



BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY
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ANNUAL REPORT 2017



President's Foreword

It has been an enormous honour to have been President of the Birmingham Law Society for 2017/2018. BLS celebrated its 200th birthday on 3rd January 2018 and much of my work as President has been devoted to preparing for our big birthday year and being part of the celebrations in the first part of the year.

The highlights of my year both took place in rather grand churches and involved walking around with elaborately garbed members of the senior Judiciary! In October I attended the opening of the Legal Year in Westminster Abbey followed by a procession to the Lord Chancellor's reception at the House of Lords. Then, closer to home, on the 11th January I had the privilege of giving a reading at our bicentenary service in St Philip's Cathedral after which we were entertained by the Lord Mayor at the Council House. Sir Andrew McFarlane was our principal Speaker in the Cathedral and I will long remember his erudite, witty but touchingly down to earth address. The Cathedral service was organised by a committee comprising Jayne Willetts, Mary Kaye, Becky Lynch and Anthony Collins and my thanks go to them for all their hard work.

If all has gone to plan you should be receiving a copy of our bicentenary book at the end of this AGM. The book traces the history of our legal community over the last 200 years in the context of changes in society, technology and the way we work. It has been a labour of love for many. But it has taken the skill, tenacity and creativity of our author, Dr Sally Hoban, to bring it to life. My thanks to Sally, to the editorial group (Dr Malcolm Dick of the University of Birmingham and our own Anthony Collins, Peter Wiseman and Linden Thomas) and to the Think Tank of Past Presidents who steered the book through its early stages.

There has been another momentous event for BLS this year; the letting of the old library to Revolución de Cuba for their brand new bar/restaurant in Temple Street. The letting goes a long way to securing the Society's finances for many years

to come. The credit goes to Chris Owen, a past Chair of the BLS Board and a tireless Champion of a solution for the Temple Street premises, the Property Sub-Committee led by Chris and our solicitor, Clive Read.

BLS would not survive without the hard work and dedication of two important groups of people: the Board of Directors, led by the ever-energetic Eileen Schofield and the Office team (Becky Lynch, Liz Dziergas, Johanna Sahi-Proto, Denise Harnett and Nigel Watson). They all work incredibly hard and are the backbone of BLS.

A final thanks to my fellow Officers, Vice President James Turner and Deputy Vice President, Linden Thomas. They have been there for me whenever I have needed their help and our Officers' meetings have been a genuine pleasure (for me at least!). I wish James the best of success for his year as President and Linden for her year as VP. You will both be superb!

Just as I am starting to get the hang of things it's time to go. It's been a fun and fulfilling year and I thank you for allowing me to be your President.

Andrew Beedham
President



Eileen Schofield, Chairwoman

Report from the Board

This has been an extraordinary year. The preparation for the bicentennial celebrations started in 2016 with the Think Tank leading the way on a range of ideas and proposals. Many of these have been taken forward by the Officers led by our ever energetic President Andrew Beedham with the support of the Board. Members of the Board have sat on each of the half dozen committees set up to ensure that the events proposed by the Think Tank are financially viable and organised to ensure that each is a success. Each member of the Board has given the highest level of commitment and dedication throughout the year and deserves credit for the time given and enthusiasm shown towards each of the projects.

The property subcommittee led by Chris Owen have secured the financial future of Birmingham Law Society by negotiating the long term lease of the library in Temple Street to the well-established bar chain Revolution. This is a superb achievement and one which has taken skill and commitment of all involved to include Clive Read as our legal advisor.

The main function of the Board is to oversee the business of the Society and support the Officers in their ambassadorial role.

Each of the eleven Directors has delegated responsibility for a key area of the business; staff, membership, sponsorship and marketing, bicentennial planning, finance, IT and learning and development.

During the course of the year and through the tenacity of the Board Directors the Society has improved in every area of the business of the Society, Ben Henry as Membership Director sustained membership numbers which now includes the University of Birmingham, our team of staff have been ably supported throughout the year by Victoria Duddles our staff Director. Regan Peggs in his role as IT Director has worked with the team to ensure that the Society has a much improved website and will soon have a long overdue high speed internet connection. The Society has engaged PJ Ellis to manage the social media which has already had a significant impact on our visibility within a range of social media platforms. PJ has not charged for his services.

Our sponsorship and marketing Directors Laura Daly and Dee Kundi have continued to promote the Society amongst businesses keen to work with the members of Birmingham Law Society. This year Dee and Laura have exceeded the previous year's sponsorship both in terms of the range of sponsors and the amount of sponsorship paid to the Society. We have reached out to businesses asking for an exceptional amount of sponsorship to cover the bi centenary events and celebrations. To date all of the events have met the financial requirements and many have exceeded expectations.

Catherine Edwards has steered learning and development into profit, the introduction of lunch clubs has attracted a more inclusive attendance and has been a platform for a range of excellent speakers during the last year. In a climate where learning and development provided through regional Law Societies has been diminished through the changes imposed by the SRA Catherine and the team have had to look to alternative ways in engaging with our membership. Applying creative strategies has resulted in generating more interest from the members and revenue for the Society.

The finances of the Society are always high on the agenda in all of our Board meetings, these have been overseen by the finance Director Dean Parnell, Dean is unrelenting in his scrutiny of the expenditure for the Society. He has ensured that the draw down of the funds needed to pay for the professional fees relating to the property has been managed back into our investment portfolio. There is still a shortfall but that will be addressed during the course of the forthcoming



year. Dean has always been a force to be reckoned with when it comes to requests for expenditure; he has applied the highest standards of financial governance on behalf of the Society. Dean is stepping down from the Society this year having served as President and sat on the Board as well as a range of other sub committees including the property sub committee, he will be missed.

The formidable Tony McDaid has used his flair and connections to plan and execute, with his team at No5 Chambers, an exciting year of events to celebrate our bicentennial; each event is self-funding and will culminate in a gala dinner in October. This is a not to be missed event and will include a menu designed by the Birmingham born Michelin chef Glynn Purnell. The entertainment is under wraps but will be equally exciting.

The Board have sourced and appointed a videographer who will record most of the events taking place throughout the year.

One of my key objectives for the year was to produce a business plan taking account for the forthcoming three years. The Directors and Officers spent a day brainstorming and blue sky thinking to define how we believe the Society could look during the course of the years ahead. The day was a great success with all participating to provide some interesting objectives which has formed the basis of the business plan presented today at the AGM. There are a range of objectives some very aspirational but most are highly achievable with the combined energy and support of the Officers, the Board, Council and the various committees and our exceptional team led by Rebecca Lynch.

The efficient and dependable Vice Chair Bernardette Griffin captured the ideas of the day in drafting the business plan which has been reviewed by Council before presenting it at the AGM. Bernardette's eye for detail and her application and understanding of the constitution of the Society is outstanding.

The Board have launched two significant initiatives which have generated a significant amount of interest from the members; the internship programme and a fun element of setting up a BLS choir. Both of these were generated from ideas I had formed from my time as President. I was all too well aware that many post graduate students were unable to obtain training contracts and as such that skill set was lost to our profession and to Greater Birmingham. We now work with AM City Grad to offer our member firms the opportunity of working with an highly motivated and vetted intern for a period of between 6 or 12 months on a paid basis with a view to taking them on as a trainee. We expect that this initiative can be rolled out to other regions and other professions. We are frequently told that there is a skill shortage for vacancies across the sectors and it should be know that BLS are supporting firms in ensuring that the skills gap is narrowed.

And finally who doesn't like to relax at the end of a busy day and let the stress of the day dissipate by singing to the rafters in good company. Well, we offered this opportunity to our members and were overwhelmed with interest; 67 people responded from a cross section of firms, disciplines and levels of seniority many of whom will form the core of the BLS choir. I have also signed up and have arranged our first gig at Symphony Hall in July. We also plan to raise the roof at the gala dinner in October. I am absolutely confident that the choir, as with all of our initiatives will be a resounding success.

Eileen Schofield

Chairwoman Birmingham Law Society

April 2018



Dean Parnell, Finance Director

Finance Report

There is no doubt that 2017 will be remembered as being a very important year for Birmingham Law Society as this was the year that we completed on the commercial lease of our Temple Street building. Not only has this deal increased the Society's balance sheet by over £1.5 million, it will also provide a very important source of income for the Society which should provide financial stability for many years to come. The Temple Street building has always been a difficult issue for the Society and its members.

