



Birmingham
Law Society

One Region | One Profession | One Voice

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



Dean Parnell, President



President's Foreword

Despite the legal sector still enduring such difficult times Birmingham Law Society has enjoyed one of its most successful years in recent times. I am told that the pre tax profit of £44,353 is one of the best financial results since 1987 (perhaps even longer!). This is great and everyone involved with this year's performance deserves praise.

We have had great success on so many fronts. We have had record levels of attendance at our networking events. In terms of the Lord Justice Jackson Conference last October we secured an attendance of around 140 people, which is one of the highest attendances that BLS has had at any of its events over recent years (perhaps even longer).

It is great to see that our membership levels have increased by around 30% over the last 12 months with firms such as Pinsent Masons, Squire Sanders & Dempsey, Hammonds, Blakemores, Bevan Brittan, Freeth Cartwright and Williamson & Soden re-joining the Society after many years of not being members. We have also seen an increase in membership from the local bar and BLS can now claim to have the vast majority of barristers within Birmingham as members. We have lead this initiative and many other local law societies up and down the country are trying to follow our lead. It is fantastic to be able to say that there are now very few firms or chambers within this great city who are not members of Birmingham Law Society. This alone speaks volumes in terms of the importance that the legal community now places in this Society.

I should mention that over the last year our council has been re-energised and we have had some lively debates. During some of these discussions/debates we considered the role of BLS and as a result of these discussions we have now produced a mission statement. This can be seen at page 34 of the Annual Report and I think it sets out quite nicely what this Society is all about. Please do take the time to read it.

In terms of initiatives that we have undertaken over the last 12 months the list is long but it is worth mentioning some of the highlights.

We are in the process of setting up a pro bono committee, which follows on from the legal awards interviews I attended with the impressive short list of talented lawyers undertaking pro bono work. It makes sense for all pro bono activities to have some form of link or connection within the city/region and I see BLS as

being that obvious "hub". Over the years BLS has been very inward looking (understandably so) but now we must be more outward focused. Becoming more involved with pro bono activities is such a natural fit for the Society and we can do so much to promote pro bono work amongst our member firms.

I would also like to mention the Legal Eagles Quiz, which we undertook with Birmingham Solicitors Group. We have had a great working relationship with this organisation and a particular highlight was our quiz. Securing Ed James (Heart FM Breakfast DJ) for the event was a major bonus. The event sold out within one or two days and I hope we are able to make this an annual event. From the level of interest we had for this event I suspect we could make this a much bigger and better event later this year.

We are launching our membership benefits package in April. This has been introduced to take advantage of the massive buying power an organisation with 3,400 lawyers/members has in the local market. We will start off with some generic discounts/offers but over time I envisage BLS being able to offer fantastic discounts on targeted local services and businesses. Perhaps we can even start taking requests from member firms/chambers about services / retailers that they would like to see discounted.

We have recently launched our Patron Sponsorship and a number of organisations have expressed interest in doing this next year although one company, Tri Mega Labs, has come onboard as a Patron Sponsor this year.

We are also in the process of setting up a student membership committee. This is intended to engage the law undergraduates (to start with) in terms of BLS, our city/region and our membership. I do not expect the committee to be putting on a large number of events throughout the year. However, I do expect the committee to be providing relevant, high quality events which the students and the universities value.

We have also held two high profile lunches. The first was with the Lord Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke which took place last October. This was a very popular event and it raised the bar in terms of showing what BLS can achieve. At the time of writing we are also preparing for the lunch with the Master of the Rolls, Lord Neuberger which takes place on 14 April 2011. I am also hoping to get one or two other high profile lunches in the diary for later this year.

We should also not overlook one of my first initiatives when I took over as President: our Youtube videos. These have been very popular and we have covered important issues such as ABS and the Legal Ombudsman service. This forum has helped the Society engage with younger lawyers and it has resulted in greater levels of interest (in the Society) from this important section of our legal community. It is quite remarkable how much interest we now get from the younger lawyers.

When I made various promises at last year's AGM I meant them. I believe in the Society, the people associated with it and its members. I have now fulfilled all of those promises. We have put on some very high profile events, we have increased our membership, we have engaged our members as well as other local organisations and we have promoted the city and our legal sector both nationally and internationally. We have raised our game in so many ways and we have a new energy and sense of purpose.

We have been operating with a "can do" attitude throughout the year. We have taken on some daunting challenges without having any idea how we would achieve them. However, every challenge has been met and some we have significantly exceeded. There has been no failure, we have not given up and we have never said we can't do that. The approach of the team this year reminds me of a quote (from an unknown source), "[*Success comes in cans; failure comes in can'ts*](#)". This really does sum up the attitude of "Team BLS : 2010/2011".

So far as "Team BLS: 2010/2011" is concerned I include within the term the professional officers, directors, council members, committees and, of course, the fantastic team at the BLS office. We have had many laughs over the last 12 months and there has been great camaraderie amongst everyone. Energy levels have been consistently high and we have been operating in a dynamic and exciting environment. I do not exaggerate when I say that although at times it has been very hard, it has also been great fun and I would not change a thing.

However, although it has been a very rewarding year we should not spend too long reflecting on this year's success. We must build upon it. We must maintain this

momentum and direction. We must continue to raise the bar and aim higher. We must remain an ambitious Society: we must want more for the Society, more for our members and more for our legal community.

Dean Parnell
President
Birmingham Law Society

Jon Lloyd, Chairman



Report from the Board

The Board was formally established under the new articles adopted at the AGM last year following the governance review, although it had started to operate as a shadow board for a few months prior to that. Initially the Board comprised myself as chairman, Martin Allsop as Finance Director and Bernard Shepherd. Chris Owen has now joined the Board and is making a valuable contribution.

The Board's core functions are to run the Society as a business, with responsibility for the finances, premises, general administration functions, and the office and staff team. This has largely freed the professional officers and Council from having to devote time to these issues.

In practice there is much interplay between the President and other professional officers and the Board. Both play a part in developing the membership, and exploring new opportunities. The President has been ably aided by Bernard Shepherd in raising income through increased membership and their relationship with sponsors. The professional officers propose new initiatives that have financial implications. This cross over has been well managed by close working between the professional officers and the Board including regular attendance by a representative at each other's meetings.

One of the first tasks was to review and revise the budget. A solid platform for the turnaround in the Society's finances had been laid in the previous year. Close monitoring of the financial performance has clearly worked as demonstrated by the pleasing accounts for the year to 31st December. Martin Allsop has been a dedicated steward of the Society's funds. Indications are that this year will be another solid year from a financial perspective. Another task, largely overseen by Bernard Shepherd, has been the management of the empty premises at Temple Street and the marketing thereof leading to the acceptance of an offer to buy these which should lead to a completed sale in the near future.

There is, as in any business, a great deal of general administration in relation to premises, IT and other equipment, insurances and the numerous events and activities. The Society is blessed to have a very able and committed staff team and the Board publicly thank Becky, Glenda, Melanie and Nigel for their contribution to a successful year.

This has been a year of transition and bedding in of the new arrangements. I shall be standing down from the Board shortly but it is pleasing to see a number of enthusiastic volunteers wanting to get involved. Looking ahead there are a few themes that are clearly going to be to the fore. The Board and officers are committed to

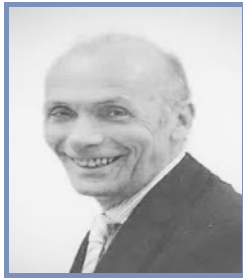
reducing the subscriptions which is now possible due to the increase in membership and increasing income from other sources, but the challenge for the Board will be to develop these. The Learning and Development programme under Glenda made solid progress last year and still has considerable potential to progress further. Other potential income generators are being looked at and need to be explored in a structured way.

