



2022 Annual General Meeting Reports

From DASLS President and Committee

Members are warmly invited to the Society's AGM which will be held on **Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 6.00 p.m. at the Exeter Golf & Country Club** followed by a members' dinner.

To book your place at the dinner, please complete the form on the last page of this documentation.



Any queries, contact DASLS Administrator Monique Bertoni
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With my Presidential year having been due to start in May 2020 during the first COVID lockdown, I remain grateful to my predecessor Nigel Lyons for his agreement to continue in post for a second year, and to my proposed successor Adrian Richards for his agreement to wait. Their generosity allowed me to be elected as President at the May 2021 AGM. We met online, as the nation moved into the latter stages of the exit roadmap.

Throughout the last two years, the core DASLS team of Tony, Monique, Chris Hart as Honorary Secretary and Richard Adams as Honorary Treasurer and, latterly, Council Member have excelled in ensuring DASLS continued its support to our membership and its work in the local community. Working from home, Tony and Monique moved the Society's committee work online, increasing the frequency of the local Managing Partner and Practice Management Committees and enabling committee meetings to



Paul Kelly, President
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remain essential forums for members and local firms. I believe that our membership numbers, stable despite the limited opportunities to meet in person, reflect the value we place on their work.

DASLS maintained its local profile by moving our Awards Ceremony online on 23 September 2021. Then on 7 March 2022 I was at Exeter Guildhall for the first DASLS Admissions Ceremony since 2019, recognising the achievement of our new members who have qualified since then. DASLS' decision to hold this ceremony in person was rewarded by the support shown by local judiciary in attending. I am now delighted that the 2022 Celebratory Dinner will take place in the Cathedral on 26 May and hope to see many of you there.

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From DASLS President and Committee *continued*

Connections with the local legal community were maintained through events such as the Exeter Legal Walk in October, and the Exeter and Somerset Legal Services. I enjoyed the first two of these, including a first mention for the second in Private Eye. My thanks again to Past President Rebecca Parkman for attending the last.

Regionally, DASLS has been seeking ways to help the long-established Association of South-Western Law Societies maintain its relevance. The County Societies Group of larger regional societies is coordinated by Tony and Monique, and its regular online meetings have given me a useful insight into the work of similar societies, and the challenges we all face.

Nationally, the dedication of Richard Adams as our Council Member is matched

by Beth Quinn's as our national Law Society key account contact. Between them, they keep us very well informed about the national Society and its work. It was fantastic that the national President I. Stephanie Boyce was able to attend our In-House Lawyers' Conference and Practice Management Conference, and I valued attending one of the national Society's online town hall events to hear the issues of most concern to local societies and to share those of DASLS.

On a social footing, our strong contacts with Plymouth, Bristol and Surrey Law Societies allowed me to attend their annual dinners as their guests and introduced me to the legal anecdotes of Judge Rinder and the music of Devon folk musician Seth Lakeman. Our long friendships with Torquay & District Medical Society and

the Insurance Institute of Exeter resumed with enjoyable meals.

As the DASLS year now draws to a close, I am finally making arrangements for a sponsored event for my charities of the year Headway Devon and Headway Somerset and looking forward to the AGM. It would be remiss if me to finish without expressing my personal thanks to Tony and Monique for their support during the year. As Monique retires, I am reminded that I first met her some 30 years ago at the old Devon and Exeter Law Society law library at Exeter Castle, which then served as our local Crown and County Courts. Monique has made an exceptional contribution to this Society ever since.

Paul Kelly
President 2021-2022



Devon Legal Service Procession on 12 October 2021

DASLS Admissions Ceremony on 7 March 2022, Exeter Guildhall

Amy Stanford Photography

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From the Vice President's Committee

My year as Vice President has proved to be a very active one with a considerable amount of time engaged in discussions with our colleagues within the County Societies' Group, the Association of South Western Law Societies and with The Law Society. Although these discussions have had to take place in a virtual environment, they have nonetheless proved invaluable as we continue to work our way through the challenges presented to the profession through the ongoing pandemic.

The last six months in particular have proved extremely busy. The SRA had made it known as far back as 2019 that they were no longer supportive of maintaining the Solicitors Indemnity Fund putting forward arguments of financial proportionality balanced against claims received. Other priorities driven by the pandemic had seen those proposals put back but in late 2021 the SRA published their consultation paper incorporating evidence that they had commissioned as a

result of which the SRA maintained their stated aim to close SIF.

The publication of the consultation paper triggered a round of discussions between The Law Society and the Regional Societies. This culminated in a collective view that the SRA had indeed used the evidence to support their desired aim rather than look at the consumer lead benefits in maintaining the Solicitors Indemnity Fund albeit with appropriate costs savings and ongoing Firmwide contributions towards it which would be seen at a rate that would not be passed on to the end consumer.

Although at the date of writing this report we do not know what the final outcome will be, sadly what is very clear is that as the consultation process rumbled on, The Law Society and the SRA positions became more and more entrenched. Whatever the outcome I can say that many people connected with the Regional Societies and The Law Society put a considerable amount of work into producing

their respective, but collective response, and I will take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Vice-President's Committee for the contribution that they made to the DASLS response.

The year has not been entirely all work. My duties took me to an informal gathering of local judiciary brought together by invitation of the Lord Chief Justice. Social distancing was of course the order of the day and thankfully the evening passed without a threatened downpour which would have made social distancing in a somewhat small marquee shall we say challenging. The subject of informal conversation will of course come as no surprise with the challenges that continued to be posed by the pandemic.