In 2010 it was decided that due to the poor condition of our building we would have to move our staff into serviced offices. Following this move the building remained empty and it has been a constant source of worry for officers, directors and members. The options have always been limited to a sale, to mothballing it or to developing the building with a view to renting it out.

In order to tackle this issue in 2012 the Board decided that a Property Sub Committee should be set up and this committee was tasked with exploring the above mentioned options and recommending to the Board the best option for the Society. This Committee was chaired by Chris Owen and comprised of me, Clive Read, Andrew Beedham, John Hughes, Mushtaq Khan and Bernard Shepherd. The Committee decided that the best option would be to rent out the property to a commercial tenant. The Board accepted this recommendation and then tasked the Committee with exploring and progressing this option. The Committee kept the Board updated on their progress as all decisions relating to this project remained the responsibility of the Board.

There should be no doubt that the work of the Committee was not easy and it took a long time. We were a committee of lawyers (all volunteers) tasked with overseeing the marketing of our property, the negotiations, the structuring of the deal and agreeing the terms of the commercial lease. This was a very involved process and as such we relied upon the outside the expertise of Ed Jones (Blue Marble Asset Management

Limited), Adrian Walsh (Bruton Knowles Property Consultants) and of course Clive Reed.

The Committee members and our external advisors have all been outstanding and it has been a great experience for me (both personally and professionally) to be part of this amazing journey. However, I would like to specifically acknowledge the contribution of Chris Owen who has put in a massive amount of time and effort to this project. Chris has been tenacious, focused and utterly committed to making this project work. I would also like to acknowledge Mushtaq Khan who provided us with a new direction for the project when we felt that we may be hitting a dead-end and this new direction provided us all with a refreshed sense of energy and optimism. It is also worth mentioning Eileen Schofield (and the Board) who allowed the Committee sufficient flexibility and autonomy to progress this project whilst at the same time offering unwavering support.

As part of the deal with our new commercial tenant we managed to avoid having to incur any expenditure for Landlord related works. We also avoided any rent free period and instead we have agreed a period of reduced rent. Therefore, whilst 2018 should produce a decent profit for the Society, the level of rental income will then reduce for the following three years after which time the Society will then get the benefit of the full rental income. As such the Board will be ensuring that they continue to focus on generating income from subscriptions and sponsorship.



The journey of this building project is as good an example as you can get to show why our Society is so dynamic, innovative and effective. The decision to proceed by way of a commercial lease carried considerable risks given the Society had limited resources to fund this project. Despite this, the Board, the Professional Officers and Council all worked together in a very supportive and collaborative way to make this a success and this is all the more impressive when you think that this has meant over 40 lawyers have actually worked together and managed to agree things without too much disagreement!

Turning now to the rest of the accounts, the budget that I initially set for 2017 had forecast a trading loss of over £110,000. This was due to three main factors which were:

- the level of professional fees that we anticipated incurring in relation to the building project,
- the loss of income from the DX (which would no longer be occupying part of our building) and
- the investment that we would be making in relation to Birmingham Law Society's Bicentenary Book.

However, the actual trading loss came out much lower than the forecasted amount due to (i) the amount of financial support that was raised for the bicentenary book (ii) the rental income commencing in July 2017 (as opposed to 2018) and (iii) our learning and development income exceeding its target.

However, in order to meet the cash demands for the building project we had to draw down monies from our investments. We have now begun repaying this and as at the date of the AGM the amount outstanding is £35,000. The plan is to try and repay all of this back during 2018 as the Board recognises the importance of ensuring our investments are still maintained. Over the coming years we also hope to allocate some of our rental income to building up these investments.

It has been a great year for the Society on so many different levels and whilst I am renowned for not smiling when I talk about the Society's finances I can assure you that I am currently smiling. As a result of the completion of our property I now feel the time is right to step down as Finance Director and I shall be handing over the baton to Ben Henry who is a partner at Jonas Roy Bloom. I wish Ben every success as Finance Director and I am sure he will do a great job helping to steer the finances of the Society.

Finally I would like to thank Eileen Schofield and the rest of the Board for their friendship and support over the years. As Board members we do work hard but we do so with humour and respect. It has been a genuine pleasure to attend Board meetings and I never cease to be impressed by the skill, energy, commitment and enthusiasm of each and every Board member. I step down as Finance Director with full confidence that the Society is in very safe hands and has a very exciting and bright future.

Dean Parnell

Finance Director

President

ANDREW BEEDHAM - Clarke Willmott, 0845 209 1040

Vice President

JAMES TURNER - Tuckers Solicitors LLP, 0121 236 43 24

Deputy Vice President

LINDEN THOMAS - University of Birmingham, 0121 414 5780

Joint Honorary Secretaries

INEZ BROWN - Medical Accident Group Ltd (part of Harrison Clark Rickerbys Ltd), 01905 744 823

CHAITALI DESAI - Weightmans LLP, 0121 200 3496

Board

Chairwoman - Eileen Schofield - Schofield & Associates - 01564 739 103

Vice Chairman - Professor Bernardette Griffin

Finance Director - Dean Parnell - Sydney Mitchell, 0121 698 2212

Sponsorship & Marketing Director - Dee Kundi - Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP, 0121 227 3700

Sponsorship & Marketing Director - Laura Daly - Irwin Mitchell LLP, 0370 150 0100

Board Director - Tony McDaid - No5 Chambers, 0845 210 5555

Membership Director - Ben Henry - Jonas Roy Bloom, 0121 212 4111

Learning & Development Director - Catherine Edwards - BPP University Law School, 0121 237 3800

IT Director - Regan Peggs - Regan Peggs Solicitors, 0121 201 3765

Staff Director - Victoria Duddles - Weightmans LLP, 0121 632 6100

Ex Officio as Past President - John Hughes - Shakespeare Martineau, 0121 214 1223

Ex Officio as President - Andrew Beedham - Clarke Willmott, 0845 209 1040

Council

Astakhar Ahmed, Ahmed Solicitors
Martin Allsopp, Blackhams inc. Allsopp & Co
Helen Jane Arnold, Benussi & Co
Andrew Beedham, Clarke Willmott LLP
Katy Boyce, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Inez Brown, Medical Accident Group Ltd (part of Harrison Clark Rickerbys Ltd)
Kate Charlton, Birmingham City Council
Ravinder Singh Chumber, Rashid & Co
Laura Daly, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Claire Darley, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Chaitali Desai, Weightmans LLP
James Farmer, Cornwall Street Barristers
Gemma Fenton, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Ben Henry, Jonas Roy Bloom
Michael Hibbs, Shakespeare Martineau
Ravinder Hothi, The Law Society of England & Wales
John Hughes, Shakespeare Martineau
Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom
Lisa Jones, Arden Chambers

Mary Kaye, Shakespeare Martineau
Mushtaq Khan, MAK Consulting
Dee Kundi, Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP
Tony McDaid, No5 Chambers
Elaine Mitchell, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Chris Owen
Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell LLP
Jatinder Paul, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Regan Peggs, Regan Peggs Solicitors
Clive Read, Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP
Sophie Samani, Shakespeare Martineau
Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates
Arvind Sharma, Tuckers Solicitors LLP
Bernard Shepherd, TLP Shepherds Solicitors
Lubna Shuja, Legal Swan Solicitors
Linden Thomas, University of Birmingham
Simon Thomas, The Wilkes Partnership LLP
James Turner, Tuckers Solicitors LLP
Denise Watkins, Gordon Jones & Co
Peter Wiseman

Birmingham Law Society Staff

Head of Operations: Rebecca Lynch, Tel: 0121 227 8704 / 07554 007347

Professional Services Executive: Elizabeth Dziergas, Tel: 0121 227 8701 / 07809 502852

Membership Co-ordinator: Johanna Sahi-Proto, Tel: 0121 227 8702

Administrator: Denise Harnett, Tel: 0121 227 8703

The Officers (The Executive Committee)

Andrew Beedham, President
James Turner, Vice President
Linden Thomas, Deputy Vice President
Inez Brown, Joint Honorary Secretary
Chaitali Desai, Joint Honorary Secretary