If the sale of Temple Street is completed decisions will need to be taken as to the redeployment of the sale proceeds, starting with a review of the Society's premises needs, and then looking at the investment options. These processes have been set in train.

In summary the Board is working well and the business of the Society is in good shape and there is a firm platform from which to develop its activities.

Treasurer's Report

Martin Allsopp,
Honorary Treasurer



Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. For those of you reading this report on the afternoon of the AGM, may I immediately apologise for the fact that I am not here to comment on the report personally to you. I qualified as a sexagenarian on 18 April and currently find myself, I expect, in a bar somewhere off the Madeiran coast. For those of you who have taken the trouble to read the accountant's financial statement before reading my report, please do not link these sentences!

The Society and its Board have recognised the severe problems that the Society has suffered over the past few years and has addressed these problems both individually and collectively, and as you will see from the accounts, the deficit of 2009 has completely been overturned to produce a profit, after taxation, of £36,253. I use the words "after taxation" loosely, for as the auditors will have advised, for the first time in a number of years, the Society is obliged now to pay tax on the rental income that has been achieved on the letting of part of Temple Street, which income cannot be offset against previous trading losses, as will no doubt be explained by the auditors.

The generation of profit is due to many factors, but substantially due to the efforts of our President, who has hosted various profitable events during his Presidential year and has now encouraged more members to join the Society than I believe has ever been achieved previously. In short, the immediate future of the Society is much brighter going forward.

The Board have advised the Council however, that we do not consider that the retention of 8 Temple Street is an option at all, and as I write this report, I am aware that Contracts have been submitted for the sale of the building and no doubt the President will be able to update you at the meeting as to progress in respect of that sale. I can tell you that the Board have recommended to the Council that the capital sale proceeds of the building, if completion does take place, are to be ring fenced and not utilised in support of the Society's general trading activities. Whether the monies are to be reinvested into another Freehold property or invested elsewhere, will be a matter for the Board in conjunction with the Council to determine during the next financial year.

Wages costs, as you will see from the accounts, have considerably reduced following the departure of Paul Farrow as our Chief Executive, whose functions have largely been taken on by the Board and of course the Society's retained team of Becky, Mel and Glenda with the support of Denise, who now has joined on a part-time basis and who I jokingly refer to as "the Society's debt collector".

We have tightened up considerably on cash flow and thanks to the efforts of the team and of you, the readers of this report, subscriptions have been paid promptly this year, and I do encourage all of you to continue please to support the Society's Training Programme, operated principally by Glenda for the purposes of your Partners and yourselves and your Assistant Solicitors of keeping abreast of current changes in legislation and obtaining CPD points where relevant, rather than using external sources. Your support in attending the events and using the educational facilities provided by the Society means that it is hoped that we shall be able to keep the subscription levels down for the future and maintain the Society's profitability, without recourse to draw down from reserves.

The Society's profitability has been achieved notwithstanding the general downturn in the economic climate, but I promise that your Board is cognisant of the difficulties that we anticipate that we shall face in 2011 with legal aid cuts and the advent of the ABS, to name but two, but with a profitable base and the knowledge that more firms than ever, (including members of the barrister profession as will have been outlined by the President), who now wish to join the Society, I feel that the Society is much stronger financially to face the pressures ahead.

President

DEAN PARNELL
Sydney Mitchell, 0121 698 2212

Vice President

ANDREW LANCASTER
Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP, 0121 200 3242

Deputy Vice President

MARY KAYE
Martineau, 0870 763 1687

Joint Honorary Secretaries

KEITH BROWNE - Martineau, 0870 763 1456
PROFESSOR BERNADETTE GRIFFIN - The College of Law, 01483 216 006

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Marketing Director - Bernard Shepherd - HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP, 0121 234 0121
Finance Director - Martin Allsopp - Allsopp & Co incorporating
AJ Salisbury & Co, 0121 705 9020
Chris Owen - St Philips Chambers, 0121 246 7000

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*Mo Afzal, HMA Law Solicitors
*Mirza Ahmad, Birmingham City Council
Legal Services
Martin Allsopp, Allsopp & Co
Helen Jane Arnold, Benussi & Co
Karen Bailey, Bailey Wright and Co
Andrew Beedham, Clarke Willmott LLP
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*Sanjeev Bhopal, Birmingham City Council
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Sarah Dwight, Sarah Dwight Solicitor
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+*Malcolm Fowler, Jonas Roy Bloom
+*Derek French, French & Co
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Angela Henry, Henry Browne Solicitors
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John R Hughes, The John Hughes Law
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Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom

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Matthew Lake, Weightmans LLP
Terry Lipscombe
Jon Lloyd, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
Beverley Money, Shakespeare Putman LLP
* Chris Owen, St Philips Chambers
Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell
*Jane A Robson, Birmingham City Council Legal
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Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates
Bernard Shepherd, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
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Jaspal Singh, Davies & Partners Solicitors
Makhan Singh, Murria Solicitors
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Probation Trust
Simon Thomas, The Wilkes Partnership
Denise Watkins, Gordon Jones & Co
*John Westwood, Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX)
Peter Wiseman

* Co-opted member + Law Society Council Members

One representative from each of:

Worcestershire Law Society
Warwickshire Law Society
Walsall Association
The West Midland Assoc. of Law Societies
Birmingham Law Centre
Birmingham Solicitors Group
Birmingham Trainee Solicitors Society

JUDY BONEGAL
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TOM BURNS-BEECH
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Thursfields
DLA Piper UK LLP
Addison O'Hare
Birmingham Law Centre
Forum Law Limited
Martineau

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Professional Services Manager: Glenda Rogers, Tel: 0121 222 4193
Administrator/Membership: Melanie Yuill, Tel: 0121 222 4195/0121 222 4194
Aston Library & Services: Tel: 0121 204 4525 Fax: 0121 204 4530
Website: <http://www.aston.ac.uk/lis/> Catalogue: <http://library.aston.ac.uk/>

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Andrew Lancaster, Vice President
Mary Kaye, Deputy Vice President
Ann Hunter & Professor Bernardette Griffin, Joint Honorary Secretaries

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Bernard Shepherd, Marketing Director
Martin Allsopp, Finance Director
Chris Owen, Director

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Keith Browne, Martineau
Caroline Coates, Buller Jeffries
Richard Follis, Shoosmiths
Professor Bernardette Griffin, The College of Law
Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom
Mary Kaye, Martineau
Terry Lipscombe
Jon Lloyd, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell
Peter Wiseman

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Tony Harris, Sydney Mitchell
Philip Steel
Jayne Willetts, Townshends LLP

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Richard Follis, Shoosmiths

Council members:

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Caroline Coates, Buller Jeffries
Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell
Bernard Shepherd, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
Ian Shovlin, Higgs & Sons Solicitors

Co-opted:

Jayne Willetts, Townshends LLP

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Terry Lipscombe
Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell
Bernard Shepherd, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
Peter Wiseman
Jayne Willetts, Townshends LLP

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Company Law Committee

Chairman:

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Council member:

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Co-opted:

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Simon Gill, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
Susheel Gupta, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Michael Lakin, Pinsent Masons LLP
Adam McGiveron, Martineau
Mandeep K Sagoo, Mercer
Katie Silvester, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
Keith Spedding, Shakespeare Putsman LLP
David J Stevenson, Pinsent Masons LLP

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Sukhdev Singh Bhomra, Mandla Bhomra & Co

Council members:

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Makhan Singh, Murria Solicitors

Co-opted:

