running an online case study event in October for the November exam and are keen to work with student societies to help host this event. If this is of interest or if you need any further information, please contact: andrew.mower@kaplan.co.uk

REDUNDANCY ARTICLE - STUDENTS WANTED

Have you recently been made redundant due to COVID-19? We are looking for willing students to take part in an article for *Student Insights* about their experience. We are aiming to reassure students with this piece so it would be great if you have some positive advice to share. Please contact lauren.baldrige@icaew.com if you are willing to get involved.

CABA WEBINAR

Managing change through uncertainty - 22 October, 14:00 to 15:00.

The way you react to change and uncertainty can impact your wellbeing. Developing a growth mindset can help you to accept or adjust to change and be open to the opportunities that change can bring. In this session you will explore your own mindset and discover practical ways to develop a more positive and flexible approach. Join **Chris Burton**, career and leadership coach - [Register Now](#)

What are R&D loans and how do you use them?

The Research & Development tax credit is a key government initiative that targets UK SMEs and aims to promote growth and reward innovation within the UK economy. Every year the government provides £2.3bn to UK SMEs in the form of either a cash payment or a corporation tax reduction, of which approximately 40% is paid out as a tax credit. For UK SMEs to qualify for the cash payment they must be loss-making at the time of the R&D submission, be a registered UK company paying corporation tax and they must spend money on R&D quantifiable activities. The process of applying for a R&D tax credit is relatively straightforward and part of the end of year accounting submission through the CT600. Currently, a UK business can recover 33% of qualifying spend and it currently takes approximately two months to receive the cash payment according to recent HMRC stats.

The industry of R&D tax credit loans has become well established in many major world economies including Australia and Canada and is growing rapidly in the UK. Its success has been driven by the need for loss-making businesses to gain access to capital which traditional lenders often struggle to provide. A R&D loan is where loss-making companies borrow against the tax credit, they are short term, bespoke and can be provided up to three months before submission of the CT600, meaning the duration of a typical loan could be up to six months. Typically,

companies have used the capital from the loan to: improve their working capital position; accelerate R&D growth and speed up future revenue opportunities; provide bridge financing protecting long-term shareholder value; and manage the seasonality of particular business requirements.

Rocking Horse is a specialist debt financier that has been providing R&D tax credit and Innovate UK grant loans in the UK since 2018. Rocking Horse is backed by specialist investment firm Quilam Capital, enabling it to provide capital to millions of UK SMEs and support their growth and development. Rocking Horse provides a best in class loan solution secured against the UK government R&D tax credit and Innovate UK grant schemes, it is open to all UK SMEs (pre-revenue, post revenue, pre-profit), it provides quick access to capital (within seven business days), competitive interest rates (no payments till end of loan), access to industry professionals and increased chance of subsequent equity investment and support beyond the loan.

Rocking Horse works closely with many accountants and advisers by securing much needed advance funding for their clients, and is also able to pay an accountant's fee upfront as part of the offering.

TOBY WALKER, DIRECTOR

Rocking Horse
www.rockinghorsegroup.co.uk



Retired and Life Members update

As the pandemic continues, ICAEW Thames Valley continues to engage with life and retired members. Although we have had to make all our meetings virtual, this has not changed the successful events that have taken place.

For many of us this can be an extremely worrying time and you are not alone, we have had to cancel and postpone many of our events that we know you were looking forward to.

However, we have had a number of successes where we have joined forces with other district societies and produced a series of events for retired and life members to interact with their neighbouring districts. This has been a great opportunity for members to speak to members they have perhaps never met and obtain a view of what it has been like for others not so many miles away!

We kicked off the series with a travel chat based around 'staycations' - many members told each other about the travel hotspots in the UK and abroad. Some great suggestions were given, with members mentioning places within their county to visit as well as idyllic places they have visited over the years and the hotspots they keep returning to. The travel discussion then turned to the pandemic and the members predicted how the airlines would suffer. It was a great conversation, with the hope of travel in the near future and many new places to visit when we can do so.

We then had a virtual quiz which consisted of three rounds of 10

questions. This had us all thinking and was a great start to the morning. Each round was a different topic including music, history, and general knowledge. We must say, even during a pandemic our retired and life members remained competitive. This event worked well and there was a good turnout of people looking to challenge their knowledge.

