

ANNUAL REPORT 2012



Birmingham
Law Society

One Region | One Profession | One Voice





President's Foreword

Well, where did it all begin? It began at last year's AGM when I took over as President of Birmingham Law Society on 24 April 2012. At the same time, Chris Owen took over as Chairman of the Board. I had mixed feelings about the year ahead; excitement coupled with trepidation. Although I had given a great deal of thought as to what I sought to achieve during the year, nothing actually prepares you for the work needed to run Birmingham Law Society.

At the AGM I spoke about diversity, the ability to enter into our profession and to access legal advice. I was also keen to ensure transparency in the workings of Birmingham Law Society to our members and to ensure that the business of the society was planned in a way to benefit the members. In addition, Council needed to develop policy and strategy.

I very much saw the Officers as the link between the Board and Council. In this modern age marketing and profile are crucial if we are to secure the recognition and sponsorship that we need in Birmingham Law Society.

I believed that all of this could only be achieved by the creation of a Business Plan to take our Society from 2013 to 2015.

I am extremely pleased to say that such a plan now exists thanks to the hard work and guidance of Chris Owen, the Board and, of course, the invaluable assistance of Professor Bernardette Griffin, Richard Follis and the PR & Media Committee. The Business Plan deals with the governance of the society, staff, finance, marketing, sponsorship, education and training.

One of the key features is also the plan for 8 Temple Street, an innovative and forward thinking plan, which is of course a work in progress.

I will not be the overseer of this plan and it had never been my intention that I should be, but to see it in the making and now in the reality has achieved my greatest aim for my President's Year.

We are now a membership of 4,000 and growing. We are the largest regional society in the country. Providing hope for students, work for young lawyers and ensuring diversity in our profession continues to be a daily challenge. The legal landscape will, no doubt, change in April following the cuts in Legal Aid. The challenges continue, but I am totally assured that members of Birmingham Law Society are better placed than many to face challenges that lie ahead.

During the course of the year, I have had the opportunity to attend most Committee meetings where I have been

able to see at firsthand the wonderful work that is carried out by our Committees. I will take this opportunity to thank them all for their energetic contribution and responses to consultations this year. It is vitally important that we use our voice on behalf of our membership to lobby the policy makers on issues that affect us all on a daily basis.

It was at the forefront of our minds when we attended the House of Commons in January this year to meet with our local MPs and this, I hope, is a conversation that will continue so that Parliament may know first-hand the issues that affect the legal profession and members of Birmingham Law Society.

It is very important to keep in touch with events, not just in our own region, but nationally.

The Joint IV meetings are a great opportunity to exchange views, news, and best practice. These consist of a meeting between Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool and Manchester Law Societies. This is also a forum to be informed directly, by Directors of the Law Society, of work that the Law Society are undertaking on behalf of the profession. We have been fortunate in that our own regional director, Clive Black, has been so willing to keep Birmingham Law Society abreast of all of the news from the Law Society and I thank Clive very much for his assistance during my year.

Clive has now been replaced temporarily by Ravinder Hothi. I trust that dialogue will continue with Ravinder.

We cannot exist alone. We must cooperate and, where possible, support the Law Society to lobby Government. The Right Honourable Lord Judge the Lord Chief Justice of England & Wales visited Birmingham twice this year, once for a lunch with members of the Society and recently at the Personal Support Unit event at the County Court. It was a useful opportunity to hear direct from the Lord Judge, particularly in relation to self-represented litigants, the need for reform in our legal system.

The Lord Judge also tackled the thorny issue of solicitors being appointed to the Judiciary.

We must take responsibility for change, including diversity in the Judiciary.

I have had many highlights this year, the President's Dinner being both a personal and professional milestone.

A great part of what we do in Birmingham Law Society is to support and raise money for charity. I have been pleased this year to support Birmingham Law Centre to a clearer future, in addition to SIFA Fireside, who carry out such great work in our city. For Birmingham Law Centre the struggle will continue and I hope that you will do everything that you can to assist Birmingham Law Centre ongoing.

What a surprise the BLS Has Talent! evening was. Who would have thought there was so much talent in the legal profession. Laurie Neale was a worthy winner and what a great evening it was!

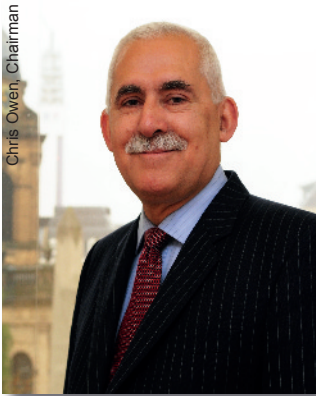
The Society could not exist without your support, but it is also heavily reliant on sponsorship. I have taken the opportunity this year to meet with all of our sponsors to ensure that there is a mutually beneficial relationship between our sponsors and Birmingham Law Society. I am extremely grateful to all of our sponsors and I am very grateful on behalf of Birmingham Law Society for your continued support.

We have been very fortunate this year to have great attendance at Council and I know that that will continue under Martin Allsopp's leadership. The team has changed but change is sometimes needed to keep pace with the developments in our Society. Under Rebecca Lynch's leadership I am sure that Liz Dziergas, Johanna Sahi-Proto and Denise Harnett will make a formidable team.

The Legal Awards get bigger and better each year. We have in Birmingham a Centre of Excellence for solicitors and barristers who practice here. We must work hard to shout about our achievements and to ensure that we retain our talent in Birmingham. I very much hope that Birmingham Law Society will continue to grow and be inclusive and together we can ensure the development and survival of our professions.

It therefore remains for me to express my thanks to Chris Owen and the wonderful members of the Board, the Officers, Martin Allsopp, Eileen Schofield, Professor Bernardette Griffin and Ann Houghton. To Council, for the wonderful debates we have had throughout the year. It has been a wonderful experience – one that I will not forget – working with you all. I shall look forward to taking my seat with the Past Presidents' at the Past Presidents' Lunch next year, but at the same time with a little regret that my year has ended.

Chris Owen, Chairman



Report from the Board

Taking over as Chairman of the Board of Directors, as successor to two legal luminaries who I had served under, Jon Lloyd and Bernard Shepherd, was always going to be a tall order. The past 10 months has been an exhilarating time for the Board and I am humbled and honoured to be working alongside such a talented group of Directors who have all given so much to the decision making body we call the Board.

May I please remind you as to who they are and their roles, as on taking over I made some strategic appointments to strengthen the team.

- John Hughes, Shakespeares, Vice Chairman
- Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell, Finance Director
- Angela Henry, Ferdinand Kelly, Staff Director
- Bernard Shepherd, Miles Pierce & Co, Joint Marketing Director
- Andrew Beedham, Clarke Willmott, Joint Marketing Director
- Ian Shovlin, Higgs and Sons, Joint Marketing Director
- Sarah Kenyon, Mills and Reeve, Liaison and Membership Director
- Professor Bernardette Griffin, College of law, Learning and Development Director

Ex officio and invited to attend:

- Mary Kaye, SGH Martineau LLP, President.
- Martin Allsopp, Allsopp & Co, Vice President

You will notice that the Board now has three very experienced marketing directors enabling us to cover more ground as the Society is now 4,000 members strong.

They work well together and closely with Becky Lynch the office manager, in all areas of sponsorship and marketing.