I hope as I move towards my Presidential year and with early signs that there is some light at the end of the pandemic tunnel it will be possible to return to having more face-to-face meetings and the words 'you're on mute' will be assigned to the



Adrian Richards
Vice President
2021-2022

"The SRA had made it known as far back as 2019 that they were no longer supportive of maintaining the Solicitors Indemnity Fund."

From the Social Sub-Committee

The Social Sub-Committee held a meeting earlier in the year; however attendance was limited to three. This number is not sufficient to organise and run those social events we have enjoyed in the past and so, as things creep towards normality and we all start to venture out, I would welcome any expressions of interest from DASLS members.

Talking of normality, it would be great to bring back the DASLS Challenge Cup, perhaps with some different events. Again, input from the members on this would be most welcome! It would also be great to hear from members with other social ideas - rounders and a picnic on the beach? A walk along the coast path and a pub lunch? A pantomime put on by

those with a love for all things am-dram? I'm sure we can all think of those in our organisations who would make a good pantomime dame!

Finally, I would like to thank Sam Thompson for previously fulfilling the role of Chair. I am all too aware of the effort Sam put into the role, and always with gusto and cheer.

Mark Meleady
Chair

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From the Education & Training Sub-Committee

Tony Steiner
Acting Chair
tony@dasls.com



As members will know these reports are often written sometime in advance of the AGM and writing now it is virtually two years since we were able to host any face-to-face training. Undeterred we have offered a wide range of webinars ranging from swift one-hour updates to full day courses. Whilst take up for these has been variable, the feedback we have received has been very positive.

DASLS USP is that it is local, and I fully expect that

by the time the AGM takes place in May that we will have returned to face to face training at our usual venues supplemented with short webinars when appropriate.

During the last year the Sub-Committee has kept a watching brief on issues around the Single Qualification Exam. We have been reassured to learn that the Legal Practice Course providers will continue to offer training to those still in the existing route to qualification to

include Professional Skills Courses.

DASLS members with an interest in Education & Training are welcome to attend any of our meetings either as a member of the Sub-Committee or on an ad-hoc basis.

My thanks go to everyone that has supported our activities through these turbulent times and the members of this Sub-Committee for their support, friendship and encouragement.

The aim in the coming year must be to ensure continuing relevance to evolving working practices.



Nicky Mein
Chair
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From the Practice Management Sub-Committee

The challenges of Covid and managing remotely continued through much of the last year. However in the second half of the year it very much felt like a new phase had been entered as firms plan for the future, very often incorporating what has been learned from working and managing through the pandemic.

The reliance on remote meetings by the Sub-Committee and its associated forums has continued. However, the frequency of the Managing Partner /Practice Manager forums has reduced;

perhaps as those steering firms have become increasingly confident in managing the challenges created by Covid, and as what were once novel situations have become the 'norm'.

The aim for the Practice Management Sub-Committee in the coming year must be to ensure continuing relevance to evolving working practices. Regulatory and compliance issues will remain at the forefront of our work, with of course continuing attention to the ever-present cybercrime risk.

It is likely that meetings going forward will be a mix of remote and in person; the former being so much more time efficient, but undoubtedly losing something of the experience. We however will very much welcome the return of the annual practice management and regulation and compliance events as 'in person' events, given their important role in allowing access to often national speakers, while also allowing the sharing our local knowledge and experience through the course of the day.

From the In-House Lawyers' Group

I cannot believe that a year has passed since I wrote my last report. Many of us are still working with and considering the impact of the pandemic and looking towards the "new normal". I am hoping to revert back to dealing with the type of matters that I dealt with pre-pandemic. There has been a lot of pressure, certainly for those working in-house and definitely for myself in Local Government in advising on the ever changing Coronavirus Regulations and the impact of them on clients.

One of the reasons for setting up the In-House Lawyers' Group was to offer support to in-house lawyers and to encourage dialogue around the issues relevant to the diverse range of work that they do. From a personal perspective I feel that being part of the group has been a perfect opportunity for me to meet new professional contacts. The group has had many of the same core members for the last few years, (although we are always looking to welcome

new members). I personally feel that the members of the group really do support each other. During the meetings held over the last twelve months, there have been conversations around how group members have been coping with the changes enforced on us by living and working through a pandemic and also discussions around mental and physical health. Being part of the group enables me to have another platform, outside of my place of employment but with those of an understanding of the pressure of working in-house, on which to discuss issues that are impacting on how we work and I have certainly found this useful and hope others in the group have too. I would encourage any in-house lawyer working in whatever type of entity to contact us or join the group, especially for those who may be the sole legal representative within their business.

The group have held a few meetings via Zoom, with the main focus as always being

the preparation of the annual conference and discussion around which subject matters should be covered and who is best placed to speak or to present the topics.

Last year's In-House Lawyers Group Annual Conference took place remotely and proved successful. The group have agreed that a face to face meeting would be preferable for this year. By the time we get to the AGM the event will have taken place as it is due to be held on 14th March at Exeter Racecourse, and I hope to be able to give feedback to the DASLS Committee following the meeting.

The group are very excited that we (well actually, all thanks goes to Tony who has organised this) have managed to secure the attendance of I. Stephanie Boyce, the President of The Law Society, who has worked as an in-house lawyer. Stephanie will give the closing address and join us for drinks following the close of the conference. I am very much looking forward to meeting with her.