The Board

Eileen Schofield, Chairwoman
Prof. Bernardette Griffin, Vice Chairman
Dean Parnell, Finance Director
Dee Kundi, Sponsorship & Marketing Director
Laura Daly, Sponsorship & Marketing Director
Tony McDaid, Board Director
Ben Henry, Membership Director
Catherine Edwards, Learning & Development Director
Regan Peggs, IT Director
Victoria Duddles, Staff Director
John Hughes, Ex Officio as Past President
Andrew Beedham, Ex Officio as President

Committees

Consultation Paper Committee

Chairman:

Peter Wiseman

Committee members:

Jayne Willetts, Jayne Willetts & Co

Criminal Law Committee

Chairman:

James Turner, Tuckers Solicitors LLP

Committee members:

Astakhar Ahmed, Ahmed Solicitors
Keith Astbury, Glaisyers LLP
Jonathan Barker, St Philips Chambers
Sukhdev Singh Bhomra, Mandla Bhomra & Co
Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom
Manjinder Kang, Kang Defence Limited
Sean Kyne, Crown Prosecution Service
Derek Larkin
Rachel Norton, Legal Aid Agency

Regan Peggs, Regan Peggs Solicitors
Ravinder Rai, National Probation Service
Arvind Sharma, Tuckers Solicitors LLP
Ibran Shah, HMCTS
Makhan Singh, Murria Solicitors Limited
Spencer Stephens, Purcell Parker
Ian Vesey, Vesey Solicitors
Simon Walton, The Firm Solicitors LLP
Christopher Woodrow, Birmingham Magistrates Court

Dispute Resolution Committee

Chairman:

Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell

Committee members:

Alison Beard, Lewis Onions Solicitors

Parry Chauhan, Solomons Legal

Simon Clegg, St Philips Chambers

Caroline Coates, DWF LLP

Howard Dean, Keoghs Limited

Paul J Dean, St Philips Chambers

Gavin Faber, Higgs & Sons Solicitors

Robin Humphreys, Whatley Weston & Fox

Gurmeet Jakhu, Hamilton Pratt

Sarah Kenyon, Mills & Reeve LLP

Mushtaq Khan, MAK Consultancy

Matthew Lake, Weightmans LLP

Karen Levesley, Gateley LLP

James Modley, Shoosmiths LLP

District Judge Musgrave, Birmingham Civil Justice Centre
and Birmingham Family Court

Simon Thomas, The Wilkes Partnership LLP

James Woolstenhulme, Shakespeare Martineau

Alan Jones, Averta Employment Lawyers LLP

Tim Jones, Higgs & Sons Solicitors

Patrick Keith, St Philips Chambers

Katie Langdon, Cornwall Street Chambers

Emma Neate, Neate & Pugh Solicitors Limited

Anne-Marie Pugh, Neate & Pugh Solicitors Limited

Sarah Pugh, Berwick Law Limited

Richard Santy, Mills & Reeve

Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates

Ian Wilson, EEF Ltd.

Tracy Worthington, FBC Manby Bowdler LLP

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Matthew Cannan, Blair Allison

Mark Hands, Irwin Mitchell LLP

Mary Kaye, Shakespeare Martineau

Mark Mansell, St Philips Chambers

Cathy Price, Price Mistry Ltd Solicitors

Allison Roberts, Birmingham Civil Justice Centre and
Birmingham Family Court

HHJ Rowland, Birmingham Civil Justice Centre and
Birmingham Family Court

Marc Saunderson, Mills & Reeve LLP

Sukhwinder Singh, Birmingham City Council Legal Services

Sally Stephens, Cafcass

Education & Training Committee

Chairman:

Prof. Bernardette Griffin

Committee members:

Chaitali Desai, Weightmans LLP

Elizabeth Dziergas, Birmingham Law Society

Catherine Edwards, BPP University

Stuart Evans, Birmingham City Council

Oliver Geidel, Christine Lee & Co

Jay Lutwyche, Eversheds LLP

Jennifer Nicholson, Shakespeare Martineau

Janet Wright, The University of Law

Paul McConnell, University of Leicester

Alastair Willcox, Solicitors Regulation Authority

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Chairman:

Tony McDaid, No5 Chambers

Committee members:

Sandra Astbury, No5 Chambers

Gavin Byrne, University of Birmingham

Victoria Callicott, Eversheds LLP

Mandy Haque, Birmingham Airport

John Hughes, Shakespeare Martineau

Darren Kenny, DWF LLP

Bernard Shepherd, TLP Shepherds Solicitors

Employment Law Committee

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Vice Chair:

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Ed Beever, St Philips Chambers

James Boyd, Kings Chambers

Kate Charlton, Birmingham City Council

Martin Chitty, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP

Jonathan Coley, Pinsent Masons LLP

Charles Crow, No5 Chambers

Victoria Duddles, Weightmans LLP

Sarah George, St Philips Chambers

Ben Gorner, Gateley Plc

Jog Hundle, Mills & Reeve LLP

Property & Development Committee

Chairman:

Clive Read, VWV

Committee members:

Leenamari Aantaa-Collier, Shakespeare Martineau

Martin Allsopp, Blackhams incorporating Allsopp & Co

Victoria Ball, Trowers & Hamlin

Simon Hayden, Enoch Evans

Ben James, HCB Solicitors Ltd

Steve Kelway, formerly Coventry District Land Registry

Roger Lloyd, formerly Birmingham City Council

Digby Morgan, Trowers & Hamlin

Bernard Shepherd, TLP Shepherds Solicitors

Neil Stockall, Higgs & Sons Solicitors

Anthony Verduyn, St Philips Chambers
Denise Watkins, Gordon Jones & Co
Geoffrey Wood, Coley and Tilley

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Chairman:

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Clark Rickerbys Ltd)

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Philippa Craven, Kennedys
Philip Edwards, Clarke Willmott
Angela Fitzpatrick
Sarah Kenyon, Mills & Reeve LLP
Peter Mulhern, Thompsons
Paul Nicholls, Nicholls Brimble
Andrew Shaw, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
David Tuck, Weightmans LLP
Chris Wiggin, Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP
Annmarie Wilde, Coley and Tilley
Michael Wingrave, No5 Chambers

Pro Bono Committee

Chairman:

Linden Thomas, University of Birmingham

Committee members:

Michael Bates, Birmingham Community Law Centre
Aaron Bradley, DLA Piper (UK) LLP
Sophie Brambley, Linklaters
Sam Burns, Aston University
Anne-Marie Dhillon, LawWorks
James Dixon, No5 Chambers
Nicola Ellen, Shoosmiths LLP
Katie Fennell, Central England Law Centre
Geraldine Flood, BPP University
Louise Foy, Hughes Paddison Limited
Imogen Francis, Shoosmiths LLP
Lorna Gavin, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Laura Golightly, Anthony Collins Solicitors
Cheryl Green, The University of Law
Abigail Halcarz, Shakespeare Martineau
Julia Jones, Bevan Brittan
Sophie Kernthaler, Barclays Bank Plc
Stas Kuzmierkiewicz, DLA Piper (UK) LLP
Iqbal Mohammed, St Philips Chambers
Amber Nixon, DLA Piper UK LLP
Alex Pleydell, Mills & Reeve LLP
Katie Rothwell, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Hannah Short, Shoosmiths LLP
Amy Tabari, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Mark Taylor, Eversheds Sutherland
Alex Tolcher, DWF LLP
Amy-Rose Warman, Shakespeare Martineau
Poppy Wilkinson, Gateley Plc
Ellie Williams, Higgs & Sons

Student Committee

Chairman:

Laura Daly, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors

Committee members:

Chaitali Desai, Weightmans LLP
Simon Everington, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Ben Henry, Jonas Roy Bloom
Julie Jenkins, BPP University
Sonya Smith, Birmingham City University
Patrick Wisheu, Mills & Reeve LLP
Janet Wright, The University of Law
Student representatives from BCU, BPP, The University of
Law and University of Birmingham

Report of the Joint Honorary Secretaries

2018 has been a memorable year for the Birmingham Law Society, not least as we have celebrated 200 years of the Society marked in various ways throughout the year.

We are proud to have arranged a gala President's Dinner and Bicentenary Cathedral Service to mark this special year, and at the time of writing this report we are looking forward to a refreshed and rejuvenated Legal Awards Ceremony on 8 March 2018 to celebrate the city's top legal talents.

