



**BIRMINGHAM
LAW SOCIETY**

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CELEBRATING 200 YEARS - 1818 - 2018

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



President's Foreword

Thank you for the honour of electing me to be the President of Birmingham Law Society and to share the bi-centennial year with my colleague and friend Andrew Beedham.

When I opened my year on 24 April 2018 I indicated that I had a number of aspirations during my year. I aimed to promote Birmingham as a centre of legal excellence, improve member engagement, build on our national and international relationships and ensure we celebrated our bi-centenary in style. A year proves to be a short time but I am confident that I made progress with all of those aspirations.

In particular I hope the Society's members will agree that we marked the bi-centenary with style. The year had many highlights kicked off with the Justice Service, publication of the history, many successful sporting competitions, obtaining the approval of the Civic Society to install a history plaque on 8 Temple Street to honour the society and the Gala Dinner. The success of the year was due to the hard work and commitment of the sub-committees and our professional office team ably led by Becky Lynch, Head of Operations. The slick faultless presentation on all of those occasions made those nights seem effortless and enjoyable but that belies the immense hard work and imagination required to put them together. There were an enormous number of meetings and few will forget Glynn Purnell's initial impression at the prospect of meeting a bunch of lawyers.

There are very many people involved in the society to whom I owe thanks:

Council – who I thank for ten of the most vibrant and controversial meetings during my time with the Society. I could not have asked for a better supporting team.

The Board – ably led by Eileen Schofield who has assembled a talented, energetic and ambitious team. The Society has been in very capable hands during my year and I congratulate Regan Peggs on taking on the role of Board Chair. I wish him and the directors continued success.

Tony McDaid and the marketing team at No5 Chambers deserve special thanks from me and Becky Lynch. Tony's chambers selflessly ensured that their own events did not clash with our celebrations, put their team at our disposal and organised each of our sporting competitions. The chambers selflessly gave over its

annual cricket competition to be jointly branded with BLS and forewent the pleasure of putting on its famous Strictly competition to avoid detracting from our events.

My thanks also to the legion of members who attended, supported and mucked in with our events in order to fund raise for my nominated charities.

Professional team – the President simply could not function effectively without the support provided by Becky Lynch, Johanna Sahi-Proto, Liz Dziergas, Denise Harnett and Nigel Watson. They are the constant element in a progressive Society which sees enormous change year on year.

My keenest supporters this year have been Linden Thomas and Inez Brown. Our officers meetings have been no less energetic and vibrant than Council.

I reflected on the highlights of the year by reviewing the folder on my laptop in which I have stored every set of minutes, agendas, speeches, meeting notes, even plans and briefing notes in attempt to draw up a short list of this year's highlights. It has been a tough task to select a few examples from the over four hundred documents in that folder.

I attended the Opening of the Legal Year at Westminster and at the Palais de Justice in Paris. Both were memorable stylish events. The former marked for me by the immense pride I felt on hearing Christina Blacklaws nail her speech in Middle Temple Hall.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Gala dinner. I expected to be nervous on the night but I arrived early at the ICC and as soon as I saw how Emma Jones and her team had set up the room I had a surge of confidence. If you all enjoyed the night half as much as me you had a cracking night out.



I was flattered to be invited to speak on the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human rights at the Opera in Lyon. We have a historically good relationship with the Lyons Bar cultivated by the hard work of my hosts Tim Hughes, Maite Roche and the Batonnier of Lyons. They noted that I have never been shy to speak up on issues of social justice and human rights. The event was held during the Fete des Lumieres which would be reason enough to spend a weekend in a beautiful city. I will not quickly forget a memorable event at which I shared a stage with colleagues, poets, rappers, human rights advocates from across the globe and members of the Russian punk band Pussy Riot.

I developed a great fondness and friendship with the Presidents of the Joint Five law societies and had immense fun attending their President's dinners and legal awards. I have been attending the Joint Five meetings for the last three years and will miss that constructive forum.

I succeeded in attending all of the Society's Committees during the year. This year has seen many injected with new energy, numerous changes of chair, appointments of vice chairs and of course the creation of four new committees: Equality & Diversity, Membership, Marketing & Sponsorship and the In-House/General Council committee. I have read, approved and contributed to the insightful consultation responses of those hard working teams. They remain the coal face of the society.

We have collectively succeeded in supporting two charities this year. The Jeff Astle Foundation and Headway – the brain injury association. I hope that the money we have raised will assist them to continue to help those affected by brain injury in our community. They have been a pleasure to work with and I wish to thank Anna Kerr, Jo Plant and Dawn Astle for their support.

The Society is in an excellent financial position and enjoys remarkable support from its membership. We have grown to over 5000 members this year and have every right to our claim to be one of the oldest, the largest, certainly most vibrant and progressive societies

for professionals in the UK. The Society is extremely fortunate to have Linden Thomas and Inez Brown in the wings as its next Presidents. Linden has exciting plans for the Society in her year and I wish her every success.

James Turner
President



Report from the Board

I am pleased to present our Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2018.

2018 marked our bicentennial year and has been a special year with many events held to celebrate this momentous year.

There have been some changes to the Board with the appointment of two Directors:

Caroline Coates as Membership Director appointed in May 2018.

PJ Ellis as Marketing and Sponsorship Director appointed in March 2019.

The following Directors' 3-year term is coming to an end in April 2019; Dee Kundi, Tony McDaid and Laura Daly and I am delighted to inform that all Directors have expressed a wish to continue in their role for a further term.

My term as Chairwoman has also come to an end in April 2019 and I have decided not to continue in the role. I have the pleasure of handing over the position of Chairman of the Board to Regan Peggs.

