

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Bernard Shepherd, President



President's Foreword

Time flies when one is enjoying oneself. I have had a tremendous year. I promised to do all I could to raise the profile of the Society and backed by the officers and the team at BLS I feel that this has been achieved.

Within a short time of taking office I had comments that the Society no longer had the rationale or focus to be relevant, particularly as the library had gone. The library had, of course, only been transferred to Aston University to preserve and keep the literature up to date for use by students and our members.

The Society has been, is and will be the heart and voice of the Birmingham and Midlands legal sector. This year we have had as much support as ever for our functions, networking, seminars and other events. The President's Dinner was a sell out, as was the Legal Awards dinner. It was suggested by some that the Awards dinner be cancelled or postponed due to the economic climate. How this advice has proven to be wrong, with full attendance and tremendous sponsorship. Once an event such as the Awards dinner is cancelled it never comes back.

Present and prospective sponsors have already put their names down for next year's Awards dinner and to assist us whenever and wherever they can.

Young people from the Birmingham Solicitors Group and the Birmingham Trainees Solicitors Society have become more involved with Birmingham Law Society. The change of membership categories encourages a stronger link with ILEX members and foreign lawyers, not forgetting our Barristers who have continued their strong support for the Society.

Senior figures in the profession have assisted with advice, which I have taken on board and this, in turn, means keeping in touch with all firms, small and large.

The year has seen a move from Temple Street and, whilst the council room at Temple Street is missed, member firms and non-member firms have offered their meeting room and board room facilities, which has had the positive effect of bringing the Society closer to City and Midland firms.

8 Temple Street is being marketed and interest has been shown but there is no pressure to sell. When the property is disposed of, monies will be invested to protect the capital for the future.

The problem with the building is that it is not fit for purpose and needs a tremendous amount of money spent on it.

The governance changes, if approved, will be a positive progression in the running of the Society with the newly formed Board operating the business of the Society and Council concentrating on the needs of the members, with the support of the various committees. I am extremely grateful to the committees for all their hard work, which is crucial to the Society and the membership.

The officers have put in many hours and worked well together as a team. The financial position has been turned around. The budget for 2010 projects a break-even outcome, and we could even make a surplus.

Thank you to Becky, Glenda, Johanna and Mel for taking the strain and keeping me on the right path. The team at the BLS administration offices have been terrific.

At the AGM you will be able to read the Minutes from the council meetings in 1918. These were found in the archives of the Society at 8 Temple Street and are now being preserved at the Birmingham Library as valuable historical information.

Thank you for allowing me the honour of being your President. I pass the baton to Dean Parnell in the knowledge that he will continue the good work, seeing through the changes to the Society implemented this year.

Treasurer's Report

Richard Steer,
Honorary Treasurer



Although the agreed budget for the financial year ending 31 December 2009 represented a significantly reduced deficit on previous years, it was clear from the remaining reserves that drastic action would be needed during the year to reach a position, as a minimum, of a balanced budget for the year commencing 1 January 2010. Shortly after the last Annual General Meeting the Society suffered a body blow with a loss of the bank tenancy. However a successful re-letting followed later in the year and a decision was

taken to relocate the Society's own operations in order to significantly reduce the costs associated with the premises in Temple Street. At the same time the new letting enabled the Society to transfer staff associated with the DX operation to the lessee. By the time of the forthcoming AGM our staff complement will be reduced to 3 persons.

During the financial year ended 31 December 2009, operating income fell by approximately £49,000 (£208,388 compared to £257,484 in 2008). This was mainly due to a fall in subscriptions of £24,000 and a loss of income from recruitment and the library. Training courses showed an increase of £5,000.

However, the loss on operating activities before rents and room hire fell from £198,090 in 2008 to £129,369. This was mainly due to a saving on wages and associated costs of £55,000 and a reduction in external and operating charges of £65,000 which in part reflected the closure of the library and a saving on course fees.

The decrease in rental income was largely offset by the sale of library books and a surplus on the dilapidations at Temple Street. This, along with a small surplus on the sales of investments gave rise to a loss of £56,072 against £133,934 in 2008.

There were unrealised gains on trade investments of £15,208 whereas in 2008 losses of £40,536. These resulted in a total recognised loss for the year of £40,864 compared to £174,470 in 2008.

As at 31 December 2009 the Society's balance sheet reserves stood at £119,003, (2008 £159,867).

Subscription rates have remained the same as in previous years. There has been some decline in the number of firms renewing their subscriptions. This is not surprising in the current economic climate. It is critical that the Society grows its membership, and with that in mind colleagues are proposing constitutional changes designed to enable us to address that aspect. The budget set for the year commencing 1 January 2010 is for a balanced budget and I hope to be in a position to report to the Annual General Meeting the results for the first quarter.

President

BERNARD SHEPHERD
HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP, 0121 234 0121

Vice President

DEAN PARNELL
Sydney Mitchell, 0870 141 7154

Deputy Vice President

ANDREW LANCASTER
Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP, 0121 200 3242

Joint Honorary Secretaries

HELEN JANE ARNOLD - Benussi & Co, 0121 248 4001
JON LLOYD - Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP, 0121 200 3242

Honorary Treasurer

RICHARD STEER - West Midlands Probation Board, 0121 248 6666

Council:

*MIRZA AHMAD,
Birmingham City Council
Legal Services
MARTIN ALLSOPP,
Allsopp & Co
HELEN JANE ARNOLD,
Benussi & Co
KAREN BAILEY,
Bailey Wright & Co
ANDREW J BEEDHAM,
Clarke Willmott
SUKHDEV SINGH
BHOMRA,
Mandla Bhomra & Co
*SANJEEV BHOPAL,
Birmingham City Council
Legal Services
JOHN C CAMPION,
DLA Piper UK LLP
MARTIN CANNING,
Garner Canning
CAROLINE COATES,
Buller Jeffries

#KATE DASILVA,
Cobbetts LLP
#VERONICA C DEAN,
Averta Employment
Lawyers
PAUL FARROW,
Birmingham Law Society
RICHARD FOLLIS,
Shoosmiths
+MALCOLM G FOWLER,
Jonas Roy Bloom
+DEREK I FRENCH,
French & Co
*BERNARDETTE
GRIFFIN,
The College of Law
ANGELA HENRY,
Henry Browne Solicitors
JOHN R HUGHES,
The John Hughes Law
Practice Ltd.
*#CARLA HULL,
Carla Hull Solicitors Ltd.

MICHELLE IES,
Shakespeare Putsman LLP
STEVEN M JONAS,
Jonas Roy Bloom
*LINDA JONES,
Pinsent Masons LLP
MARY KAYE,
Martineau
MUSHTAQ KHAN,
HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
ANDREW LANCASTER,
Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
TERRY J LIPSCOMBE
JON S LLOYD,
Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
*#ROGER LLOYD,
Birmingham City Council
Legal Services
*#JULIA LOWE,
Higgs & Sons
BEVERLEY MONEY,
Shakespeare Putsman LLP

DEAN PARNELL,
Sydney Mitchell
BERNARD SHEPHERD,
HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
IAN SHOVLIN,
Higgs & Sons
JASPAL SINGH,
Davies & Partners Solicitors
MAKHAN SINGH,
Murria Solicitors
RICHARD A STEER,
West Midlands Probation
Board
*#ANDREW STILTON,
Martineau
*DAVID TATLOW,
Birmingham City Council
Legal Services
SIMON THOMAS,
The Wilkes Partnership

* Co-opted member

+ Law Society Council Members

Retired during the year

One representative from each of:

Walsall Law Association
Warwickshire Law Society
West Midlands Association of Law Societies
Wolverhampton Law Society
Worcestershire Law Society
Birmingham Sole Practitioners' Group
Birmingham Law Centre
Birmingham Solicitors Group
Birmingham Trainee Solicitors Society

TOM BURNS-BEECH
STEVEN EDMONDS
ROSSLYN CALDICOTT
ANDREW LUND
JUDY BONEGAL
MO AFZAL
RICHARD GRIMES
KATE GUNN
KEITH BROWNE

Addison O'Hare
DLA Piper UK LLP
Caldicotts LLP
Rees Page
Thursfields
HMA Law Solicitors
BLC
Forum Law Limited
Martineau