Thirdly we had a virtual wine tasting event that involved delivering wine to members' doors so they could take part in a virtual tasting session. This, as predicted, was extremely popular with retired and life members, lots of chatting, questions and overall a fantastic event for everyone involved.

Although our virtual events have been successful we have had to postpone a number of other events until it is safe to hold these again, but do not fear we will be rearranging all the events we have had to postpone! These include Reading Abbey tour, chaired yoga, Bombay Sapphire Gin distillery tour, a visit to a Museum of English Rural Life and many more. Keep an eye out on the website and your emails to see when you can book your place.

We also wanted to take this opportunity to mention CABA and if you need any support, from sleepless nights to advice on wellbeing contact CABA on +44 (0)1788 556 366 (24 hour) or visit: www.caba.org.uk

Book here for the next Retired and Life Members session in our series, which will be taking place on 9 November.

Contact Brian Bush our ICAEW Thames Valley retired members representative for more information: theseniorbushes@googlemail.com

EMILY RUSSELL

Thames Valley Regional Executive

A spotlight on SESCA and Director Amelia Morris



SESCA Enterprises Ltd has been providing quality, professional, local, face-to-face CPD training for accountants for over 20 years in the South and South East, and has been the local provider for ICAEW Thames Valley since 2005.

2020 has, however, radically changed the way we deliver our training. In the space of a few weeks at the end of March, we moved completely online using Zoom and are remaining so for the rest of 2020. We are hoping to resume face-to-face training in 2021, subject to government guidance, but are keeping our live online courses in the programme too, as they have been very positively received.

This means in 2021 delegates have an increased choice of courses to attend; not only locally, face-to-face (hopefully!) but with courses not previously run in their area available online. If face to face courses are not permitted, our programme will be delivered online, as this year.

Our Excel courses have changed too; now available as recorded online courses with access given for one month, giving you plenty of time to re-visit sections of the course, and to have step-by-step guidance while applying new knowledge to your own files. Delegates have really welcomed this new format too. Just in case changing the business to completely online wasn't enough of a challenge for



2020, SESCO Enterprises has a new look coming in October, and a new name – SESCO Ltd – and next year we will have a new website too!

Coordinating all this is Amelia Morris. Amelia began her career at Janes Information Group after graduating from the University of Southampton with a degree in Economics and Politics. Soon after, she moved to the BBC working in the then Finance Directorate for the Business Performance Strategy Group before moving to BBC Parliament as a researcher and subsequently, a producer. Following a career break to have her two boys, Amelia started work as an admin assistant at SESCO in 2013 and in 2017 she was appointed a director. Amelia is supported by a small but incredibly efficient team, and a Board of Directors consisting of ICAEW Chartered Accountants so you can be sure your CPD is in good hands.

Council report

ICAEW Council met in July for a virtual conference. The focus of the two half-day meetings was the strategy for ICAEW, looking ahead to 2030, which will be our 150th anniversary year.

The conference began with a presentation from David Lancefield, a catalyst, strategist and coach. David spoke about 'repair, reinvent, accelerate' and gave us some thought-provoking ideas on developing a strategy.

Michael Izza shared his thoughts on the changes we might see in the next decade. Such changes as technological advances, the drive towards sustainable business, the importance of the sustainable development goals, changes in demographics and the need to re-skill the workforce.

We then looked at our Charter objectives, our vision and our three key strategic objectives: Future Professional, Connected Communities and the Agile Institute and discussed what these might look like by 2030. Day one ended with a discussion, chaired by Kate Mathers from the National Audit Office, about what the world might look like in 2030, with viewpoints from business and practice, the UK and non-UK, from newly qualified to very experienced.

On day two we looked at six challenging topics: admission by examination; funding models; international profile; size and scale; public

interest; and brand. The feedback from the discussions was collated and fed into the development of the strategy, which will then be reviewed at the next council conference in October.

Council also re-considered the membership fees and subs for 2021 and confirmed that there would be no increase.

AGM report

The Thames Valley AGM took place virtually over Lifesize on 30 September. We had a total of 14 members attend the meeting. Usually we would all participate in an activity afterwards, but given the current circumstances this year's meeting was short and sweet!