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

During the course of the year and through the commitment and tenacity of the Board Directors, the Society has improved in every area of the business of the Society. Each of the Directors has delegated responsibility for a key area of the business – finance, membership, sponsorship & marketing, IT, bicentennial planning and learning and development.

The strategic aims contained in the business plan to give members a voice, increase membership and review the benefits, to improve external and internal communications and support and maintain the financial stability of the society have been met.

The Board's objectives were to review corporate membership strategy to ensure competitive fee was undertaken by the membership director with a through

root and branch review. The findings were presented to Council and a vote taken to remove the country membership and offer a streamlined membership of corporate membership defined by the number of partners and an individual membership, which is ever increasing. The Society faces the ongoing challenge of retaining members; however, to date membership has increased with the addition of a number of new members to include Aston University and the re-engagement of St Philips Chambers; both active corporate sponsors.

The bicentennial year was a major challenge for all Board Directors, the time commitment to deliver on all of the agreed projects was phenomenal. Credit should be given to the Special Projects Director Tony McDaid and the team at No5 Chambers. BLS excelled in the range of events and engaged with members who had not previously felt drawn to BLS events; this is primarily due to the involvement of the No5 Chambers marketing team. The completion and launch of the Bicentenary book was delivered by a committee led by Andrew Beedham, whose year of office was dominated by the preparations for BLS 200 and who gave an extraordinary amount of time to ensure that key projects were delivered which shaped the year for the Society.

The additional legacy pieces of the artwork commission from Reuben Colley and the award of the history plate by the Civic Society conclude the bicentennial celebrations. The Society is now preparing for the next 200 years!

The marketing and sponsorship team, with the support of our Head of Operations, have worked tirelessly during this exceptional year of events and increased sponsorship to £62,000. The marketing and PR of the Society has been a particular success with every event covered on social media and a significant increase in followers of the BLS twitter account. Laura Daly and



Dee Kundi have attended most of the social events throughout the year. The new look Bulletin has increased in circulation under the management of Fraser Urquhart.

The programme of learning and development has been diverse and relevant to meet the training needs of our members. Joint training events have taken place and have been a success. One of the main strategic focus for the learning and development director has been the journeys of training, with particular interest in the solicitor qualifying examinations proposed by the SRA. It is a challenging time for the profession and the Society has been kept up to date with the developments by the Learning and Development Director. The lunch clubs have been a particularly successful initiative with a plethora of inspirational speakers including most recently our very own Betty Webb; former employee of Birmingham Law Society, who worked at Bletchley Park during the war. The internship initiative has gained some interest and continues to be one of the ongoing benefits to student members of the Society.

IT was a particular challenge during the year and after a number of setbacks we can now boast a state of the art CRM system, which is embedded in an updated interactive website, serving our members more effectively.

We reported last year that the lease on the property had been granted to Revolucion de Cuba. This relationship has been reinforced by the granting of the licence as a result of the completion of the agreed works. The result of the development is that the Society can rely on the lease as a significant generator of revenue for the forthcoming years. The business plan provided for the possibility of acquiring an additional property; this is a long-term plan which will be reviewed periodically and will be subject to market pressures and the finances of the Society.

Whilst the finances of the Society show a deficit for the year, this was anticipated due to the reduction in the rent and the extent and range of events the Board were asked to finance to commemorate the bicentennial year. The detailed finance report is provided separately for review and consideration.

We held our first staff away day; this was an insightful opportunity for the staff to share views, aspirations and their vision for the future of the Society. As a result of the away day, all members of staff received a tailored

package of training. Becky Lynch participated in and graduated from the Common Purpose leadership programme. The team have always delivered the very best of support to the Officers and the Board and are empowered to make a significant contribution with the addition of Becky Lynch attending both Board meetings and Council to participate and contribute on behalf of the team.

Much of these successes during the year would not have been possible without the commitment and passion of the President James Turner. James has worked so hard during his year of office and is the consummate professional in all that he has achieved throughout his year. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve him in his Office as a Board and in particular as Chairwoman of the Board. The next President Linden Thomas is formidable; we can look forward to the year ahead as the Society is in very safe hands.

Last but by no means least we want to pay tribute to the office team without whom the Society would not be the best Society in the country. A special thank you to Becky, Liz, Johanna, Denise and Nigel for the commitment, energy and enthusiasm you give to the Birmingham Law Society.

On a final note – as this is my last report as Chairwoman of the Board, I want to express my heartfelt thank you to the Board of Directors, who have inspired me throughout my term and supported me every step of the way of leading the business of the Society; especially to Bernardette Griffin as Deputy Chair. I am proud to say that the Directors, most of whom I recruited onto the Board, are the very best that the Society could wish to have steering the Society into a secure and engaging membership organisation.

Eileen Schofield
Chairwoman of the Board



Finance Report

It is a pleasure to be writing this review of the finances of the Society for its 200th year.

This year was my first year in office as Finance Director, having taken over from the very safe hands of Dean Parnell in April 2018.

Lawyers like caveats, and I therefore must make stress at the outset that as our financial year runs from January to December, the financial success of this Society during 2018 in no small part arises from the hard work and financial stewardship of Dean for the first quarter of the year, the leadership of the President for 2017/2018 Andrew Beedham. I should also mention those who have served to improve the Society's finances over the past years, not least those on the property sub-committee, without whose effort and hard work converting the Temple Street premises into a sound investment I would not be managing the Society's finances at such a healthy time.

I cannot imagine that anyone with responsibility for the Society's finances during the last 200 years has been as fortunate as I have when considering its overall financial position bearing in mind (i) the current rental and subscription income to the Society and (ii) the value of its assets, both in terms of its investment portfolio and its property value. It is therefore a particularly pleasing time to be in post.

I turn, then, to look at the figures for the past year.