The Council

The Officers (The Executive Committee)

Bernard Shepherd, President

Dean Parnell, Vice President

Andrew Lancaster, Deputy Vice President

Helen Jane Arnold & Jon Lloyd, Joint Honorary Secretaries

Richard Steer, Honorary Treasurer

Paul Farrow, Chief Executive

Executive Sub-Committees

Policy Committee

Chairman: Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell

The Officers

Council Members: Sukhdev Singh Bhomra,

Mandla Bhomra & Co

Richard Follis, Shoosmiths

Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom

Caroline Coates, Buller Jeffries

Terry Lipscombe

Co-opted: Paul Farrow,
Birmingham Law Society

Tony Harris, Sydney Mitchell

Philip Steel, Robin Simon LLP

Jayne Willetts, Townshends LLP

Peter Wiseman, Rutherfords

Co-opted: Paul Farrow, Chief Executive,
Birmingham Law Society
Jayne Willetts, Townshends

Library Committee

Chairman: Sukhdev Singh Bhomra,
Mandla Bhomra & Co

Council Members: John R Hughes,
The John Hughes Law Practice Limited
Jon Lloyd, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell

Co-opted: Jan Arkwright, Cobbetts LLP
Caroline Moseley, Cobbetts LLP
Patricia Pritchard, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP

Consultation Paper Committee

Chairman: Terry Lipscombe

Council Members: Bernard Shepherd,
HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
Caroline Coates, Buller Jeffries

Co-opted: Paul Farrow,
Birmingham Law Society
Johanna Sahi-Proto, Birmingham Law Society
Peter Wiseman, Rutherfords

PR/Media Committee

Chairman: Veronica Dean, Averta Employment
Lawyers, succeeded by Richard Follis,
Shoosmiths

Council Members: Richard Follis, Shoosmiths
Ian Shovlin, Higgs & Sons
Caroline Coates, Buller Jeffries

Technical Committees

Company Law Committee

Chairman: John Campion, DLA Piper UK LLP

Council members: Andrew Beedham,
Clarke Willmott LLP

Co-opted: David Ellis, Higgs & Sons
Simon Gill, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
Susheel Gupta, Higgs & Sons

Michael Lakin, Pinsent Masons LLP
Ricky Patel, Shoosmiths
Mandeep K Sagoo, Mercer
Katie Silvester, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
Keith Spedding, Shakespeare Putsman LLP
David J Stevenson, Pinsent Masons LLP
Andrew Stilton, Martineau

Criminal Law Committee

Chairman: Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom

Hon. Secretary: Makhan Singh, Murria Solicitors

Council members: Sukhdev Singh Bhomra,
Mandla Bhomra & Co

Richard Steer, West Midlands Probation Board

Co-opted: Stephen Abbott, HMCS -
Her Majesty's Courts Service

Elaine Annable, The Legal Services Commission

Julian Berg, Eddowes Perry & Osbourne

Fergal Bloomer, B H Mohammed Solicitors

Len Brown, West Midlands Probation Board

Adrian Draper, HMCS -
Her Majesty's Courts Service

Tony Heath, Birmingham Magistrates Court

Harry Ireland, Crown Prosecution Service

Derek Larkin, Rose Williams & Partners

Stephen Lissett, The Legal Services Commission

Maria Middleton, The Legal Services Commission

District Judge Lesley Mottram, Birmingham
Magistrates Court

Joginder Nijjar, Murria Solicitors

Jayne Parkin, Birmingham Magistrates Court

Michael Purcell, Purcell Parker

Gordon Scobbie, West Midlands Police

Richard Tatman, Crown Prosecution Service

James Turner, Tuckers

Ian Vesey, Vesey & Clarke

Dispute Resolution Committee

Chairman: Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell

Council members: Mushtaq Khan,
HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP

Simon Thomas, The Wilkes Partnership

Co-opted: Alison Beard, Lewis Onions Solicitors

Andrew Bowen, Challinors

Peter Brewer, Else Solicitors LLP

Heather Caddy, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP

Pretesh Chauhan, Murria Solicitors

Verona Cocks, Weightmans

Mark Elder, Irwin Mitchell

Lucy Floate, Eversheds LLP

Robin Humphreys, Thursfields

Sejal Mehta, Browne Jacobson LLP

John Morgan, The John Hughes Law Practice Limited

Ajmal Nadeem, Wragge and Co LLP

Lina Passi, Passi Legal

District Judge Roger Sheldrake, Birmingham Civil
Justice Centre and Birmingham Family Court

Education & Training Committee

Co-opted Chairman: Bernardette Griffin,
The College of Law

Council member: Beverley Money, Shakespeare
Putsmen LLP

Co-opted: Clive Black, The Law Society
of England & Wales

Joanne Rebecca Bradbury, Martineau

Andrew Dean, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

Rosa Dickinson, St Phillips Chambers

Diane Price, Martineau

Norman Rea, Rutherfords

Glenda Rogers, Birmingham Law Society

Nigel Sellar, Challinors

Jennifer Seymour, Martineau

Sonya Smith, Birmingham City University

Keith Uff, Birmingham City University

Suzanne Waters, Birmingham City Council
Legal Services

Employment Law Committee

Co-opted Chairman: Linda Jones, Pinsent Masons LLP

Council members: Veronica Dean,
Averta Employment LawyersJaspal Singh, Davies & Partners Solicitors
Richard Steer, West Midlands Probation Board

Co-opted: Martin Chitty, Wragge and Co LLP

Fergal Dowling, Irwin Mitchell

Victoria Duddles, EEF Ltd.

Victoria Garrad, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP

Michael Hibbs, Shakespeare Putsman LLP

Alan Jones, Averta Employment Lawyers

Tracy Worthington, FBC Manby Bowdler LLP

Family Law Committee

Chairman: Mary Kaye, Martineau

Council members: Martin Canning, Garner Canning

Co-opted: John Akers, Birmingham District
Family MediationPhilip Barnsley, Higgs & Sons
Lorraine Bayliss, Birmingham Civil Justice Centre
and Birmingham Family Court

Grant Bird, Blair Allison & Co

Stephanie Brown, No 5 Chambers

Helen Dickens, Birmingham Civil Justice Centre
and Birmingham Family CourtDistrict Judge Dowding, Birmingham
Civil Justice Centre

Mike Follis, Davies & Partners Solicitors

Victoria Green, Blair Allison & Co

Kevin Harris-James, Irwin Mitchell

Mark Mansell, St Philips Chambers

Vanessa Meachin, St Philips Chambers

Jayne Mullen, St Ives Chambers

Zahra Pabani, Shakespeare Putsman LLP

Cathy Price, Birmingham District Family Mediation

Jane A Robson, Birmingham City Council
Legal Services

Marc Saunderson, Mills & Reeve LLP

International Committee

Co-opted Chairman: Carla Hull, Carla Hull Solicitors Ltd

Council Members: Sukhdev Singh Bhomra,
Mandla Bhomra & Co

Bernard Shepherd, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP

Makhan Singh, Murria Solicitors

Caroline Coates, Buller Jeffries

Co-opted: Gayle Bevan, Carla Hull Solicitors Ltd

Charles Bond, Cobbetts LLP

Aman Chhina, Murria Solicitors

Steven Cunnane, Birmingham Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

Tony Harris, Sydney Mitchell

Raj Padhiar, Carltons Solicitors

Nilay Shastri

Philip Steel, Robin Simon LLP

David Waterhouse, Rutherfords

John Westwood, Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX)

Non Contentious Business CommitteeChairman: John R Hughes, The John Hughes
Law Practice LimitedCouncil members: Martin Allsopp, Allsopp & Co
incorporating AJ Salisbury & Co

Jon Lloyd, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

Bernard Shepherd, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP

Co-opted: Claire-Elaine Arthurs,
HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP

Sarah Dwight, Sarah Dwight Solicitor

Steve Kelway, Coventry District Land Registry

Roger Lloyd, Birmingham City Council Legal Services

Peter Lugsdin, Challinors

Susan Pendleton, Blakemores

Dimple Rajpara, Howell & Co Solicitors

Denise Watkins, Gordon Jones & Co

Peter J Wilson, Hadens

Geoffrey Wood, Coley and Tilley

REPORT OF THE JOINT HONORARY SECRETARIES

This has been an interesting and challenging year for the officers and a steep learning curve for the joint secretary new to the post.