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Courts Service
Elaine Annable, The Legal Services Commission
Julian Berg, Eddowes Perry & Osbourne
Fergal Bloomer, B H Mohammed Solicitors
Len Brown, Staffordshire and West Midlands
Probation Trust
Adrian Draper, HMCS - Her Majesty's Courts Service
Harry Ireland, Crown Prosecution Service
Derek Larkin, Rose Williams & Partners
Maria Middleton, The Legal Services Commission
District Judge Lesley Mottram, Birmingham
Magistrates Court
Joginder Nijjarm, Murria Solicitors
Jayne Parkin, Birmingham Magistrates Court
Mohammed Rizwan Pasha, Ahmed & Co
Michael Purcell, Purcell Parker
Gordon Scobbie, West Midlands Police
Richard Steer, Staffordshire and West Midlands
Probation Trust
Richard Tatman, Crown Prosecution Service
Heath Tony, Birmingham Magistrates Court
James Turner, Tuckers
Ian Vesey, Roger Corbett Solicitors

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Simon Thomas, The Wilkes Partnership

Co-opted:

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Andrew Bowen, Challinors
Peter Brewer, Weightmans LLP
Pretesh Chauhan, Murria Solicitors
Verona Cocks, Weightmans LLP
Mark Elder, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Gavin Faber, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Lucy Floate, Eversheds LLP
Robin Humphreys, Thursfields
Gurmeet Jakhu, Hamilton Pratt
Mark Kenkre, Challinors
Sejal Mehta, Browne Jacobson LLP
John Morgan, The John Hughes Law
Practice Limited
District Judge Musgrave, Birmingham Civil
Justice Centre and Birmingham Family Court
Ajmal Nadeem, Wragge and Co LLP
Lina Passi, Passi Legal

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Professor Bernardette Griffin, The College of Law

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Joanne Rebecca Bradbury, Martineau
Claire Crawford, Martineau
Rosa Dickinson, St Philips Chambers
Stuart Evans, Birmingham City Council
Legal Services
Diane Price, Martineau
Norman Rea, Averta Employment Lawyers
Glenda Rogers, Birmingham Law Society
Nigel Sellar, Challinors
Jennifer Seymour, Martineau
Sonya Smith, Birmingham City University
Keith Uff, Birmingham Law School - University of
Birmingham

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Co-opted:

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Andrew Cox, Cox Cooper Limited
Fergal Dowling, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Victoria Duddles, EEF Ltd.
Victoria Garrad, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
Michael Hibbs, Shakespeare Putsman LLP
Alan Jones, Averta Employment Lawyers
Richard Steer, Staffordshire and West Midlands
Probation Trust
Tracy Worthington, FBC Manby Bowdler LLP

Family Law Committee

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Mary Kaye, Martineau

Co-opted:

John Akers, Birmingham District Family Mediation
Philip Barnsley, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Lorraine Bayliss, Birmingham Civil Justice Centre
and Birmingham Family Court
Stephanie Brown, No5 Chambers
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Helen Dickens, Birmingham Civil Justice Centre
and Birmingham Family Court
District Judge Dowding, Birmingham Civil Justice
Centre and Birmingham Family Court
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Elizabeth Isaacs, St Philips Chambers
Marie Kilgallen, Martineau
Karen Moores, Sydney Mitchell

Mark Mansell, St Philips Chambers
Vanessa Meachin, St Philips Chambers
Jayne Mullen, St Ive's 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

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John Hughes, Needham & James
Bernard Shepherd, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
Co-opted: Charles Bond, Cobbetts LLP
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Commerce and Industry
Tony Harris, Sydney Mitchell
Carla Hull, Carla Hull Solicitors Ltd
Raj Padhiar, Carltons Solicitors
Nilay Shastry, Miles Pierce Solicitor
Katie Silvester, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
Makhan Singh, Murria Solicitors
Philip Steel
David Waterhouse, Rutherfords

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Council members:

Martin Allsopp, Allsopp & Co incorporating
AJ Salisbury & Co
Sarah Dwight, Sarah Dwight Solicitor
Bernard Shepherd, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
Denise Watkins, Gordon Jones & Co

Co-opted:

Claire-Elaine Arthurs, HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP
Steve Kelway, Coventry District Land Registry
Roger Lloyd, Birmingham City Council Legal Services
Christopher Morris, Wragge and Co LLP
Peter J Wilson, Hadens
Geoffrey Wood, Coley and Tilley

Report of the Joint Honorary Secretaries

The year has been a very exciting and demanding year for Birmingham Law Society, and for the joint secretaries appointed.

This year the Professional officers, and the newly formed Board, have been concentrating on membership, retaining and recruiting new members, and spreading the BLS membership to include chambers as well as law firms and legal individuals. Council has been actively engaged in debates/discussions, seminars and conferences looking at the future of BLS and the profession. Also, more of a focus on the use of technology and how this can raise the profile of BLS has been of importance because of the enthusiasm of the President. The President has done a fantastic job in getting BLS into the realms of fast moving technology and social network sites. BLS is now on Youtube, videos of events and speakers can be accessed by BLS members wherever they practice or live! It has truly been a fast moving period of time.

In particular there have been developments in the following areas:

- Increased membership. In particular, St. Philips, No.5 and St. Ives chambers have become members of the Society. A number of their barristers now sit on and contribute to committees. This has been very beneficial to membership and extending the reach of BLS.
- The relationship between the officers and the newly formed Board has progressed very well. This arrangement has enabled the professional officers to concentrate on outward looking aspects of BLS, meeting with existing and new members as well as obtaining sponsorship. The Board has concentrated on important matters of the Society including the financial position of the Society which has shown a healthy profit this year.
- The learning and development programme has been very successful again building on last year's very good outcomes. Glenda Rogers has done an excellent job in developing different ways to deliver training for the needs of members. The debates and panel sessions of many training programmes have

been very successful. Glenda's planning has resulted in well attended seminars. Those of you who have attended such sessions will be aware of the benefits. If you have not, I would urge you to do so, as the benefits to you and the Society are enormous.

- Events and activities have progressed well. In particular, the Lord Jackson Conference and the Alternative Business Structures Seminar brought together extremely knowledgeable and experienced speakers. The quality of speakers was as a result of the President's and some council and committee member's efforts in securing their presence in Birmingham. The topical areas covered were greatly appreciated by those members who attended these events and engaged in the sessions.
- The format of Council meetings now includes debates/discussions which encourages lively exchange of views on a number of important and relevant topics. Such topics have included e.g. ABSs, with a presentation by Professor Stephen Mayson; the role and impact of the recently appointed Chief Ombudsman. Also, there have been debates on the BLS Mission Statement, the Guidance Note for Chairs of Committees etc. These debates/discussions have enabled the officers and Board to progress issues of concern/interest to members, and enable BLS to reach out further to its members.
- The staff team have worked extremely hard as always to meet and deliver all the requirements and challenges placed upon them by working for the Society. They have been excellent in providing the skills and support for all the initiatives undertaken this year which have been diverse and challenging. Many thanks to the team for their work and support.

The Society can look forward, we believe, to the next year with great enthusiasm to meet the challenges ahead, not only because the modernisation of the Society and the first year of the relationship of the officers and the Board, have resulted in positive outcomes, but because the Society is optimistic about its future and that of its members. However, it is important that each member engages with, contributes to, and supports the society to enable it to continue to upwardly progress.

Bernardette Griffin,
Chair, Education & Training Committee



Annual General Meeting held on 27th April 2010

The Council has pleasure in presenting the 192nd Annual Report of the proceedings of the Society.