Financial Performance

The financial performance of the Society in 2018 was truly impressive, notwithstanding that we made an overall loss in accounting terms (for reasons I will explain). The following headline figures are worthy of note:

- The Society's overall income was £224,932 (compared to £188,026 in 2017). This is accounted for by the increase in subscriptions and the

increased rental income from Temple Street.

- As to rental income, this was £99,329 in 2018 (against £61,516 in 2017).
- Subscriptions were £97,929 (compared to £87,853 in 2017). This mainly arose from some large corporate and university subscriptions commencing in 2018.
- Staff costs increased to £100,516 in 2018 (having been £88,581 in 2017). These costs increased as a result of a part-time staff member becoming full-time due to the Society's ongoing requirements, changes to mandatory pension provision, and inflationary wage increases.
- The Society suffered an overall loss in terms of operating deficit of £12,675 (compared to £33,075 in 2017).

Two aspects of these figures require further explanation and discussion.

Bicentenary Celebrations

Firstly, 2018 was a year which saw a significant investment in celebrating the Society's 200th year. This celebration was important not only because we wanted to do justice to our rich history as one of the oldest such societies but because of our ability to use the year to promote the Society within the local and wider community. As a result, we saw new and different members joining during 2018, and new and different guests at our flagship annual dinner, many of whom have gone on to support the Society in other ways and to attend further events.

The bicentenary dinner also merits further reference. I know that there has been some concern around the



fact that the event made an overall loss, and that the full extent of the potential loss was not realised until quite late in the day. I can assure members that the board, which ultimately bears responsibility for managing the affairs of the Society, was closely involved with the finances for the event, and the office was in regular discussion with the relevant sub-committee, the officers and board around the anticipated financial outcome. Unfortunately, although the attendance at the event was strong, we did not have as many attendees as we might at one time have hoped for, and certain sponsorship opportunities did not in the end crystallise.

The outcome was that the dinner generated a loss of some £13,000. However, this stark figure should not be viewed in isolation: the bicentenary events as a whole performed better, with other events making a profit, it truly was a night to remember, and the impact of the event and the year is likely to reap financial and other benefits in the medium- and long-term.

Unusual Expenditure

Secondly, it should be recorded that the Society suffered an unexpected loss in respect of irrecoverable VAT of £12,224. This is a result two factors in combination: (i) the breakdown of our income during 2018 and the proportion of which is from rent, because above a certain percentage not all VAT can be recovered, and (ii) incurring higher than usual costs in 2018 upon which we paid VAT, which ultimately as a result of (i) was then in part irrecoverable.

Notably, but for the unfortunate coincidence of those factors which led to paying an additional £12,224 in respect of VAT, the loss of £12,675 would have been almost cancelled out and we would have almost broke even.

Given the extent of our commitment of time and resource in our 200th year as set out above, I for one would have been very proud of “merely” breaking even given what we achieved and the legacy we have set, and this shows how close we came.

Our Current Position

Against that background, we enter 2019 in a strong position:

- Subscriptions are at a level higher than in many recent years, with new corporate and university members;
- Rental income, although it will be lower than last year (due to the varying rent structure negotiated with the tenant) is healthy; and
- The Temple Street building with the tenant in place has been valued at £2.58m. (I should in the interests of transparency make clear that the value in the 2017 accounts was higher at £2,685m, but this is a result of both general market conditions and the fact that we have obtained a robust arms-length valuation for the first time this year which may, of necessity, be conservative. In any event, and again with reference to my predecessors, I would be surprised if any of them would have ever foreseen a time we would say that our property is now “only” worth £2.58m!)

Closing Remarks

It is important that I record my thanks to all of those who help with the day-to-day running of the Society and especially that help me with its finances: Nigel Watson, Becky Lynch, all the office staff, the officers, council and board. It is right that I record a special thank you for our Chair, Eileen Schofield, who steps down at the AGM, without whose hard work, dedication and leadership over the past 3 years we would not be in the position we are in now.

Ben Henry
Finance Director



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Vice President

LINDEN THOMAS - University of Birmingham, 0121 414 5780

Deputy Vice President

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

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SOPHIE SAMANI - Shakespeare Martineau, 0121 214 0000

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Vice Chairman - Prof. Bernardette Griffin

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

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

Membership Director - Caroline Coates

Learning & Development Director - Catherine Edwards, Keele University, 01782 732 000

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

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

Ex Officio as President - James Turner, Tuckers Solicitors LLP, 0121 236 43 24

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Sarah Oakes, BPP University
Adam Shaw-Mellors, Aston University
Sonya Smith, Birmingham City University
Gemma Tibbatts, Regan Peggs Solicitors
Janet Wright, The University of Law



We are pleased to report that 2019 has been another memorable and strong year for the Birmingham Law Society as we continued our 200th anniversary celebrations of the Society.

As part of the Society's 200th celebrations, a video diary was commissioned which captured key events and speakers throughout the year.

During this year, the traditional format for the President's Dinner was changed. For the first time the Society held a Gala Dinner where those who attended were treated to a night including a menu designed by Glynn Purnell, along with live music from the Society's choir and presentations from Headway and the Jeff Astle Foundation, the President's chosen charities. Guests were entertained by compere Rory Bremner whose wit and comedy enhanced the evening.

The Society's book (written by Dr Sally Hoban and Dr Malcolm Dick from the School of History and Cultures at the University of Birmingham), which details the history of the Society over the last 200 years, was published with copies of the books being distributed to member firms. The Society also continued its 200th anniversary celebrations by commissioning a major painting by Reuben Colley that is presently available to be viewed at his gallery on Colmore Row.