Recognising that the strength of the Society is in its members, the officers have focused on encouraging involvement by and engagement with our members. A great deal of work has been done throughout this year, led by officers but with contributions from so many others, towards the modernisation of the way in which the Society is managed. We hope that this work will come to fruition with the adoption of revised articles of association at the forthcoming annual general meeting. We look forward to the fruits of these changes in the year ahead when the professional officers will be freed up to drive forward the work of the Society on professional and practice issues both through the committees and by engaging with and encouraging participation from the members.

In the background there has been real progress on a number of fronts:-

- The summer saw an historic moment when the staff team left Temple Street, where it has been based for so many years, and moved into serviced accommodation at Cornwall Buildings. Here the team are now established in altogether more practical and comfortable modern accommodation.
- Work has continued throughout the year to improve and refine our membership database so as to improve communication with members. That work is ongoing as we do need members to update their details, in particular in relation to their specialist areas of work, so that we can better target the sending out of information. There are still issues with the IT systems which is work in progress as we come to the end of the year to further improve this.
- The learning and development programme arranged by Glenda Rogers has made considerable progress in the course of the year. Glenda was new to this post at the beginning of the year and, from a standing start,

developed a programme which increasingly met with a positive response in terms of the numbers of participants on courses. Financially this programme met its costs for the year and moves into 2010 with a strong platform to build on. Please support this programme and Glenda's efforts both by using the courses and by actively suggesting course topics.

- The Society's library, now housed and managed by Aston University, has continued to be used by members and anyone wanting to investigate what this service offers should contact the staff team for information.
- Paul Farrow's time as the Society's chief executive came to an end at the end of the year and we record our thanks to him for all he did over his period in office. In particular, he raised the profile of the Society with other organisations and sponsors to fund the Society's activities. He has also implemented an effective cost reduction exercise, and managed the transfer of the library to Aston, the marketing of the Temple Street premises and the move to new accommodation for the staff. Thank you, Paul, for all your efforts. The officers took the decision not to immediately replace Paul, largely on financial grounds. The plan is for officers to work with the staff team in the short term with the hope that the proposed new board will pick up the management reins after the annual general meeting.

The officers have confidence in this arrangement because of our wonderful staff team of Becky Lynch, Glenda Rogers, Johanna Sahi-Proto and Melanie Yuill and our bookkeeper, Nigel Watson. They have been impressive in their skills, flexibility and commitment over another year of challenge and change. Our thanks to them.

We believe that the work of this last year enables the Society to move forward in a healthy state both in terms of its finances and its structure. We ask every member to consider how they can engage with and support the Society in the valuable work that it does.

Helen-Jane Arnold
Joint Hon. Secretary



Jon Lloyd
Joint Hon. Secretary



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 28 APRIL 2009

The Council has pleasure in presenting the 191st Annual Report of the proceedings of the Society.

Officers

At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 28 April 2009, Mr Bernard Shepherd was installed as President of the Society. Mr Dean Parnell as Vice President and Mr Andrew Lancaster as Deputy Vice President. Ms Helen Jane Arnold and Mr Jon Lloyd were installed as Joint Honorary Secretaries. Mr Andrew Stilton retired as Honorary Treasurer and Mr Richard Steer was installed as the new Honorary Treasurer.

Council

At the same meeting Mr Sukhdev Bhomra retired after completing one year post-Presidential service. Mr Jon Lloyd and Mr Richard Steer retired as ordinary members to take up an ex-officio position.

The retiring/retired ordinary members were: Mr Guy Barnett, Mr Jon Lloyd, Mr Stephen Lockwood, Ms Sue Pendleton, Mr Nigel Sellar, Mr Richard Steer.

The ordinary members of Council who were nominated for re-election pursuant to article 39 are: Mr Andrew Beedham, Mr John Campion, Ms Veronica Dean.

Additionally, the following members of the Society have been duly nominated and elected as Ordinary members of Council pursuant to Article 42: Ms Kate DaSilva, Ms Michelle Iles, Mr Mushtaq Khan.

OBITUARIES

It is with deep regret that the Council report the death of a member and friend of the Society.

Stanley Shortt, on 2nd December 2009 (Past President 1993)

Consultation Paper Committee

During the year, the Committee has responded to a number of consultations including five from the SRA, three from the LSC and two from the Ministry of Justice. Professional committees have prepared a number of responses on consultations that have been specific to their subject areas and the Committee would like to thank those responsible for their responses.

In the middle of the year, some difficulty was experienced in receiving input from professional committees on papers having profession wide interest or concern. This meant that a small number of SRA consultations did not receive the views of BLS. The Committee was broadened in its membership and draft responses on such papers are now prepared by it and circulated to the professional committees for comment. The result has been that all consultations received since September have received formal responses from BLS.

All responses prepared or approved by the Committee on behalf of BLS have been signed by or on behalf the President and posted on the BLS web site.

Library Committee

Following the transfer of some of the of the Birmingham Library books to the Aston University Library for use by our members, the outstanding task has been to find an alternative home for the books which still remain at Temple Street. With other libraries finding themselves under similar economic pressures as us, forcing substantial cuts in their budgets, such alternatives have been difficult to find. My thanks to many of our members who purchased some of the library books. We were able to sell some books at an auction. Many of the practitioners' text books which remain at the library are now out of date. We are continuing to explore options where these may be of some use to others.

The access to legal material and information on the internet has increased at a startling rate. Competition amongst service providers for access to legal material has also increased, forcing reductions in prices for such services. It is no longer financially viable to house books in library buildings. After moving its library from Temple Street premises the Society was able to take a further bold decision to move out of the Temple Street premises and substantially reduce its annual costs. The new iPad computers are set to revolutionise how we read books in the future, how we buy them and how we store them for

reference. The Society has the exciting opportunity to plan ahead and provide an up to date and a relevant service to its members.

My sincere thanks to all our members who have given up their valuable time to assist the library committee and its work.

Policy Committee

Throughout 2009 and 2010, the Policy Committee has continued to provide valuable support to the officers of Birmingham Law Society with the main focus being on the governance review. The Policy Committee has played an important role in helping the officers to shape this review. Assistance has also been provided to officers in "fine tuning" the Articles of Association for the new BLS structure.

As always, the experience and knowledge contained within the Policy Committee provides a valuable resource for BLS and role of the Policy Committee will continue under the new structure.

Public Relations/Media Committee

The Society has once again enjoyed positive media coverage - thanks in no small measure to the hard work and commitment of Veronica Dean, chair until recently of this committee and long time supporter of BLS.

Our erstwhile leader generated news of her own when:

"The Lord Chancellor, the Right Honourable Jack Straw MP, ... appointed Veronica Claire Dean to be a Salaried Employment Judge of the Employment Tribunals (England and Wales). Ms Dean will be assigned to the Birmingham Region, with effect from 14 September 2009."

We are delighted by Veronica's appointment to public office but sadly, as a result, the Society loses her enthusiasm, good humour and active support. We all wish Veronica well in her new post.

We were fortunate to secure, once again, the help of Judy Bonegal who has resumed editing the Bulletin which was another task undertaken by Veronica. Welcome back Judy!

The PR/Media Committee met regularly throughout the last year with our President taking an active interest in meetings as well as kindly hosting them at his firm's offices. Members include past Presidents of the Society and contributors based outside the city centre. We remain

Terry Lipscombe,
Chairman, Consultation Paper Committee



Sukhdev Singh Bhomra
Chair, Library Committee



Dean Parnell
Chair, Policy Committee



committed to publicising the Society's role not only in Birmingham but also in the wider West Midlands and national legal communities.

The regular Birmingham Post column, secured in 2008, continued to be well supported throughout 2009. Headline Communications again kindly provided expert professional assistance with the media. Their involvement has over time become more targeted to help control the Society's costs.