We said thank you to our past president Fiona McKenzie and welcomed our new Thames Valley President Paul Wagstaff. We also welcomed Nick Lloyd as Deputy-President and new committee member Ian Blleloch as Vice-President.

The minutes from the previous year's AGM were approved by a virtual hands-up. Fiona then gave the president's report; this was particularly interesting as this year has been very different from others with a number of events being virtual. We then had the annual statement of accounts summary and formally welcomed our new member to the committee, Ian Blleloch.

From the Thames Valley members and ICAEW we say 'thank you' to Fiona McKenzie for her time as president and for all her help. We also welcome Paul Wagstaff as president. My aims for the next year will to major on communication with members. While particularly difficult during these COVID days, over the next few months the district society will look at what works best for the future. We will be using *Chartam* as our main communication medium to reach as many of you as we can, so if you know any members who do not receive it please ask them to use [this link to update their preferences](#).

Twinning report

Despite the ongoing pandemic in France the Annual Conference took place on 8 October along with other members and a full report will appear in the next edition of *Chartam*.

They will also be organising a National Conference in Paris on 24 November, covering the post-Brexit import and export regulations, and have extended an invitation to members of Thames Valley to attend. At the moment, this is due to be held in the 15th Arrondissement of Paris. If you are interested in attending, please contact me for further details.

PAUL T DAVIES

Twinning Officer

paul@ptdavies.co.uk

Thames Valley SESCO courses

2020 AND 2021 ESSENTIAL CPD COURSES NEWS

Keep an eye out for the new look 2021 Thames Valley courses brochure: not only will SESCO Enterprises have a new look, but it also has a new name – SESCO Ltd! ICAEW members who have opted to receive communications from ICAEW will receive their copy in early November. If you do not receive a brochure and would like one, please email courses@sesca.co.uk or call +44 (0)1737 223 999.

With so much changing so rapidly, there's no better way to keep your training up to date than with our live online CPD programme! One attendee at Dean Wootten's recent Close Company Refresher said 'Fantastic course, clear advice especially regarding recent COVID issues - exactly what I was looking for.' With all our 2020 programme available online, you can attend many more courses than previously were held in your area. Other delegates joining our courses have said 'Very easy to attend on Zoom.', 'I find the Zoom courses really good as you can learn from your desk and it saves the travel time.' And 'I had some reservations as to whether Zoom would work for this type of course and I was pleasantly surprised.'

While we are remaining wholly online for the rest of 2020, we are planning to return to a mixture of face-to-face – government guidance permitted – and online training for 2021. If a face-to-face meeting is not permitted, we will deliver the courses online, as we do now, and your bookings will be transferred automatically. Did you know that by

purchasing a Flexiticket or individual course place you are also helping your local district society? ICAEW Thames Valley receives commission on every place sold, which enables us to hold local events that directly benefit you. Book your course places today using the booking form on page 11.

If you would like more information on any of the courses or Flexiticket scheme etc., visit the SESCO Ltd website, email: courses@sesca.co.uk, or call +44 (0)1737 223 999 and speak to Amelia, Mick or Sally.


SESCA

2020 THAMES VALLEY ONLINE CPD COURSES PROGRAMME

(see bottom of page 11 for key and top of page 11 for the booking form)

