

3) Looking Forward 2008/09, continued

C) Provide a range of Branch and Group activities to aid learning, provide CPD and upgrading opportunities.

- Provide a range of events throughout the year aimed at CPD, many still at no cost to members
- Continue to evaluate the events programme in terms of value for members, booking procedures and variety of learning opportunities
- Seek to increase membership by 2% in line with the national average
- Plan one event focussed at senior members

D) Raise the profile of CIPD and promote the benefits of good people management in the Thames Valley area

- Deliver a high profile Branch Conference – Sustainable performance on 4 June
- Continue to forge links with other professional organisations and colleges in the Thames Valley area

E) Interface with CIPD Wimbledon

- Continue to represent the Thames Valley Branch at the Council meetings, Annual Conference in Manchester, Branch Chair Days, the Southern Regional Chairs days and Branch review steering committees
- Open invitation to CIPD Branch representatives to attend Branch Committee meetings

F) Branch Management

- Continue the key principles of:
 - Branch leadership and integrity – compliance with the CIPD Branch constitution
 - Branch performance and control – solvency and good performance
 - Branch transparency – open, responsive and accountable to our members
 - Branch renewal/succession planning

4) Educational Establishments in the Thames Valley Area

College

Abingdon and Witney
Basingstoke College of Technology
Bracknell and Wokingham
Newbury College
Oxford and Cherwell Valley College
Oxford Brookes
National School of Government
Thames Valley University

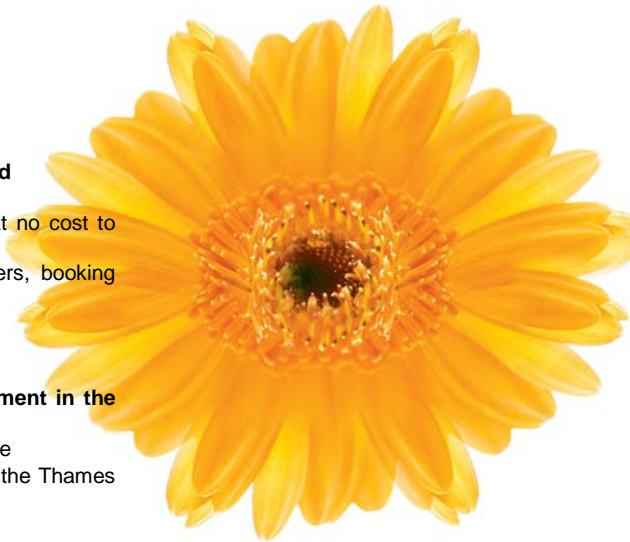
College Liaison

Jean Roberts
Nigel Pierce
Pat Hartwell
Kate Forster
Jean Roberts/Ed Bell
Jean Roberts
Pat Hartwell
Kate Forster

5) Volunteer and join the committee

We are always looking for volunteers to support our various activities and, if you are interested in becoming involved, we have some great development opportunities. A warm welcome is guaranteed!

Please contact Lindsay Allen, Branch Administrator
Tel: 07809 728972 or email: lindsay.interimhr@talktalk.net



Thames Valley CIPD

Branch Report 2008/09

Welcome!

Welcome to the Thames Valley CIPD Branch Report for 2008/9. The Thames Valley Branch is comprised of 4 Geographic Groups and a Special Interest Group who meet on a regular basis providing you, our members, with an annual Programme of Events, regular newsletters, local website, input into the CIPD nationally, membership and upgrading support.

Your local Branch and Group CIPD Committees consists of a dedicated group of over 50 volunteers giving their time to support a range of branch activities. This report summarises our activities throughout the year and the priorities for 2009/10 for our 4,300 members.

My thanks go to all the enthusiastic and committed volunteers who work so tirelessly throughout the year to make the Thames Valley CIPD Branch and Groups so successful. On behalf of the Branch Committee, our thanks also go to all the organisations and individuals who host, write articles, speak at our events or provide ongoing support. Finally our thanks go to you, our members, for attending events and providing feedback on all our activities.