Press coverage has been directed in two specific directions. Firstly, releases have helped reflect to the profession the activities the Society undertakes on behalf of members. Secondly, the Society has taken a lead in a number of matters of public interest and concern - so as to demonstrate the important contribution that an independent legal profession makes to the wider community.

In this regard, specific issues have continued to be raised by specialist sub committees. With the never ending flow of consultation papers from regulators and government, it is hoped that the hard work and value in committees responding to numerous consultations can be more widely reported and understood.

The governance review within the Society, and proposals arising from that, may well provide a number of opportunities in the coming year to bring the work of a rapidly changing Birmingham Law Society to the attention of a wider audience.

Meanwhile I was honoured to be asked to chair this Committee following Veronica's retirement. I would like to express thanks to her, other members of this Committee and to all of the Society's members and staff who have supported PR & Media with ideas, stories and sheer hard work.

Bulletin

Judy Bonegal took over as editor of the Bulletin from Veronica Dean who stepped down in November to take on a judicial role. The Bulletin continues to provide articles of interest to the profession both in respect of legal issues and news about member firms. We rely on members for articles of interest so that the magazine is relevant to members and keeps them informed about the work of Birmingham Law Society and particularly its role as a course provider with the Learning & Development arm of the Society.

Generally, the Bulletin has enjoyed another successful year thanks in no small way to the very hard work of our assistant editor, Becky Lynch, who collates the copy, and the professionalism of our publishing company, P W Media – in particular Dawn Pardoe and Kaitie Goode. We also appreciate the time and effort given by the President, Bernard Shepherd for his monthly column and Jayne Willetts for her invaluable contribution on regulatory matters. Our thanks also to the staff at Birmingham Law Society for their administrative assistance in producing the Bulletin.

Learning and Development

In spite of the downturn in the economy and with stiff competition from other CPD providers, Birmingham Law Society's Learning & Development business has had a successful year. By working closely with our loyal team of speakers, the committees and our corporate partners, we have been able to adapt and find our niche in the market. All our seminars are topical and relevant and take into account the changes facing the legal community. Overheads have been streamlined and, in order to reduce the expense of hardcopy mailings, we are taking full advantage of our new IT capabilities with marketing, booking confirmations and invoicing being done by email. We have been able to pass these savings onto delegates by reducing course fees and are providing even better value for money for our members. In addition to this, there have been significant changes in the way that BLS works with our sponsors. An initiative to help us to compete in the market has been to work in partnership with sponsors to bring free CPD training to our membership. New formats such as evening seminars, workshops and "Lunch & Learn" events have received excellent feedback from delegates. Seminars involving a cross section of the legal community combined with networking opportunities hosted by member firms and in local city centre venues are proving to be very successful with the added advantage of reducing time away from the office for busy lawyers.

Birmingham Law Society continues to offer a valuable service to members with a comprehensive range of courses suitable for individuals of all levels. We are able to tailor courses to an individual practice's requirements at any level and our course programme offers a time and cost effective saving compared to many commercial

Richard Follis, Chair,
Public Relations/Media Committee



Judy Bonegal
Bulletin Editor



Glenda Rogers,
Chair, Learning and Development



training providers. Our course presenters are a mix of local practitioners, judges, barristers, professional lecturers and corporate partners who are all highly qualified within their field.

As a regional law society, it is essential that we offer more than our commercial competitors by not only providing member firms with a first class CPD training programme but by also offering guidance and support to law students throughout their careers. To ensure that this remains a priority, I sit as a member of the Education and Training Committee.

Company Law Committee

The last few years has been an interesting time for company lawyers with the changes introduced by the Companies Act 2006 representing the greatest period of change in a generation. The last major implementation of the new Act was in October 2009, following which we are all having to get used to the new section numbers and new terminology.

There have also been a number of regulatory initiatives arising out of the recent financial crisis which are likely to lead to further changes in corporate governance requirements and guidelines.

There may also be further focus on the Takeover Code as the recent acquisition by Kraft of locally headquartered Cadbury may lead to discussions regarding appropriate acceptance thresholds for takeovers and the timetable and conduct of takeovers generally.

The Committee has a large and varied membership and I would like to thank Committee members for their participation during the year. The opportunity to swap know-how and market practice is invaluable, particularly at times of change.

Criminal Law Committee

The onslaught on the delicate balance of power between the State, on the one hand, and suspects and defendants, in the criminal justice system, has continued. The removal of proper funding of qualified lawyers to represent people who are often the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in society continues.

In Crown Court legal aid work, we are no longer paid on the basis of work done (except in certain designated very high costs cases). Our funding is based on complicated matrices, depending on a variety of factors, such as the charge on the indictment, the page count and trial length. The amount of time spent preparing a case (either as the instructing solicitor or as the higher court advocate) is irrelevant. It is also dangerous and will lead to miscarriages of justice.

In all criminal legal aid work we are no longer paid for time spent travelling to court, or to a police station and neither are we paid for waiting at court or at a police station. All these times are beyond our control, but our fees for these times are now included in our payments for attending clients, etc.

Police station work, frequently the most important part of a case, is largely fixed fee now.

Magistrates' Court work has all but disappeared, except for road traffic cases. Even then many of the offences that were properly brought a decade ago are not today, even though they are still on the statute book. Alleged non-road traffic cases are dealt without charge by caution and fixed penalties. There is also a new kid on the block: Community Resolutions. These tick the necessary police boxes but, apart from giving the police far greater power, they lack the transparency necessary in a criminal justice system.

The effect of these changes has been to force many solicitors in to advocating in the Crown Court (with a major consequence to the junior bar). For their own funding reasons the CPS increasingly use their in-house higher court advocates ('HCA's) in the Crown Court too. The overwhelming majority of HCAs are conscientious and provide a service as good as would be provided by a barrister and this is recognised by the treatment we receive from judges in this area.

The solicitor members of the Criminal Law Committee try to support our colleagues in these times of change. The only bit of good news is that the price competitive tendering, that was due to be introduced in 2009, was successfully fought off. However, the Ministry of Justice ('MOJ') has indicated that it intends to introduce something "more ambitious".

The Committee consists of committed solicitor members, who give of their time freely, despite diminishing returns from their work. Special thanks to the Committee's Hon. Sec., Makhan Singh, who also works hard setting up appropriate courses, often with some contributions to charity. The Committee also remains very fortunate to have members

John Campion,
Chair, Company Law Committee



Steven Jonas,
Chair, Criminal Law Committee



of other agencies in the criminal justice system that are prepared to attend and assist us in our discussions. I would like to name them but lack of space prevents it. I am grateful to them all, as well as to the new Recorder of Birmingham, HHJ Davis QC, who makes himself available to us, when appropriate.

During the year:

- Our attendance at the West Midlands Local Criminal Justice Board, and the various Local Criminal Justice Groups and Users' Groups continued.
- We met, at her invitation, with the chief executive of the Legal services Commission ('LSC').

We responded to:

- Home Office proposals on Changes to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Codes of Practice
- The MOJ consultation on Means Testing in the Crown Court
- The MOJ consultation on the Award of Costs from Central funds in Criminal Cases
- The MOJ consultation on Legal Aid Funding Reforms
- The LSC consultation on Best Value Tendering
- The LSC consultation on Prison Law Funding
- The SRA consultation on re-accreditation of higher court advocates, and
- CPS initiatives on Streamlining and CJSSS
- We discussed the LSC's consultation on merging some local justice areas, and the development of the use, in Magistrates' Courts, of unqualified clerks, following the introduction of unqualified prosecutors.
- We attended the retirement of District Judge McColl and the retirement of the West Midlands Chief Crown Prosecutor, David Blundell. David had always been a staunch supporter and attender of the committee and we were grateful for his input.

I have concluded that it would be wrong to remain Chair of this Committee indefinitely. I have been its Chair for 5 years, which has been a great honour and privilege. It is time to pass the chairmanship to another. The current recession has seen most aspects of Government expenditure cut. The same is true of criminal legal aid, despite its overall cost having been consistently reduced in recent years. The future for

criminal legal aid solicitors and our clients remains as bleak as ever. The bright spark is the continued professionalism and work ethic of the overwhelming majority of our colleagues.

Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)

Following the re-launch of DRC during the summer of 2009, many new members have now joined this active committee. DRC has regular meetings where there is usually a frank exchange of views on issues affecting litigators within our region.

DRC have been working closely with the Birmingham Civil Justice Centre and now have a regular member of the judiciary attending these meetings. DRC has also set up bi-monthly court visits, which allows BLS members to have a "backstage tour" of the Civil Justice Centre and gives the opportunity of members to meet key personnel involved in the running of the courts.

DRC have also been working closely with the Learning and Development division of BLS with a view to identifying suitable courses that will appeal to litigators within this region.

There are also a number of new initiatives which will be rolled out over the next 12 months, which we hope will appeal to a wide range of litigators.

Education & Training Committee

The Education and Training Committee has since 2007 held an annual Careers Schools Conference. This provides legal and legally-related careers information to sixth form students attending schools and colleges within the Birmingham area.

The event includes presentations given by a pupil barrister, trainee solicitor, legal executive and a business support professional representative. Committee members and volunteers from the legal profession take part in the event undertaking workshops on the skill of negotiation and networking to discover more information about legal roles. The conference enables students from diverse backgrounds to have access to the legal profession.

The Committee is also building-up links with Chambers to explore the possibility of webinars for members.

During the year the Committee has been discussing the SRA proposals and developments in respect of the training contract and work-based learning. It has responded to a Law Society consultation paper on the suitability of the academic stage of training for practice.

Dean Parnell, Chair,
Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)



Bernardette Griffin,
Chair, Education & Training Committee



Employment Law Committee

The Employment Law Committee continued to meet regularly during 2009 to consider changes to employment law and the impact of changes in Employment Tribunal procedures on local practitioners. We have had one resignation from the Committee during that period: Veronica Dean became a full time Employment Judge during the year and as such was unable to carry on her membership of the Committee after a number of years of very helpful service. Andrew Cox of Cox Cooper was co-opted in the autumn to provide added representation on the Committee of smaller firms with a significant practice acting for individuals.

The highlight of the year was the very successful training session organised by the Committee with the support of Glenda Rogers of BLS on the new Acas Code of Practice on Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures. The Code came into effect in April following the abolition of the statutory disciplinary and grievance procedures. The event which was held on 17 March 2009 at Pinsent Masons LLP was fully subscribed, with an audience of over 45. The panel was chaired by Veronica Dean and the speakers included Colin Goodier, Employment Judge, David Wait of Acas and Linda Jones, partner at Pinsent Masons LLP. A lively debate was had by all and feedback on the event was extremely positive.

During the course of the year the Committee responded to several Government consultation papers on new employment law. Michael Hibbs led the response on two rounds of consultation on the Agency Workers Regulations and in May, Fergal Dowling co-ordinated our response to the consultation on multiple discrimination claims under the Equality Bill.

Meetings were generally well attended during the year and the Chair would like to express her gratitude to the other Committee members for their continued support.

Family Law Committee

This has been a great year for the BLS Family Law Committee and saw the Committee go from strength to strength. We have a wide ranging representation from the Family Law sector.

Sadly, District Judge Cole, a member of the Committee for many years, retired as a full time DJ and from his seat on the Committee. We hope that he gets the opportunity to enjoy the gift presented to him by the Committee, with thanks for his willing and effective contribution over the years.

We are also more than grateful to him for providing an excellent successor in DJ Dowding, who gives her time and extensive experience to the Committee.

Our aim is to enable all branches of the legal community in Birmingham and beyond to have a voice through the Committee, both in terms of local and national issues.

The Committee enables court users to be able to directly liaise with the Court and Judges and affords smaller firms a forum to address issues relevant to them.

In the past twelve months the Committee has endeavoured to raise awareness of the impact of delay in Children Act proceedings.

The Committee wish to emphasise that one of the main aims is to provide mutual support for all those involved in the practice of Family Law and a commitment to raising standards.

I would like to personally thank all those who make the effort to attend meetings and to contribute in such an effective way, thus ensuring we continue to strive to make Birmingham a centre of excellence for the provision of family law advice and representation. I very much look forward to the coming year.

International Committee

During the year course of the year, the International Committee has continued its work of promoting the Birmingham Law Society on the international stage as well as providing new and potentially lucrative opportunities for the legal community in a range of diverse jurisdictions.

Thanks to the work of an enthusiastic committee and in particular with the evergreen support of Steve Cunnane from UK Trade and Industry, a number of initiatives developed by my predecessors have continued, most notably:

Linda Jones,
Chair, Employment Law Committee



Mary Kaye,
Chair, Family Law Committee



- The President attended the Opening of the Lyons Legal Year and it is hoped that there will be a return visit by a French delegation this year. Invitations have also been received by the President to attend the opening of the Milan Legal Year and the Croatian Lawyers Day.
- It is intended that a delegation will visit Hong Kong and Shanghai in the Autumn linking up with the Shanghai Expo.
- A large delegation including Birmingham Forward visited Delhi in October and despite many of the political issues highlighted last year by the Chair in her report, a strong Birmingham team was able to build on the work already started by previous delegations.

Increasingly, links are being built with new markets: a small delegation is due to visit Chicago in the Spring, this is in conjunction with an invitation sent out by the President to the US Ambassador, himself a lawyer, to a lunch in Birmingham. A delegation is due to visit Russia in May to enhance and continue commercial opportunities. There is the likelihood of a visit to the Gulf region in December.

Finally, it is worth repeating at this point that delegations are not paid for by the Society but are funded by delegates themselves with some support from Government through UKTI.

Non-Contentious Business Committee

The Committee has been busy in its role of monitoring and responding to developments principally in the property and planning fields. Topical issues this year have included:

Conveyancing

- Home Information Packs (HIPs). Property lawyers remain largely sceptical of their value. Replies from local MPs to representations sent by the previous President Caroline Coates indicated that on the Labour side there would be no change, but confirmed the Conservatives intention to abolish Home Information Packs other than the requirement to include an Energy Performance Certificate.

- A Consultation Paper issued by the Law Society, "Improving Residential Conveyancing. A response was sent on behalf of the Society.
- The increasing use of referral fees by Estate Agents, often to non-solicitor organisations which distorts the market and is driving down service and advice to the public.
- The Land Registry online portal for registered conveyancing due in April 2010.

Planning

- The establishment of the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) which would create a separate system for approving nationally significant infrastructure projects.
- The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), a tax on the grant of planning permission to largely replace most Section 106 Planning Obligations.
- The implications of more permissive rules in relation to extensions and other developments on residential property.

The Committee supported a BLS seminar in which one of its members Jon Lloyd participated, on issues affecting older clients and vulnerable adults, in partnership with No.5 Chambers.

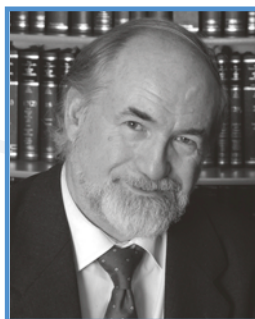
The name of the Committee reared its head again. Some members feel that "Non-Contentious Business" does not properly reflect the work of the Committee. A proposal to rename the Committee "Property, Planning and Private Client Committee" is under consideration.

I am grateful to Geoff Wood of Coley & Tilley, our honorary secretary for preparation of our agendas and minutes.

John P Westwood,
Chair, International Committee



John Hughs, Chair,
Non-Contentious Business Committee



DIRECTORS' REPORT

Year ended 31 December 2009

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2009.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the company continues to be the provision of facilities for members in accordance with the purposes set out in the Memorandum of Association.

DIRECTORS (OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL)

The directors listed below served during the year under review:

Miss C A Coates (retired on 28th April 2009)
B R M Shepherd
D Parnell
Andrew Lancaster (appointed on 28th April 2009)

SHARES OF THE COMPANY

The company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital divided into shares. Each member guarantees during his membership and for one year after membership ceases, a sum up to £10 to the Society in the event of a winding up order.