Marie Downey
Chair

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I would encourage any in-house lawyer working in whatever type of entity to contact us or join the group, especially for those who may be the sole legal representative within their business.

From the International Relations Sub-Committee

The international rolling diary has remained quiet for another 12 months and the Sub-Committee has not met.

During this time, DASLS has continued to be involved with the Human Rights and Ethics committees of the European Bars Federation (FBE).

In early March the FBE issued a statement to assist colleagues in Ukraine. <http://www.fbe.org/statement-of-the-fbe-ukraine-2/>

The FBE plans to hold its General Congress in-person on 23-25 June 2022 in Sofia, capital city of Bulgaria.

Emma Mitcham
Chair

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Richard Adams
Council Member

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“... you will all be aware of the good work that has been done seeking to persuade the SRA to adopt a sensible approach to SIF. Council has been particularly active here.”

From The Law Society Council Member

Please allow me to begin by repeating some of last year's report (and correcting a couple of numbers) for the benefit of any new readers.

The Law Society is a complex structure. It employs around 400 people with offices in London, Wales, the Midlands and Brussels. Another 300 or so volunteer on its council and committees. The 2020 annual income of the Group (which includes the SRA, and 'Indemnity Operations') was £116M, down from £118M the previous year. Sadly expenditure which was £134M had been reduced only to £128M, resulting in net losses of £15.6M in 2019 and £11.6M in 2020. Some of this 'loss' was planned, support for the profession provided by TLS voluntarily reducing its income taken from members during the difficult Covid period. The period of planned support is now over.

Net assets of £77M remained in hand as at 31 October 2020, down from £85M a year earlier.

The Council 'governs' the Law Society, which makes me one of 100 or so governors. Different characters have differing views as to what the governing role of the individual Council member entails, and what it should be. Our former Chief Exec took the view that Council members should scan the horizon, set the long-term

(say, 5 year) priorities and act as ambassadors between TLS and its members. The Chairman of the Board did not wholeheartedly agree with this. The new interim Chief Exec has yet to declare his position.

While it suits me just fine, most Council members I've met appear to wish to get their hands much dirtier than this limited role would allow. Their opportunity to do this comes with participation in the many committees that report to Council, the key ones being the Membership and Communications and the Practice and Regulatory Activity committees, both of which are now under brand new chairs and have packed (having attended both, over-packed, in my view) agendas. The current VP chaired MCC until appointed as future President, and Peter Wright used to chair both Technology and PRAC, very well indeed in my view, but recently resigned from the council, his resignation perhaps being linked to having failed to succeed in the election for Junior Vice President. The new, limited, maximum 12 year term of office does mean that anyone with Presidential ambition is going to have to get their skates on to make their mark from the moment they join, and ended Presidential ambition for many. A little like Brexit the fallout from this shake-up

continues, and no one knows where we'll end up. For those of us who didn't like where we were anyway, this is probably just fine.

While my initial impression of the Council was gleaned purely in my pyjamas from my shed/desk in Pinhoe via Zoom and Teams, I've now had to get dressed and make my way to London twice for in-person meetings. I can hear the Waterloo line from my garden so that's my preferred route, though the service is slow and patchy. It is officially acknowledged that in-person meetings are an expensive luxury and policy is now that future Council meetings will be mixed, with I think more online than in-person, though at least some of the latter. I find this to be a good thing. In addition to the significant cost saving, it will make participation less time-consuming, which should result in more involvement from those living and working a good way away from London.

I am unable to report to you most of what the council has been up to recently, as it is behind the confidentiality wall, and I've yet to ascertain at what point, if ever, confidential papers and discussions become open. I can say that much of it has been navel-gazing, which I find most frustrating. How can an organisation that has existed for so long and has such an important role to play still be

From The Law Society Council Member *continued*

so unhappy at its own structure?

That said, you will all be aware of the good work that has been done seeking to persuade the SRA to adopt a sensible approach to SIF. Council has been particularly active here.

Meanwhile, the various committees and the Society's civil service have continued to do much good work. If you're signed up to them you'll receive the many press releases which, combined, produce a list that is genuinely long and impressive – as I did last year, I give you here a few headlines, you'll recognise most, if not all of them:

- Endangered Lawyers abroad
- Endangered Criminal Lawyers here (including, Glory Be! - at last, an improvement in investment in legal aid)
- appalling court delays – clearly this administration doesn't believe that justice delayed is justice denied
- the funding boost for the family mediation voucher scheme,
- probate fees and remote will-witnessing
- lobbying for those paralysed by their home's cladding
- reform of the human rights rules
- ramifications of the Australian trade deal and the UK-Singapore digital agreement
- friendly criticism of the Legal Ombudsman

- debating the potential injustice of remote hearings
- addressing the gender pay gap and promoting the interests of the LGBT+ community
- responding to the business plan of the LSB
- addressing injustices claimed by rape victims, by asylum claimants being refused appeals and by those facing eviction
- commentary on proposed reform to conveyancing forms LPEs 1 and 2 and FMEI
- considering the suitable response to the climate crisis
- proposals for part-time training
- worries about reform of judicial review...

This list could have been much longer and is in no order of priority.

Suffice to say there's an awful lot going on and Chancery Lane has, in my view, a well-considered view on most if not all of it, and makes that view known. I have no difficulty answering the question of what does Chancery Lane does for me.