Officers

At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 27 April 2010, Mr Dean Parnell was installed as President of the Society. Mr Andrew Lancaster as Vice President and Mrs Mary Kaye as Deputy Vice President. Mrs Bernardette Griffin and Mr Keith Browne were installed as Joint Honorary Secretaries. Mr Richard Steer retired as Honorary Treasurer and Mr Martin Allsopp was installed as the new Honorary Treasurer.

Council

At the same meeting Mr Martin Allsopp retired as an ordinary member to take up an ex-officio position.

The retiring ordinary members of the Council are: Martin Allsopp, Martin Canning, Kate DaSilva, Veronica Dean, Mary Kaye and Richard Steer.

The ordinary members of Council who are nominated for re-election pursuant to Article 39 are:

Caroline Coates, John Hughes (The John Hughes Law Practice), Ian Shovlin, Simon Thomas and Helen Jane Arnold.

Additionally, the following members of the Society have been duly nominated for election to the Council pursuant to Article 42:

Denise Watkins, John Hughes (Needham & James), Christopher Fitton, Paul Knight, Sarah Dwight, Harjit Dee Kundi, Matthew Lake, James Turner and Eileen Schofield.

Obituaries

It is with deep regret that the Council report the deaths of two members and friends of the Society.

Michael David Arnold, who founded Arnold & Company in 1956, died on 2 November 2010. He worked as a solicitor in the Black County for fifty four years until his death, when he was still in full time practice.

Michael was universally respected. He was unassuming, erudite and was the epitome of a gentleman. He often quoted Plato – "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle".

Helen Jane Arnold

Sydney Jacobs (Past President 1972) died on 21st July 2010. He was quite a character, first class skier and before the war became Army Ski Champion.

During the war (39/45) a number of teams had been parachuted into Norway to assist the Norwegian Resistance. Unfortunately most of them were picked up and shot because of a traitor giving them away to the Nazis. Sydney was parachuted into Norway towards the end of the war and was responsible for the arrest and safe custody of Quisling. At the time it would be true to say that that was not the safest thing to do. He was responsible for guarding and keeping safe Quisling from those Norwegians who wanted to execute him.

Sydney was later honoured by the King of Norway for his services to Norway and the award took pride of place in his office for many years. So far as the Society was concerned Sydney was responsible for securing and cataloguing the extensive Library we had in those days.

Peter L Taylor

Consultation Paper Committee

The Consultation Committee have had another very busy year with so much change about to take place to the way in which the profession is to be regulated and with the advent of Alternative Business Structures on 6 October 2011. In addition, we have been busy responding to the two Green Papers issued by the Ministry of Justice on the proposed reforms to Legal Aid and Civil Litigation and Costs in England and Wales. These will have a massive impact on access to justice and should therefore be of interest and concern to every member, whether or not they undertake publicly funded work or get involved in helping to resolve disputes for our clients. We have been ably supported by the Committees and we are seeing more members actively engaged with these issues, which enables us to submit robust responses which are representative of our region. The views of BLS are taken into account by the Coalition Government and our regulators and it is important that we continue as a regional profession to engage actively and positively with all of the proposed changes affecting our profession.

Library Committee

The Society's joint collaboration with Aston University for library facilities is continuing. Members have access to a Library collection with approximately 250,000 books and printed journals including subjects other than law which reflect the academic interests of Aston University. Each member firm has an allocated Library Card issued in the name of a nominated member of the firm. The card is used for access to the Library and to borrow books from the Library on loan.

This year we had to agree to destroy some old law reports which had been affected by Red Rot. The repair costs of the affected books were so high the Society had no option but to destroy the books. It was possible to sell some more of the books which still remained at Temple Street to members before the premises were closed.

In the present economic climate libraries everywhere have reduced in size. Most of the legislation and case reports are now available on the Internet. Birmingham Law Society continues to provide library services to its members in conjunction with Aston Law Library.

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

Policy Committee

Although the Policy Committee does not now meet on a regular basis, it continues to be an important sounding board and source of wisdom for the Society and in particular for Council and Professional Officers. The last meeting was to provide input on priorities for the Society over this year. The Policy Committee has been instrumental in advising on the Society's new governance structure which has been such a success and is enabling wider engagement by members. Individual members of the Committee are also consulted from time to time and act as a critical friend to Officers.

Public Relations/Media Committee

This year has seen another good crop of positive media reporting of the Society's activities. Highlights included:

- The effects of professional indemnity premium hikes on small firms;
- Coverage of the litigation funding conference and debate with Jackson LJ; and
- Leading an employment law supplement in The Post.

In between the bespoke press releases, the President has been able to air views on a range of issues through the regular Birmingham Post column.

The committee has been looking at how BLS's traditional communication routes, through the Bulletin, press releases and web site, might usefully be supplemented

Andrew Lancaster, Chairman,
Consultation Paper Committee



Sukhdev Singh Bhomra,
Chairman, Library Committee



with a presence in the rapidly growing social media. Inevitably innovation demands resource and so a step by step approach is being adopted in line with cash constraints. We do expect though to be able to take advantage of new opportunities and build on the President's successful use of media such as video to help get the Society's messages across to a wider and, significantly, younger audience.

I am grateful to the members of the committee for all of their work, regular attendance at meetings, and more importantly good sense as to how the Society's views and policies might be perceived by various stakeholder groups. I am also grateful to the President for finding time in his busy schedule to attend so many of our meetings. This has better enabled debate and discussions around PR and Media to help inform the work of officers.

Bulletin

The Bulletin has had yet another successful year and the standard of articles and features has been high. It is still somewhat disappointing that there are very few member firms who submit articles and features on topics which would be of interest to fellow lawyers.

I appreciate that it is more difficult to pitch a legal article aimed at ones peers rather than lay persons, but there must be scope for members writing on topics (they don't have to be legal ones) which would be of interest or assistance to fellow members

We hope to include new features during the coming year which are more life-style based to give the magazine a lighter feel.

My thanks as ever go to all the staff at Birmingham Law Society, (particularly, Becky Lynch) and Dawn Pardoe and her staff at P W Media for all the hard work they put in to ensuring that every issue maintains very high standards.

Richard Follis, Chairman
Public Relations/Media Committee



Judy Bonegal
Bulletin Editor



Glenda Rogers,
Chair, Learning & Development



Learning and Development

Despite the continued downturn in the economy, Birmingham Law Society's Learning & Development department has had a busy and successful year.

By working closely with our committees, our loyal team of speakers, our sponsors and corporate partners we have been able to maintain our niche in the market. Our seminars, debates and conferences are topical and relevant and continue to take into account the changes facing the legal community. In November we presented the Lord Jackson Conference which saw Lord Jackson engage in debate and discussion with other high profile speakers on the issues within his report. This high profile was attended by over 130 lawyers and the day delivered an open and candid debate/discussion about the changes recommended by Jackson.

Another major event organised by BLS in partnership with the Law Society was a half day conference on Alternative Business Structures in December. Speakers included Professor Stephen Mayson, Craig Holt (CEO - Quality Solicitors) and John Wotton (Vice President of The Law Society). This event was extremely thought provoking and forms part of a very important topic that we intend to keep firmly in focus via dedicated seminars and conferences in 2011.

BLS continues to streamline all overheads. We take full advantage of our IT capabilities to pass these savings onto delegates by reducing course fees thereby 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 and workshop 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.

Company Law Committee

Over the last 12 months there has been at least a little respite for company lawyers grappling with the changes implemented by the Companies Act 2006 as the tide of regulations has slowed. But there are interesting developments in corporate governance, partly in response to the recent financial crisis. These include:

- the new UK Corporate Governance Code enters into force in the near future with impact for example on the election of listed company directors;
- the Lord Davies report on women on boards which is a key development at a time when there is likely to be increasing focus on diversity within the boardroom;
- changes to the Takeover Code, in part reflecting concerns raised at the time of the Kraft takeover of locally headquartered Cadbury; and
- consultation on changes to the financial regulatory structure.