The appointment of Dean Parnell to Finance Director after the elevation of John Hughes the previous custodian, to Vice Chairman, has meant the Board remains in excellent hands as to its financial controller. John and Dean have been working in close harmony on matters such as choosing a new Bank for the Society, which is an important decision.

Dean has produced a sensible and balanced Budget for the next 12 months meaning our present President can leave the Society in good shape financially when she hands over to our incoming President.

Angela Henry has been charged with a challenging past 10 months with staff changes and new premises to bed the staff into. Her close liaison with Becky and the other staff members has meant the Society is now well blessed with a settled happy team, housed in much better

surroundings, who are all doing an excellent job for the Society.

Sarah Kenyon has been working hard in a new role of liaison director where she keeps in regular contact with the Chairs of BSG and BTSS, something I believed was important for BLS to do and the visible contact has been of benefit to all concerned.

Sarah was also invited by me to take on a complete review of our membership, an area which the Society cannot take for granted. She is about to report on her findings and recommendations to the Board so more of that anon.

A major appointment this past year and one which has excited us all, was the invitation to Professor Griffin, our Joint Honorary Secretary, to take on more responsibility as the director of Education or as the Society prefers to call it, learning and development.

This appointment has undoubtedly given a much needed focus to such an important element of the Society's business and income stream and the Board is delighted to have secured her expertise for our benefit. Bernardette has designed and implemented a comprehensive review and strategy for our new professional services executive, Liz Dziergas, to carry out. For those who may not know, Liz had a similar role at St Philips Chambers, before joining the staff in October and brings with her an important experience of the legal seminar market and excellent knowledge of Birmingham's legal community.

Andrew Beedham deserves a special mention, for the excellent job he and others have done in relation to the total revamp of the Society's website, which is a huge improvement. I know Dean and the staff have also had important input but the architect and driver of this project was Andrew.

I am lucky to have such an able deputy in John Hughes, one of the most experienced lawyers in the City and our Society and I am grateful to him for his sound advice at all times.

Ad hoc advice and support from Mary Kaye and Martin Allsopp, when they are able to attend our meetings has

been invaluable and we look forward to inviting Eileen Schofield to join us when she is able, our former Board member of course.

The property at 8 Temple Street remains a major focus of our endeavours this year and next and is a huge subject, too large for a lengthy discussion in my report, needless to say the Board are determined to get this right and Council have just seen the BLS 3 year business plan I have produced, which sets out the aims and intentions of the Board in this regard. Professional advice as to the structure in which we presently hold ownership of the property is under way, as is advice as to how the Society may be able to refurbish the building and return it to full use. More details of our progress with this will be given to Council at each stage and by our next AGM I will report what progress has been made.

Recruitment of qualified and support staff is an activity which the Society was involved in at one time as many of you will know. It has been brought back to the Board for review and currently three local recruitment agencies out of an initial 8, who showed interest, are being interviewed with a view to being the preferred supplier of recruitment services to members at greatly reduced rates from which they normally operate. Watch this space for further information.

Although the Board has a long agenda each time we meet and we discuss many important issues on behalf of the Society, as far as the “business” is concerned; I hope the report from me gives the AGM a flavour of what the Board does on your behalf.

The Board is here to constantly serve the needs of the Society, however the Society is the members, that means you and if you feel we need to address other matters please do not hesitate to bring them to the attention of any Board director or myself. It will be taken seriously and acted upon.

May I close by thanking on your behalf all of the Board (and our efficient minute taker Jenny Piecha) for their dedicated work this past year, it is quite staggering what they do for the Society in such a voluntary capacity.

I would also like to thank Mary Kaye who has been an excellent sounding board for me on many occasions and a superb President. Her support to me has been immense.

Dean Parnell, Finance Director



Finance Report

These challenging times continue to be a test for the entire legal sector and the Society is not immune from this economic downturn. As a result of some very tough trading conditions, the Society has seen its turnover drop by £46,116 during 2012. A contributing feature to this drop in turnover has been learning and development generating around £27,000 less income as compared to 2011. Subscriptions have also taken a hit from a number of smaller law firms not renewing their subscriptions as well as the introduction of a cap on our top level of subscription fees.

Despite this drop in turnover I am pleased to report that the Society's finances remain in a state of good health and we have finished the year with a small profit (after tax). However, we have also made a very impressive £25,145 total gain when combining our profit with the increased value of the Society's various investments.

Although the Society suffered a drop in the learning and development income during 2012, our recently appointed Professional Services Executive, Elizabeth Dziergas, has hit the ground running and has some excellent ideas; she has also put together a very strong training program for the legal profession for 2013.

In terms of membership, it is inevitable that subscriptions will continue to come under pressure from law firms whether it is due to mergers or as a result of some of them having to close their doors. However, despite these difficult times, we have seen a massive increase in our student membership as a result of Birmingham City University and the College of Law enrolling all of their first year LLB students with the Society. These young people are the profession's future and the Society recognises the importance of having them as part of our local legal community.

The Society has benefited from a saving of over £20,000 due to an office move and a reduction in rates and utilities at Temple Street and we have also managed to reduce our PR spend during 2012. We have seen a good return from the various events that we have put on throughout the year which includes a profit of over £16,000 for the Legal Awards event. It is great to see so much support for our events despite such difficult times.

We continue to look at ways of maximising income and reducing cost. During 2012, the Board appointed a director, Sarah Kenyon, who is responsible for membership and it is hoped with support from the professional officers and the Board that we can look to win new members in 2013. We have also appointed 3 marketing directors who will work with Becky to raise the profile of the Society and to ensure we explore all sponsorship opportunities. We are also looking at new ways of generating income for the Society so that we

become less reliant on subscriptions over the medium to long term.

There is no doubt that 2013 will be a difficult trading year for all of us and there has probably never been a better time to stand together and support each other. The Society remains committed to our region and to our local legal profession and if ever there was a time to be a member of the Society then that time is now.

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MARY KAYE - SGH Martineau, 0870 763 1687

Vice President

MARTIN ALLSOPP - Allsopp & Co Incorporating AJ Salisbury & Co, 0121 705 9020

Deputy Vice President

EILEEN SCHOFIELD - Schofield & Associates, 01564 739 103

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ANN HOUGHTON - Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, 0121 214 5408

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Joint Marketing Director - Andrew Beedham - Clarke Willmott LLP, 0845 209 1040

Joint Marketing Director - Ian Shovlin - Higgs & Sons, 0845 111 5050

Membership and Liaison Director - Sarah Kenyon - Mills & Reeve LLP, 0121 456 8200

Director of Education and Training - Professor Brenadette Griffin - The University of Law, 01483 216 006

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Sanjeev Bhopal, Birmingham City Council Legal Services

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Birmingham Solicitors Group
Birmingham Trainee Solicitors Society
The West Midland Assoc. of Law Societies
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Birmingham Law Centre
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Professional Services Executive: Elizabeth Dziergas, Tel: 0121 230 1709 / 07809502852

Membership and Events Co-ordinator: Johanna Sahi-Proto, Tel: 0121 230 1706

Administrative Assistant: Denise Harnett, Tel: 0121 230 1700

Aston Library & Services: Tel: 0121 204 4525 Fax: 0121 204 4530

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Martin Allsopp, Vice President
Eileen Schofield, Deputy Vice President
Ann Houghton, Joint Honorary Secretary
Professor Bernardette Griffin, Joint Honorary Secretary

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John Hughes, Vice Chairman
Dean Parnell, Finance Director
Angela Henry, Staff Director
Andrew Beedham, Bernard Shepherd and Ian Shovlin, Joint Marketing Director
Sarah Kenyon, Membership and Liaison Director
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Ben Henry, Jonas Roy Bloom

Committee members:

Professor Bernardette Griffin, The University of Law
Angela Henry, Ferdinand Kelly Legal Limited
Ann Houghton, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell

Report of the Joint Honorary Secretaries

As we all know, a huge amount has happened for the local and national legal community this year, which has meant a very busy year for Birmingham Law Society supporting the profession. And in turn a very busy year for the joint secretaries.