I begin to feel as though I have my bearings. While I still can't tell you quite where we are, or where we're going, I'm working out my role on board, which currently includes considering what to do with burnt and washed-out 114 Chancery Lane, currently an empty, total (albeit insured) but rather grand

mess, a bit like the Clarence on Cathedral Green was (and sadly still is) and Carey Street, no longer the SDT nor fulfilling any particular, useful role save for providing inadequate accommodation for the President.

I was recently informed that our future funding from the practising certificate is as sure as it can be, given that we're entitled to it under legislation, which I gather the current administration has 'no appetite' to change (despite rumours to the contrary swirling around for the last five years or so).

The future will involve no regional representatives, but a much greater use of the internet, and there are signs of the technology improving. I. Stephanie Boyce is working very hard indeed, meeting everyone important and winning awards, as well as travelling across the whole country to meet local practitioners. She will have visited us by the time you read this and spoke engagingly at a couple of our conferences. She constantly urges us to be positive and grateful for our blessings, and leads by example. I am impressed.

Richard Adams

March 2022



I. Stephanie Boyce

President of The Law Society of England and Wales

“The future will involve no regional representatives, but a much greater use of the internet, and there are signs of the technology improving.”

Christopher Tagg
Chair via DASLS office
info@dasls.com



In 2022 we see that the vast majority of Court business is online, the filing of documents is almost exclusively online at this juncture.

I am glad to be back at the report writing desk not only because it means I can pass on the word about the events of the last 12 months in contentious business, but also because it means that I am avoiding for once the various illnesses that have prevented me from completing the last two. I thank the noble and tremendously organised Vice-Chair for his help at those particularly difficult times.

I can see that last year Chris was concerned particularly with the impact of Brexit. We find that now we sit in mid-February and as well as Brexit, we can look back at a pandemic which has lasted far longer than we ever thought, and has changed just about every aspect of the way we do the job.

And just when we get back on our feet, there is grim news from Europe.

In 2022 we see that the vast majority of Court business is online, the filing of documents is almost exclusively online at this juncture. It seems likely that we will never go back to the way we were; filing 5 ring binders of documentation for an

interim hearing seems a very strange way to carry on now.

Court delays are slowly, slowly coming down. Down from six months to perhaps two. Live hearings are starting to filter back where there is a need, judicial attention is being focussed on urgent matters first.

The revised (and modestly improved) hourly rates have bedded in. At the same time, question of damages for the majority of road accidents has become academic. The government has introduced a tariff scheme which is so low as to make damages for many injuries more or less token.

Criminal representation remains in crisis. The Bellamy Report finds that Criminal Representation is underpaid (to nobody's surprise) and we await the response of the Government, next month.

I take the opportunity to repeat the traditional plea for new members, anyone working in traditional contentious fields, civil litigation, criminal litigation, employment, personal injury, clinical negligence or family is welcome to come

and see us and join our meetings of which there are usually 4 in a year and add their knowledge and enthusiasm to our cause.

Finally, a word about mediation. Mediation at the county court has been impacted by Small Claims mediation being sent back to Salford, but the Mediation Panel continues to put in sterling work.

Our new Designated Civil Judge His Honour Judge Paul Mitchell has been approached to initiate court users' meetings but I await an update.

Before I sign off, can I thank the members of the Sub-Committee for their time and energy for the past year. We look forward to seeing you again and hopefully some new faces over the next 12 months. It really is a worthwhile contribution to a corner of the profession which spends so long arguing for the people it sometimes misses the opportunity to argue for itself.

I also thank Monique for her sterling and steadfast organisation and composure over the years and wish her a long and delightful retirement.

From the Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee

With the Covid-19 pandemic continuing into its second year, it has been another period of arm's length meetings for the Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee. We met twice, in March 2021 and June 2021, as the November 2021 meeting was postponed until March 2022. Once again, in this brave new world of social distancing and technology, all meetings took place remotely.

The main item on each agenda has, of course, been how our Sub-Committee members and their firms have been dealing with the impact of the pandemic, both in terms of the return to the office as restrictions have eased (and tightened, and eased again...) and personally. The normalisation of home working has been a blessing to many, but others have welcomed a return to a traditional office setting, feeling, as they have, a little more isolated at home. Whether at home or in the office, though, a key theme for both Property and Private Client matters has been workload – and how instructions have, and continue, to flood in.

The subject of workload certainly could not be covered without mention of Property work! It has been another extremely busy year

for Conveyancing practitioners, due to the extension of the temporary stamp duty holiday until June 2021, with the taper applying until the end of September. Our committee members have been run off their feet (to put it mildly) with a wealth of instructions, which has been helpful for firms' balance sheets, but has certainly taken its toll. The property market still continues to be frenetic and it will be interesting to see if things calm down in future.

On the Private Client side of matters, practitioners have had the delights of increasing digitisation to deal with, getting to grips with the HMCTS online system for Probate applications and the Revenue's increased use of phone and email contact due to its staff working from home. There have, naturally, been teething troubles causing significant delays and our members have found it useful to discuss their own experiences and tips for the changes. The advent of other new processes, like the remote witnessing of Wills, and an increasing trend towards complex and specific work have also been covered.