Date	Course	Speaker	Venue	Time	B/P	Code
November						
4	Making tax digital update - where are we now?	Dean Wootten	O	AM	PB	NO04A0
5	Close company refresher	Dean Wootten	O	AM	PB	NO05A0
5	Complete guide to tax and the family	Amanda Fisher	O	PM	P	NO05B0
11	Capital taxes: Four tax efficient scenarios and a disaster	Amanda Fisher	O	AM	PB	NO11A0
11	Essential guide to importing and exporting	Malcolm Greenbaum	O	PM	PB	NO11B0
16	Making tax digital update - where are we now?	Dean Wootten	O	AM	PB	NO16A0
17	Accounting update for members in business	Guy Loveday	O	AM	B	NO17A0
17	Taxation update for members in business	Martyn Ingles	O	PM	B	NO17B0
18	Property tax update	Dean Wootten	O	AM	PB	NO18C0
18	Construction industry tax refresher	Tim Palmer	O	PM	PB	NO18D0
18	Complete guide to succession planning for OMBs	Giles Mooney	O	AM	P	NO18A0
18	How to survive your annual audit	Peter Herbert	O	PM	B	NO18B0
20	Accounting update for members in business	Guy Loveday	O	AM	B	NO20A0
20	Taxation update for members in business	Martyn Ingles	O	PM	B	NO20B0
23	Half yearly audit and accounting update	Guy Loveday	O	AM	P	NO23A0
23	Half yearly taxation update	Mark Ward	O	PM	P	NO23B0
24	Accounting update for members in business	Guy Loveday	O	AM	B	NO24A0
24	Taxation update for members in business	Martyn Ingles	O	PM	B	NO24B0
25	Accounting update for members in business	Guy Loveday	O	AM	B	NO25A0
25	Taxation update for members in business	Martyn Ingles	O	PM	B	NO25B0
26	Half yearly audit and accounting update	Guy Loveday	O	AM	P	NO26A0
26	Half yearly taxation update	Giles Mooney	O	PM	P	NO26B0
December						
2	Half yearly accounting and financial reporting update	Guy Loveday	O	AM	P	DE02C0
2	Half yearly taxation update	Bob Trunchion	O	AM	P	DE02A0
2	Half yearly audit and accounting update	Guy Loveday	O	PM	P	DE02B0
2	Half yearly taxation update	Bob Trunchion	O	PM	P	DE02D0
3	Half yearly taxation update	Bob Trunchion	O	AM	P	DE03A0
3	Half yearly audit and accounting update	Guy Loveday	O	PM	P	DE03B0
8	Half yearly accounting and financial reporting update	Guy Loveday	O	AM	P	DE08C0
8	Half yearly taxation update	Bob Trunchion	O	AM	P	DE08A0
8	Half yearly audit and accounting update	Guy Loveday	O	PM	P	DE08B0
8	Half yearly taxation update	Bob Trunchion	O	PM	P	DE08D0

THAMES VALLEY CPD COURSES BOOKING FORM

Contact (please give delegate names, if known, below or on separate sheet)

Title Initials Surname Firm/company

Address

Telephone

Email

	Fee	VAT	Fee+VAT	No	Total
4 place Flexiticket (pre 31/01/20)	£300	£60	£360		
4 place Flexiticket	£320	£64	£384		
12 place Flexiticket (pre 31/01/20)	£700	£140	£840		
12 place Flexiticket	£740	£148	£888		
25 place Flexiticket (pre 31/01/20)	£1,300	£260	£1,560		
25 place Flexiticket	£1,470	£294	£1,764		
Individual course 2020 (half day)	£110	£22	£132		

Flexitickets purchased and paid for by 31/01/20 will expire on 31/12/20. All bookings must be accompanied by payment. A VAT invoice will be issued with your Flexipack. Please make cheques payable to: **SESCA Enterprises Ltd**. Details for BACS payment: a/c 10771791 Sort code: 20-23-97 Please quote company name when paying by BACS.

Cheque enclosed: £

Delegate details (if known). If booking on existing ticket tick 'flexi'

Signed:

Date:

Title	Forename	Surname	Flexi	Course code

Return address:

SESCA Enterprises Ltd, 2b Chart House,
Effingham Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2
7JN UK Tel: +44 (0)1737 223 999 Email:
courses@sesca.co.uk

***Booking conditions:** The course fee covers all documentation, which will be provided on registration, and refreshments. We regret no refunds can be made on course fees other than in exceptional circumstances. Flexitickets are only valid on events which fall within the validation period of the ticket. All places are subject to availability and receipt of notification of attendance at least six days before the course. We cannot guarantee places on any course. Notice of cancellation must be received and acknowledged by email two clear working days before the course to enable the place to be used again within the validity period of the ticket. We reserve the right to make changes, including cancellation to any South East, Southern or Thames Valley courses event. No responsibility for loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting as a result of any of the information in the material can be accepted by the speakers, SESCO Enterprises Ltd, ICAEW Chartered Accountants Thames Valley, ICAEW Chartered Accountants Southern or ICAEW Chartered Accountants South East. We cannot be held responsible for any personal belongings left at any course venue.
Return address: SESCO Enterprises Ltd, 2b Chart House, Effingham Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7JN UK Tel: +44 (0)1737 223 999 Email: courses@sesca.co.uk