Most significant in this year has been the commissioning of a book to detail the history of the Society over the last 200 years, written by Dr Sally Hoban and Dr Malcolm Dick from the School of History and Cultures at the University of Birmingham. We look forward to releasing an extensive and interesting perspective on the history of our celebrated Society.

The Society has also continued with its work in many key areas in addition to the focus on this bicentenary year. The Society and its committees have actively responded to a number of consultation papers produced by the Government including matters relating to proposed changes to the SRA Handbook and the SRA proposals in relation to the Solicitors Qualifying Examinations.

The national Law Society Council Member Representatives have regularly reported to Council during the year. As a result, we have maintained a comprehensive dialogue between the two associations ensuring that effective measures are taken to support and represent the views of the profession, particularly important in the face of political challenges we are seeing today. Key discussions have included the need to help our colleagues on a national level to respond to

disasters such as the Manchester bombing, MoJ reforms in the personal injury sector, and business strategy post-Brexit.

We are proud to have arranged and hosted a variety of events including the Cyber-Crime Conference, Lunch Clubs with key speakers, and the Annual Charity Golf Event.

Council meetings continue to be well-attended and a good opportunity for lively debates and discussions on important topics relevant to the profession, its developing business partnerships and the region. These discussions have continued to encourage and strengthen existing relationships between the legal profession and key organisations. Such speakers at Council have included the Head of Regulatory Affairs at the national Law Society, the Business Development and Relationship Managers at Lloyds Bank, and the Leader of the Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

We have secured a tenant of the Society's premises on Temple Street, which would not have been possible without the hard work of the Property sub-committee.

You will no doubt agree that it has been a busy year for the President, Joint Honorary Secretaries and Officers of the Society. However, it has also been an enjoyable and momentous year for all involved. Membership continues to increase and Birmingham Law Society remains currently the largest regional Law Society. The Society remains in a strong position to build upon the successes of this year and meet the challenges that the changing legal climate may present.



Inez Brown,
Joint Honorary Secretary



Chaitali Desai,
Joint Honorary Secretary



Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 25 April 2017

The Council has pleasure in presenting the 198th Annual Report of the proceeding of the Society.

Officers

At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 25th April 2017, Mr Andrew Beedham was installed as President of the Society, Mr James Turner as Vice President and Ms Linden Thomas as Deputy Vice President. Mrs Inez Brown and Mrs Chaitali Desai were installed as Joint Honorary Secretaries.

Board

Mrs Eileen Schofield was installed as the Chair of the Board of the Society.

Council

The retiring ordinary members of the Council was:
Sara Dwight.

There were no ordinary members of Council who were nominated for re-election pursuant to Article (62).

There were no ex officio members retiring.

The following members of the Society were duly nominated for election to the Council pursuant to Article (61):
Guy Barnett, Georgina Burrows, Tobias Haynes, Jatinder Paul, Regan Peggs and Sophie Samani.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consultation Paper Committee

This year has been a relatively quiet one in terms of SRA consultations. The Training & Education Committee worked on a third consultation entitled 'New Route to Qualification'. Whilst the Society has throughout supported a wider more flexible route to qualification the draft regulations concerning the Solicitors Qualification Examination remained vague, lacking sufficient detail for us to be satisfied that the quality and integrity of the profession would be maintained.

In its paper 'Looking to the Future' the SRA sought views on a variety of issues including the thorny problem of practices being obliged to publish the price of conducting certain transactions. How complaints data might be compiled and published was one of the other important issues we addressed.

My thanks go once more to Jayne Willetts who, it is pleasing to note, has been co-opted to The Law Society's Regulatory Committee where her knowledge and sound common sense will be invaluable. I am equally grateful to Bernardette Griffin. Her knowledge of legal education and what works and what doesn't is second to none.

Peter Wiseman, Chair,
Consultation Paper Committee



Criminal Law Committee

During 2017 and 2018 the Criminal Law Committee has built on the successes of working in tandem with the other agencies in the criminal justice system. We have hosted a number of guest speakers covering diverse topics including trends in referrals to the Criminal Cases Review Commission and new initiatives to combat persistent offending in the city.

Members of the committee have attended the Local Implementation Teams with regard to the development of the Common Platform (the much anticipated cloud based IT system to be hosted by HMCTS) and with regard to the new process of cross examining child/vulnerable witnesses in advance of trial.

As ever the committee has responded to a host of consultation papers issued by the Ministry of Justice. We continue to represent the defence community at all levels in the CJS but in particular in our continuing opposition to the cuts which are damaging access to justice and the rule of law in the UK. The most recent proposals affecting fees paid in the most serious and paper heavy cases in the Crown Court have been the subject of criticism by Birmingham Law Society. The Judicial Review seeking to reverse this latest cut in public funding brought by The Law Society is welcomed.

The committee has also supported a number of academic studies regarding the work of custody visitors and more broadly in relation to the treatment of defendant's in custody. With research being published the committee is also to be involved in providing direct feedback to West Midlands Police with regard to the most recently built custody facilities. In other news the committee provided a member to attend the full day training event held by Force CID department of West Midlands Police in which issues of interview technique and controversial problems with disclosure were discussed.

My five year term as Chair of the committee comes to an end with the arrival of the AGM. It has been a huge privilege to chair the committee and I will remain an active member under the leadership of our new chair, Mr Regan Peggs. I wish to thank the committee members for their hard work and for the support they have provided to me during my term.

James Turner, Chair,
Criminal Law Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dispute Resolution Committee

As members will be aware the Business and Property Court ("BPC") was launched in July 2017 and became operational on 2nd October 2017. The BPC created a single umbrella for specialist civil courts across England and Wales.

The Committee is keen to see this region's BPC (as well as the region's other courts) operating successfully which means that it needs to be utilised by the Society's members who specialise in litigation.

As part of our support for BPC the Committee has been working closely with the Circuit Commercial Court (one of the specialist courts of the BPC) and we have helped to set up a new user group for this Court. We have also been involved in setting up a Circuit Commercial Court Network which now includes nominated lawyers in most of the law firms within this region.

The CCC Network provides an additional distribution channel for important information/news from the Courts. However the Network also provides members with the opportunity to be able to provide honest/candid feedback of their experience of the Commercial Court whilst maintaining their anonymity (thereby allowing more honest feedback). This is achieved by the Dispute Resolution Committee managing this Network so that when they receive feedback from members they can pass this onto the Commercial Court whilst protecting the anonymity of the member who has provided this feedback.

The Committee has also supported a number of court events over the last 12 months which include the launch of the BPC and the Chair of the Committee provided a speech (on behalf of the Society's members) at the valedictory of Judge Purle QC earlier this year.

The Committee is currently exploring a number of exciting initiatives and hope to roll out some of these over the next 12 months. Many of these initiatives will be aimed at providing support to members specialising in civil litigation especially in relation to the ongoing changes to the civil litigation landscape which do seem to be never ending.

Dean Parnell, Chair,
Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)



Education & Training Committee

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

In 2017/18 we welcomed Liz Dolan (Aston University) as a new member on to the committee..

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

- As it has for the last two to three years, the committee has been busy responding to a number of SRA consultations in relation to the Training for Tomorrow whereby the SRA is reviewing and putting in place changes to the education and training of future solicitors. Notably, this year the consultations have been mainly in relation to the Solicitors Qualifying Examinations (the SQE) which was reported upon last year. This has taken up a lot of committee members' time during the year and the committee has concentrated its time, efforts and knowledge in responding to a number of SRA consultations on this area over the last two years. Recently, BLS wrote to the LSB, as did other organisations, to ask the LSB to withhold its approval of the proposed SQE. The LSB has postponed its approval as it wishes to consider the submissions. This is a good outcome at the moment.
- Once again, in February 2018, we held our Schools 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, solicitors, 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.

Bernadette Grimm, Chair
Education & Training Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The BLS Debating competition for the regional universities has been underway since October 2017 and the final is at the end of March. This year the final is between a team from Birmingham University and the University of Law. This is an exciting event for the students as they are judged by a panel chaired by the President of BLS, a QC from No5 Chambers and a QC from St Philips Chambers, and two Birmingham solicitors.
- The committee is also supporting the BLS Internship Programme whereby BLS with a specialist recruitment agency are working with regional universities to increase the employment prospects of LPC students where appropriate to obtain internships.