In August, the probate working group met to respond to the Ministry of Justice's consultation, *Proposal for reform -*

Aligning the Fees for Grants of Probate to Cost Recovery regarding the proposal to increase probate fees. This increase was supported by the probate working group as it was evident from the consultation paper that the provision of the service has been subsidised by the taxpayer owing to a significant funding deficit. However, it was noted that it would be reasonable to expect an improved level of service as a result of the increase.

This year, it has been lovely to see how our members have used Sub-Committee meetings to share their experiences and to check in on others, especially with so many of us working from home. Our next meeting takes place in March again by Zoom, but the aim is to begin in-person meetings once more from the summer.

I would like to end by thanking all the Sub-Committee members for their invaluable contributions throughout the year, whether observations on legal or practical changes, or interesting pandemic stories to lighten the mood. I have enjoyed the sneak peeks into a small portion of your homes, or library shelf collections, but look forward to seeing you in person once more!



Rachael Morley
Chair

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Whether at home or in the office, though, a key theme for both Property and Private Client matters has been workload – and how instructions have, and continue, to flood in.

Richard Adams
Honorary Treasurer
treasurer@dasls.com



“our cash reserves are such that the DASLS financial position remains sound and so, in my view, the future looks positive.”

I look back over my time as Treasurer to find it to have been a financial game of two halves. We started in fine form with promising foundations having been laid by Tony Spiers and David Whiteley, and the Society's resources grew rapidly and consistently, despite our having taken on the responsibility for the rent and rates on our Renslade House office (which replaced the free accommodation we used to enjoy in the days when Tony was just a filing cabinet in Monique's Law Library) culminating in the purchase of our very own office suite and move to Aston Court, at which point (roughly) the game changed. Banks stopped paying interest, the recruitment market moved decisively against our model and a period of austerity and deficits began which has continued, more or less, consistently ever since.

I present you with the company's accounts recently approved by the Board. They do not make particularly pretty reading taken in isolation but I hope you'll agree that the Society has a future which is looking bright, even if we are now forced to face it

without Monique's calm, guiding hand on our shoulder.

The headline is that the £56K deficit before tax of 2020 was halved in 2021 to £27K, and my prediction is that we will reduce the deficit to zero by the end of 2022. This is not simply idle optimism, but is based upon the recent significant change we have made to our finances by turning the office into an income-generating investment for the Society by letting it – and not only does the tenant pay rent, it is also responsible for the rates and service charges. And by way of surety it paid a year's rent in advance, so we're sitting reasonably pretty, for the time being at least.

We also anticipate a reduction in the overall salary bill given the staffing restructure when our new Executive Administrator is in place to assist Tony.

The bar charts at page 20 depict the gruesome picture of recent years, capital roughly £130k down over the period on much-reduced turnover, with less recruitment activity and little training able to take place recently, a situation

that is slowly righting itself, though whether we'll return to as many in-person sessions as before is an open question. The new advertising model for recruitment is working and proving to be a valuable service appreciated by our members.

Other key pages amid the blurb are pp15 and 16 with the detailed Profit and Loss figures which I'll be pleased to discuss with you, to the extent that they are not self-explanatory.

As you can see we retain our somewhat depleted reserves, roughly £224,000 cash in the bank as at the year end, and I would also point out that our accountants depreciate the value of Aston Court by 4% each year. I am confident it's worth more to us than the £157,607 that the accounts indicate, though by how much is hard to guess accurately, and I don't feel this information to be important enough to spend money obtaining.

Since we started regularly to sustain them, the accountants have suggested some text should be included in the accounts to explain deficits, and justify our claim to be a

From the Honorary Treasurer

going concern. The brief review of the year that you see at page 3 has been drafted by Glover Stanbury for the last couple of years on behalf of the Committee members.

It is important that I point out to you that, while the accounts are correct as of year end 31.12.21, they do not paint a complete picture, insofar as there is no reference within them to the funding of the postponed 2020 Legal Awards Dinner.

Our media partners, Grow Marketing Ltd received a large sum of ticket and sponsorship money. They did not ring fence this for our event but have used that money to support their business through the pandemic. Grow Marketing admit this but has yet to agree with us on the precise sum, or the manner in which it will be repaid. We are in negotiation and hope that the agreement that we have recently drafted will soon be signed. There are small signs that all is not lost; after many demands, Grow have recently met some of their payment obligations and we are hopeful of this continuing. One of the firm's directors has now left.

In the meantime, we took the decision that DASLS would offer Grow the chance to bow out of responsibility for the event, which it took. DASLS will therefore run the event and pay for it. Whatever the outcome, our cash reserves are such that the DASLS financial position remains sound and so, in my view, the future looks positive.

The issue has been discussed and fully disclosed with Glover Stanbury and, by agreement with them, the matter will be fully reported in the accounts for the current year which will be prepared in early 2023.

It's been a most trying time for Monique and Tony. I am very grateful to them for their steadfastness in the teeth of considerable adversity. It is a shame that Monique has to put up with this as she waves us farewell. I would say she leaves us in fine form, and we owe her a massive debt of gratitude, as we do to Tony who will soldier on as the DASLS Chief Exec.

Richard Adams

March 2022

Devon and Somerset Law Society
(A company limited by guarantee)
Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

GLOVER
STANBURY
ACCOUNTANTS



DEVON & SOMERSET
LAW SOCIETY

“Other key pages amid the blurb are pp15 and 16 with the detailed Profit and Loss figures which I’ll be pleased to discuss with you, to the extent that they are not self-explanatory.”