The following 2021 courses are part of the Southern Flexiticket Programme (available to all Flexiticket holders) and are being held at the Basingstoke Country Hotel (B)

Date	Course	Speaker	Venue	Time	B/P	Code
March						
17	Complete guide to VAT in the construction industry	Neil Owen	B	AM	B/P	MA17A1
17	After Brexit and the transition - The new tax environment	Jeremy Mindell	B	PM	B/P	MA17B1
25	Complete guide to international VAT issues	Neil Owen	B	AM	B/P	MA25A1
April						
29	HMRC's investigatory powers: Topical issues	Andrew Gotch	B	AM	B/P	AP29A1
29	The essential guide to importing and exporting	Malcolm Greenbaum	B	PM	B/P	AP29B1

Key

Venues: **O** = Live online using Zoom **W** = Recorded online, available via the website **CB** = Coppid Beech Hotel, John Nike Way, Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8TF **SC** = Sindlesham Court, Mole Road, Sindlesham, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 5EA **B** = Basingstoke Country Hotel, Scures Hill, Nalely Scures, near Hook, RG27 9JS

Time: **AM:** Registration 09:00, start 09:30, coffee 11:00, end 12:30 **PM:** Registration 13:00, start 13:30, coffee 15:00, end 16:30 **ANY:** Watch anytime.

B/P: **B** = of interest to accountants in business **P** = of interest to accountants in practice



Webinars

SUPERCHARGE YOUR PIVOTTABLES WITH POWER PIVOT

Power Pivot is freely available in Excel but is often overlooked. The powerful add-in can supercharge your PivotTables, allowing more nuanced and detailed calculations and summaries than ever before.

In this webinar we will examine:

- Connecting related tables quickly and easily using the Data Model
- Using calendar tables to iron out problems with time-based data
- Using intelligent DAX functions to easily make running totals, prior year figures, grand totals, and more
- Create KPIs and visually present them easily

This webinar assumes prior knowledge of basic PivotTables - if you need a refresh check out our [comprehensive guide!](#)

[Book here](#)

NAVIGATING OFFICE POLITICS POSITIVELY

The term 'office politics' usually has a lot of negative connotations, and indeed an inability to be able to navigate an organisation's formal processes and interact effectively with others at work can have far reaching, adverse consequences.

Conversely, when people understand how their organisation really works and are equipped with the skills and confidence to engage effectively with different people of varying seniority and personality type, there are many benefits for both the individual's career and the organisation. Often, a halt in an individual's career progression can indicate that they lack positive political intelligence. Once individuals are equipped with the awareness and skills of how to be positively politically intelligent then more effective working, better decision making and ultimately improved organisational and individual performance are the result.

Navigating office politics positively will look at what organisational politics is, why it occurs and what individuals need to focus on to improve your personal political intelligence. [Book here](#)

EMERGING FROM COVID-19 - A KUWAIT PERSPECTIVE

Harsha Prakash, Associate Director, Deal Advisory, KPMG in Kuwait, will discuss the emerging of Kuwait's economy from COVID-19.

Agenda:

- Outlook for Kuwait's economy
- Impact on businesses and pathways to navigate the crisis
- Competing in the new normal
- Digital economy - a sunrise sector for Kuwait

[Book here](#)

HOW TO MAKE NETWORKING WORK FOR YOU IN A POST-COVID WORLD

During this workshop you will learn how to manage your current network by understanding and mapping the connections that you already have and the value of each of these relationships.

[Book here](#)

CABA | PERSONAL IMPACT: MAKE A MEMORABLE IMPRESSION FIRST TIME, EVERY TIME

In this session you will learn how to make a memorable impact in a variety of work situations. From influencing key stakeholders, to inspiring clients and motivating colleagues. [Book here](#)

HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS ASSUREDLY

At times we all face having difficult conversations with people at work. It could be an uncomfortable, demanding, or emotional situation you face and are unsure of the best approach to deal with it. [Book here](#)

VISUALISING DATA: THE LONDON TUBE MAP

Have you ever wondered how the London tube map works as a globally recognisable and internationally emulated communication design classic?