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

This has been a quieter year than some although the abolition of Tribunal fees have made employment lawyers much busier. The committee have responded to all the relevant consultation papers from the government and others during the year and are faced with several new consultations to start the next year.

The committee have invited both the Regional Employment Judge and the Regional Director of ACAS to meeting where questions have been asked on behalf of BLS members.

During the year Victoria Garrad from Gateley left the committee and was thanked for her years of hard work on the committee.

The Chair is very grateful for the hard work and commitment shown by all members of the committee and thanks Mugni for his invaluable assistance as Vice-Chair.

Michael Hibbs, Chair
Employment Law Committee



Family Law Committee

The Committee's work over the last few months has focused on the introduction of the Financial Remedy Court Hub Pilot at Birmingham. This follows significant investment into 12 multipurpose digitised courtrooms at Birmingham Civil Justice Centre.

In 2013, a Specialist Financial Remedy Unit Pilot commenced at Birmingham, led by District Judge Ingram. This pilot allocated five finance specialist judges to ensure that judicial time is appropriately allocated according to the complexity of cases. This has worked incredibly well. However, there was no rule change proposed to implement this change into the law governing procedure until now.

This Pilot is the most significant change in practice for financial claims in a familial context for nearly 50 years. We have not had a system for allocating the judiciary on the issue of the claim in the same way that we have for child law matters in law, except for high court matters from 2016. The reason for this maybe because the financial claims were historically seen as not having the same importance as the Divorce itself and were viewed as "ancillary" to the Divorce.

From 1 April, the Birmingham Family Court will be operating the Financial Remedy Court Hub Pilot. Birmingham Financial Remedy Court Hub will be the only circuit, outside of London, to be allocating financial specialists to decide financial claims arising out of divorce. This is a significant improvement for family law and for Birmingham as the region's Hub under the excellent leadership of His Honour Judge Robin Rowland.

Claire Darley
Chair, Family Law Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

International Committee

Perhaps unsurprisingly the shadow of Brexit loomed large in 2017 resulting in a decision to participate in a further seminar on the topic which was held on 8th February at the Birmingham Law School. The event was well attended and received and, once the uncertainty of what the eventual deal will look like has been resolved, we intend being at the forefront of education and information as to what the next steps will be and what it will mean for Birmingham lawyers.

On one view, leaving the EU will open up access to other markets or at least other markets may become a priority, particularly commonwealth countries, and with this in mind progress is being made with commonwealth lawyers. We do of course have the Commonwealth Games coming to our City in 2022 so we are optimistic that in the lead up to that opportunities for local firms will be realistic goals.

We remain in need of new blood to our Committee as our numbers have dwindled over the last 12 months with many not able to commit the time needed to support initiatives, so if you have a passion for promoting our great City and the lawyers within it then please do get in touch.

Personal Injury Committee

The objectives of the personal injury committee are as follows:

- To update Birmingham Law Society's membership on issues connected with personal injury/clinical negligence matters;
- To respond to relevant consultation papers on behalf of BLS;
- To inform the wider legal community and members of the public (as relevant) outside BLS membership;
- Liaison with the local judiciary on substantive and procedural matters connected to personal injury/clinical negligence cases;
- To be a hub for information for the membership

The committee meet bi-monthly and includes a good mix of solicitors representing claimants and defendants ensuring that a balanced view is always taken. It is particularly useful as a forum for practitioners to discuss the practical implications of the changes to these areas of law.

Tony McDaid
Chair, International Committee



During 2017/2018, the committee met to discuss the ongoing reforms and consultations in relation to personal injury/clinical negligence cases. The Committee submitted Responses to the following consultations: proposed small claims court fees; proposed removal of damages for soft tissue injury such as whiplash; MOJ's proposed transformation of the justice system; Lord Jackson's proposed review of extending fixed recoverable costs for civil matters.

In addition, the committee considered and discussed responses to the Civil Liability bill; Department of Health's response to fixed recoverable costs and the discount rate. A number of changes are taking place in the personal injury and clinical negligence markets but the Committee continues to campaign for access to justice.

Inez Brown, Chair of the Committee lobbied MPs at the House of Commons on 12th September 2017, with a number of colleagues from the Society of Clinical Injury Lawyers (SCIL) in order to raise awareness on how fixed recoverable will impact on access to justice. The Government has since set up a working group to consider these proposals and members of SCIL have been invited to join the working group.

Sadly, Inez Brown is stepping down as Chair of the Committee and is passing the mantle on to Paul Nicholls of Nicholls Brimble Solicitors, who takes up his new position as Chair in April 2018.

The Committee's goal is to continue to discuss any issues that impact this area of law and to be able continue to inform the wider legal community and members of the public. 2018 promises to be yet another busy year in the personal injury and clinical negligence.

Inez Brown, Chair
Personal Injury Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pro Bono Committee

The pro bono committee's objectives continue to be to:

- support;
- promote;
- signpost; and
- raise the profile of pro bono work amongst Birmingham Law Society members and the local community.

In the last 12 months, the committee has worked towards these objectives through:

- the redevelopment of its webpages and online database of local advice agencies and pro bono services, providing signposting for members of the public (these changes are due to go live in 2018);
- hosting a joint event with LawWorks in September 2017 which focussed on the challenges and potential for pro bono in practice; and
- welcoming a range of guest speakers to committee meetings to share pro bono opportunities and good practice.

In National Pro Bono Week 2017 the committee hosted a networking event at Gowling WLG, at which Birmingham Law Society members were given the opportunity to meet with local third sector organisations and find out how to volunteer their time on a pro bono basis. Attendees also heard from Richard Miller, Head of Justice at The Law Society, about how a pro bono response can assist in times of crisis.

Finally, in 2017-2018, the committee partnered with the charity the African Prisons Project, to send four criminal lawyers from Birmingham to volunteer in prisons in Kampala, Uganda. These volunteers worked alongside prison inmates and guards, who have undertaken a law degree via the University of London's distance learning programme and now act as paralegals in pro bono law clinics within the prison, providing advice and assistance to fellow inmates with no other recourse to legal help. The BLS volunteers have shared their expertise and experience with the paralegals in order to develop their legal skills and knowledge in a practical context.

Linden Thomas, Chair
Pro Bono Committee



If you would like to know more about pro bono opportunities in Birmingham please do not hesitate to contact the committee at:
probono@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk

Property & Development Committee

The year has again seen the Property and Development Committee address some fundamental property issues as the Government seeks to reform land law and some established practices. The timing of the ever tightening timescales for responses does not make life easier but the Committee responded to the government's Consultation Papers on leasehold reform and separately on the conveyancing process. While we appreciate some of the worst practices relating to agency fees charging needs reform, the proposal to ban leasehold house sales is a very blunt instrument to crack down on some house builders' attempts to generate extra revenue through an instrument known as new modern ground rents.

On the back of those reforms we secured a meeting with Sajid Javid MP to raise our concerns about aspects of the government's plans and he has promised to further consider our views.

Otherwise it was a busy year and we continue to welcome property guests to our regular meetings who can add value to our profession. We have enjoyed presentations by Landmark Property Information, Finance for Business and Third Fort. The insights from all of these businesses help raise practitioners' knowledge and understanding of our changing market places.

The property industry continues to be a major part of UK business so it will be helpful to engage with colleagues from the national Law Society as to how they see the coming year and how we as a major contributor to UK plc can better project the profession's image in all we do.

Clive Read, Chair,
Property & Development Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Committee

The committee comprises of:

- Laura Ralfe (Chair / Irwin Mitchell LLP)
- Ben Henry (Jonas Roy Bloom LLP)
- Julie Jenkins (BPP)
- Sonya Smith (BCU)
- Janet Wright (The University of Law)
- Patrick Wisheu (Mills and Reeve LLP)
- Simon Everington (Irwin Mitchell LLP)
- Gavin McLeod (St Philips Chambers)
- Chaitali Desai (Weightmans LLP)
- Plus student representatives from each local university.