Claire Lovett
Chair

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“The focus has been on educating ourselves and exploring the possibilities for ‘going green at work’ to better enable us to support members.”

THE SOLICITORS' CHARITY.
Supporting you, since 1858

From the Climate Change Sub-Committee

The Climate Change Sub-Committee is completing its first full year of operation, having only had two meetings at the time of the last AGM. Our mission remains unchanged:

The DASLS Climate Change Sub-Committee will promote the benefits to all legal organisations of using carbon neutral processes and practices in their work. It will offer encouragement, education and access to resources to make it easy and practicable for all our organisations to reduce their carbon footprint. In particular it will:

- ◆ Invite all DASLS members to hear relevant speakers at Sub-Committee meetings.
- ◆ Develop and publicise a Green Supplier List.
- ◆ Research and promote other resources that will assist carbon footprint reduction.

We have had a positive year, with membership of the Sub-Committee growing and we are lucky to have a good level of engagement from those attending. The focus has been on educating ourselves and exploring the possibilities for ‘going green at work’ to better enable us to support members.

Speakers have included the Legal Sector Alliance, Landmark (talking about Environmental, Social, & Governance) and Commercial giving examples of how they have embedded environmental protection into the day to day running of their business. Save Money Cut Carbon and Bin It are possibilities for future meetings.

We are developing a list of green suppliers to be a resource for members and submissions are very much appreciated.

Any DASLS member with an interest in ‘going green at work’ is welcome to attend our meetings.

From The Solicitors' Charity

DASLS Past Presidents Sue Aggett and Rebecca Parkman continue to act as the Charity's Area Representatives for Devon and Somerset respectively. Sue and Rebecca would welcome details of anyone who might benefit from the Charity's help and support – please do contact



Sue via DASLS office
(info@dasls.com) for people in Devon and



Rebecca at rebecca.parkman@wards.uk.com or via DASLS office for people in Somerset.

W <https://thesolicitorscharity.org/>

E sec@thesolicitorscharity.org

@here4solicitors

A full report from the CEO on the Charity's activities nationwide and in Devon and Somerset in 2021 follows and further information is available on the Charity's website and Twitter.

Report on 2021 Activities

The Solicitors' Charity continues to work towards its vision that all solicitors are supported in times of need or crisis, looking after financial, mental & physical, social and professional wellbeing. As always, the generous support of the Devon and Somerset Law Society is welcome.

Support for solicitors in need or crisis

2021 saw a return to more familiar levels of activity after the flood of applications that we saw in 2020. We prepared for a second wave of applications when the government's furlough scheme ended but I am pleased to say that this second wave did not materialise. However, we did step up when the increases in Universal Credit were reversed, filling the gap that those who we support who are in receipt of benefits experienced. Now, in 2022, we are seeking to reassure solicitors in need that we are here to help with the effects of rising prices, especially with regard to domestic fuel.

In 2021, we supported 228 people. Two thirds of the people we helped were under 60. 1 in 10 was under 40, including 23% of people that we supported for the first time.

70% of our clients declared that they lived with a chronic health condition or disability or were dealing with mental health issues. Caseworkers report increasing complexity in the needs of those who approach us for support.

A majority (54%) of those solicitors who we supported for the first time in 2021 identified as black, Asian or from another minority ethnic group.

58% of our clients were sole practitioners or worked in a small firm.

1 in 7 of the people we supported lives in the Southwest of England.

Support provided to individuals in **Devon & Somerset** in 2021 included:

- Emergency awards made for a severely disabled solicitor living solely on state benefits with no family support, whose electricity cut out over Christmas, leaving them with no heat in the home
- Help with career transition for an unemployed solicitor in serious financial difficulties owing to divorce and debt collection
- Awards for day-to-day living for solicitor diagnosed with bipolar and complex PTSD
- Ongoing support for retired solicitor and spouse, both in poor health
- Help with day-to-day living for a former solicitor and family, where the family's focus remains on getting to the top of an organ transplant list
- Emergency awards for a solicitor re-applying to The Solicitors' Charity after some years. Serious deterioration in mental health due to isolation
- Ongoing support for a younger solicitor living in supported housing after a

stroke left them with quadriplegia

- Ongoing support for a former solicitor in periodic acute mental health crisis
- Ongoing support for a former solicitor separated from spouse after domestic abuse; continues to care for two children with disabilities
- Help with day-to-day living for elderly solicitor living in specialist housing
- One-off and ongoing support for a solicitor's dependant, living alone in a rural setting

In total, across our programmes financial support to individuals in Devon & Somerset totalled £48,000 (£28,000 in Devon and £20,000 in Somerset).

Collaboration to provide more support

Our cross-charity collaboration with LawCare developed further and our funding enabled 342 solicitors to receive emotional support and guidance from our sister charity. In addition, we showed our commitment to changing those experiences of working solicitors that lead to mental health issues by giving significant funding to support LawCare's Life in the Law research project and report.

We are now looking at the best ways to add mental health assessment, for those solicitors who need it, followed by appropriate therapy, to the body of assistance that we fund.

In 2021 we also added specialist money advice expertise to the support already provided by our other partners Citizens Advice and Renovo. In total, 60 solicitors were helped by these partners.

We also worked with the Solicitors Assistance Scheme to identify ways that we can deepen the support that we offer them and expect to see further alignment in 2022.