I would like to thank the members of the Company Law Committee for their support over year and indeed over the last few years. I will hand over chairmanship of the Committee to Adam McGiveron of Martineau with effect from the Annual General Meeting and I wish Adam every success in taking the Committee forward.

Criminal Law Committee

The Criminal Law Committee has representatives from all agencies involved in the Criminal Justice System including the Crown Court, Magistrates Court, the Judiciary, Crown prosecution Service, Probation service, Legal services Commission, the Bar and from Defence Solicitors practising in the area. Its meetings are always well attended and involve lively discussions on a range of topics. This year the topics included:

- The West Midlands Police force restructuring itself under a programme called Paragon. The

9 Birmingham Command Units were divided into 4 Local Policing Units. The changes led to thousands of officers being moved to new roles at different stations, causing disruption and confusion. The numbers of arrests dropped dramatically as officers learnt the new boundaries and new ways of working. With fewer people being charged, the Magistrates Courts were emptier than ever before.

- The Crown Court Means Testing which came into effect from 26th April 2010. The Committee made representations on the proposals for documentary evidence required by the Legal Services Commission on applications for Representation Orders especially for defendants in custody.
- The West Midlands Cross Agency's Lean Project which examined the Criminal Justice System as a whole to eliminate waste, to make it cost effective system and to improve the quality of service.
- The Committee considered proposals on the Court Listing Schedule. The shortage of work meant reduced overnight/remand court. There were discussions on the review and reduction of Saturday and Bank Holiday charge court in West Midlands, and on proposals to close some Magistrates Courts in the West Midlands.
- The Committee members hosted a Chinese delegation from CPS Fujian Province, showed them Crown Court and Magistrates Court in operation and held a meeting chaired by the President during which questions from the delegation were answered on the Criminal Justice System in the United Kingdom.
- The Committee raised concerns with the Court about Young Offenders being held in custody with Adult Offenders.
- The Committee raised concerns with the Police about the police practice on prepared statements made by suspects during police interviews, on

John Campion,
Chairman, Company Law Committee



Sukhdev Bhomia,
Chairman, Criminal Law Committee



inspection and provision of Custody records to defence solicitors, and on obtaining statements through the use of interpreters from victims and witnesses.

- The Committee discussed and made representations on the governments Consultation Paper on the Reform of Legal Aid in England & Wales.

I thank all the Committee members for their support, commitment and assistance thorough the year.

Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)

The Dispute Resolution committee has had a very successful year and there have been a number of highlights throughout the year. The Lord Justice Jackson Conference was probably the highest profile event and this took place in November 2010. The event attracted national interest and was hosted by Joshua Rozenberg, BBC journalist and presenter.

The high profile conference included presentations from Lord Justice Jackson, the president of the Forum of Insurance Lawyers, chair of Motor Accident Solicitors Society, strategic director of the Legal Services Board, director from the Association of British Insurers and other leading individuals. The event attracted over 140 delegates from both Birmingham and various other parts of the UK.

Another high profile event arranged by the Committee was the Judges Forum, which took place last June. This involved the Committee arranging for ten solicitors to present a different aspect of the modern day role of a solicitor and the challenges we face as a profession. The presentation took place in court 18 with the 10 solicitors sitting in the jury box and presenting to a packed audience of judges varying in seniority.

The aim of the event was to update the judges on the demands and challenges facing the solicitors' profession. All presentations were of a very high quality and the event was reported in the local press. Most

importantly, the event was well received by the local bench and we are now exploring other initiatives aimed at forging closer links between solicitors and our local judges.

The Committee also provided a full response to the Ministry of Justice's Consultation Paper: "Proposals for reform of civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales", which was prompted by the Jackson report. It is likely that there will be further developments within this area and this is likely to form part of the Committee's work over the next 12 months.

The regular behind the scene court visits for members that the Committee set up a couple of years ago are still proceeding without any reported problems.

Over the next 12 months the Committee will be introducing a number of initiatives which will include some form of social events/activities for litigators as well as further events aimed at establishing closer links between the judges and solicitors.

Education & Training Committee

The Education and Training Committee has been busy this year responding to consultation papers and activities.

The Education and Training Committee has responded to two consultative documents this year, namely:

- LPC Consultation on Policy on Accredited Prior Learning.
- Consultation Paper on 'A New Framework for Work-Based Learning'.
- We invited Tim Pearce, from the SRA, who explained the SRA pilot relating to work-based learning and how this could affect the future of training contracts. The pilot concluded in October, and the outcomes will come out for consultation shortly.

Dean Parnell, Chairman,
Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)



Bernardette Griffin,
Chair, Education & Training Committee



- Once again, we recently held our annual School Careers Forum where we provide interactive sessions for Year 12 students to obtain more knowledge of the law and what happens in Birmingham in relation to the legal profession. It was very well received by students and their teachers.
- We have throughout the year had regular updates from all areas of the professions including representatives from the Institute of Legal Executives.

The aim of the committee is to ensure we respond to and represent the views of BLS members, keep everyone up-to-date on new education/training initiatives, and input into new developments.

With the review of the whole of legal education and training being undertaken by the SRA, the Bar, and the Institute of Legal Executives in the forthcoming year we are looking forward to an interesting year.

Employment Law Committee

The Employment Law Committee continued to meet regularly during 2010 to consider changes to Employment Law and the impact of changes in Employment Tribunal procedures on practitioners.

We have had no resignations from the Committee during that period but we have had further members join, Richard Santy (Shoosmiths), Trevor Allsop (Trade Union Centre for the Unemployed), Richard Smith (Thompsons), Ranjit Dhinsda (Hill Hofstetter) and Roger Shephard (EEF).

For most of the year the Committee was chaired by Linda Jones, who has resigned as Chair but will continue as a member of the Committee. The Committee expressed their grateful thanks for Linda's hard work and cajoling that has made the Committee such a success over recent years.

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 subject of judicial and other mediation in the employment sphere. It was held on the 13 May 2010 at Pinsent Mason LLP. The panel was chaired by Michael Hibbs and the speakers included Colin Goodyear, Employment Judge, Malcolm Boswell, Regional Director of ACAS and Kisane Prutton an Independent Counsellor and Mediator.

Feedback on the event was very positive.

During the course of the year the Committee responded to several Government consultation papers on new Employment Law.

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

Family Law Committee

Birmingham Law Society Family Law Committee continues to be an active Committee and attracts representation from all areas of the family law community, enabling all branches of the profession to express their respective views upon the important issues facing family law today.

Over the past 12 months we have discussed the various ways of resolving disputes without the necessity of embarking upon adversarial court proceedings including mediation, collaborative law and the advent of parenting programmes. A successful seminar was held in July 2010 to openly discuss views on making best use of the available resources. The event included a panel of highly regarded practitioners including Her Honour Judge Hindley and was attended by over 60 family law professionals.

The Committee has addressed Law Society Consultations on Pre-Marital Agreements and Legal Aid. The reform of Legal Aid is one of the biggest issues

Michael Hibbs, Chair,
Employment Law Committee



Mary Kaye,
Chair, Family Law Committee



facing the profession as a whole. Access to justice is a fundamental right and often affects those who are most vulnerable within our society. It is essential that the legal profession has the opportunity to present a united voice.

The Committee has forged links with Resolution and other family law organisations who are all working towards a mutual aim. I wish Philip Barnsley every success as the new Chair of Resolution.