Learning and Development

The Birmingham Law Society learning and development had good support in year 2017. Our prices have stayed the same for the last six years but some were lowered to encourage attendance. We were faced with continuous steady interest in online bookings suggesting that our marketing is still working as intended. Regardless of the pressures we are facing, learning and development has continued to provide members with a first class CPD training programme which last year included the extremely well-received and ever so popular “Trends in Modern Litigation Conference” with Dominic Regan. This was held at DWF and supported by over 90 attendees from all over the country. We have also teamed up with our sponsor and IT partner Oosha and run high in demand two half-day seminars on GDPR.

To maintain a niche in the market and to continue to provide even better value for money, learning and development has worked tirelessly with Catherine Edwards - Director of Education and Training, the committees, expert speakers, sponsors and corporate partners to research the current needs of our members and to tailor training programmes to a very different market. The abolition of compulsory 16 hours of CPD for solicitors does affect us as a business but does not mean that there is no need for training and personal development. 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. This past year we discussed the new webinar courses

based on introduction to law and additional online benefits to members by working together with Kinch Robinson. This progress has strengthened the choice of our offering.

Birmingham Law Society's comprehensive website, will soon be replaced with newer version and a new CRM system, is proving to be one of our strongest connections with members allowing further interaction. Learning and development constantly strives to provide high standard quality and value for money. Additionally, our easy and appealing online booking systems for seminars and events has been working well allowing online payments. This, as well as the continuously growing LinkedIn group and Twitter followers, make for very important and stronger social channels and instant communication which is very much welcomed by all members.

Learning and development continues to be actively involved in providing guidance and support for the new incoming 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 “Apprenticeship event” organised by Catherine Edwards and BPP University, “Careers in Law” at Aston University and “Debating Competition”, kindly hosted by Squire Patton Boggs, are growing from strength to strength.

We successfully introduced an informal monthly lunch club which has attracted support from a variety of levels within the local legal profession. Speakers included Daisy Cooper (Director of Hacked Off), Lord Lieutenant, Deputy Chief Constable, Beverley Nielson and the Deputy Chief Constable. The lunch club has been hosted at the Hotel du Vin and provides exceptional value at £15 for members including lunch and a glass of wine.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our members for their continuing generous support by allowing us to use their venues throughout 2017. It has made a tremendous difference to the quality of training we are able to offer.

Laura Ralfe, Chair,
Student Committee



Catherine Edwards,
Director of Learning & Development



Elizabeth Dzergas,
Learning & Development





DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Principal Activities

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

Directors

The directors who held office during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

L Daly	
V Duddles	
B Griffin	
B Henry	
D Kundi	
T McDaid	
D Parnell	
E Schofield	
I Shovlin	(Resigned 25 April 2017)
L Thomas	(Resigned 25 April 2017)
R Peggs	(Appointed 25 April 2017)
C Edwards	(Appointed 25 April 2017)

Statement of disclosure to Auditor

So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware. Additionally, the directors individually have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

D Parnell
Director

28 March 2018

Shares of the company

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

Auditor

In accordance with the Society's articles, a resolution proposing that JW Hinks LLP be reappointed as auditor of the Society will be put at a General Meeting.



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the annual report 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 surplus or deficit 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 accounting 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 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.



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

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

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Birmingham Law Society ('the company') for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Equity and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2017 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- The directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- The directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements, and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

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 directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

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

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

- 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 in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Directors' Report and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at:

<http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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 responsibil-

ity 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.

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

28 March 2018

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 £	2016 £
INCOME		124,411	141,191
Administrative expenses		(221,101)	(173,025)
Other operating income		<u>63,615</u>	<u>22,711</u>
OPERATING DEFICIT		(33,075)	(9,123)
Interest receivable and similar income	4	5,519	4,122
Interest payable and similar charges		(496)	(297)
Change in fair value of investments	5	<u>2,681,201</u>	<u>7,211</u>
SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION		2,653,149	1,913
Taxation	6	<u>(343,853)</u>	<u>—</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	17	<u>(2,309,296)</u>	<u>1,913</u>

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 £	2016 £
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		2,309,296	1,913
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Adjustments to the fair value of freehold property		—	776,957
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u>2,309,296</u>	<u>778,870</u>



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

BALANCE SHEET

31 December 2017

	Notes	£	2017 £	£	2016 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		20,668		807,229
Investment properties	8		2,685,000		–
Investments	9		<u>200,667</u>		<u>226,659</u>
			2,906,335		1,033,888
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	128,074		101,358	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>27,391</u>		<u>13,039</u>	
			155,465	114,397	
CREDITORS: AMOUNT FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	11	<u>(186,678)</u>		<u>(155,972)</u>	
Net current liabilities			<u>(31,213)</u>		<u>(41,575)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			2,875,122		992,313
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	12		(19,132)		(12,515)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	14		<u>(343,853)</u>		<u>–</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>2,512,137</u>		<u>979,798</u>
RESERVES					
Revaluation Reserve			–		776,957
Non-distributable reserve			2,318,104		–
Income and expenditure account	17		<u>194,033</u>		<u>202,841</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			<u>2,512,137</u>		<u>979,798</u>

In accordance with section 444 of the Companies Act 2006 all of the members of the company have consented to the preparation of abridged financial statements pursuant to paragraph 1A of Schedule 1 to the Small Companies and Groups (Accounts and Directors' Report) Regulations (S.I. 2008/409)(b).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 28 March 2018 and are signed on its behalf by.

D Parnell
Director

E Schofield
Director

COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. 00005188

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	Revaluation reserve	Non- distributab le reserves	Income and expenditure account	Total
	£	£	£	£
BALANCE AT 1 JANUARY 2016	—	—	200,928	200,928
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016:				
Profit for the year	—	—	1,913	1,913
Other comprehensive income:				
Adjustments to fair value of financial assets	776,957	—	—	776,957
Total comprehensive income for the year	776,957	—	1,913	778,870
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2016	776,957	—	202,841	979,798
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017:				
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year	—	—	2,309,296	2,309,296
Transfer to non-distributable reserves	—	2,318,104	(2,318,104)	—
Transfer to non-distributable reserves	(776,957)	—	—	(776,957)
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2017	—	2,318,104	194,033	2,512,137

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**Company information**

The Birmingham Law Society is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The company's registered office is Suite 101, Cheltenham House, 14-16 Temple Street, Birmingham, B2 5BG.

1.1 Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 as applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. The disclosure requirements of section 1A of FRS 102 have been applied other than where additional disclosure is required to show a true and fair view.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Income and expenditure

Operating income and other income is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable net of VAT. The policies adopted for the recognition of operating income and other income are as follows.

When the outcome of a transaction can be established reliably, income for the rendering of services such as subscriptions, post boxes rental and lectures and courses is recognised by reference to the stage of completion at the balance sheet date. Stage of completion is measured by reference to the date of supply of the service rendered.

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend income is recognised as the company's right to receive payment is established.

Expenses are included in the financial statements as they become due.

1.3 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Fixed assets donated to the Society are included as income at an estimate of their market value at the time of receipt.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives to the business at the following rates.

Freehold property

Depreciation is not provided in respect of freehold property.

The directors consider that this policy is necessary in order for the accounts to give a true and fair value because current values and changes in current values are of prime importance rather than the calculation of systematic annual depreciation. Depreciation is only one of many factors reflected in the valuation and the amount which might otherwise have been shown cannot be separately identified or quantified.

During the year ended 31 December 2017 freehold property has been classified by the Society as investment property as the Society has derived an income from the letting of this property to a third party.

Furniture and equipment (owned)

15% per annum on reducing basis.

Furniture and equipment (leased)

20% per annum on straight line basis.

Computer equipment

25% per annum on straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is credited or charged to surplus or deficit.



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

1.4 Investment properties

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss.

Where fair value cannot be achieved without undue cost or effort, investment property is accounted for as tangible fixed assets.

1.5 Fixed asset investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value through income or expenditure if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

1.6 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset (or cash-generating unit) is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Other financial liabilities

Derivatives, including interest rate swaps and forward foreign exchange contracts, are not basic financial instruments. Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at their fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivatives are recognised in surplus or deficit in finance costs or finance income as appropriate, unless hedge accounting is applied and the hedge is a cash flow hedge.

Debt instruments that do not meet the conditions in FRS 102 paragraph 11.9 are subsequently measured at fair value through surplus or deficit. Debt instruments may be designated as being measured at fair value through surplus or deficit to eliminate or reduce an accounting mismatch or if the instruments are measured and their performance evaluated on a fair value basis in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy.