Engagement with the profession

One outcome of the research project that we carried out in 2020 focussed on the needs of today's profession has been the development of a Reference Panel of solicitors from across the country and from many areas of the profession. This group meets several times a year to provide insights into the current experiences of solicitors and helps us to reflect on what we need to do to continue to meet the needs that arise.

After the pause in work on volunteering caused by restriction associated with the pandemic, we are now focussing again on volunteering development and will be launching new volunteering opportunities in the coming months.

Nick Gallagher, CEO
28 February 2022

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

DEVON & SOMERSET LAW SOCIETY - FORM OF PROXY

I 1

of 2

being a member of the above named Company, hereby appoint 3

Or failing him/her

Or failing him/her the Chairman of the meeting as my proxy to vote in my name on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held on 4 May 2022, and at any adjournment thereof.

Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy may vote as he/she thinks fit or abstain from voting.

Signed:

Name: [Block Capitals please]

Dated:

¹ Insert Name

² Insert your address

³ Insert name, if required, or leave blank whereupon the Chairman of the meeting will act as your proxy.

PLEASE SCAN AND RETURN TO MONIQUE@DASLS.COM

By no later than 5.00 pm on 29.04.22

Minutes of the 2021 AGM

The 212th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on
Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 6.00 p.m. by Zoom Web Conferencing.

PRESENT

Nigel Lyons, President in the Chair; Paul Kelly, Vice President; Adrian Richards, Deputy Vice President, Richard Adams, Law Society Council Member and Honorary Treasurer; Christopher Hart, Honorary Secretary; Sue Aggett, Cheryl Bolt, Rhodri Davey, Marie Downey, Paul Dyson, Andrew Harris, Charles Hattersley, Stephen Mahoney, Mark Meleady, Ian Merryweather, Emma Mitcham, Rod Mole, Rebecca Parkman, Hannah Porter, Paul Stabb, Chris Thorne and Chris Wills.

Also in attendance as observer Dominika Windak, *CILEx Devon Branch-DASLS Liaison officer*, Tony Steiner, *Executive Director* and Monique Bertoni, *Administrator*.

The President welcomed everyone to the 212th Annual General Meeting of the Society. A first for DASLS to hold this meeting by Zoom. The meeting was quorate with 22 members present at the start of the meeting and 18 validated proxies received.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE * indicates proxy form received

Were received from Ralph E Bell, Steven M J Came*, Italo Cerullo*, Michael B G Cosgrave, James M G Cross, Patricia Durham Hall*, Daniella Glynn*, Faria Jamali*, Catherine M-L James*, Jessica A Joules*, Imran Khodabocus, Peter J Lewis*, Michelle Mallon*, William F Michelmores*, Emily S Moberly*, William P Morris*, Rob D Newman, Mark S Roome, Clare E Sanderson*, Jenny Shepherd*, Cathryn F Smith*, J Anthony Spiers*, Emily J Stott*, Robert J Symons* together with Affiliate members Claire A Blackman, Anne M Rogers and Associate member Alexandra Myers.

2. THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting held on 30 April, having been circulated via Mailchimp and posted on DASLS website, were taken as read as proposed by Rod Mole, seconded by Sue Aggett and approved. There were no matters arising or questions. The President had a copy; he signed and dated them as a correct record and confirmed he would send the Minutes back to DASLS office for filing in the Minute Book.

3. THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE FOR 2020/2021

The President referred to all the various committee reports included in the AGM papers which this year had been previously circulated via Mailchimp and posted on DASLS website. He was not proposing that these reports be read at this virtual meeting including the one from the President and Committee. However, he wished to add how very rewarding, if somewhat unusual, the past two years had been. He was the only member to serve as DASLS President for 2 consecutive years. He understood that a President of Plymouth Law Society also had a 2-year tenure during the Second World War. It had certainly been a great pleasure and an honour to serve, albeit in the most testing of circumstances, not only for us but also our families, our businesses and our staff. He wished to thank Monique and Tony in particular for all their support and was sure that all present would want to share his good wishes to them; without them, he did not think that the Society would have been able to operate in the successful way that it had during the pandemic. He invited the meeting to join him by pressing the special applause button in Zoom. He very much hoped that after 21 June he would be able to thank them face to face over lunch in Exeter.

4. THE REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

Richard Adams invited the members to look at the Society's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 available at the end of the AGM agenda. The adoption of the accounts had already been formally approved by the Society's main Committee. He was happy to address any questions arising from them.

Broadly speaking, local law societies could be divided into 2 groups: those with no or very little activities did not suffer much from the Covid disruption whereas, for those as busy as DASLS, it was inevitable that the pandemic had a devastating effect on the figures. In 2019, DASLS's key main course of income which is training was decimated ending the year with our overall income down by more than half. With the amounts involved in respect of fixed overhead and costs, it was not surprising to see a serious deficit though not a disastrous result. As mentioned in his report, we were now regrouping as best we could having called upon funds put aside in previous years by trying to economise and build a new model with Monique and Tony largely working from home. He concluded that he was appreciative of the continuing support members showed. The membership renewal this year has been astonishing and made him feel very grateful indeed. This amazing consistent support was only paralleled by the same support shown by Monique and Tony.

The President echoed the Honorary Treasurer's comments. Members must feel that they are getting something from their membership and use DASLS in an effective format; clearly DASLS reciprocates and feeds off the membership and long it may continue.