FREEHOLD PROPERTY

In the opinion of the directors the value of the Society's building and the site on which it stands is substantially in excess of that at which it is shown on the balance sheet.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and Applicable Law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, J W Hinks, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

H J Arnold
Company Secretary

J Lloyd
Company Secretary

17th March 2010

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO
THE MEMBERS OF THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY**

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

We have audited the financial statements of The Birmingham Law Society for the year ended 31st December 2009 on pages five to seventeen. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page two, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the companies circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31st December 2009 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**Opinion on other matter prescribed by the
Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion the information given in the Report of the Directors for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by
exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of director's remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements and the Report of the Directors in accordance with the small companies regime.

POH Jones (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of J W Hinks
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3BH

17th March 2010

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Year ended 31 December 2009

	Notes	2009 £	2008 £
TURNOVER: continuing activities	2	208,388	257,484
External charges:			
Books and binding		8,982	50,253
Lectures and courses		14,990	38,981
Printing, stationery and general expenses		8,672	18,214
Non-claimable input VAT		<u>9,629</u>	<u>11,617</u>
		(42,273)	(119,065)
Staff costs:			
Wages and salaries	3	136,634	180,089
Social security costs		11,883	15,000
Other pension costs	4	<u>-</u>	<u>9,000</u>
		(148,517)	(204,089)
Depreciation			
Owned assets		7,791	9,773
Leased assets		<u>931</u>	<u>1,262</u>
		(8,722)	(11,035)
(Loss) on disposal of fixed assets		(5,956)	(137)
Other operating charges	5	<u>(132,289)</u>	<u>(121,248)</u>
(LOSS) ON OPERATING ACTIVITIES BEFORE RENTS AND ROOM HIRE ETC	6	(129,369)	(198,090)
Rents and room hire		30,662	47,063
Insurance recharges		1,282	19,524
Sale of library books		18,135	-
Surplus on dilapidations		<u>15,891</u>	<u>-</u>
		65,970	66,587
OPERATING (LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE INTEREST		(63,399)	(131,503)
Investment income	7	8,147	12,087
Interest payable	8	(1,214)	(777)
Realised gains/(losses) on investment Disposals	11	<u>394</u>	<u>(13,741)</u>
(LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		(56,072)	(133,934)
Tax on ordinary activities	9	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
(LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION	17	<u>(56,072)</u>	<u>(133,934)</u>

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

Year ended 31 December 2009

	Notes	2009	2008
		£	£
(Loss) for the financial year		(56,072)	(133,934)
Unrealised gains/(losses) on trade investments		<u>15,208</u>	<u>(40,536)</u>
Total recognised gains and losses relating to the year		<u><u>(40,864)</u></u>	<u><u>(174,470)</u></u>

BALANCE SHEET

31 December 2009

	Notes	2009	2008
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	10	18,344	51,813
Investments	11	<u>121,840</u>	<u>153,050</u>
		140,184	204,863
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12	132,621	194,968
Property held for resale	13	23,043	-
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>23,121</u>	<u>9,921</u>
		178,785	204,889
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(195,966)</u>	<u>(247,637)</u>
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)		<u>(17,181)</u>	<u>(42,748)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		123,003	162,115
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	<u>(4,000)</u>	<u>(2,248)</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>119,003</u></u>	<u><u>159,867</u></u>
Representing:			
Accumulated Fund	17	103,795	159,867
Revaluation Reserve	17	<u>15,208</u>	-
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>119,003</u></u>	<u><u>159,867</u></u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Officers on behalf of the Council on 17th March 2010.

President.....B R M Shepherd

Hon Treasurer.....R Steer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 December 2009

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The particular policies adopted are described below:

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investments.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Fixed assets donated to the Society are included as income at an estimate of their market value at the time of receipt. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value, of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives to the business at the following rates:

Freehold property	- 2% per annum on straight line basis
Furniture and equipment (owned)	- 15% per annum on reducing balance basis
Furniture and equipment (leased)	- 20% per annum on straight line basis
Computer equipment	- 25% per annum on straight line basis

Investments

Listed investments are stated in the financial statements at closing middle market price immediately prior to the end of the financial year. Income from listed investments is recognised as income received.

Realised gains and losses are shown separately in the appropriate section of the profit and loss account.

Unrealised gains and losses in the current year are shown as a movement through the revaluation reserve to comply with the Companies Act 2006. Prior to 2005 unrealised gains and losses were included in the profit and loss account.

Deferred taxation

Deferred tax is provided in full on timing differences which result in an obligation at the balance sheet date to pay more tax, or a right to pay less tax, at a future date, at rates expected to apply when they crystallise based on current tax rates and law. Timing differences arise from the inclusion of items of income and expenditure in taxation computations in periods different from those in which they are included in financial statements. Deferred tax is not provided on timing differences arising from the revaluation of fixed assets where there is no commitment to sell the asset. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is regarded as more likely than not that they will be recovered. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised as tangible fixed assets at their fair value and depreciated over the shorter of their lease terms and their useful economic lives. Finance charges are allocated over the period of the lease rentals in proportion to the capital element outstanding.

Operating lease rentals are charged/credited over the lease term on a straight line basis.

2. TURNOVER

Turnover, which all arises in the UK, comprises the following exclusive of VAT:

	2009 £	2008 £
Subscriptions	128,045	152,567
Post boxes rental (including Birmingham Letter Exchange)	29,578	28,158
Lectures and courses	50,765	45,875
Recruitment and placements	-	24,870
Library and other income	-	6,014
	<u>208,388</u>	<u>257,484</u>

3. STAFF COSTS

None of the officers of the Society has received remuneration during the year ended 31st December 2009 (2008: Nil).

The average number of fulltime equivalent employees during the year, all of whom were engaged in the administration of the Society's affairs was 7. (2008: 7).

4. PENSION COSTS

The company makes payments to defined contribution pension schemes for certain employees. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the company in an individual fund for each employee outside the company and independently administered. The pension cost charge shown on page 5 represents contributions payable by the company.

Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account in the period in which they are paid.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 December 2009

5. OTHER OPERATING CHARGES

	2009 £	2008 £
Maintenance of building and computer expenses	99,904	94,095
Telephone and postages	9,901	8,927
Auditors' remuneration for audit services	1,200	1,200
Professional charges	16,038	22,458
Incidentals	1,198	775
Grants and prizes	400	534
President's Dinner	(6,866)	(3,373)
Public relations	11,065	13,192
Legal awards	(14,063)	(23,093)
Newly Qualified	1,495	(1,715)
Sponsors advertising re legal awards	5,679	670
Other events, travel and associated expenses	4,056	5,578
Bank charges	1,932	2,000
Bad and doubtful debts	350	-
	<u>132,289</u>	<u>121,248</u>

6. SUMMARY OF OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Members Support Including Library £	Document Exchange £	Lectures and Courses £	Recruitment Solutions £	2009 Total £
Income	128,045	29,578	50,765	-	208,388
Costs:					
External Charges	27,283	-	14,990	-	42,273
Staff Costs	91,029	14,804	42,684	-	148,517
Depreciation	4,696	2,013	2,013	-	8,722
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	3,208	1,374	1,374	-	5,956
Other Operating Charges	82,504	24,061	25,724	-	132,289
	<u>208,720</u>	<u>42,252</u>	<u>86,785</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>337,757</u>
(Loss) on operating activities	<u>(80,675)</u>	<u>(12,674)</u>	<u>(36,020)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(129,369)</u>
	Members Support Including Library £	Document Exchange £	Lectures and Courses £	Recruitment Solutions £	2008 Total £
Income	158,581	28,158	45,875	24,870	257,484
Costs:					
External Charges	76,610	-	38,981	3,474	119,065
Staff Costs	128,587	19,331	25,688	30,483	204,089
Depreciation	5,941	2,547	1,698	849	11,035
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	73	32	21	11	137
Other Operating Charges	73,357	23,946	15,963	7,982	121,248
	<u>284,568</u>	<u>45,856</u>	<u>82,351</u>	<u>42,799</u>	<u>455,574</u>
(Loss) on operating activities	<u>(125,987)</u>	<u>(17,698)</u>	<u>(36,476)</u>	<u>(17,929)</u>	<u>(198,090)</u>

Staff costs are allocated according to the costs of staff working directly on the relevant activities and property costs are allocated according to the numbers of staff engaged on each activity. Other costs have either been specifically identified or apportioned on an appropriate basis to each activity.