We have held a number of events this year that are too many to list here, but the key highlights in addition to the Gala dinner have been the Society's Legal Awards evening in March 2019 and a sold out lecture by Baroness Hale. The Society's lunch clubs have continued throughout the year with key speakers such as Betty Webb, Jess Philips MP, and Caroline Hill at Headway. The Society also hosted for the first time a knock out competition of great challenges and games with attendees from the Society's members and sponsors.

Council meetings continue to be well attended, with one of the most contentious topics for discussion and debate being the review of the Society's membership. Speakers at Council meetings have included Matthew Gordon (of Spectrafirst) and Tets Ishikawa (of Acasta/Sparkle Capital) and Jane Malcom (of the SRA).

Revolution De Cuba's tenancy of the Society's premises on Temple Street has been going well and has been a valuable addition to Birmingham's local bars and restaurants. We are pleased to confirm that by the time we hold our AGM the building will also be bestowed with a History Plaque by the Birmingham Civic Society.

The Society and its committees have been active in responding to a number of consultation papers produced by the SRA and Government including matters relating to: the proposed changes to professional indemnity insurance, reporting concerns, transforming the response to domestic abuse and the Taylor Review of Modern Working Practices, which encompassed various responses to the department for business, energy and industrial strategy on various employment issues.

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.



Chaitali Desai
Joint Honorary Secretary



Sophie Samani
Joint Honorary Secretary



Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 24 April 2018

The Council has pleasure in presenting the 199th Annual Report of the proceedings of the Society.

Officers

At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 24th April 2018, Mr James Turner was installed as President of the Society, Ms Linden Thomas as Vice President and Ms Inez Brown as Deputy Vice President. Ms Chaitali Desai and Ms Sophie Samani were installed as Joint Honorary Secretaries.

Board

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

Council

The retiring ordinary members of the Council were:
Ash Ahmed, Helen Jane Arnold, Jatinder Paul, Arvind Sharma and Simon Thomas.

The ordinary members of Council who were nominated for re-election pursuant to Article (62) were:
Clive Read and Denise Watkins.

The ex officio members retiring was:
Mushtaq Khan

The following members for the Society were duly nominated for election to the Council pursuant to Article (61):
Karen Bailey, Tobias Haynes, Stephanie Perraton, Bhavesh Prajapati and Ian Shovlin.

Obituaries

Roger Frederick Coates (1937-2018)

Roger Coates was a solicitor of the Supreme Court for 50 years and senior partner of Buller Jeffries for nearly 40 years. Between 1970 and 1980, he was Deputy Coroner of Birmingham. In 2012, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Birmingham Legal Awards. In the same year Buller Jeffries merged with DWF LLP, with Roger Coates becoming a consultant for two years before retiring formally in 2014.

Sian Mari Meisel (-2018)

Mari Meisel was instrumental in setting up the first West Midlands committee of the Solicitors Family Law Association (now known as Resolution). In addition, she was one of the first lawyers to train as a mediator, again forming a consortium of West Midlands based mediators.

Philip Edward Richardson (1945-2018)

A partner with Dawkins & Grey from 1971 to 2000 (when ill health forced his very premature retirement) he was also Honorary Secretary of Birmingham Law Society, Public Relations Officer and President from 1990 to 1991.

Michael David Humphrey Shepherd (1940-2018)

Past President of Birmingham Law Society from 1997 to 1998.



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 Committee

Criminal Law Committee

It has been my pleasure to take over from James Turner as Chair of the committee. James left the committee in good shape, and it has been easy to build on that success.

A priority for the last 12 months has been to bring new blood into the committee. To that end, we have been pleased to welcome William Douglas-Jones, Alexander Pritchard-Jones and Andrew Rourke (all St Ives Chambers), Chloë Ashley (No5 Chambers), Charmaine Robinson (Purcell Parker), Matthew O'Brien (Jonas Roy Bloom), Satwinder Bains (Vienna Kang), and Stephanie Brownlees (Eden Legal Services). We have also co-opted new members from the Probation Service, HMCTS, the Legal Aid Agency, and Birmingham City Council, the latter having not previously been represented on the committee. We have recently received an application to join our committee from the Criminal Cases Review Commission. The CCRC is a national organisation, and the fact that it wishes to join us speaks volumes about the clout that being a committee of BLS provides.

Our Committee has engaged with the courts and other agencies to seek solutions to problems that frustrate us all. We take a collaborative approach, and are keen to find solutions that help all practitioners and agencies. A recent example saw us liaise closely with the City Council in relation to the courts' listing arrangements for the 'corporation courts'. We are now invited to work with HMCTS on a larger review of listing arrangements generally.

Criminal law continues to suffer from severe cuts, for all agencies. There is no doubt that many of the difficulties we see can be largely attributed to this. Happily, the courts, prosecution, probation services, prison service, senior police officers &c. are prepared to work with us to mitigate these problems.

As ever, we continue to respond to consultation papers. The most notable consultations this year have been in relation to proposed homogenisation of powers of search and entry for different agencies, and a new sentencing code.



Regan Peggs, Chair
Criminal Law Committee



Dispute Resolution Committee

The Dispute Resolution Committee (“DRC”) has been continuing to work with the local judiciary and has undertaken a number of initiatives to promote the introduction of electronic filing in the Business and Property Courts in Birmingham. We also set up the CCC Network which has been used over the last 12 months to raise awareness with members on a variety of matters. We have also been discussing the issues that will be challenging civil litigation over the next few years such as fixed fees, increasing pressure on Court structures (with ever decreasing funding), the rise of litigants in person, changes to technology (and how litigation services will be delivered) and, of course, Brexit.

