

ICAEW Staffs, Salop & Wolverhampton President's annual report 2021-22

My time as president has passed so quickly. The year for the society was envisaged to be the year that we returned to 'normal' just as was the case for so many areas of our lives.

The society has built on its online engagement levels achieved during the pandemic and has maintained a full and varied online programme available to members. These continue to be well received, well attended and it is our hope that these are a great resource to the members.

We have also relaunched our in-person training courses for which we are so very well known. We are watching these with interest to see if they have a place in the 'new normal'. It is important that we as a committee keep up with the ever-changing needs of our members. If this means that we have to change our approach, then we need to be agile enough to do this.

When I look back on my time as president I look back proudly on our progress in collaborating with other societies and ICAEW more widely. Geographical boundaries or history should be no barrier to ensuring best service to our members.

We have held successful events online in collaboration with ICAEW West Midlands. They were well attended and it is especially pleasing to see so many of our business members in attendance from a wide selection of businesses across the region.

On a more structural matter, we have been reviewing the structure in which we operate. We have made the decision to trial moving the activities of the society to within ICAEW by creating an ICAEW community. This change is envisaged to take place over the Summer.

This change will allow our collaboration to enhance further and ensure that our volunteers time is spent on activities important to our membership rather than administrative tasks. We will be able to draw upon the strength of ICAEW's administrative and marketing teams while retaining control over our local approach to reaching members. I am really excited that this will be the start of a new season for the society that will result in positive change for the volunteers and members alike.

I would like to end by thanking my team on the committee and ICAEW's support team for their support over the last year.

Christopher Beeston ACA CTA