On a personal note I shall be resigning from the Committee this year and stepping up to become Vice President of Birmingham Law Society. Jane Robson will become the new Chairperson. I shall remain on the Committee and would very much like to thank all those who have supported the Committee during the past three years.

International Committee

The International Committee continues to thrive with an active and enthusiastic committee reflecting a wide range of expertise; during the course of the year, it also welcomed representatives from No 5 Chambers and St Philips Chambers onto the committee.

Meeting every two months, the committee has shared discussion regularly, on its twin focus of increasing potential for business overseas for Birmingham firms, as well as promoting the profile of the Birmingham Law Society in the international arena. Members have been involved, at their own expense, in delegations to 'long haul' destinations such as the USA, Russia, Hong Kong and Qatar whilst, links continue to be maintained and developed with our existing friends in Europe and in particular with Holland, France, Turkey and Croatia; it is hoped that others will follow.

In September, a strong delegation, again at their own expense, attended the inaugural International Conference hosted by the Lyon Bar which also included the official signing of the Memorandum of

Understanding between the Frankfurt Bar and the Lyon Bar.

The committee also welcomed presentations by Alison Hook from the Law Society on her work and their strategy for international markets and Scott James from Faegre and Benson LL.P on seeking and conducting work in the USA.

Finally, the committee would like to acknowledge the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, UK Trade and Investment and the British American Business Council for their continuing support.

Property & Development Committee

The Committee changed its name during 2010 from the Non Contentious Business Committee to the Property and Development Committee. This reflected the fact that most of the work of the Committee is concerned with property and planning or other regulatory issues, and perhaps also the fact that no-one quite knew what the name Non-Contentious Business was meant to cover!

New terms of reference were adopted in line with the President's wish for each committee to re-examine their objectives.

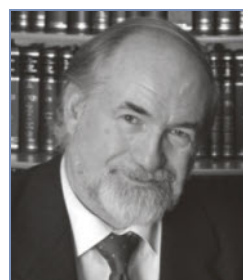
Besides representation from large and small firms, we continue to be fortunate to have senior representatives of both the Land Registry and the City Council on the Committee. We have now been joined by Tony Verduyn a Barrister from St Philips Chambers.

Following the change of Government last May, the Committee expected radical changes in policy. In so far as the hated Home Information Packs (HIPs) were quickly abolished, there was good news. On the other hand, the economic situation and the compromises resulting from the Coalition have led to less change than expected.

John P Westwood,
Chair, International Committee



John Hughes, Chair,
Non-Contentious Business Committee



Thus the new tax on development in the form of the Community Infrastructure Levy which the Tories had promised to abolish will continue. On the other hand, the Localism Bill, part of the Government "Big Society" agenda, has the potential to create radical change. It would enable the approval of certain types of development to be determined by local community bodies, thus overturning over 60 years of planning control by local planning authorities. It remains to see whether this is a change for the better, or a remedy for chaos.

In the residential market, pressure on smaller conveyancing practices became markedly worse with Lenders removing firms from their panels on the ground of lack of work. Some have been reinstated, but the lack of any right of appeal against Bank or Building Society decisions is a cause of great anxiety, as is the increasing practice of some Lenders to require particular conveyancing firms to be used, even though they may be many miles away from the properties being bought. Approval under the new Quality Assurance regime is likely to become a condition of acceptance on panels.

As ever I am grateful to Geoff Wood of Coley & Tilley, our honorary secretary for preparation of our agendas and minutes. Sarah Dwight has been appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Committee with effect from the next BLS year, and will in due course take over the chairmanship.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Year ended 31 December 2010

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2010.

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.

B R M Shepherd

E T M Allsop (appointed on 27th April 2010)

A J Lancaster (resigned on 27th April 2010)

J Lloyd (appointed on 27th April 2010)

D Parnell (resigned on 27th April 2010)

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 they ought to have taken as a director in order to make themselves 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

J Lloyd, Chairman

17th March 2011

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 2010 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 one, 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 2010 and of its profit 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 2011

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Year ended 31 December 2010

	Notes	2010		2009
		£	£	£
TURNOVER: continuing activities	2	208,135		208,388
External charges:				
Books and binding		6,150	8,982	
Lectures and courses		26,539	14,990	
Printing, stationery and general expenses		5,341	8,672	
Non-claimable input VAT		<u>7,783</u>	<u>9,629</u>	
		(45,813)		(42,273)
Staff costs:				
Wages and salaries	3	79,154	136,634	
Social security costs		<u>7,673</u>	<u>11,883</u>	
		(86,827)		(148,517)
Depreciation				
Owned assets		4,218	7,791	
Leased assets		<u>1,600</u>	<u>931</u>	
		(5,818)		(8,722)
Profit / (loss) on disposal of fixed assets		1,077		(5,956)
Other operating charges	4	<u>(81,371)</u>		<u>(132,289)</u>
(LOSS) ON OPERATING ACTIVITIES BEFORE RENTS AND ROOM HIRE ETC	5	(10,617)		(129,369)
Rents and room hire		47,750	30,662	
Insurance recharges		3,966	1,282	
Sale of library books		918	18,135	
Surplus on dilapidations		<u>-</u>	<u>15,891</u>	
		52,634		65,970
OPERATING PROFIT / (LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE INTEREST		42,017		(63,399)
Investment income	6	4,680	8,147	
Interest payable	7	(1,673)	(1,214)	
Realised (losses)/gains on investment disposals	10	<u>(671)</u>	<u>394</u>	
PROFIT / (LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		44,353		(56,072)
Tax on ordinary activities	8	<u>(8,100)</u>		<u>-</u>
PROFIT / (LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION	16	<u>36,253</u>		<u>(56,072)</u>

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

Year ended 31 December 2010

	2010 £	2009 £
Profit / (loss) for the financial year	36,253	(56,072)
Unrealised gains/(losses) on trade investments	<u>15,516</u>	<u>15,208</u>
Total recognised gains and losses relating to the year	<u>51,769</u>	<u>(40,864)</u>

BALANCE SHEET

Year ended 31 December 2010

	Notes	£	2010 £	£	2009 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9		12,114		18,344
Investments	10		<u>142,870</u>		<u>121,840</u>
			154,984		140,184
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	135,759		132,621	
Property held for resale	12	23,043		23,043	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>41,702</u>		<u>23,121</u>	
		200,504		178,785	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(183,383)</u>		<u>(195,966)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)			<u>17,121</u>		<u>(17,181)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			172,105		123,003
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	14		<u>(1333)</u>		<u>(4,000)</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>170,772</u>		<u>119,003</u>
Representing:					
Accumulated Fund	16		140,048		103,795
Revaluation Reserve	16		<u>30,724</u>		<u>15,208</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>170,772</u>		<u>119,003</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 2011.

Chairman J Lloyd

Financial Director E T M Allsop

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 December 2010

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 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

Turnover

Turnover represents the invoiced sales of services, excluding Value Added Tax, and revenues are earned when such values are supplied. Turnover received in advance is not recognised as income but as deferred income until such time when services are supplied.

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:

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 December 2010

2. TURNOVER

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

	2010 £	2009 £
Subscriptions	122,781	128,045
Post boxes rental (including Birmingham Letter Exchange)	14,773	29,578
Lectures and courses	70,581	50,765
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>208,135</u>	<u>208,388</u>

3. STAFF COSTS

None of the officers of the Society have received remuneration during the year ended 31st December 2010 (2009: nil).

The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year, all of whom were engaged in the administration of the Society's affairs, was 3 (2009: 7).