It has now been around 10 years since I took up the role of chair of DRC and over the years we have undertaken some exciting initiatives/events such as securing Lord Neuberger to talk to litigation practitioners at Hotel Du Vin over lunch (which was then followed by a round table discussion at the offices of Pinsent Mason) with some of the leading litigation lawyers in our region, securing Lord Justice Jackson to talk about his proposed changes to a Birmingham based audience in excess of 100 (who gave him quite a hard time!), arranging the regular advocacy training and court tours (this has now been running for many years), arranging specialist accountancy training to civil litigators (this is something we are looking to re-introduce again) and so the list goes on and on.

Having chaired DRC for so long I feel it is now time for a change and as such I have decided to step down as Chair. However, I am delighted to report that Sophie Samani has been elected as DRC’s new Chair and takes up the role from this month. Sophie works at Shakespeare Martineau and she is bursting with enthusiasm and has some great ideas which will take DRC to a new level. I should also mention that she will be ably supported by Tobias Haynes (FS Legal) who was elected as Deputy Chair; together they will provide excellent leadership and clear direction for DRC with the aim of raising awareness and seeking to protect the interests of our civil litigation members.



Dean Parnell, Chair
Dispute Resolution Committee

Employment Law Committee

The Employment Law Committee met monthly throughout 2018 to consider changes and proposed changes to the law and to liaise with interested organisations.

We have been joined by James Medhurst (Fieldfisher), Rachel Broughton (alternate for Alan Jones, Averta) and Ann-Marie Pugh and Emma Neate (Neate and Pugh) and Samantha Burns (Aston University) during the year otherwise membership remains the same.

We have invited Acting Regional Employment Judge Findlay, and the Regional Director of ACAS, Malcolm Boswell to meetings; they both provided insight and updates in their respective areas.

We have also been joined by various organisations seeking our pro-bono support. ELIPS was launched and well-attended to provide some support for un-represented parties in tribunal

We plan to hold an event with the Employment Judiciary during 2019.

The Government introduced several consultations this year. The committee has endeavoured to respond to relevant, consultations sometimes on very short lead times. In total the committee responded to 7 papers, some being very substantial. This was only achieved by many hours put in by members of the committee outside meetings and the intelligent and detailed forensic debate by members during meetings.

The Tribunals continue to suffer from understaffing especially at Judicial level although recent recruits should filter into the system in the coming months. We have debated this and other issues as they have arisen.

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



Michael Hibbs, Chair
Employment Law Committee



Equality & Diversity Committee

Diversity and inclusion are core values for Birmingham Law Society ("BLS") and it is critical that we incorporate these values into all aspects of our members' work including advocacy, communications, workplace environment and recruitment.

The BLS D&I committee was established in September 2018 with the aim of ensuring best practice and guidance, published by BLS, is relevant to members and is meaningful and impactful for positive change in the law profession.

The Committee's core aims are to:

- provide best practice on issues of equality, diversity and inclusion to BLS;
- provide guidance and support to BLS and its members on issues of equality, diversity and inclusion;
- help create best practice guidelines and policies BLS and its members dealing with issues of equality, diversity and inclusion; and
- promote equality, diversity and inclusion within legal practice (including law departments within universities) in the West Midlands.

The Committee is made up of 22 members from barrister chambers, universities and law firms across Birmingham and meet once per calendar month to implement its core aims. The meetings are chaired by Timothy Evans of Gowling WLG and co-chaired by Nwabueze Nwokolo, a locum solicitor.

Family Law Committee

Looking back over the last 12 months, since spring 2018, Birmingham Family Court has led the country in terms of adopting the only specialist matrimonial finance scheme outside of London. This has been a success for the West Midlands in terms of the appointment of twelve specialist judges to matrimonial finance cases in Birmingham Family Court. From October 2018, this will be adopted in nine other courts across England and Wales.

We had a record attendance at the Committee meeting in March, with His Honour Judge Rowland, District Judge Ingram and Allison Roberts (HMCTS) leading the meeting, to focus on sharing the knowledge of and debate centred on the Specialist Finance Scheme and the gatekeeping and allocation of resources specifically to meet the Scheme's objectives.

We have seen the significant rise in the advancement of IT in use by the court system.

In May, the court system introduced the on-line issue of divorce proceedings and in February 2019 we see the introduction of first court hearings in finance cases, taking place by web-cam. The aim is for all documents to be filed electronically in the future to catch up with the criminal court practice.

We welcomed the President of Birmingham Law Society, James Turner to the meeting in July. In September's meeting, we welcomed an external speaker. Our discussion was focussed on multi-disciplinary practice, in terms of Dispute Resolution processes and specifically the use of Family Consultants in cases involving children.

The Committee has been pro-active in terms of continuing to be a forum for debate and consultation. In November, we responded to the Consultation Paper "Reducing family conflict: Reform of the legal requirements for divorce".

We are delighted to welcome Sir Andrew McFarlane, appointed as the President from 27 July 2018 as the the Key Note Speaker for the Birmingham Law Society Conference planned for the 18th October 2019 in Birmingham.



Timothy Evans, Chair
Equality & Diversity Committee



Claire Darley, Chair
Family Law Committee



International Committee

Although Brexit has loomed large in our thoughts throughout 2018/19, we have focused our attention beyond Europe into other parts of the globe. In May 2018 we hosted a delegation of Latin American Lawyers at an event held at Birmingham University. In August we received a judicial delegation from Guangdong and in September from Guangxi Province strengthening our links with China which have been developing over a number of years. More recently we have collaborated with BritAsia and engaged in a conference “Brexit into Asia” discussing the options should Parliament ever put an end to the debate and actually make a decision! Either way, be it leaving the EU or yet another vote, we intend putting on an event to inform our membership of how the outcome will affect us all in the near future.

Membership Committee

2018 saw the creation of the membership committee, following the appointment of Caroline Coates as membership director on the board of BLS.

As a board committee, its purpose is to:

- retain and attract new members to the Society;
- obtain feedback from members;
- review the value and relevance of membership;
- to review subscriptions;
- to support the office in engaging with members.