In this webinar we explore the reasons that make the tube map one of the most effective data visualisation designs of all times, and simultaneously one we take for granted. Andy Kirk will work through the multitude of different features demonstrated by the tube map to draw out best practice applications relevant to any other visualisation challenge you might work on. [Book here](#)

PRACTICAL EXCEL TIPS

Excel is a useful and versatile tool for businesses, and its practical use can save you a lot of time and make your working day that much easier. John Tennent, Excel guru, will cover exactly how to do this, with his up-to-date and ingenious tips on how to make the most of the powerful tool. I am sure you will be leaving with a 'how did I never know that' feeling. A good working knowledge of Excel is presumed. [Book here](#)

CUSTOMS AND VAT POST THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

This webinar will cover some of the practical points that businesses and their advisors should be aware of in relation to goods moving between the UK and EU. There are action points that businesses can take away regardless of the outcome of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement. It will also cover an overview of the changes that e-commerce businesses need to be aware of from 1 July 2021. [Watch here](#)

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF AI

In this short webinar, Kirstin Gillon will take stock of the use of AI across the sector, highlight the main ways it's being used today, and consider some of the biggest opportunities for the profession from AI in the future. [Watch here](#)



What's on in the Thames Valley

If you are interested in attending any of our events, please [click here](#). You can also email Emily at emily.russell@icaew.com for further information.

Due to the current situation, most of the events listed below will be held virtually for the foreseeable future. We are regularly evaluating the circumstances in line with the current guidance.

PANDEMIC PERSPECTIVES

Virtual event

Various dates 2020 12:00-13:00

Join ICAEW Thames Valley for a series of fascinating informal chats with senior finance leaders working in organisations across the region who have been impacted in different ways by the unfolding crisis of the last few months and hear their unique perspectives on the pandemic.

5 November

Louise Herrington, Performance Accountancy - [Book here](#)

12 November

Ian Belloch, Chaco - [Book here](#)

19 November

Mike Clark, Coca-Cola - [Book here](#)

HOW TO BECOME A NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (NED)

Virtual event

10 November 2020 17:30-18:30

This event is aimed at younger members and will be an interactive evening looking at 'How to become a NED?' The agenda will cover:

1. How good are you at 'Strategy, risk, people and performance'
2. Where and how to start
3. What not to do
4. A few key tips
5. Next steps.

[Book Here](#)

THE EFFECT OF TECHNOLOGY

Virtual event

12 November 2020 08:00-09:00

Hear from David Lyford-Smith, ICAEW's Technical Manager, on the changing role of the accountant in a digital world.

[Book Here](#)

SEVEN SHIFTS TOWARDS THE MASTERY OF GREAT LEADERSHIP

Virtual event

26 November 2020 18:00-19:00

Whichever finance specialism we are engaged in - business partnering, accounting, controlling, or transformation - leadership matters. Are great leaders born, or can they be developed? What has the most significant impact on a team, and how do we unlock full leadership potential? We all have a hypothesis about what makes a great leader. [Book Here](#)

OUR PLANET - TOO BIG TO FAIL

Virtual event

5 December 2020 14:00-15:30

Hear from Mark Carney, Hiro Mizuno, Catherine Howarth and Gillian Tett (and others) on how the finance sector can help build a sustainable future. Bookings are not live yet, please contact emily.russell@icaew.com

YOUNGER MEMBERS 'POWER HOUR'

9 December 2020 time TBC

This will be an hour-long session aimed at younger members with two main topics that Phillippa Hurrell will touch on. Phillippa will discuss how you can build resilience and sustain peak performance, and how to get clear on your vision and take courageous action. Bookings are not live yet, please contact emily.russell@icaew.com

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST RETIRED MEMBERS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Virtual

14 December 2020 10:30-11:30

Join Thames Valley, London and South East retired members for the final in our neighbouring districts, joint series. The last virtual event will be Christmas carols followed by a Christmas quiz. This is one not to miss! [Book Here](#)





OXFORD BUSINESS MEMBERS' BREAKFAST FORUM

Virtual event

Various dates: 08:00-09:30

This free event is part of a series of meetings, exclusively for business members, which take place in Oxford. Your views are greatly valued on business confidence across the region and also on highlighting urgent issues that government needs to address. Discussions will be according to Chatham House rules and all comments will be treated as confidential. [Book here](#)