A look back at the President's reports and Council meeting minutes from the last year shows many references to anticipated changes to the legal landscape, pre-empting the implications for members and responding to consultation papers. It is interesting to see how the Officers, Council and Board identified and discussed these issues before they happened. Concerns voiced early in the year about erosion of access to justice, show an early insight into the implications before the details of the changes even materialised. Of course some concerns, thankfully, did not materialise and BLS has embraced the positive changes to remain an inclusive and progressive society.

A few developments in the legal landscape which have been debated at Council this year are: LASPO; Outcome Focused Regulation; Alternative Business Structures; the Quality Assurance Scheme for Advocates; and general cuts to legal aids and access to justice to name just a few. Needless to say some of these debates have been lively.

A number of developments and highlights at BLS this year have been:

A significant increase in membership which now exceeds 4,000. This is in part due to the reputation of BLS and also the inclusivity of the Society, for example only a few local law societies allow law students to be members but this is a growing part of BLS's membership which now includes all first year law degree students at Birmingham City University and The College of Law in Birmingham. This is a reflection of the recognition of the Society and the benefits to members, including supporting those taking their first steps in the legal profession.

Amendments to the Articles of Association of the Society which now allow inclusivity of the wider legal community.

As in previous years supporting local charities, not least by the President, Officers, Council members and BLS members putting themselves outside their comfort zone to raise money for charity through the BLS Has Talent event which raised money for SIFA Fireside and Birmingham Law Centre.

A wide variety of events including: a large Family Law Conference which attracted lawyers from further afield and high profile speakers; a lunch and talk from The Lord Chief Justice; a pro bono networking event; the summer ball at Edgbaston Cricket Ground; the President's dinner at the beautiful Town Hall; and a drinks reception celebrating junior lawyers' qualification.

The office moving from Newhall Street to Temple Row. The new offices have impressive facilities which will enable the office staff to continue their great work in a more modern and comfortable location.

Whilst it has been a very busy year for the Society and the joint secretaries, it has also been an exciting year. Having seen how the Society met the huge changes over the last year, we believe Birmingham Law Society will confidently meet changes and support members wholeheartedly next year and further into the future.

Bernardette Griffin,
Joint Honorary Secretary



Ann Houghton,
Joint Honorary Secretary



Annual General Meeting held on 24th April 2012

The Council has pleasure in presenting the 193rd Annual Report of the proceeding of the Society.

Officers

At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 24th April 2012, Mrs Mary Kaye was installed as President of the Society, Mr Martin Allsopp as Vice President and Ms Eileen Schofield as Deputy Vice President. Mrs Bernardette Griffin and Mrs Ann Houghton were installed as Joint Honorary Secretaries.

Board

Mr Bernard Shepherd retired as Chair of the Board and Mr Chris Owen was installed as the new Chair of the Board of the Society.

Council

The retiring ordinary members of the Council are:

Mitchell Ball, Terry Lipscombe and Jaspal Singh.

The ordinary member of Council who was nominated for re-election pursuant to Article 39 was:

Dean Parnell.

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

Olwen Dutton, Monica Kapur, Karen Levesley, Jon Lloyd, Dean Parnell and Linden Thomas.

Obituaries

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

Mr David Roger Johnston Monk (David Monk) on 10th February 2013 aged 88. He had been a member of Birmingham Law Society throughout his practising career and a Council Member of the Society for many years. David had in recent years been blighted with Alzheimer's which deteriorated in recent months.

He left his father's firm in Birmingham in 1954 to join the firm of his father-in-law W. Douglas Clark Brookes & Co, West Bromwich where he remained until retirement in 1988. He was Senior Partner during his last seven years of practice. In his successor practice we have Paul Breen who David Monk's son-in-law thus continuing the family connection.

Consultation Paper Committee/ Policy Committee

This year has been one of the busiest years on record for consultation reporting. The government seem to be able to generate consultation papers on almost every single legal subject and frankly seem insistent sometimes on change including regulatory change when none, frankly, sometimes is necessary.

It is most important that BLS should respond to consultation papers and voice its agreement or disagreement in relation to proposed legislation or regulatory changes suggested by the Government. This year for example we have been asked to consult on papers relating to Punishment and Reform, Deferred Prosecution Agreements, Collective Redundancy Proposals, Multi Agency Arrangements for the Protection of Children and of a more mundane nature on suggestions of amendments to Sellers Property information Forms in relation to conveyancing, Transforming the Services of the Public Guardian and finally a paper on Insanity and Automatism by which time members of the Consultation Committee were ready to surrender!

Seriously though it is important that we continue to respond to the different and varied consultation papers disseminating from various government departments.

Being Chair of such a responsible Committee has been a great honour and I would like to express my thanks particularly to Claire Darley for helping me keep abreast of the paperwork and to other members of the Committee and of BLS and in particular Jayne Willetts, Peter Wiseman and Jon Lloyd who have assisted in tackling some of the most "obtuse" legal issues.

Public Relations/ Media Committee

BLS PR & Media Committee continued to work to find ways of promoting the Society's profile both within the legal profession as well as beyond amongst the business and public communities which our members serve.

As ever, the challenge is to communicate the considerable work undertaken by Officers and specialist committees to a wider audience. We were particularly pleased that the President found time amid her busy schedule to attend several of our monthly meetings. This allowed us both to act as a sounding board as well as build an integrated strategy to put future PR activities on a more sustainable footing.

With encouragement from the President, we put forward a detailed draft PR & Media strategy paper. This was then ready to be considered by both Board and Officers as part of the overall business review undertaken during the year. We identified a number of areas where a combination of training and a modest budget should provide a sustainable and consistent level of PR & media activity to the benefit of BLS and thereby our members.

A budget was finally agreed at the beginning of this 2013 which we are looking to deploy with effect from the start of the new Presidential year in April.

Key among the proposals made is the reestablishment of a panel BLS media spokespersons able to respond quickly to the enquiries which reach the office team from time to time. We plan to build on that and ensure local media know that BLS are able and willing to give informed comment on legal issues as they are picked up in mainstream media stories.

Bulletin

The Bulletin has continued to maintain its high standard of content and presentation due in no small part to Becky Lynch, Assistant Editor and Paul Blythe of PW Media, who work so hard (often at very short notice) to put together a quality magazine from articles and press releases covering not only the entire legal spectrum and also the many and varied social and charitable events which lawyers in the Birmingham and West Midlands region involve themselves in.