At a time of change in the legal profession it is important for BLS to ensure that its membership model reflects the world in which it operates. The committee are carrying out a review of the membership model and levels of subscription to be completed and implemented in 2019.

Feedback is always encouraged and any comments can be sent to johanna@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk

Personal Injury Committee

The Personal Injury Committee represents both the Claimant and Defendant contingent of Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence practitioners.

We are a fairly small group that meet to consider the changes in the field of PI / Clinical Negligence. Attendance is regularly made by defendant and Claimant lawyers from local chambers and solicitor’s offices.

In most recent times, The Civil Liability Bill has taken up most of the committee’s time, along with other consultation business. Presently matters are largely tentative, waiting for the Government’s next move on The Civil Liability Bill.

The PI / Clinical Negligence practice area is constantly changing – The Civil Liability Bill is expected to bring widespread and possibly devastating changes in April 2020 that the committee is monitoring and reporting upon.

Fixed Costs, The Discount Rate and Online courts are among the present areas of discussion.

The Chair’s position will shortly be taken over by Sarah Corser of Access Legal.



Tony McDaid, Chair
International Committee



Caroline Coates, Chair
Membership Committee



Property & Development Committee

Real estate practitioners might be forgiven for thinking the Government has spent almost as much time debating dramatic changes to property law and practice as they have on Brexit! It has been an eventful year and the winds of change are blowing through familiar processes and practices.

We have seen:

- Numerous Law Commission and Government Consultation Papers throughout the year debating some of the worst practices in the landlord and tenant sphere. The committee welcomes the Tenant Fees Act 2019 which will come into force on 1 June 2019 and which will ban unfair letting fees and cap tenancy deposits at 5 weeks' rent amongst other measures.
- The Law Commission is consulting on reinvigorating commonhold as an alternative to leasehold and also on leasehold home ownership and exercising the right to manage. Both Papers are designed to address what the government sees as shortcomings in the residential leasehold system. No system is perfect but if commonhold is to be a viable alternative to leasehold there needs to be a serious PR job in persuading high street lenders, developers and registered providers of its merits.

In June 2018 Birmingham Law Society helped host the national Law Society's first conveyancing symposium outside London, in conjunction with BPP University. A wide-ranging series of presentations included Land Registry digitisation, block chain and measures to be taken to address GDPR. It was a great success, so much so that a second event is planned for 14 May 2019.

Throughout the year we have welcomed speakers from businesses complementary to the property industry. My particular thanks to Landmark Property Information, Equilibrium Security, Sentio Insurance, and Facultas.

By the time you read this I will have stood down as chair after 5 years, although I will remain a committee member. I have been incredibly proud to serve this great committee as chair and would like to thank all my fellow committee members for their enthusiasm and support in helping us represent the real estate part of the profession regionally and nationally. I leave the committee in the very safe hands of Denise Watkins as your new chair and Ben James as vice chair. They will do a great job.

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.

Our highlights of the year include:

- Sharing information about the pro bono projects in Birmingham to assist members to understand Birmingham's existing pro bono initiatives and to help all members identify opportunities for collaboration and cooperation.
- Maintaining and publicising a database of local advice agencies and pro bono services, providing signposting for members of the public.
- Expanding the committee to welcome more lawyers from in-house teams.
- Supporting two pro bono trainees through the Justice First Fellowship.
- Hosting an event during Justice Week with the theme "Exploring access to justice and Pro Bono opportunities at home and abroad". The evening included talks from the African Prisons Project, Central England Law Centre and RNIB.
- Welcoming a range of guest speakers to committee meetings to share pro bono opportunities and good practice.
- Teaming up with the Birmingham Pro Bono Network, an online platform set up with the aim of getting lawyers and professionals in Birmingham talking about pro bono.
- Working with LawWorks to provide training to lawyers around the city on a range of pro bono topics.

If you would like to know more about pro bono in Birmingham, or if you have any pro bono stories to share please contact the committee at: probono@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk



Clive Read, Chair
Property & Development Committee



Student Committee

We give thanks to Patrick Wisheu (Mills and Reeves), Gavin McLeod (St Phillips Chambers) and Catherine Edwards (then BPP) for the tremendous help they have given on the committee but who have all stood down this year. In their place we have welcomed Sarah Oakes (BPP), Louisa Jeppeson and James Hickman (Mills and Reeves) and Olivia Beesley (St Philips) onto the Committee and we are delighted their respective firms continue to be represented. We remain willing to hear from any BLS members who would like to join our committee and it remains one of our priorities to encourage those practitioners who are enthusiastic about helping students reach their ambition of a career in law to join the committee.

We generally meet on the first Monday of every month or shortly thereafter.

During 2018/2019 the committee participated in a number of events:

- Free attendance for selected student winners of internal university competitions to the BLS Legal Awards;
- Presentations about the benefits of membership of BLS in freshers week;
- Coverage in the BLS bulletin;
- Delivered talks on training contract applications and pupillage applications;
- Delivered talks on well-being and managing stress in exams;
- Attended student networking events and panel talks;
- Started the “B-LAW” initiative;
- Linking with national “pathways” campaigns such as the National Accident Helpline Pathways Project.

During the 2018/2019 the committee has been working hard to implement a new initiative that gives student members who come from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to receive mentoring, work experience, assistance in career progression and a grant to assist in their further education called “B-Law”. Working closely with the Equality and Diversity Committee and the Education and Training Committee it is our intention is to run the competition in September 2019 with a view to announcing the winner in December so that they can receive support during the training contract / pupillage application process that starts in January 2020.

We continue to raise the work of BLS and our committee through social media and in particular, through the BLS social media pages. The chair has also recently been interviewed by “LegallyBrum” explaining the work of the student committee and how we support students.