Included in the above is £2,762 (2008: £1,969) in respect of operating lease rentals for hire of plant and machinery.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 December 2009

7. INVESTMENT INCOME	2009	2008
	£	£
Income from Stock Exchange listed investments	8,146	11,076
Bank interest	1	1,011
	<u>8,147</u>	<u>12,087</u>

8. INTEREST PAYABLE	2009	2008
	£	£
Bank interest	3	28
Interest on finance leases	1,211	749
	<u>1,214</u>	<u>777</u>

9. TAX ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	2009	2008
Corporation tax:	£	£
Tax charge on ordinary activities at 21% (2008:20.75%)	-	-

The standard rate of tax for the year, based on the UK standard rate of corporation tax is 21%. The actual tax charge for the current year and the previous period differs from the standard rate for the reasons set out in the following reconciliation:

	2009	2008
	£	£
(Loss) on ordinary activities before taxation	<u>(56,072)</u>	<u>(133,934)</u>
Tax charge on ordinary activities at standard rate	<u>(11,775)</u>	<u>(27,791)</u>
Factors affecting charge for the year:		
Expenses not allowable for tax purposes	3,164	7,460
Income not taxable for corporation tax purposes	(620)	(1,419)
Timing differences on items qualifying for capital allowances	889	(275)
Corporation tax losses	8,342	22,021
Rounding of corporation tax provision	-	4
Total actual amount of current tax	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The company has taxation losses of approximately £409,000 (2008: £378,000) carried forward and available for set off against any future operating surplus but not against investment or property income. A deferred tax asset in respect of the taxation losses carried forward has not been recognised on the grounds that there is insufficient evidence that the losses will be recoverable in the foreseeable future. In the event that it is possible to forecast the availability of sufficient taxable profits, a deferred tax asset will be included in the financial statements. The estimated value of the deferred tax asset not recognised, measured at a tax rate of 21%, is £83,000. (2008: £75,000).

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property £	Furniture, Computers and Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1st January 2009	60,457	105,760	166,217
Additions during year	-	8,000	8,000
Disposals during year	-	(37,166)	(37,166)
Transfer to Current Assets	<u>(60,457)</u>	-	<u>(60,457)</u>
At 31st December 2009	<u>-</u>	<u>76,594</u>	<u>76,594</u>
Depreciation			
At 1st January 2009	36,204	78,200	114,404
Charge for year	1,210	7,512	8,722
Eliminated on disposals	-	(27,462)	(27,462)
Transfer to Current Assets	<u>(37,414)</u>	-	<u>(37,414)</u>
At 31st December 2009	<u>-</u>	<u>58,250</u>	<u>58,250</u>
Net book value			
At 31st December 2009	<u>-</u>	<u>18,344</u>	<u>18,344</u>
At 31st December 2008	<u>24,253</u>	<u>27,560</u>	<u>51,813</u>

The closing net book value includes £7,069 (2008: £3,656) in respect of assets held under finance leases.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 December 2009

11. INVESTMENTS

	2009 £
Listed UK Stock Exchange investments	
Valuation at 1st January 2009	153,050
Sales proceeds	(42,044)
Realised gains	394
Revaluation – Unrealised gains	15,208
Valuation at 31st December 2009	126,608
Movement in uninvested cash	(4,768)
	<u>121,840</u>
Historical cost	<u>134,100</u>

This investment forms part of the proceeds received from the sale of the Society's collection of antiquarian and/or text books. The ordinary resolution passed on 23rd November 2000 by the Society, provided that the net proceeds (excluding any interest earned thereon) should only be used for capital expenditure purposes.

The authority conferred on the Officers of the Council by the above resolution was subsequently extended to allow the net proceeds to be used for additional purposes provided that such authority is exercised with prior approval of the Council of the Society, and such terms are subject to such conditions as the Council may specify.

12. DEBTORS

	2009 £	2008 £
Trade debtors	103,836	164,745
Other debtors	7,874	9,825
Prepayments and accrued income	20,911	20,398
	<u>132,621</u>	<u>194,968</u>

All amounts are due within one year.

13. CURRENT ASSET PROPERTY HELD FOR RESALE

	2009 £	2008 £
Transfer from Fixed Assets	23,043	-
Balance at 31 December 2008	<u>23,043</u>	<u>-</u>

In the opinion of the directors the value of the Society's building and the site on which it stands is substantially in excess of that at which it is shown on the balance sheet.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 December 2009

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2009 £	2008 £
Unsecured loans	300	300
Obligations under finance leases	2,667	2,999
Trade creditors	31,615	54,130
Taxation and social security	3,226	3,393
Accruals and deferred income	158,158	186,815
	<u>195,966</u>	<u>247,637</u>

Unsecured loans are interest free and repayable on demand.

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2009 £	2008 £
Obligations under finance leases	<u>4,000</u>	<u>2,248</u>

16. BORROWINGS

Total borrowings are repayable as follows:

	2009 £	2008 £
Finance leases		
Within one year	2,667	2,999
Between one and two years	2,667	2,248
Between two and five years	1,333	-
	<u>6,667</u>	<u>5,247</u>

17. RESERVES

	Accumulated Fund £	Revaluation Reserve £
Balance at beginning of year	159,867	-
Unrealised gain on trade investments	-	15,208
Loss for year	(56,072)	-
Transfer to accumulated fund	-	-
Balance at end of year	<u>103,795</u>	<u>15,208</u>

The Accumulated Fund represents an amalgamation of various sundry funds contributed by members over the years together with surpluses and less deficits arising. The distribution of the income and property of the Society is restricted by the Memorandum of Association.

18. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Operating lease commitments

At 31st December 2009 the company was committed to making the following payments during the next year:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2009 £	2008 £	2009 £	2008 £
Leases which expire:				
Within one year	-	-	-	367
Within one to two years	-	-	1,000	620
Within two to five years	-	-	1,304	1,304
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,304</u>	<u>2,291</u>

19. CONTROL

The company, being a "Company Limited by Guarantee" and not having a share capital divided into shares, is controlled by the Officers of the Society.

20. MEMBERSHIP

Each member guarantees during their membership and for one year after membership ceases, a sum up to £10 to the Society in the event of a winding up order.

21. APB ETHICAL STANDARD – PROVISIONS AVAILABLE FOR SMALL ENTITIES

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The additional information relating to the prize funds on page 17 has been prepared from the accounting records of the company. While it does not form part of the statutory financial statements, it should be read in conjunction with them and the responsibilities section of the auditors' report thereon.

PRIZE FUNDS for the year ended 31 December 2009

	2009 £	2008 £
THOMAS HORTON PRIZE FUND		
CAPITAL		
Charities Official Investment Fund		
283 Income shares at cost	<u>271</u>	<u>271</u>
INCOME		
Interest received during year	176	85
Less: Gold Medal Prize	<u>(250)</u>	<u>(250)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(74)</u>	<u>(165)</u>
T FOSTER DUGGAN STUDENTS' PRIZE		
CAPITAL		
£520 5½ % Treasury Stock 2008/12 (redeemed on 9th September 2008)		
Redemption value	<u>-</u>	<u>520</u>
INCOME		
Interest received during year	-	29
Less: Bronze Medal Prize	<u>(100)</u>	<u>(100)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(100)</u>	<u>(71)</u>
HERBERT WILLISON PRIZE FUND		
CAPITAL		
Charities Official Investment Fund		
241 Income shares at cost	<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>
Income balance at beginning of year	1,995	1,932
Interest received during year	<u>150</u>	<u>113</u>
	<u>2,145</u>	<u>2,045</u>
Less: Book Prize	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>2,095</u>	<u>1,995</u>
PETER NICHOLLS PRIZE FUND		
Balance at start of year	150	200
Less: Book prize	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>100</u>	<u>150</u>

Accountants' Report to the members of The Birmingham Law Society

In accordance with your instructions, we have compiled the unaudited financial statements set out above from the accounting records and explanations supplied to us.