I am very grateful to all the Staff at Birmingham Law Society for their help. Thanks must also go to Dawn Pardoe and her excellent team at PW Media for keeping me on the straight and narrow regarding publication deadlines; I have also been very pleased with the number

Martin Alsopp, Chairman,
Consultation Paper Committee



Richard Folis, Chairman
Public Relations/Media Committee



Judy Bonegal
Bulletin Editor



of firms and individual contributors this year. It used to be the case that it was always the same few firms which penned articles but we have had much more diverse offerings recently, from all legal disciplines which is very heartening. It is your magazine and is only as good as you make it.

Learning and Development

The Birmingham Law Society learning and development has not had an easy year in 2012. It proved to be a difficult year with the current economic climate and although prices stayed unchanged for the last three years, the low interest and significant drop in bookings suggests hard times ahead. Regardless of the pressures we are facing, learning and development continued providing members with a first class CPD training programme which included the popular Commercial seminar held by St Philips Chambers, a successful "The Future of Family Law" conference in the summer, "Planning for change" conference and a well-received debate on the subject "Professional Ethics: is an outmoded concept in the modern age".

To maintain a niche in the market and continue to provide even better value for money, learning and development is working closely with Professor Bernardette Griffin - Director of Education and Training, committees, expert speakers, sponsors and corporate partners to research current needs of our members and to tailor training programmes to an ever changing market. We continue to offer a wide range of morning and evening seminars, half day workshops, lunch & learn events as well as conferences, debates and symposiums. We have also introduced pilot initiatives such as "accountancy for lawyers" while working with BDO and shortly we will also be launching "e-knowledge hub" with one of our sponsors, e-know.net to allow lawyers easy access to IT training and advice.

The Birmingham Law Society website, after a complete redesign, is also one of our strong connections with

members allowing further interaction. Easy and appealing online booking systems for seminars and events or the member's area are one of many new tools alongside LinkedIn and Twitter allowing us improved and instant communication with members.

Learning and development is also actively involved in providing guidance and support for young generation of lawyers by organising Court visits for Newly Qualified members. As a member of the Education and Training Committee I can also confirm that this year's "Careers in Law Forum", kindly hosted by The University of Law, was again an enormous success.

Criminal Law Committee

As in the previous years, cutting costs has been the main objective of all agencies in the Criminal Justice System. Technology is seen as an obvious instrument in the battle to reduce costs. In the course of the year our committee has considered and commented on many changes which included the following:

- The use of live link video technology to enable Police Officers and other witnesses to give evidence by video link in some trials.
- The Sunday Court sittings. Although the numbers of cases in courts have reduced, a pilot scheme was introduced requiring Magistrates Courts to sit on Sundays. It was suggested that such weekend sittings would assist witnesses who wished to attend court to give evidence, though no trials have yet been listed on Sundays.
- To control costs the Court sitting hours were reduced. Inevitably the numbers of courts sitting each week were reduced. Unless controlled this measure will potentially increase the time between the date of an offence and date of its trial where the offence is denied.
- There were discussions and representations on the development of Quality Assurance Scheme for Advocates (QASA) to assess advocacy services in the Crown Courts.

Elizabeth Dzergas,
Learning & Development



Sukhdev Singh Bhomra,
Chairman, Criminal Law Committee



- There were discussions to raise awareness of the work of the Administrative Court which now sits in Birmingham.
- In March 2013 the first ever Digital Court is set to start in Birmingham Magistrates. The Prosecution, the Defense and the Court service will endeavour to deal with cases by presenting evidence electronically on laptops or ipads.

The work of the Committee would not be possible without the continued support of all its members. I sincerely thank all committee members for their time and contributions to our discussions over the year.

Pro Bono Committee

The Pro Bono Committee has had a second successful year building on its aims of supporting, co-ordinating, promoting, signposting and raising the profile of pro bono work amongst BLS members and the local community.

Some of our highlights include:

- Hosting a pro bono networking evening on 29 October 2012, just before National Pro Bono Week. HHJ Francis Kirkham gave a key note speech to over 100 BLS members keen to get involved in pro bono work. A number of organisations needing pro bono help set up stands at the event.
- Increasing our committee from 4 to 14 to include key pro bono players from chambers, Birmingham Law Centre, educational establishments and law firms.
- Establishing a working group of law students from the University of Birmingham to identify and build links with organisations in Birmingham who need pro bono assistance.
- Attending the national forum on self-represented litigants held by the Civil Justice Council on 30 November 2012. In light of the cuts in publicly funded legal aid that are going to be made in April 2013, the pro bono committee has ensured that it is working alongside national efforts to respond to concerns that

there will be an increase in people whose access to law is unaided by lawyers.

- Updating our BLS Pro Bono Committee website page to include all relevant information and links.
- Supporting Birmingham CAB through one of our committee members becoming a member of their board.
- Continuing with our monthly *Pro Bono Notice Board* in the Bulletin which includes pro bono news, appeals, events and pro bono opportunities for BLS members.

As we approach April 2013, the pro bono committee would encourage you to think about whether you are able to support our pro bono initiatives. As Her Honour Judge Kirkham commented at our recent pro bono networking event, "You have unique skills as lawyers, skills which are desperately needed by so many in our society". For more information, please contact probono@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk.

Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)

The Dispute Resolution team has had a very productive year and has launched two key initiatives aimed at improving standards amongst local litigation lawyers.

The first initiative was an advocacy project that involved St Philips and No 5 Chambers and the Birmingham Civil Justice Centre. The aim of the project was to provide some basic training to less experienced litigation lawyers who have had very little court exposure. The program provided a couple of hours advocacy training with some of the leading barristers at No 5 or St Philips Chambers which was then followed by a tour of Birmingham Civil Justice Centre. The event concluded with a question and answer session with 2 District Judges in a very informal setting. The aim of this event was to take the mystery out of attending court hearings and to provide some basic guidance on how lawyers should conduct themselves when in court.

Our second initiative was a joint project with leading

Ruth Creed
Chair, Pro Bono Committee



Dean Parnell, Chairman,
Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)



accountancy practice BDO LLP. We arranged for BDO to provide a 2 stage accountancy training program aimed specifically at lawyers. The first stage was for basic accounts and the second stage was aimed at providing more advanced accountancy training. The idea behind this project was to get lawyers more familiar with accounts when dealing with their clients or where reference to company accounts formed part of the litigation.

Both of the above initiatives are intended to be rolling events that will continue over the next few years (at least!). It is also hoped that with feedback from those attending (and who will be attending future events) we will be able to tweak and develop these events so that they provide maximum benefit for those attending.

We have also continued with our general court tours and we have been working closely with the Society's learning and development manager to ensure appropriate training has been (and continues to be) provided to members in respect of the new Jackson changes that arrived with us on 1 April 2013.

We have a number of other projects that we are currently working on and we will continue to focus on devising projects/initiatives that are of a high quality nature and are seen as being of real value to the litigation sector of our membership.

Personal Injury Sub-Committee

It has been a very busy year for the Personal Injury sub-committee in the light of the "Jackson" reforms. We have debated many of the changes to the funding of personal injury litigation arising out of the implementation of the provisions of the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishing of Offenders Act 2012, the introduction of fixed recoverable costs and extension of the electronic portal brought about by the Ministry of Justice reforms. Many of the reforms are planned to be implemented on 1 April 2013 although, as each week goes by, the dates for implementation are changing.