James Farmer, Chair
Student Committee



DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the Society 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:

V Duddles	(Resigned 24 April 2018)
B Griffin	
B Henry	
D Kundi	
T McDaid	
D Parnell	(Resigned 24 April 2018)
E Schofield	
L Daly	
R Peggs	
C Edwards	
C Coates	(Appointed 1 May 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.

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

B Henry
DIRECTOR

27 March 2019



DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

(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 the 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.



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 2018 which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, 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 2018 and of its deficit 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



DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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
- 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.

Use of our 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 them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

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

27 March 2019



STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 £	2017 £
INCOME		120,471	124,411
Administrative expenses		(237,607)	(221,101)
Other operating income		<u>104,461</u>	<u>63,615</u>
OPERATING DEFICIT		(12,675)	(33,075)
Interest receivable and similar income	4	4,947	5,519
Interest payable and similar expenses		-	(496)
Change in fair value of investments	5	<u>(105,751)</u>	<u>2,681,201</u>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION		(113,479)	2,653,149
Taxation	6	<u>19,950</u>	<u>(343,853)</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	17	<u>(93,529)</u>	<u>2,309,296</u>



BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2018

	Notes	£	2018 £	£	2017 £
FIXED ASSET					
Tangible assets	7		13,435		20,668
Investment properties	8		2,580,000		2,685,000
Investments	9		<u>232,981</u>		<u>200,667</u>
			2,826,416		2,906,335
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	105,212		128,074	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>3,319</u>		<u>27,391</u>	
		108,531		155,465	
CREDITORS: AMOUNT FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	11	<u>(181,386)</u>		<u>(186,678)</u>	
Net current liabilities			<u>(72,855)</u>		<u>(31,213)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			2,753,561		2,875,122
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN A YEAR	12		(11,050)		(19,132)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	14		<u>(323,903)</u>		<u>(343,853)</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>2,418,608</u>		<u>2,512,137</u>
RESERVES					
Non-distributable reserve			2,233,054		2,318,104
Income and expenditure account	17		<u>185,554</u>		<u>194,033</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			<u>2,418,608</u>		<u>2,512,137</u>



BALANCE SHEET (Continued)
As at 31 December 2018

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 27 March 2019 and are signed on its behalf by:

B Henry
DIRECTOR

E Schofield
DIRECTOR

COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. 00005188



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

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 located at 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 investment 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.

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.

Assets in the course of construction or development are not depreciated.

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.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

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 investments 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 period end date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible 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 at bank and in hand 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.

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.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Basic financial 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 payments 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.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

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.

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.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

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 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.

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged to income on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease except where another more systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the lease asset are consumed.

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:

	2018	2017
	Number	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 2018 (2017: £nil).



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

4. INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

	2018 £	2017 £
Interest receivable and similar income includes the following:		
Income from other fixed asset investments	<u>4,947</u>	<u>5,519</u>

5. AMOUNTS WRITTEN OFF INVESTMENTS

	2018 £	2017 £
FAIR VALUE GAINS/(LOSSES)		
Change in value of financial assets held at fair value through income or expenditure	(751)	19,244
Changes in the fair value of investment properties	<u>(105,000)</u>	<u>2,661,957</u>

6. TAXATION

	2018 £	2017 £
DEFERRED TAX		
Movements on revaluation of investment property	<u>(19,950)</u>	<u>343,853</u>



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture, computers and equipment
	£
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1 January 2018	30,207
Additions	8,538
Disposals	<u>(14,316)</u>
At 31 December 2018	<u>24,429</u>
DEPRECIATION AND IMPAIRMENT	
At 1 January 2018	9,539
Depreciation charged in the year	2,073
Eliminated in respect of disposals	<u>(618)</u>
At 31 December 2018	<u>10,994</u>
CARRYING AMOUNT	
At 31 December 2018	<u>13,435</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u>20,668</u>

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

	2018 £	2017 £
Furniture, computers and equipment	<u>—</u>	<u>13,698</u>
Depreciation charge for the year in respect of leased assets	<u>—</u>	<u>618</u>

8. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2018 £
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 January 2018	2,685,000
Revaluations	<u>(105,000)</u>
At 31 December 2018	<u>2,580,000</u>

Investment property with a carrying value of £2,580,000 as at 31 December 2018 (2017: £2,685,000) was revalued on 8 March 2019 by Bruton Knowles Surveyors who are RICS Registered Valuers.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2018 £	2017 £
Investments	220,481	200,667
Other investments	12,500	—
	<u>232,981</u>	<u>200,667</u>

Investments with a carrying value of £220,481 as at December 2018 form 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	Other	Total
	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1 January 2018	200,667	—	200,667
Additions	—	4,167	4,167
Valuation changes	(9,084)	8,333	(751)
Movement in uninvested cash	<u>28,898</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>28,898</u>
At 31 December 2018	<u>220,481</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>232,981</u>
CARRYING AMOUNT			
At 31 December 2018	<u>220,481</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>232,981</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u>200,667</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>200,667</u>



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2018	2017
	£	£
Trade debtors	75,442	111,523
Other debtors	15,948	1,976
Prepayments and accrued income	13,822	14,575
	<u>105,212</u>	<u>128,074</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Notes	2018	2017
		£	£
Loans and overdrafts		11,214	—
Obligations under finance leases		—	2,863
Trade creditors		23,734	5,471
Other taxation and social security		2,439	5,290
Deferred income	13	120,936	149,574
Other creditors		15,589	1,077
Accruals		7,474	22,403
		<u>181,386</u>	<u>186,678</u>

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

	Notes	2018	2017
		£	£
Obligations under finance leases		—	10,124
Deferred income	13	11,050	9,008
		<u>11,050</u>	<u>19,132</u>