If you have any queries regarding the Thames Valley CIPD Branch report for 2008/09 please contact

Suzanne Ingman, Branch Chair

Tel: 07767 767139 or

email: suzanne.ingman@gmail.com

2) Looking Back 2008/09

2.1 Vision and strategy

The vision and strategy for the Thames Valley Branch remained unchanged during 2008/9:

- a) Focal point for CIPD communications across the Thames Valley area
- b) Enable Groups to operate effectively, through cost effective administration infrastructure
- c) Provide a range of Branch and Group activities to aid learning, provide CPD and upgrading opportunities
- d) Raise the profile of CIPD and promote the benefits of good people management in the Thames Valley area
- e) Interface with CIPD Wimbledon
- f) Effective Branch management

A) Focal point for communications across the Thames Valley area

- 4 issues of the Thames Valley People magazine were distributed in a hard copy format to all our members in a refreshed format
- The calendar of learning events was also sent in hard copy format to all our members in August 2008
- The Thames Valley Branch website was enhanced and along with the central CIPD website provides an up to date free source of information to all our members
- The Thames Valley Branch is one of 7 Branches participating in the national e-communication project including piloting an e-newsletter

B) Enable Groups to operate effectively, through cost effective administrative infrastructure

- Leveraged the benefits of having a centralised Treasurer role e.g. reduced auditor costs
- Leveraged the benefits of having centrally administered events through the Branch Administrator, ensuring consistency and production of central statistics on events
- Increased advertising revenue from £2,550 to £7128.50 (65% increase)
- Held a strategy day in November 2008 to progress Branch and Group activities to meet our members' needs – succession planning being a key theme.

C) Provide a range of Branch and Group activities to aid learning, provide CPD and upgrading opportunities.

- Our events programme covered 33 learning events for the period September 2008 to June 2009, 88% of these offered for free to our members with a total of XXX [as at end April 2009] attendees/ To date, only 1 event had to be cancelled due to low interest.
- The events programme provided a range of HR and L&D topics with the Employment Law events as always remaining popular
- Sadly it was not possible to arrange an event aimed specifically at more senior HR and L&D professionals but this actions has been carried forward to next year
- Membership has increased and now stands at 4,310 members as at 5 May 2009:

Affiliate	738	Chartered MCIPD	1,437
Associate	587	Chartered FCIPD	526
Licentiate	502	Chartered CCIPD	4
Graduate	516		
- The Branch has seen 152 members upgrade this year to Chartered Member and Chartered Fellow

D) Raise the profile of CIPD and promote the benefits of good people management in the Thames Valley area.

- Branch Conference organised for 4th June at Madejski Conference Centre, Reading, which includes a small conference for local companies

- Reviewed the potential and support for a Thames Valley CIPD Awards programme but decided not to progress in light of the Branch Conference this year
- Ongoing review of the Policy Advisor role in light of CIPD initiative to engage with members directly on policy development
- Sponsored a number of student CIPD awards across the colleges in the Thames Valley
- Forged links with Rotaract to deliver workshops aimed at unemployed people in the Maidenhead area, and the Berkshire Skills Alliance, looking at skills for employability in the Thames Valley area. Thames Valley CIPD was represented at an Innovations Conference in Reading in November, where a number of local professional bodies were approached

E) Interface with CIPD Wimbledon

- Thames Valley Branch was represented at both CIPD Council meetings, the CIPD Annual Conference in Harrogate, HRD at ExCel, the Annual Branch Chairs day and two Southern Regional Chairs days
- Participated in e-communications project, Investors in People audit and input into the national Branch structure review
- Cheryl Myles, CIPD Branch Development Manager, joined our November strategy meeting.

F) Effective Branch management

- In line with our succession plans developed at the Strategy Day, we ran a series of adverts in Thames Valley People to attract new Committee members which yielded a number of potential recruits for the Branch and Group committees

3) Looking Forward 2009/10

Similar to many organisations, the CIPD has challenges to face in light of the current economic situation which has a detrimental impact on its investment portfolio, reserves, pension scheme investments and commercial operations. This has led to a number of cost saving initiatives including a headcount reduction at Wimbledon.

Whilst CIPD remains sound with increased membership numbers and strong progress being made on key strategic priorities such as research, public policy and membership structure/routes, Branches will receive a reduced allocation this coming year with a requirement to maintain a year's reserves and by matching expenditure to income. In light of this, the Thames Valley Branch Committee will be reviewing its business plans at the June Branch Committee meeting. However, we are committed to providing the following activities to our members:

A) Focal point for CIPD communications across the Thames Valley area

- Quarterly newsletter to all out members, most likely in an electronic format
- Distribution of a calendar of events in August 2009
- Continue to enhance the Thames Valley website so it is a primary point of information for all members
- Pilot use of email communications with all members under the guidance of the CIPD

B) Enable Groups to operate effectively, through cost effective administrative infrastructure

- Continually review operating procedures and expenses to ensure that the infrastructure costs account for no more than 20% of Branch allocation