4. OTHER OPERATING COSTS

	2010 £	2009 £
Maintenance of building and computer expenses	69,153	99,904
Telephone and postages	5,540	9,901
Auditors' remuneration for audit services	1,200	1,200
Professional charges	8,479	16,038
Incidentals	1,895	1,198
Grants and prizes	500	400
President's Dinner	(7,479)	(6866)
Public relations	10,676	11,065
Legal Awards	(17,965)	(14063)
Newly Qualified	(1,035)	1,495
Sponsors advertising re legal awards	3,456	5,679
Other events, travel and associated expenses	5,562	4,056
Bank charges	1,538	1,932
Bad and doubtful debts	(149)	350
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>81,371</u>	<u>132,289</u>

5. SUMMARY OF OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Members Support Including Library £	Document Exchange £	Lectures and Courses £	2010 Total £
Income	<u>122,781</u>	<u>14,773</u>	<u>70,581</u>	<u>208,135</u>
Costs:				
External Charges	30,542	-	15,271	45,813
Staff Costs	52,902	-	33,925	86,827
Depreciation	3,879	-	1,939	5,818
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(718)	-	(359)	(1,077)
Other Operating Charges	<u>54,247</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,124</u>	<u>81,371</u>
	<u>140,852</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>77,900</u>	<u>218,752</u>
(Loss) on operating activities	<u>(18,071)</u>	<u>14,773</u>	<u>(7,319)</u>	<u>(10,617)</u>

	Members Support Including Library £	Document Exchange £	Lectures and Courses £	2009 Total £
Income	<u>128,045</u>	<u>29,578</u>	<u>50,765</u>	<u>208,388</u>
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	<u>82,504</u>	<u>24,061</u>	<u>25,724</u>	<u>132,289</u>
	<u>208,720</u>	<u>42,252</u>	<u>86,785</u>	<u>337,757</u>
(Loss) on operating activities	<u>(80,675)</u>	<u>(12,674)</u>	<u>(36,020)</u>	<u>(129,369)</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 £1,744 (2009: £2,762) in respect of operating lease rentals for hire of plant and machinery.

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2010 £	2009 £
Income from Stock Exchange listed investments	4,680	8,146
Bank interest	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>4,680</u>	<u>8,147</u>

7. INTEREST PAYABLE

	2010 £	2009 £
Bank interest	-	3
Interest on finance leases	1,673	1,211
	<u>1,673</u>	<u>1,214</u>

8. TAX ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

	2010 £	2009 £
Corporation tax:		
Tax charge on ordinary activities at 21% (2009: 21%)	8,100	-

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:

	2010 £	2009 £
Profit / (loss) on ordinary activities before taxation	<u>44,353</u>	<u>(56,072)</u>
Tax charge on ordinary activities at standard rate	9,314	(11,775)
Factors affecting charge for the year:		
Expenses not allowable for tax purposes	-	3,164
Income not taxable for corporation tax purposes	(654)	(620)
Timing differences on items qualifying for capital allowances	803	889
Corporation tax losses	(1,403)	8,342
Rounding of corporation tax provision	<u>40</u>	<u>-</u>
Total actual amount of current tax	<u>8,100</u>	<u>-</u>

The company has taxation losses of approximately £402,000 (2009: £409,000) 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 (2009: £83,000).

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture, Computers and Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1st January 2010	76,594	76,594
Additions during year	-	-
Disposals during year	<u>(1,700)</u>	<u>(1,700)</u>
 At 31st December 2010	 <u>74,894</u>	 <u>74,894</u>
Depreciation		
At 1st January 2010	58,250	58,250
Charge for year	5,818	5,818
Eliminated on disposals	<u>(1,288)</u>	<u>(1,288)</u>
 At 31st December 2010	 <u>62,780</u>	 <u>62,780</u>
Net book value		
At 31st December 2010	<u>12,114</u>	<u>12,114</u>
At 31st December 2009	<u>18,344</u>	<u>18,344</u>

The closing net book value includes £5,469 (2009: £7,069) in respect of assets held under finance leases.

10. INVESTMENTS

	2010 £
Listed UK Stock Exchange investments	
Valuation at 1st January 2010	121,840
 Sales proceeds	 (29,790)
Realised (losses)	(671)
Revaluation – unrealised gains	15,516
	<u>106,895</u>
Valuation at 31st December 2010	106,895
Movement in uninvested cash	35,975
	<u>142,870</u>
 Historical cost	 <u>98,252</u>

10. INVESTMENTS

This investment forms part of the proceeds received from the sale of the Society's collection of antiquarian and/or text books. An 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.

11. DEBTORS

	2010 £	2009 £
Trade debtors	108,712	103,836
Other debtors	12,648	7,874
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>14,399</u>	<u>20,911</u>
All amounts are due within one year.	<u>135,759</u>	<u>132,621</u>

12. CURRENT ASSET PROPERTY HELD FOR RESALE

	2010 £	2009 £
Balance as at 31st December 2009	23,043	-
Transfer from fixed assets	<u>-</u>	<u>23,043</u>
Balance as at 31st December 2010	<u>23,043</u>	<u>23,043</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.

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2010 £	2009 £
Unsecured loans	300	300
Obligations under finance leases	2,667	2,667
Trade creditors	21,816	31,615
Taxation and social security	11,359	3,226
Accruals and deferred income	<u>147,241</u>	<u>158,158</u>
	<u>183,383</u>	<u>195,966</u>

Unsecured loans are interest free and repayable on demand.

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

	2010	2009
	£	£
Obligations under finance leases	<u>1,333</u>	<u>4,000</u>

15. BORROWINGS

Total borrowings are repayable as follows:

	2010	2009
	£	£
Finance leases		
Within one year	2,667	2,667
Between one and two years	1,333	2,667
Between two and five years	<u>-</u>	<u>1,333</u>
	<u>4,000</u>	<u>6,667</u>

16. RESERVES

	Accumulated Fund	Revaluation Reserve
	£	£
Balance at beginning of year	103,795	15,208
Unrealised gain on trade investments	-	15,516
Profit / (loss) for year	36,253	-
Transfer to accumulated fund	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>140,048</u>	<u>30,724</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.

17. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Operating lease commitments

At 31st December 2010 the company was committed to making the following payments during the next year:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
	£	£	£	£
Leases which expire:				
Within one year	-	-	440	-
Within one to two years	15,300	-	-	1,000
Within two to five years	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,304</u>	<u>1,304</u>
	<u>15,300</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,744</u>	<u>2,304</u>

18. CONTROLL

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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**Shepherds Consultancy Limited**

During the year ended 31st December 2010 the Birmingham Law Society purchased services amounting to £1,000 (2009: £nil) from Shepherds Consultancy Limited, a company in which B R M Shepherd, an officer of the Society, has a beneficial interest.