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

13. DEFERRED INCOME

	2018	2017
	£	£
Arising from deferred income	<u>131,986</u>	<u>158,582</u>
Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:		
Current liabilities	120,936	149,574
Non-current Liabilities	<u>11,050</u>	<u>9,008</u>
	<u>131,986</u>	<u>158,582</u>



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

14. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES

	Notes	2018 £	2017 £
Deferred tax liabilities	15	<u>323,903</u>	<u>343,853</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 2018 £	Liabilities 2017 £
BALANCES:		
Investment property	<u>323,903</u>	<u>343,853</u>

MOVEMENTS IN THE YEAR:

	2018 £
Liability at 1 January 2018	<u>343,853</u>
Charge to profit or loss	<u>(19,950)</u>
Liability at 31 December 2018	<u>323,903</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 2018

18. PENSION COMMITMENTS

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

The total contributions for the year amounted to £1,311 (2017: £562) and outstanding contributions as at 31 December 2018 amounted to £299 (2017: £111).

19. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

LESSEE

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:

	2018 £	2017 £
Total outstanding commitments	<u>21,933</u>	<u>18,117</u>

LESSOR

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

	2018 £	2017 £
Total outstanding commitments	<u>3,186,206</u>	<u>3,285,535</u>



DETAILED TRADING AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2018

		2018		2017
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions		97,929		87,853
Post boxes rental (including Birmingham Letter Exchange)		—		6,143
Lectures and courses		22,542		30,415
		<u>120,471</u>		<u>124,411</u>
OTHER OPERATING INCOME				
Rents receivable	99,329		61,516	
Insurance recharges	5,132		589	
Sundry income	—		1,510	
		<u>104,461</u>		<u>63,615</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		<u>(237,607)</u>		<u>(221,101)</u>
OPERATING DEFICIT		(12,675)		(33,075)
INVESTMENT REVENUES				
Bank interest receivable	2		—	
Income from Stock Exchange listed investments	4,945		5,519	
		<u>4,947</u>		<u>5,519</u>
INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR EXPENSES				
Finance lease interest payable		—		(496)
OTHER GAINS AND LOSSES				
Increase or decrease in fair value of investment property	(105,000)		2,661,957	
Change in fair value of financial assets measured at fair value through income or expenditure	(751)		19,244	
		<u>(105,751)</u>		<u>2,681,201</u>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION		<u>(113,479)</u>		<u>2,653,149</u>



SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Wages and salaries	100,516	88,581
Social security costs	5,999	4,524
Staff training	4,204	—
Staff pension costs	1,311	562
Lectures and courses	5,040	5,804
Grants and prizes	600	600
President's Dinner	—	(7,806)
Bicentenary Dinner	13,626	—
Public relations	12,560	4,360
Legal Awards	(24,203)	(33,673)
Computer expenses	12,526	7,501
Premises expenses	48,409	62,045
Equipment hire	2,572	—
Other events, travel and associated expenses	5,255	(2,834)
Professional charges	15,281	70,212
Audit fees	1,200	1,200
Bank charges	2,015	2,517
Printing and stationery	2,614	3,393
Telephone and postages	14,102	10,365
Newly qualified	(1,178)	(472)
Incidentals	150	225
Depreciation	2,073	2,554
(Profit) or loss on sale of tangible assets	711	1,443
Irrecoverable VAT	12,224	—
	<u>237,607</u>	<u>221,101</u>



PRIZE FUNDS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The additional information in relation to the following 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.

	2018 £	2017 £
THOMAS HORTON PRIZE FUND CAPITAL		
Charities Official Investment Fund 283 Income shares at cost	<u>271</u>	<u>271</u>
INCOME	141	138
Interest received during year	<u>(250)</u>	<u>(250)</u>
Less: Gold Medal Prize		
	<u>(109)</u>	<u>(112)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account		
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	2,634	2,516
Interest received during year	<u>120</u>	<u>118</u>
	2,754	2,634
Less: Book prize	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>2,704</u>	<u>2,584</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
27 March 2019



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 EKIN	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 GOODLE	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 EVERSLED	1921	DAVID HOWARD HIGGS	1988
THOMAS COOKSEY	1922	CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	1989
CHARLES EKIN	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 WILLETTS	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 DYMPHNA 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 CALTHORP TAYLOR	1955	JAMES ALAN TURNER	2018



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 CORBY BARROW	
GEORGE CORBY BARROW	1945
GEORGE CORBY 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
ANTHONY DERBYSHIRE		
ANTHONY 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	2008
HELEN JANE ARNOLD		
JONATHAN STUART LLOYD	Joint	2009
KEITH BROWNE	Joint	2010
BERNARDETTE GRIFFIN	Joint	2010
ANN MARY HOUGHTON	Joint	2011
INEZ MAY BROWN	Joint	2016
CHAITALI DESAI		
CHAITALI DESAI	Joint	2018
SOPHIE SAMANI		

CHAIRS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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



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;
- by ensuring that we set an example by maintaining a diverse and inclusive membership which is reflected across all committees, the Council, Board and Officers of the Society;
- by maintaining a broad membership including students, academics, apprentices, paralegals, FILEX, solicitors, barristers and members of the in-house legal community.

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)UDING:

- national organisations such as The Law Society;
- local organisations such as Universities, Chamber of Commerce, PINWM etc;
- local organisations involved in the administration of justice such as the Judiciary, Tribunals and the Police;
- Birmingham Trainee Solicitors Society and Birmingham Solicitors Group;
- pro bono groups and charities.

7. WE CONTINUOUSLY CONSIDER PROVIDING SERVICES THAT BENEFIT OUR MEMBERS





Birmingham Law Society

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