READING AND MAIDENHEAD BUSINESS MEMBERS' BREAKFAST FORUM

Various dates: 08:00-09:30

This free event is part of a series of meetings, exclusively for business members, which will take place in Maidenhead and the Reading area. Your views are greatly valued on business confidence across the region and also on highlighting urgent issues that government needs to address. Discussions will be according to Chatham House rules and all comments will be treated as confidential. [Book here](#)

OXFORD PRACTITIONER GROUP MEETINGS

Various dates and venues

The Oxford Practitioner Group is a long-established group which meets four times a year. New members are very welcome. Meetings start at 18:30. For more information please contact: emily.russell@icaew.com
[Book here](#)

HENLEY AND DISTRICT PRACTITIONER GROUP MEETINGS

Various dates and venues

The Henley and District Practitioner Group continues to provide a fantastic opportunity for members to discuss any pertinent and practical points they face running a small business in practice. There is a great deal of technical expertise among the attendees so help is at hand for any issues you face. For more information please contact Sarah Timbrell on henleydistrictpsg@outlook.com



Henley Practice Support Group

The Henley & District Practice Support Group has quickly adapted to deal with the recent lockdown measures. Unable to meet face to face, we have held our meetings virtually and, while not quite as pleasant as seeing our members in person, they have been just as productive and have also brought secondary benefits, such as negating the need for travel, making attendance easier and more flexible. Being virtual has also made it logistically feasible for new members to join meetings, so we have enjoyed seeing new faces and have continued to grow our member base, which now includes FCAs, Chartered Tax Advisers and VAT experts. Most of our members are sole practitioners or work in small firms, so have also had the upside of seeing friendly and supportive faces, albeit on a screen, during a time when social contact has been somewhat limited. Embracing technology has also led us to consider other ways of keeping in touch between meetings, such as a closed LinkedIn group and a WhatsApp group.

So why not attend one of our virtual meetings? It couldn't be easier to do and you find that the vast amount of experience and knowledge our members have between them, whether you are just starting up on your own or are a seasoned professional, could be of real benefit. Just give it a go!

Our last meeting of 2020 will be on 9 December.

SARAH STEVENS

henleydistrictpsg@outlook.com

So ... you want to be a CFO?

ICAEW Thames Valley is delighted to announce the creation of a new working group aimed at FCs and FDs who have aspirations of progressing through to future CFO roles.

The group will meet on a quarterly basis to share thoughts and experiences in a safe and supportive environment. This will enable participants to share areas of strength and weakness and help them identify the skills required to progress through to the next level of their careers.

The group will be supported by guest mentor CFOs who will share knowledge from their careers including successes, pitfalls and the skillsets they believe are needed to succeed in the role.

Meetings will initially be held remotely via video conference due to the current environment, with a view to starting in-person meetings once we are allowed. Each session will last for approximately an hour and a half, with numbers limited to a maximum of 12 people. The first sessions will be held on 2 December.

If you would like to enrol as a participant, please sign-up through the [website](#). If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please email Emily Russell, emily.russell@icaew.com

Business Breakfast Groups

The Oxford group has been meeting monthly during lockdown, and lively meetings have been held on Zoom with average attendance of about 20 ICAEW members in business. Attendees participate on the basis of Chatham House rules and we have enjoyed insightful economic briefings from Julia Root-Gutteridge, Manager for Board Effectiveness at ICAEW, who always stimulates much thought and debate! In addition we have had talks from Jeremy Long, chair of the OxLEP, talking about OxLEP's work and how they have responded to support businesses through the pandemic. And last month Richard King kindly hosted a speaker from CABA who amazed attendees by revealing the extent of their substantial reserves and their ability to help not just ICAEW members but also their direct family members too. We are enjoying using the Zoom break-out rooms to mimic informal networking after the official business is done. We are a friendly bunch and love to meet new people, offering you a 60-second platform to introduce yourself to the group. Our next (bring your own) breakfast is on Friday 4 December via Zoom - please register via [ICAEW](#) or contact me, James Shand: james@vfdnet.com

The Reading and Maidenhead group has been meeting on a monthly basis during the pandemic, using Zoom. We have discussed many issues and

it's been a great opportunity for new members to join and engage with each other and ICAEW. There have been a number of speakers during this time; we have been joined by Rachel Underhill, Senior Business Strategy Manager from ICAEW and Julia Root-Gutteridge, Board Effectiveness Manager at ICAEW. In August we were also joined by Gareth Winters from CABA who told us how they can help us during this uncertain time. We were also joined by Alison Webster who is the Berkshire LEP, who gave us a useful insight of how she came into the role and an update on the current local economic outlook.