As at 31st December 2010 a total of £1,000 (2009: £nil) was due from the Birmingham Law Society to Shepherds Consultancy Limited.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The additional information relating to the prize funds on page 29 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 year ended 31 December 2009

	2010 £	2009 £
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	122	176
Less: Gold Medal Prize	<u>(250)</u>	<u>(250)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(128)</u>	<u>(74)</u>
T FOSTER DUGGAN STUDENTS' PRIZE CAPITAL		
£520 5½ % Treasury Stock 2009/12 (redeemed on 9th September 2009)		
Redemption value	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
INCOME		
Interest received during year	-	-
Less: Bronze Medal Prize	<u>(100)</u>	<u>(100)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(100)</u>	<u>(100)</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	2,095	1,995
Interest received during year	<u>104</u>	<u>150</u>
	2,199	2,145
Less: Book Prize	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>2,149</u>	<u>2,095</u>
PETER NICHOLLS PRIZE FUND		
Balance at start of year	100	150
Less: Book prize	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>50</u>	<u>100</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 2011

PRESIDENTS:

THOMAS LEE	1818	CYRIL HIGHWAY	1950
JOHN MEREDITH	1825	GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	1952
JOHN SIMCOX	1832	CECIL HAMMOND COX	1953
ROGER WILLIAM GEM	1833	THOMAS BERNARD SMITH	1954
THOMAS EYRE LEE	1848	JOHN ALBERT CALTHROP TAYLOR	1955
CLEMENT INGLEBY	1852	PHILIP HORTON VERNON	1956
JOHN WELCHMAN WHATELEY	1855	GEOFFREY MARTEN KING	1957
ARTHUR RYLAND	1873	GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	1958
GEORGE JAMES JOHNSON	1874	JOSEPH KENNETH WALKER	1959
ARTHUR RYLAND	1876	RODERICK SYDNEY KING-FARLOW	1960
WILLIAM EVANS	1877	WILLIAM HENRY TILLEY	1960
JAMES MARIGOLD	1879	JOHN SHUFFLEBOTHAM	1962
THOMAS HORTON	1882	FREDERICK WILLIAM WHITALL OAKLEY	1963
CHARLES EDWARD MATTHEWS	1885	CHARLES THOMAS WINTERTON	1964
CORNELIUS THOMAS SAUNDERS	1888	RICHARD LAURENCE EKin	1965
SIR THOMAS MARTINEAU	1888	GEOFFREY HORACE PIDDOCK	1966
LAURISTON WINTERBOTHAM LEWIS	1891	HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	1967
JOSEPH BENNETT CLARKE	1893	CHRISTOPHER HEDLEY HARMER	1968
ARTHUR GODLEE	1895	THOMAS HARRY PARKINSON	1969
THOMAS HAWKES RUSSELL	1897	CHARLES HERBERT LEA	1970
JOSEPH ANSELL	1899	JOHN ATKINSON RUTLEDGE	1970
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1901	SYDNEY SOLOMON JACOBS	1972
JOHN BARHAM CARSLAKE	1903	JOHN TIMOTHY ARTHUR SMITH	1973
ALFRED POINTON	1906	JOHN ANTONY ALDERSON	1974
WALTER BARROW	1908	DAVID LIDDELL	1975
JOHN GILBERT BRADBURY	1910	WALTER WOOD	1976
ALFRED HENRY COLEY	1912	DAVID STANLEY ADAMS	1977
JAMES HARGREAVE	1914	ROBERT JOSEPH GARRATT	1978
ARTHUR LABRON LOWE	1916	GEORGE SIEGFRIED JONAS	1979
FRANCIS AUGUST CHATWIN	1918	DENYS ERIC FORDHAM	1980
ARCHIBALD SOMERVILLE BENNETT	1919	ROGER HORTON VERNON	1980
JAMES ARTHUR MARIGOLD	1920	ARNOLD MAURICE PUTSMAN	1982
EDWARD EVERSLED	1921	CHRISTOPHER JOHN JAMES	1983
THOMAS COOKSEY	1922	FREDERICK HAROLD TURNER	1984
CHARLES EKIN	1923	PETER LESLIE TAYLOR	1985
JOSEPH JAMES	1924	BRIAN EDWARD GLYNN WILLIAMS	1986
FRANCIS HENRY PEPPER	1925	JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	1987
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1926	DAVID HOWARD HIGGS	1988
CORNELIUS HALE SAUNDERS	1927	CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	1989
HUGH BARHAM CARSLAKE	1928	PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON	1990
GEORGE HUGGINS	1929	CHARLES RODERICK KING-FARLOW	1990
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1930	JOHN ADRIAN JAMES AUCOTT	1992
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1931	STANLEY BERNARD SHORTT	1993
SYDNEY VERNON	1932	JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM	1994
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1933	ALBERT WILLIAM HEASELGRAVE	1995
WILFRED CLARKSON MATTHEWS	1934	RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN	1996
FRANK HENRY CUFAUDE WILTSHIRE	1935	MICHAEL DAVID HUMPHREY SHEPHERD	1997
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1937	MALCOLM GASKELL FOWLER	1998
HERBERT WILLIAM LYDE	1938	TREVOR ARTHUR LEE	1999
JOSEPH THOMAS HIGGS	1939	JAYNE BELINDA WILLETTS	2000
GEORGE HAROLD WILLCOX	1941	MICHAEL JAMES WARD	2001
ARTHUR JOHN GATELEY	1943	ANTHONY RALPH COLLINS	2002
JOHN FREDERICK WEST	1945	DIANE PATRICIA BENUSSI	2003
WILLIAM CHARLES COLEMAN GELL	1946	STEVEN MICHAEL JONAS	2004
CHARLES ADRIAN ASHFORD ELTON	1947	RICHARD THOMAS FOLLIS	2005
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	1948	PHILIP DUNKLEY STEEL	2006
JOHN HENRY SQUIRE ADDISON	1949	SUKHDEV SINGH BHOMRA	2007
GEORGE ARTHUR LYON HATTON	1950	CAROLINE AMANDA COATES	2008
		BERNARD ROBERT	2009
		MCWALTER SHEPHERD	

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 EVERSHERD	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	Joint 1936
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	1945
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	Joint 1946
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	1947
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	Joint 1949
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	1955
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	Joint 1955
HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	
HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	Joint 1956
DAVID CHARLES STEVENS	
DAVID CHARLES STEVENS	Joint 1958
MICHAEL PAUL CHETWYND HAYES	
MICHAEL PAUL CHETWYND HAYES	1961
MICHAEL PAUL CHETWYND HAYES	Joint 1967
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
KEITH BROWNE	Joint	April 2010

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

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

1. WE ENCOURAGE CLOSER CONTACT BETWEEN MEMBERS THEREBY STRENGTHENING THE REGIONAL LEGAL COMMUNITY

- by providing a programme for members including networking and activity based events;
- by holding public debates/discussions which are important to members;
- by establishing and maintaining effective lines of communication with all members.

2. WE REPRESENT THE PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR MEMBERS

- by direct representations and lobbying to Government, the SRA, The Law Society and other organisations;
- by engaging in consultations;
- by making use of the media.

3. WE PROMOTE THE SOCIETY, OUR MEMBERS AND THE REGION ON THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STAGE

- by ensuring members are aware of the work which is undertaken by the Society;
- by ensuring all Officers, Board Members and Council Members promote the Society and its members whenever speaking to national or international organisations, including during international visits;
- by promoting the international relations the Society has and establishing links.

4. WE ENSURE OUR MEMBERS ARE KEPT UP TO DATE WITH ANY IMPORTANT ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

- by using any and all available means (electronic, seminars, newsletters, correspondence etc);
- by engaging in public debates/discussions with people associated with such changes;
- through training and other educational events.

5. WE RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF LEGAL ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE PROFESSION

- by promoting the rule of law and access to justice
- by raising issues relevant to the provision of legal services such as Alternative Business Structures, cuts in legal aid, diversity issues in respect of access to the legal profession etc;

6. WE ARE REGARDED AS AN INTEGRAL AND IMPORTANT PART OF BIRMINGHAM AND SURROUNDING REGIONS BY ENSURING CLOSE LINKS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS (BOTH LEGAL AND NON LEGAL) INCLUDING;

- a. national organisations such as The Law Society;
- b. local organisations such as Universities, Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham Forward, Business Voice WM, PINWM etc;
- c. local organisations involved in the administration of justice such as the Judiciary/Tribunals and the Police;
- d. Birmingham Trainee Solicitors Group and Birmingham Solicitors Group;
- e. Pro bono groups and charities.

7. WE CONTINUOUSLY CONSIDER PROVIDING SERVICES THAT BENEFIT OUR MEMBERS.

March 2011



Birmingham Law Society

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