The committee have taken the opportunity to debate the impact of these changes, to provide information to

members of Birmingham Law Society through the Bulletin and to submit responses, as appropriate, on behalf of BLS to the relevant bodies conducting consultations. The committee has to take account of the fact that it is made up of roughly equal numbers of solicitors representing mainly claimants (i.e. injured people) and mainly defendants (i.e. insurers, local authorities and large corporates) and therefore there is a sharp divide between opinions on many of the critical issues. This has made for lively debate but in some instances prevents the committee from submitting a joint response.

We have also been pleased to welcome Ed Pepperall QC, a barrister from St Phillips, who also sits on the Civil Procedure Rules Committee and therefore is at the heart of the changes – he was able to come and present to the committee on the latest updates. The committee have also worked with Elizabeth Dziergas on suitable training for members and we are delighted to have secured Dominic Regan, an acknowledged expert on the Reforms, to present in Birmingham in March 2013.

Education & Training Committee

The Education and Training Committee has been busy this year with various activities.

It has welcomed new members to the committee, namely, Monica Kapur, Adam Maguire (BTSS) and Liz Dziergas. Liz took up the post of Professional Services Executive with BLS in November and the committee has been assisting Liz in reviewing Learning and Development courses for BLS where possible.

The Education and Training Committee has been involved with the following this year:

- The Legal Education and Training Review (LETR) which is reviewing of the whole of legal education and training and is commissioned by the SRA, the Bar, and the Institute of Legal Executives. We have provided information/articles for the Bulletin on this important area.
- A LETR symposium was scheduled for January to invite the BLS Membership to a conference on the

Caroline Coates
Personal Injury Sub Committee



Bernardette Griffin,
Chair, Education & Training Committee



LETR but this is now delayed as the outcomes from the LETR were not able to be produced by December as timetabled and so the symposium is delayed until we have a new date for the outcomes of the research.

- Once again, we recently held our annual School Careers Forum where we provide interactive sessions for Year 12 students from schools within the region 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 had a panel of professionals from the wider legal career market, solicitor, trainees, a barrister, Chambers Chief Clerk, Graduate Recruitment Manager and Legal Executive to discuss their experience and answer questions in a very exciting speed networking part of the programme.
- 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.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the committee for their support throughout the year.

Employment Law Committee

The Employment Law Committee continued to meet monthly throughout 2012 to consider changes and proposed changes to the law, the impact of those changes on Tribunal practice and to run a training seminar.

Linda Jones retired from the committee and was thanked for her hard work as a member and a former chair. Robert Smith, Jaspal Singh and Richard Steer also left the Committee during the year. We have been joined for the first time by members of the bar Ed Beever and his alternate Sarah George (St Philips) and Mugni Islam-Choudray and his alternate Charles Crow (No5).

Michael Hibbs, Chair,
Employment Law Committee



We have also been joined by Jog Hundle (Mills and Reeve), Kate Charlton (Birmingham City Council) and Jonathan Coley (Pinsent Mason).

We have invited to our meetings Regional Employment Judge Monk and the Regional Director of ACAS, Malcolm Boswell who have each provided insight and updates in their respective areas.

A well attended training session was organised by the committee and Glenda Rogers on 12 June 2012. Entitled "Five difficult problems of employment law" it was held at Wragges and chaired by Michael Hibbs. The speakers were Malcolm Boswell (ACAS), Helen Mackenzie (MOHS), Ranjit Dhinsa, Martin Chitty, Chris Piggott, Damien Kelly, and David Egan.

This has been a very busy year for consultation by the government. The committee has endeavoured to respond to every relevant consultation.

Meetings have been well attended and the Chair would like to express his thanks for the continued support, enthusiasm and hard work of the other committee members.

Family Law Committee

The Family Law Committee's Agenda for 2012/2013, has been based upon the dramatic changes proposed to the Family Justice System in the guise of the Family Modernisation Programme.

These changes have been in response to the Final Report of the Family Justice Review published by Mr Justice Ryder, in July 2012. This followed The Crime and Courts Bill laid before Parliament in May 2012, advocating a unified Family Court.

Implementation of the reforms are proposed in two phases, for completion in July 2014. The final phase will involve the implementation of The Children and Families Bill.

Last September, Birmingham Law Society held a hugely

Claire Darley
Chair, Family Law Committee



successful Family Law Conference entitled "The future of Family Law". The event involved all professionals working in the Family Justice System and involved a number of keynote speakers including the recently appointed Minister of Justice, Lord McNally.

The focus of the Committee has been to have a closer liaison between HMCTS and practitioners to take a pro-active stance in working efficiently together following changes to public funding and procedures for all court users, in particular.

There has been the advent of the Court's Personal Support Unit, the Government's divorce on-line application, the closure of Solihull Family Proceedings Court from January 2013 and new procedures for court users to include a new telephone system and counter service. Now, more than ever before, the Committee's role is to disseminate information, to consult with practitioners and service providers on a wider scale to ensure a co-operative approach.

Regular standing items on the Agenda will now include feedback from the court's Practice and Performance Group and the work of the Family Justice Board.

These changing times have meant that there has been focus by Birmingham Local Authority and Cafcass to establish protocols for the electronic filing of court documents. No doubt those in private practice will follow suit.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all members of the Committee for their ongoing attendance, commitment and support and particularly to Jerome O'Ryan, Deputy Chair, who will be standing in for me during my maternity leave at Committee and Council meetings with effect from March 2013.

International Committee

The committee this year have concentrated on strengthening links with embassies in Birmingham and entertaining visiting delegations from abroad where appropriate, given the financial restraints affecting the legal profession.

The committee continued support for the student exchange programme and the links with Lyon. This will be changing in 2013 when the University of Law will no longer be fully involved. However the Lyon Bar wish to continue the arrangement through the committee. Planning for this is underway, hopefully with the help of member firms.

We have had visitors from Lyon who attended the Legal awards dinner and the reception for the Governor of the Bank of England. They informed us that the Lyon Bar will be holding a Sports Law Conference on 28th/19th June 2013. Twin Bars including BLS will be invited to participate.

The Rentree will be held in December 2013.

Steve Cunnane of UKti returned to the committee and arranged for Phil Potter to speak to the committee outlining the aims and support given by UKti which will lead to a further talk to the Birmingham Law Society at a future date.

Mandy Haque, Sales and Training Manager at Birmingham Airport attended a meeting explaining her role and will be a link for BLS to the airport.

It was interesting to learn how new flights and different airlines will be using the airport. Mandy arranged a visit for committee members to the new control tower followed by a tour of the new facilities at the airport. A conference will take place in June at the airport for BLS members with speakers from the airport and UKti. Mandy has joined the committee.

Another Chinese delegation visited Birmingham to learn about our judicial system, spending a day in the Law Courts.

Future plans include gaining an insight into Korean law, when St Philips Chambers take part in a new training scheme for Korean lawyers.

In all, it has been an interesting year and thanks go to Tony McDaid and No5 Chambers for hosting the meetings. Particular thanks to Sandra Astbury from No5 who ensures minutes and schedules are kept up to date.