J W Hinks, Chartered Accountants, Birmingham
17th March 2010

PRESIDENTS:

THOMAS LEE	1818	GEORGE ARTHUR LYON HATTON	1950
JOHN MEREDITH	1825	CYRIL HIGHWAY	1951
JOHN SIMCOX	1832	GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	1952
ROGER WILLIAM GEM	1833	CECIL HAMMOND COX	1953
THOMAS EYRE LEE	1848	THOMAS BERNARD SMITH	1954
CLEMENT INGLEBY	1852	JOHN ALBERT CALTHROP TAYLOR	1955
JOHN WELCHMAN WHATELEY	1855	PHILIP HORTON VERNON	1956
ARTHUR RYLAND	1873	GEOFFREY MARTEN KING	1957
GEORGE JAMES JOHNSON	1874	GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	1958
ARTHUR RYLAND	1876	JOSEPH KENNETH WALKER	1959
WILLIAM EVANS	1877	RODERICK SYDNEY KING-FARLOW	1960
JAMES MARIGOLD	1879	WILLIAM HENRY TILLEY	1961
THOMAS HORTON	1882	JOHN SHUFFLEBOTHAM	1962
CHARLES EDWARD MATTHEWS	1885	FREDERICK WILLIAM WHITALL OAKLEY	1963
CORNELIUS THOMAS SAUNDERS	1888	CHARLES THOMAS WINTERTON	1964
SIR THOMAS MARTINEAU	1888	RICHARD LAURENCE EKIN	1965
LAURISTON WINTERBOTHAM LEWIS	1891	GEOFFREY HORACE PIDDOCK	1966
JOSEPH BENNETT CLARKE	1893	HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	1967
ARTHUR GODLEE	1895	CHRISTOPHER HEDLEY HARMER	1968
THOMAS HAWKES RUSSELL	1897	THOMAS HARRY PARKINSON	1969
JOSEPH ANSELL	1899	CHARLES HERBERT LEA	1970
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1901	JOHN ATKINSON RUTLEDGE	1971
JOHN BARHAM CARSLAKE	1903	SYDNEY SOLOMON JACOBS	1972
ALFRED POINTON	1906	JOHN TIMOTHY ARTHUR SMITH	1973
WALTER BARROW	1908	JOHN ANTONY ALDERSON	1974
JOHN GILBERT BRADBURY	1910	DAVID LIDDELL	1975
ALFRED HENRY COLEY	1912	WALTER WOOD	1976
JAMES HARGREAVE	1914	DAVID STANLEY ADAMS	1977
ARTHUR LABRON LOWE	1916	ROBERT JOSEPH GARRATT	1978
FRANCIS AUGUST CHATWIN	1918	GEORGE SIEGFRIED JONAS	1979
ARCHIBALD SOMERVILLE BENNETT	1919	DENYS ERIC FORDHAM	1980
JAMES ARTHUR MARIGOLD	1920	ROGER HORTON VERNON	1981
EDWARD EVERSHEDE	1921	ARNOLD MAURICE PUTSMAN	1982
THOMAS COCKSEY	1922	CHRISTOPHER JOHN JAMES	1983
CHARLES EKIN	1923	FREDERICK HAROLD TURNER	1984
JOSEPH JAMES	1924	PETER LESLIE TAYLOR	1985
FRANCIS HENRY PEPPER	1925	BRIAN EDWARD GLYNN WILLIAMS	1986
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1926	JOHN RICHARD BETTINGSON	1987
CORNELIUS HALE SAUNDERS	1927	DAVID HOWARD HIGGS	1988
HUGH BARHAM CARSLAKE	1928	CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	1989
GEORGE HUGGINS	1929	PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON	1990
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1930	CHARLES RODERICK KING-FARLOW	1991
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1931	JOHN ADRIAN JAMES AUCOTT	1992
SYDNEY VERNON	1932	STANLEY BERNARD SHORTT	1993
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1933	JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM	1994
WILFRED CLARKSON MATTHEWS	1934	ALBERT WILLIAM HEASELGRAVE	1995
FRANK HENRY CUFAUDE WILTSHIRE	1935	RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN	1996
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1937	MICHAEL DAVID HUMPHREY SHEPHERD	1997
HERBERT WILLIAM LYDE	1938	MALCOLM GASKELL FOWLER	1998
JOSEPH THOMAS HIGGS	1939	TREVOR ARTHUR LEE	1999
GEORGE HAROLD WILLCOX	1941	JAYNE BELINDA WILLETTS	2000
ARTHUR JOHN GATELEY	1943	MICHAEL JAMES WARD	2001
JOHN FREDERICK WEST	1945	ANTHONY RALPH COLLINS	2002
WILLIAM CHARLES COLEMAN GELL	1946	DIANE PATRICIA BENUSSI	2003
CHARLES ADRIAN ASHFORD ELTON	1947	STEVEN MICHAEL JONAS	2004
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	1948	RICHARD THOMAS FOLLIS	2005
JOHN HENRY SQUIRE ADDISON	1949	PHILIP DUNKLEY STEEL	2006
		SUKHDEV SINGH BHOMRA	2007
		CAROLINE AMANDA COATES	2008

HONORARY SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS:

CLEMENT INGLEBY	1818	
WILLIAM REDFERN	1829	
ARTHUR RYLAND	1832	
THOMAS SMITH JAMES	1835	
WILLIAM HARE	1852	
CLEMENT MANSFIELD INGLEBY	1853	
EDWARD SARGANT	1857	
GEORGE JAMES JOHNSON	1865	
THOMAS HORTON	1872	
ARTHUR GODLEE	1882	
THOMAS HAWKES RUSSELL	1889	
WALTER BARROW	1897	
EDWARD EVERSHED	1903	
CHARLES EKIN	1909	
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1913	
ARTHUR MUSGROVE	1916	
WILFRED CLARKSON MATTHEWS	1921	
WILLIAM CHARLES COLEMAN GELL	1927	
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	1932	
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	1936	Joint
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW		
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	1945	
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	1946	Joint
PHILIP HORTON VERNON		
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	1947	
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	1949	Joint
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS		
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	1955	
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	1955	Joint
HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS		
HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	1956	Joint
DAVID CHARLES STEVENS		
DAVID CHARLES STEVENS	1958	Joint
MICHAEL PAUL CHETWYND HAYES		
MICHAEL PAUL CHETWYND HAYES	1961	
MICHAEL PAUL CHETWYND HAYES	1967	Joint
JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON		
JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	1968	

HONORARY SECRETARIES:

JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	Joint	1970
JOHN MICHAEL JENNINGS		
JOHN MICHAEL JENNINGS	Joint	1971
ANTONY DERBYSHIRE		
ANTONY DERBYSHIRE	Joint	1972
ROGER HORTON VERNON		
ROGER HORTON VERNON		1976
ROGER HORTON VERNON	Joint	1977
CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES		
CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	Joint	1978
CHRISTOPHER JOHN JAMES		
CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	Joint	1980
PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON		
PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON	Joint	1983
PAUL GRENVILLE PHARAOH		
PAUL GRENVILLE PHARAOH	Joint	1987
JOHN ANTHONY JAMES		
JOHN ANTHONY JAMES	Joint	1988
JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM		
JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM	Joint	1991
RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN		
RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN	Joint	1992
MALCOLM GASKELL FOWLER		
JUDITH MARGARET BONEGAL	Joint	1994
PETER DAVID WISEMAN		
PETER DAVID WISEMAN	Joint	May - Sept 2002
STEVEN MICHAEL JONAS		
PETER DAVID WISEMAN	Joint	Sept 2002
MARK JONATHAN BEESLEY		
PETER DAVID WISEMAN	Joint	June 2004
ANDREW RICHARD LEWIS BOND		
ANDREW JOHN LANCASTER	Joint	April 2008
HELEN JANE ARNOLD		
JON LLOYD	Joint	April 2009

HONORARY TREASURERS:

JOHN FRANK LESTER	1970
JAMES EDWARD ROWLEY	1973
KENNETH JOHN WERRING	1977
CHARLES RODERICK KING-FARLOW	1979
CHARLES JAMES BRAGG FLINT	1985
GRAHAM RUSSELL RITCHIE	1986
MICHAEL JAMES WARD	1992
MILTON NICHOLAS PSYLLIDES	1999
ANDREW JEFFREY STILTON	2004
RICHARD STEER	2008



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