Join us for the next meeting on 28 November, either by visiting the [ICAEW Thames Valley website](#) or by emailing Emily for more information: emily.russell@icaew.com



A quick word with ... Biyi Oloko



What attracted you to accounting?

Actually, I wanted to study law but my father wanted me to become the first accountant in our family and I did. I studied Economics & Accounting at Newcastle University and now I am Fellow of both ICAEW and ACCA. Thank you Dad!

What were your most defining moments at work?

Two key moments:

1. When CSC Computer Sciences Corporation, now DXC Technologies, headhunted me as a pioneer SAP Finance Consultant. Implementing financial systems across the world exposed me to the discipline of project management and delivery, and the power of the finance function as the key partner of business and decision-making.

2. When I worked for a fibre company in the UK and led the infrastructure division of a major sub-Saharan plc, I was introduced to Passive Telecommunications Infrastructure - Cell Sites and Fibre - as the essential pillars of mobile and digital communications.

Both have significantly influenced my business and professional life and underpinned my appointment to serve one of the biggest sub-Sovereign states in Africa.

Tell us what's it's like being a director

A director is an adviser backed by corporate governance rules. It's a unique opportunity to apply life and business experience to solving business problems, I guess you can say that I am a problem solver. For me, this is great! I enjoy transforming businesses in the true sense of the word; the more difficult the situation the more pleasure I derive from contributing to its transformation. I enjoy working with start-ups, SMEs and turnaround situations.

What skills are needed to be a director?

Experience is key! You cannot give what you don't have. Knowledge is important and this is the accumulation of experiences. A good director must be a good listener, a good mentor, analytical, a good presenter and possess cross-industry experience.

What was your dream job growing up?

I always fancied myself as a mean litigator involved in the high-profile defence of 'lost cause' cases and then winning! It's my dream! Perhaps one day

I will still study and practise law! Who knows?

What is your personal motto and mantra?

My Christian faith and my family underpin my life. I believe that 'experience is the best teacher'! There's a Chinese proverb that says 'To know the road ahead, ask those coming back'.

Why do you like being a member of ICAEW Thames Valley?

I recently attended my first meeting and it was quite enriching as I met some great people and professionals. Thames Valley is at the heart of technology-digital technologies - in the UK and, by extension, the world. COVID-19 was a reset button for the world and the post-COVID-19 future will be technology led. ICAEW Thames Valley is therefore poised as a 'key business partner' and catalyst to contribute significantly to the future of the Thames Valley region and the rest of the world. I look forward to being an active member of this group.

Can you tell us a bit about your company?

Stephen Simeon was set up to offer, among other things, management consultancy services. It's been in existence for over a decade and now operates primarily through partners, particularly in Ghana and Nigeria. Stephen Simeon is currently involved in setting up a Berkshire-based Start Up Accelerator - we see this as a key enabler of growth. We are also very interested to hear from UK businesses looking to build/increase their footprint in Africa.

Moving forward, with CABA

The last six months have been unprecedented and a lot has changed. Almost every part of our lives has come to look very different, or in some cases changed completely. From our day-to-day routines to our fundamental sense of financial security, very little has been unaffected by the global response to the spread of COVID-19.

With so much change and uncertainty, taking care of your mental health has never been so important. Focusing on your wellbeing can help you cope with the challenges that you now face and empower you to

take what comes next at your own pace, holding on to the positive changes you've made - whether that's prioritising your health, exploring a new career path, focusing on your relationships, or becoming involved with your local community. And you don't have to do it by yourself. The Chartered Accountants Benevolent Association (CABA) offers free wellbeing support services to help you and your family - now and in the future.

Offering services from career coaching to counselling, legal advice to financial assistance, plus free

personal and professional online courses, CABA can help you build confidence, maintain control and manage the impact of the immense challenges COVID-19 has brought - and empower you to take on what comes next.

CABA's free wellbeing support services are designed exclusively for ICAEW Chartered Accountants, ACA students and their families. To find out more about the services we provide and how we can help support you, visit www.caba.org.uk