Bernard Sheperd
Chair, International Committee

Property & Development Committee

I have greatly enjoyed my first year as Chair of the Committee. The year started with the consultation on the Property Information Form and Fixtures and Fittings form, and I am grateful to Martin Allsopp for his help in preparing the response of Birmingham Law Society. I was fortunate to sit on the Working Group at Chancery Lane that has drafted the new forms, and it is anticipated that the new forms should be with us during the course of this year.

Panel membership is still an issue for many firms of all sizes. The Conveyancing Quality Accreditation Scheme is now entering its third year, and I cannot stress enough to conveyancing firms that it is vital to obtain this accreditation. Santander have made it compulsory for all firms, not only new firms applying to their panel, and it is anticipated that other lenders will follow.

Our meetings are always lively. Mary Kaye attended one of our meetings and commented that she thought property law was dry until she sat in on our discussions. Our meetings have been enhanced by speakers, including guest speakers, such as the Local Land Charges Officer, and we are lucky to have our regular planning updates from former Chair, John Hughes.

The Committee comprises solicitors from large city centre firms to medium, small and sole practitioners as well as continued representation by Steve Kelway from Coventry Land Registry, Tony Verduyn, a property barrister from St Philips Chamber and Roger Lloyd from Birmingham City Council Legal Services. Roger is due to retire from the City Council in the summer and although the Committee had hoped that he would continue to attend meetings, it appears unlikely that he will be able to do so. We shall miss his good humour and intelligent comments and views, but on behalf of Birmingham Law Society, we wish him all the best in his retirement.

The Committee will continue to promote Birmingham and to represent the views of property lawyers. I am very excited that our committee is now working on the BLS Property Conference, which will hopefully take place in May 2013. I would like to thank the Committee for all of their contributions, and a special thanks to Adam Turner

of SGH Martineau, our secretary, for the preparation of the Agenda and Minutes.

Student Committee

The Student Committee had its first full year in 2012, and student membership expanded from students at Aston University, Birmingham City University and University of Birmingham, to include members from BPP law school, the University of Law and University of Wolverhampton.

Block membership was also introduced and all first year LLB students from Birmingham City University and the University of Law are since 2012 automatically enrolled as members of BLS for the duration of their course. It is hoped to extend this to incoming students at University of Birmingham in 2013.

During 2012 the committee organised the following events:

- a “speed networking” evening at University of Birmingham;
- two student tours of local firms and chambers, taking small groups around a number of different legal practices to hear from practitioners and see a “day in the life” of Birmingham lawyers;
- a student workshop event at Birmingham City University, where various practitioners spoke to students and gave them an opportunity to hear from a diverse range of Birmingham lawyers.

The final event of the 2012/13 academic year will be a further “speed networking” event at BPP law school.

The committee comprises Angela Henry, Ann Houghton, Ben Henry and Professor Bernadette Griffin, as well as representatives from each local university.

Sarah Dwight, Chair,
Property & Development Committee



Ben Henry, Chair,
Student Committee



DIRECTORS' REPORT YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2012

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2012.

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.

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| A Beedham | |
| Professor B Griffin | (appointed on 27 June 2012) |
| A Henry | |
| J Hughes | |
| S Kenyon | (appointed on 17 May 2012) |
| C Owen | |
| D Parnell | (appointed on 17 May 2012) |
| E Schofield | (resigned on 17 May 2012) |
| B R M Shepherd | |
| I Shovlin | (appointed on 17 May 2012) |

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 LLP, 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
C Owen
Chairman

27th March 2013

**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 2012 on pages five to fifteen. 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 1, 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. In addition, we read all financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to identify any material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

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 2012 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 Directors' Report in accordance with the small companies regime.

Neal Aston ACA ACCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3BH

27th March 2013

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Year ended 31 December 2012

| | Notes | 2012 | 2011 |
|---|-------|-----------------|-----------|
| | | £ | £ |
| TURNOVER: continuing activities | 2 | 171,594 | 217,710 |
| External charges: | | | |
| Books and binding | | 4,700 | 6,847 |
| Lectures and courses | | 17,617 | 27,013 |
| Printing, stationery and general expenses | | 6,557 | 6,702 |
| Non-claimable input VAT | | - | - |
| | | (28,874) | (40,562) |
| Staff costs: | | | |
| Wages and salaries | 3 | 88,090 | 86,386 |
| Social security costs | | 7,805 | 8,057 |
| | | (95,895) | (94,443) |
| Depreciation | | | |
| Owned assets | | 2,856 | 4,100 |
| Leased assets | | 415 | 1,600 |
| | | (3,271) | (5,700) |
| (Loss) on disposal of fixed assets | | (3,069) | |
| Other operating charges | 4 | (85,460) | (100,991) |
| (LOSS) ON OPERATING ACTIVITIES BEFORE RENTS AND ROOM HIRE ETC | 5 | (44,975) | (23,986) |
| Rents | | 39,769 | 47,750 |
| Insurance recharges | | 2,968 | 3,145 |
| | | 42,737 | 50,895 |
| OPERATING PROFIT / (LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE INTEREST | | 2,238 | 26,909 |
| Investment income | 6 | 6,166 | 5,537 |
| Interest payable | 7 | (1,015) | (1,673) |
| Realised (losses) on investment disposals | 10 | | (303) |
| PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION | | 2,913 | 30,470 |
| Tax on ordinary activities | 8 | (416) | (5,553) |
| PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION | 16 | 2,497 | 24,917 |

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

Year ended 31 December 2012

| | Notes | 2012 £ | 2011 £ |
|---|-------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Profit for the financial year | 16 | 2,497 | 24,917 |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on trade investments | 10 | <u>(22,648)</u> | <u>7,759</u> |
| Total recognised gains and losses relating to the year | | <u>25,145</u> | <u>17,158</u> |

BALANCE SHEET

Year ended 31 December 2012

Company Registration No 00005188

| | Notes | 2012 £ | 2011 £ |
|--|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| FIXED ASSETS | | | |
| Tangible assets | 9 | 11,273 | 11,862 |
| Investments | 10 | <u>159,834</u> | <u>131,935</u> |
| | | 171,107 | 143,797 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Debtors | 11 | 48,759 | 144,524 |
| Property held for resale | 12 | 23,043 | 23,043 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | <u>28,019</u> | <u>91,471</u> |
| | | 99,821 | 259,038 |
| CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year | 13 | <u>(51,776)</u> | <u>(214,905)</u> |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) | | <u>48,045</u> | <u>44,133</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | | 219,152 | 187,930 |
| CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year | 14 | <u>(6,078)</u> | |
| NET ASSETS | | <u>213,074</u> | <u>187,930</u> |
| Representing: | | | |
| Accumulated Fund | 16 | 167,462 | 164,965 |
| Revaluation Reserve | 16 | <u>45,612</u> | <u>22,965</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | | <u>213,074</u> | <u>187,930</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 27th March 2013.

Chairman C Owen

Financial Director D Parnell

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 December 2012

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 2012

2. TURNOVER

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

| | 2012 £ | 2011 £ |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Subscriptions | 112,457 | 131,927 |
| Post boxes rental (including Birmingham Letter Exchange) | 18,364 | 18,075 |
| Lectures and courses | 40,773 | 67,708 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 171,594 | 217,710 |

3. STAFF COSTS

None of the officers of the Society have received remuneration during the year ended 31st December 2012 (2011: 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 5 (2011: 4).