1.9 Taxation

The tax currently payable is based on taxable surplus for the year. Taxable surplus differs from net profit as reported in the income and expenditure account because it excludes items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other years and it further excludes items that are never taxable or deductible. The company's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting end date.

Deferred tax represents the future tax consequences of transactions and events recognised in the financial statements of current and previous periods. It is recognised in respect of all timing differences, with certain exceptions. Timing differences are differences between taxable surpluses and total comprehensive income as stated in the financial statements that arise from the inclusion of income and expense in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the financial statements. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable surpluses.

Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date that are expected to apply to the reversal of timing differences. Deferred tax on revalued non-depreciable tangible fixed assets and investment properties is measured using the rates and allowances that apply to the sale of the asset.



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

1.10 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.12 Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessees. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are recognised as assets at the lower of the assets fair value at the date of inception and the present value of the minimum lease payments. The related liability is included in the balance sheet as a finance lease obligation. Lease payments are treated as consisting of capital and interest elements. The interest is charged to the income and expenditure account so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

Rental income from operating leases is recognised on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease. Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging an operating lease are added to the carrying amount of the leased asset and recognised on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2. JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from the sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3. EMPLOYEES

The average monthly number of persons (excluding directors) employed by the company during the year was:

	2017 Number	2016 Number
Management and administration	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

None of the directors of the Society have received any remuneration during the year ended 31 December 2017 (2016: £nil).



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2017

4. INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

	2017	2016
	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income includes the following:		
Income from other fixed asset investments	<u>5,519</u>	<u>4,118</u>

5. AMOUNTS WRITTEN OFF INVESTMENTS

	2017	2016
	£	£
FAIR VALUE GAINS/(LOSSES)		
Change in value of financial assets held at fair value through income or expenditure	19,244	7,211
Changes in the fair value of investment properties	<u>2,661,957</u>	<u>—</u>

6. TAXATION

The Society has taxation losses of approximately £415,327 (2016: £384,000) carried forward and available for set off against any future operating surplus but not against investment income 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 recognised, measured at a tax rate of 20% (2016: 20%) is £78,900 (2016: £77,000).



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2017

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Furniture, computers and equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1 January 2017	800,000	18,692	818,692
Additions	–	17,968	17,968
Disposals	–	(6,453)	(6,453)
Transfer to investment property	(800,000)	–	(800,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2016	–	30,207	30,207
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
DEPRECIATION AND IMPAIRMENT			
At 1 January 2017	–	11,463	11,463
Depreciation charged in the year	–	2,554	2,554
Eliminated in respect of disposals	–	(4,478)	(4,478)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2017	–	9,539	9,539
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
CARRYING AMOUNT			
At 31 December 2017	–	20,668	20,668
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2016	800,000	7,229	807,229
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The net carrying value of tangible fixed assets includes the following in respect of assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts.

	2017 £	2016 £
Furniture, computers and equipment	<u>13,698</u>	<u>2,676</u>
Depreciation charge for the year in respect of leased assets	<u>618</u>	<u>765</u>

Freehold property with a carrying amount of £800,000 as at 31 December 2016 has been reclassified by the directors as an investment property as at 31 December 2017 as the Society has derived an income from the letting of this property to a third party during the year ended 31 December 2017.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2017

8. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2017 £
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 January 2017	–
Transfer from freehold property	800,000
Revaluations	<u>1,885,000</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u><u>2,685,000</u></u>

Investment property with a carrying value of £2,685,000 as at 31 December 2017 was revalued by the directors on the basis of market value following the receipt of suitably qualified advice from a third party not connected with the Society.

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2017 £	2016 £
Investments	<u><u>200,667</u></u>	<u><u>226,659</u></u>

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 23 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.

MOVEMENTS IN FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investments other than loans £
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1 January 2017	226,659
Valuation changes	19,244
Movement in uninvested cash	<u>(45,236)</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u><u>200,667</u></u>
CARRYING AMOUNT	
At 31 December 2017	<u><u>200,667</u></u>
At 31 December 2016	<u><u>226,659</u></u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2017

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2017	2016
	£	£
Trade debtors	111,523	73,651
Other debtors	1,976	7,984
Prepayments and accrued income	14,575	19,723
	<u>128,074</u>	<u>101,358</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Notes	2017	2016
		£	£
Obligations under finance leases		2,863	1,274
Trade creditors		5,471	16,093
Other taxation and social security		5,290	4,886
Deferred income	13	149,574	124,200
Other creditors		1,077	806
Accruals		22,403	8,713
		<u>186,678</u>	<u>155,972</u>

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

	Notes	2017	2016
		£	£
Obligations under finance leases		10,124	597
Deferred income	13	9,008	11,918
		<u>19,132</u>	<u>12,515</u>

Obligations under finance leases are secured against the assets to which they relate.

13. DEFERRED INCOME

	2017	2016
	£	£
Arising from Deferred income	158,582	136,118
Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:		
Current liabilities	149,574	124,200
Non-current Liabilities	9,008	11,918
	<u>158,582</u>	<u>136,118</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2017

14. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES

		2017 £	2016 £
Deferred tax liabilities	15	<u>343,853</u>	<u>–</u>

15. DEFERRED TAXATION

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset where the company has a legally enforceable right to do so. The following is the analysis of the deferred tax balances (after offset) for financial reporting purposes:

	Liabilities 2017 £	Liabilities 2016 £
BALANCES:		
Investment property	<u>343,853</u>	<u>–</u>
MOVEMENTS IN THE YEAR:		2017 £
Liability at 1 January 2017		–
Charge to profit or loss		<u>343,853</u>
Liability at 31 December 2017		<u>343,853</u>

16. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

The company is limited by guarantee, not having share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding £10.

17. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

The income and expenditure account 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 Articles.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2017

18. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Operating lease payments represent rentals payable by the Society for the provision of office accommodation. Leases are negotiated for an average of term of 3 years.

At the reporting end date the company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2017 £	2016 £
Total outstanding commitments	<u>18,117</u>	<u>27,999</u>

LESSOR

At the reporting end date the company had contracted with tenants for the following minimum lease payments:

	2017 £	2016 £
Total outstanding commitments	<u>3,285,535</u>	<u>—</u>

20. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Society contributes to the individual pension plans of certain employees. The assets of this schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds.

The total contributions for the year amounted to £562 (2016: £nil) and outstanding contributions as at 31 December 2017 amounted to £111 (2016: £nil).

**DETAILED TRADING AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017		2016	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions		87,853		110,303
Post boxes rental (including Birmingham Letter Exchange)		6,143		12,984
Lectures and courses		30,415		17,904
		<u>124,411</u>		<u>141,191</u>
 OTHER OPERATING INCOME				
Rents receivable	61,516		20,000	
Insurance recharges	589		2,711	
Sundry income	1,510		–	
	<u> </u>	63,615	<u> </u>	22,711
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		(221,101)		(173,025)
 OPERATING DEFICIT		<u>(33,075)</u>		<u>(9,123)</u>
 INVESTMENT REVENUES				
Bank interest receivable	–		4	
Income from Stock Exchange listed investments	<u>5,519</u>		<u>4,118</u>	
		5,519		4,122
 INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR EXPENSES				
Finance lease interest payable		(496)		(297)
 OTHER GAINS AND LOSSES				
Increase or decrease in fair value of investment property	2,661,957		–	
Change in fair value of financial assets measured at fair value through income or expenditure	<u>19,244</u>		<u>7,211</u>	
		2,681,201		7,211
 SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION		<u><u>2,653,149</u></u>		<u><u>1,913</u></u>

**SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Wages and salaries	88,581	90,848
Social Security costs	4,524	5,102
Staff pension costs	562	—
Lectures and courses	5,804	7,721
Grants and prizes	600	600
President's Dinner	(7,806)	(10,522)
Public Relations	4,360	11,160
Legal Awards	(33,673)	(31,886)
Computer expenses	7,501	7,537
Premises expenses	62,045	67,695
Other events, travel and associated expenses	(2,834)	(6,679)
Professional charges	70,212	11,071
Audit fees	1,200	1,200
Bank Charges	2,517	1,457
Printing and stationery	3,393	3,169
Telephone and postages	10,365	13,597
Newly Qualified	(472)	(1,315)
Incidentals	225	222
Depreciation	2,554	2,048
(Profit) or loss on sale of tangible assets	1,443	—
	221,101	173,025



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The additional information relation to the following prize funds 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.