4. OTHER OPERATING COSTS

| | 2012 £ | 2011 £ |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| Premises expenses | 51,146 | 72,912 |
| Computer expenses | 18,410 | 15,375 |
| Telephone and postages | 10,846 | 6,506 |
| Auditors' remuneration for audit services | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Professional charges | 8,427 | 7,687 |
| Incidentals | 566 | 584 |
| Grants and prizes | 482 | 670 |
| President's Dinner | (1,495) | (5,275) |
| Public relations | 5,755 | 14,592 |
| Legal Awards | (16,609) | (14,059) |
| Newly Qualified | (568) | (423) |
| Sponsors advertising re legal awards | 4,025 | 3,451 |
| Other events, travel and associated expenses | 895 | 3,901 |
| Bank charges | 2,380 | 1,672 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 85,460 | 100,991 |

5. SUMMARY OF OPERATING ACTIVITIES

| | Members Support Including Library | Document Exchange | Lectures and Courses | 2012 Total |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Income | <u>112,457</u> | <u>18,364</u> | <u>40,773</u> | <u>171,594</u> |
| Costs: | | | | |
| External Charges | 21,655 | | 7,219 | 28,874 |
| Staff Costs | 71,921 | | 23,974 | 95,895 |
| Depreciation | 2,453 | | 818 | 3,271 |
| | 2,302 | | 767 | 3,069 |
| Other Operating Charges | <u>64,095</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>21,365</u> | <u>85,460</u> |
| | <u>162,426</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>54,143</u> | <u>216,569</u> |
| (Loss) on operating activities | <u>(49,969)</u> | <u>18,364</u> | <u>(13,370)</u> | <u>(44,975)</u> |

| | Members Support Including Library | Document Exchange | Lectures and Courses | 2011 Total |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Income | <u>131,927</u> | <u>18,075</u> | <u>67,708</u> | <u>217,710</u> |
| Costs: | | | | |
| External Charges | 30,421 | - | 10,141 | 40,562 |
| Staff Costs | 70,832 | - | 23,611 | 94,443 |
| Depreciation | 4,275 | - | 1,425 | 5,700 |
| Loss on disposal of fixed assets | | - | | |
| Other Operating Charges | <u>75,743</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>25,248</u> | <u>100,991</u> |
| | <u>181,271</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>60,425</u> | <u>241,696</u> |
| (Loss) on operating activities | <u>(49,344)</u> | <u>18,075</u> | <u>7,283</u> | <u>(23,986)</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 £1,707 (2011: £1,744) in respect of operating lease rentals for hire of plant and machinery.

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

| | 2012 £ | 2011 £ |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Income from Stock Exchange listed investments | 5,432 | 4,638 |
| Bank interest | <u>734</u> | <u>899</u> |
| | <u>6,166</u> | <u>5,537</u> |

7. INTEREST PAYABLE

| | 2012 £ | 2011 £ |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Interest on finance leases | 1,015 | 1673 |
| | <u>1015</u> | <u>1,673</u> |

8. TAX ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

Corporation tax:

Tax charge on ordinary activities at 20% (2011: 20.25%)

Adjustment in respect of previous years

| | 2011 £ | 2010 £ |
|--|------------|-------------|
| | 500 | 6,100 |
| | (84) | (547) |
| | <u>416</u> | <u>5553</u> |

The standard rate of tax for the year, based on the UK standard rate of corporation tax, is 20% (2011:20.25%). 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:

| | 2012 £ | 2011 £ |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| Profit / (loss) on ordinary activities before taxation | <u>2,913</u> | <u>30,470</u> |
| Tax charge on ordinary activities at standard rate | 583 | 6,170 |
| Factors affecting charge for the year: | | |
| Income not taxable for corporation tax purposes | | (939) |
| Timing differences on items qualifying for capital allowances | (152) | 786 |
| Rounding of corporation tax provisions | 69 | 83 |
| Adjustment in respect of previous year | <u>(84)</u> | <u>(547)</u> |
| Total actual amount of current tax | <u>416</u> | <u>5,553</u> |

The company has taxation losses of approximately £400,000 (2012: £400,000) 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 20% (2011: 20.25%), is £79,000 (2011: £80,000).

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

| | Furniture, Computers and Equipment |
|------------------------|--|
| | £ |
| Cost | |
| At 1st January 2012 | 80,342 |
| Additions during year | 5,751 |
| Disposals during year | (8,000) |
| | <hr/> |
| At 31st December 2012 | 78,093 |
| Depreciation | |
| At 1st January 2012 | 68,480 |
| Charge for year | 3,271 |
| Eliminated on disposal | (4,931) |
| | <hr/> |
| At 31st December 2012 | 66,820 |
| Net book value | |
| At 31st December 2012 | <hr/> 11,273 <hr/> |
| At 31st December 2011 | <hr/> 11,862 <hr/> |

The closing net book value includes £3,740 (2011: £3,869) in respect of assets held under finance leases.
The annual depreciation charge in respect of assets held under finance leases amounted to £415 (2011: £1,600).

10. INVESTMENTS

| | 2012 |
|---|----------------------------|
| | £ |
| Listed UK Stock Exchange investments | |
| Valuation at 1st January 2012 | 131,935 |
| Revaluation – unrealised gains | 22,648 |
| | <hr/> |
| Valuation at 31st December 2012 | 154,583 |
| Movement in uninvested cash | 5,251 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 159,834 <hr/> |
| Historical cost | <hr/> 132,250 <hr/> |

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

| | 2012 £ | 2011 £ |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Trade debtors | 19,088 | 107,772 |
| Other debtors | 18,982 | 14,716 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 10,689 | 22,036 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| All amounts are due within one year. | 48,759 | 144,524 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

12. CURRENT ASSET PROPERTY HELD FOR RESALE

| | 2012 £ | 2011 £ |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Balance as at 31st December 2011 and as at 31st December 2012 | 23,043 | 23,043 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

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

| | 2012 £ | 2011 £ |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Unsecured loans | 300 | 300 |
| Obligations under finance leases | 1,385 | 1,333 |
| Trade creditors | 29,654 | 34,908 |
| Taxation and social security | 2,714 | 8,912 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 17,723 | 169,452 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 51,776 | 214,905 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Unsecured loans are interest free and repayable on demand.

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

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| | £ | £ |
| Obligations under finance leases | 2,078 | |
| Deferred income | 4,000 | |
| | <u>6,078</u> | <u>0</u> |

15. BORROWINGS

Total borrowings are repayable as follows:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Finance leases | | |
| Within one year | 1,385 | 1,333 |
| Between one and two years | <u>2,078</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>3,463</u> | <u>1,333</u> |

16. RESERVES

| | Accumulated Fund | Revaluation Reserve |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Balance at beginning of year | 164,965 | 22,965 |
| Unrealised gain on trade investments | 0 | 22,647 |
| Profit / (loss) for year | <u>2,497</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Balance at end of year | <u>167,462</u> | <u>45,612</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 2012 the company was committed to making the following payments during the next year:

| | Land and buildings | | Other | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Leases which expire: | | | | |
| Within one year | 0 | 9,625 | 0 | 0 |
| Within one to two years | <u>0</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,304</u> | <u>1,304</u> |
| | <u>0</u> | <u>9,625</u> | <u>1,304</u> | <u>1,304</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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The additional information relating to the prize funds on page 32 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 2012

| | 2012 £ | 2011 £ |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| 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 | 127 | 126 |
| Less: Gold Medal Prize | <u>(250)</u> | <u>(250)</u> |
| Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account | <u>(123)</u> | <u>(124)</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 | 2,206 | 2,149 |
| Interest received during year | <u>108</u> | <u>107</u> |
| | 2,314 | 2,256 |
| Less: Book Prize | <u>(50)</u> | <u>(50)</u> |
| Balance at end of year | <u>2,264</u> | <u>2,206</u> |
| PETER NICHOLLS PRIZE FUND | | |
| Balance at start of year | | 50 |
| Less: Book prize | <u>50</u> | <u>(50)</u> |
| Balance at end of year | <u>(50)</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 LLP, Chartered Accountants, Birmingham
27th March 2013

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1818 - 2010

PRESIDENTS:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| THOMAS LEE | 1818 | GEORGE CORBYN BARROW | 1952 |
| JOHN MEREDITH | 1825 | CECIL HAMMOND COX | 1953 |
| JOHN SIMCOX | 1832 | THOMAS BERNARD SMITH | 1954 |
| ROGER WILLIAM GEM | 1833 | JOHN ALBERT CALTHROP TAYLOR | 1955 |
| THOMAS EYRE LEE | 1848 | PHILIP HORTON VERNON | 1956 |
| CLEMENT INGLEBY | 1852 | GEOFFREY MARTEN KING | 1957 |
| JOHN WELCHMAN WHATELEY | 1855 | GEORGE MANNING BUTTS | 1958 |
| ARTHUR RYLAND | 1873 | JOSEPH KENNETH WALKER | 1959 |
| GEORGE JAMES JOHNSON | 1874 | RODERICK SYDNEY KING-FARLOW | 1960 |
| ARTHUR RYLAND | 1876 | WILLIAM HENRY TILLEY | 1960 |
| WILLIAM EVANS | 1877 | JOHN SHUFFLEBOTHAM | 1962 |
| JAMES MARIGOLD | 1879 | FREDERICK WILLIAM WHITALL OAKLEY | 1963 |
| THOMAS HORTON | 1882 | CHARLES THOMAS WINTERTON | 1964 |
| CHARLES EDWARD MATTHEWS | 1885 | RICHARD LAURENCE EGIN | 1965 |
| CORNELIUS THOMAS SAUNDERS | 1888 | GEOFFREY HORACE PIDDOCK | 1966 |
| SIR THOMAS MARTINEAU | 1888 | HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS | 1967 |
| LAURISTON WINTERBOTHAM LEWIS | 1891 | CHRISTOPHER HEDLEY HARMER | 1968 |
| JOSEPH BENNETT CLARKE | 1893 | THOMAS HARRY PARKINSON | 1969 |
| ARTHUR GODLEE | 1895 | CHARLES HERBERT LEA | 1970 |
| THOMAS HAWKES RUSSELL | 1897 | JOHN ATKINSON RUTLEDGE | 1970 |
| JOSEPH ANSELL | 1899 | SYDNEY SOLOMON JACOBS | 1972 |
| RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT | 1901 | JOHN TIMOTHY ARTHUR SMITH | 1973 |
| JOHN BARHAM CARSLAKE | 1903 | JOHN ANTONY ALDERSON | 1974 |
| ALFRED POINTON | 1906 | DAVID LIDDELL | 1975 |
| WALTER BARROW | 1908 | WALTER WOOD | 1976 |
| JOHN GILBERT BRADBURY | 1910 | DAVID STANLEY ADAMS | 1977 |
| ALFRED HENRY COLEY | 1912 | ROBERT JOSEPH GARRATT | 1978 |
| JAMES HARGREAVE | 1914 | GEORGE SIEGFRIED JONAS | 1979 |
| ARTHUR LABRON LOWE | 1916 | DENYS ERIC FORDHAM | 1980 |
| FRANCIS AUGUST CHATWIN | 1918 | ROGER HORTON VERNON | 1980 |
| ARCHIBALD SOMERVILLE BENNETT | 1919 | ARNOLD MAURICE PUTSMAN | 1982 |
| JAMES ARTHUR MARIGOLD | 1920 | CHRISTOPHER JOHN JAMES | 1983 |
| EDWARD EVERSLED | 1921 | FREDERICK HAROLD TURNER | 1984 |
| THOMAS COOKSEY | 1922 | PETER LESLIE TAYLOR | 1985 |
| CHARLES EGIN | 1923 | BRIAN EDWARD GLYNN WILLIAMS | 1986 |
| JOSEPH JAMES | 1924 | JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON | 1987 |
| FRANCIS HENRY PEPPER | 1925 | DAVID HOWARD HIGGS | 1988 |
| RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT | 1926 | CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES | 1989 |
| CORNELIUS HALE SAUNDERS | 1927 | PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON | 1990 |
| HUGH BARHAM CARSLAKE | 1928 | CHARLES RODERICK KING-FARLOW | 1990 |
| GEORGE HUGGINS | 1929 | JOHN ADRIAN JAMES AUCOTT | 1992 |
| GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT | 1930 | STANLEY BERNARD SHORTT | 1993 |
| LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH | 1931 | JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM | 1994 |
| SYDNEY VERNON | 1932 | ALBERT WILLIAM HEASELGRAVE | 1995 |
| GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT | 1933 | RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN | 1996 |
| WILFRED CLARKSON MATTHEWS | 1934 | MICHAEL DAVID HUMPHREY SHEPHERD | 1997 |
| FRANK HENRY CUFAUDE WILTSHIRE | 1935 | MALCOLM GASKELL FOWLER | 1998 |
| LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH | 1937 | TREVOR ARTHUR LEE | 1999 |
| HERBERT WILLIAM LYDE | 1938 | JAYNE BELINDA WILLETTS | 2000 |
| JOSEPH THOMAS HIGGS | 1939 | MICHAEL JAMES WARD | 2001 |
| GEORGE HAROLD WILLCOX | 1941 | ANTHONY RALPH COLLINS | 2002 |
| ARTHUR JOHN GATELEY | 1943 | DIANE PATRICIA BENUSSI | 2003 |
| JOHN FREDERICK WEST | 1945 | STEVEN MICHAEL JONAS | 2004 |
| WILLIAM CHARLES COLEMAN GELL | 1946 | RICHARD THOMAS FOLLIS | 2005 |
| CHARLES ADRIAN ASHFORD ELTON | 1947 | PHILIP DUNKLEY STEEL | 2006 |
| JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER | 1948 | SUKHDEV SINGH BHOMRA | 2007 |
| JOHN HENRY SQUIRE ADDISON | 1949 | CAROLINE AMANDA COATES | 2008 |
| GEORGE ARTHUR LYON HATTON | 1950 | BERNARD ROBERT MCWALTER SHEPHERD | 2009 |
| CYRIL HIGHWAY | 1950 | DEAN CURTIS PARNELL | 2010 |
| | | ANDREW JOHN LANCASTER | 2011 |

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 | 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 |
| MARTIN ALLSOPP | 2009 |
| JOHN HUGHES | 2010 |

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 2012



Birmingham Law Society

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