	2017 £	2016 £
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	138	128
Less: Gold Medal Prize	<u>(250)</u>	<u>(250)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(112)</u>	<u>(122)</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	2,516	2,457
Interest received during year	<u>118</u>	<u>109</u>
	2,634	2,566
Less: Book Prize	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>2,584</u>	<u>2,516</u>
PETER NICHOLLS PRIZE FUND		
Balance at start of year	-	-
Less: Book prize	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>

Accountant's 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

March 2018



PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY 1818 - 2017

THOMAS LEE	1818	PHILIP HORTON VERNON	1956
JOHN MEREDITH	1825	GEOFFREY MARTEN KING	1957
JOHN SIMCOX	1832	GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	1958
ROGER WILLIAM GEM	1833	JOSEPH KENNETH WALKER	1959
THOMAS EYRE LEE	1848	RODERICK SYDNEY KING-FARLOW	1960
CLEMENT INGLEBY	1852	WILLIAM HENRY TILLEY	1960
JOHN WELCHMAN WHATELEY	1855	JOHN SHUFFLEBOTHAM	1962
ARTHUR RYLAND	1873	FREDERICK WILLIAM WHITALL OAKLEY	1963
GEORGE JAMES JOHNSON	1874	CHARLES THOMAS WINTERTON	1964
ARTHUR RYLAND	1876	RICHARD LAURENCE EGIN	1965
WILLIAM EVANS	1877	GEOFFREY HORACE PIDDOCK	1966
JAMES MARIGOLD	1879	HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	1967
THOMAS HORTON	1882	CHRISTOPHER HEDLEY HARMER	1968
CHARLES EDWARD MATTHEWS	1885	THOMAS HARRY PARKINSON	1969
CORNELIUS THOMAS SAUNDERS	1888	CHARLES HERBERT LEA	1970
SIR THOMAS MARTINEAU	1888	JOHN ATKINSON RUTLEDGE	1970
LAURISTON WINTERBOTHAM LEWIS	1891	SYDNEY SOLOMON JACOBS	1972
JOSEPH BENNETT CLARKE	1893	JOHN TIMOTHY ARTHUR SMITH	1973
ARTHUR GODLEE	1895	JOHN ANTONY ALDERSON	1974
THOMAS HAWKES RUSSELL	1897	DAVID LIDDELL	1975
JOSEPH ANSELL	1899	WALTER WOOD	1976
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1901	DAVID STANLEY ADAMS	1977
JOHN BARHAM CARSLAKE	1903	ROBERT JOSEPH GARRATT	1978
ALFRED POINTON	1906	GEORGE SIEGFRIED JONAS	1979
WALTER BARROW	1908	DENYS ERIC FORDHAM	1980
JOHN GILBERT BRADBURY	1910	ROGER HORTON VERNON	1980
ALFRED HENRY COLEY	1912	ARNOLD MAURICE PUTSMAN	1982
JAMES HARGREAVE	1914	CHRISTOPHER JOHN JAMES	1983
ARTHUR LABRON LOWE	1916	FREDERICK HAROLD TURNER	1984
FRANCIS AUGUST CHATWIN	1918	PETER LESLIE TAYLOR	1985
ARCHIBALD SOMERVILLE BENNETT	1919	BRIAN EDWARD GLYNN WILLIAMS	1986
JAMES ARTHUR MARIGOLD	1920	JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	1987
EDWARD EVERSHERD	1921	DAVID HOWARD HIGGS	1988
THOMAS COOKSEY	1922	CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	1989
CHARLES EGIN	1923	PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON	1990
JOSEPH JAMES	1924	CHARLES RODERICK KING-FARLOW	1991
FRANCIS HENRY PEPPER	1925	JOHN ADRIAN JAMES AUCOTT	1992
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1926	STANLEY BERNARD SHORTT	1993
CORNELIUS HALE SAUNDERS	1927	JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM	1994
HUGH BARHAM CARSLAKE	1928	ALBERT WILLIAM HEASELGRAVE	1995
GEORGE HUGGINS	1929	RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN	1996
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1930	MICHAEL DAVID HUMPHREY SHEPHERD	1997
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1931	MALCOLM GASKELL FOWLER	1998
SYDNEY VERNON	1932	TREVOR ARTHUR LEE	1999
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1933	JAYNE BELINDA WILLETT	2000
WILFRED CLARKSON MATTHEWS	1934	MICHAEL JAMES WARD	2001
FRANK HENRY CUFAUDE WILTSHIRE	1935	ANTHONY RALPH COLLINS	2002
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1937	DIANE PATRICIA BENUSSI	2003
HERBERT WILLIAM LYDE	1938	STEVEN MICHAEL JONAS	2004
JOSEPH THOMAS HIGGS	1939	RICHARD THOMAS FOLLIS	2005
GEORGE HAROLD WILLCOX	1941	PHILIP DUNKLEY STEEL	2006
ARTHUR JOHN GATELEY	1943	SUKHDEV SINGH BHOMRA	2007
JOHN FREDERICK WEST	1945	CAROLINE AMANDA COATES	2008
WILLIAM CHARLES COLEMAN GELL	1946	BERNARD ROBERT MCWALTER SHEPHERD	2009
CHARLES ADRIAN ASHFORD ELTON	1947	DEAN CURTIS PARNELL	2010
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	1948	ANDREW JOHN LANCASTER	2011
JOHN HENRY SQUIRE ADDISON	1949	MARY DYMUNA KAYE	2012
GEORGE ARTHUR LYON HATTON	1950	EDWARD THOMAS MARTIN ALLSOPP	2013
CYRIL HIGHWAY	1950	EILEEN FRANCES MARY SCHOFIELD	2014
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	1952	MUSHTAQ AHMED KHAN	2015
CECIL HAMMOND COX	1953	JOHN BAILEY HUGHES	2016
THOMAS BERNARD SMITH	1954	ANDREW JOHN BEEDHAM	2017
JOHN ALBERT CALTHROP TAYLOR	1955		



OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1818 - 2017

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 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
EDWARD THOMAS MARTIN ALLSOPP	2009
JOHN BAILEY HUGHES	2010

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		
JONATHAN STUART LLOYD	Joint	April 2009
KEITH BROWNE	Joint	April 2010
BERNARDETTE GRIFFIN	Joint	April 2010
ANN MARY HOUGHTON	Joint	Feb 2011
INEZ MAY BROWN	Joint	April 2016
CHAITALI DESAI		

CHAIRS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JONATHAN STUART LLOYD	2010
BERNARD ROBERT MCWALTER SHEPHERD	2011
CHRISTOPHER OWEN	2012
EILEEN FRANCES MARY SCHOFIELD	2016



MISSION STATEMENT

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

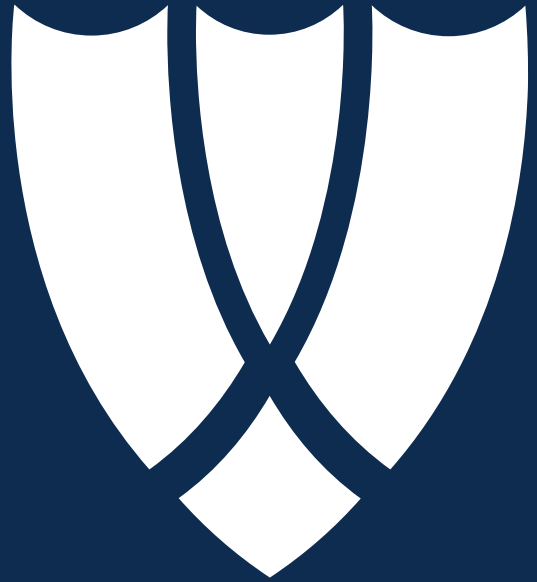
- by promoting the rule of law and access to justice
- by raising issues relevant to the provision of legal services such as Alternative Business Structures, cuts in legal aid, diversity issues in respect of access to the legal profession etc;

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 2013



Birmingham Law Society

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email: info@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk

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