Sue Aggett commented how extraordinarily difficult a year it had been for everybody and thanked Richard Adams for his hard work and dedication in getting the best balance possible in the circumstances.

The President asked for Richard's prognosis for the forthcoming year and whether he felt optimistic now that DASLS offered online training? Richard replied that we never looked at marketing our training beyond DASLS geographical boundaries, but we certainly could do this now as could the competition. He suspected that if we continued as well as we did in the past with preferential rates for members, we would beat the competition with a good chance of capitalising on that.

5. THE SOLICITORS' CHARITY

Rebecca Parkman, as the Charity's representative for Somerset, said that in the AGM documentation was a very good report from the Charity about its activities nationally and in DASLS area where, clearly in the last year, support for some people was more important than ever. Rebecca Parkman and Sue Aggett had not been called upon as Somerset / Devon representatives given that face-to-face contact with people in need had not been possible for obvious reasons. It was therefore good to see in the Charity's national report how active they have been in supporting beneficiaries in our area.

Rebecca Parkman formally proposed that the usual annual donation of £1,750.00 be made to the Charity. This was seconded by Sue Aggett and Paul Kelly and approved unanimously with a show of hands.

The President praised such a worthy cause. He suspected that in the next few months, once the impact of furlough passes through, there might be more need with people turning to the Charity for support and thanked Rebecca and Sue for their input. One benefit from the ordeal people had been through was online meetings which have facilitated get togethers. Rebecca Parkman added that over the last couple of years, the organisation as a Charity had been more efficient and more modern; hopefully standing the Charity in good stead to help beneficiaries in the future.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT AND REPORTS FROM THE SUB-COMMITTEES

Written reports had been circulated from the Vice President, the Deputy Vice President, the In-House Lawyers' Group, the Climate Change, the Contentious Business, the Education and Training, the International Relations, the Non-Contentious Business, the Practice Management and the Social Sub-Committees.

The President invited the Chairs of the various Sub-Committees present to indicate whether they wished to expand or mention any issues since the circulation of their original reports. No further comments were made.

The President then invited Richard Adams to speak as the Law Society Council Member. Richard Adams said that he was fortunate to direct members to look at his predecessor's report rather than the one he submitted for this year's AGM. Rod Mole's report of 2 years ago could be found in DASLS AGM Minutes of 30 April 2019 and was far more comprehensive than his. By way of update, he was pleased to report that much remained the same now as it was then; the ship seemed to him to be stable with key staff in post to carry out what they were brought in to do. It was likely that the current reform programme would be thoroughly implemented with a chance of achieving something. Sadly, no change where much of what is done there continues to be reported on the electronic version of 'pink paper'. There was very little on which Council Members were allowed to elaborate. He invited members to use him as a conduit for their views citing as example Past President Andrew Pryce on the vexed issue of the closure of SIF on 30 September this year – a lively issue that would continue to be of concern but with no good news to report at the moment.

The President commented that he had seen a lot of discussion about SIF in an article in the Gazette earlier this week about former practitioners getting together to form a support group. He was sure that the fund closure would be a matter that Richard Adams would be asked to lobby on members' behalf.

7. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

A very great pleasure for the President to welcome Paul Kelly who had not been put off, had left or resigned after two years in the 'waiting room'. He invited the meeting to consider Paul's nomination to take over as President adding that members would be in safe hands during Paul's tenure. This appointment was formally proposed by the President, seconded by Stephen Mahoney, and resolved unanimously.

The newly elected President, on behalf of the Society and on his own behalf, thanked Nigel for completing two laps of the track. It was the first time that the option of resignation had ever been mentioned to him and felt that this had come rather late in the day! The President was delighted and honoured to take on this role and thanked everyone. He then displayed the Devon Jewel and explained that DASLS officers met up at the end of last month in Exeter to perform the handover of jewels in their respective cases to assist with the virtual arrangements at the AGM. Nigel Lyons said that he also received his Past President Jewel which he would be wearing with pride.

The President was pleased to commend and propose Adrian Richards as Vice President and looked forward to continuing working with him. This was seconded by Chris Hart. Congratulations were given to Adrian who was now in the possession of, and showed, the Somerset Jewel. The President welcomed Ian Merryweather as the new member of the presidential team and was delighted to propose that, there being no other candidate, he be elected Deputy Vice President. The nomination was seconded by Stephen Mahoney. Ian Merryweather put on view his jewel safely received courtesy of Tony Steiner. The suite of jewels presentation was now complete.

The President invited the meeting to take the next nominations as a single group. He read out the names listed below welcoming in particular Hannah Porter to the main Committee for three years. He was happy to propose that the following Officers and Committee members be appointed. These nominations were seconded by Rod Mole and approved.

For One Year

Honorary Secretary

Christopher D Hart

Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Richard A Adams

To the Committee for One Year

The Immediate Past President

Nigel H Lyons (Exeter & East Devon)

The Law Society Council Member

Richard A Adams

Crown Prosecution Service Representative

vacant—no nominations received

Local Government Representative

Marie Downey

To the Committee for Three Years

Hannah R Porter (Exeter & East Devon)

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None notified prior to the meeting and no issues raised from the audience. The President invited everyone to raise their glasses and give a toast to DASLS. All happily complied and congratulated Paul. The meeting closed at 6.25 pm.

DEVON AND SOMERSET LAW SOCIETY

TAKE NOTICE that the 213th Annual General Meeting of the Devon and Somerset Law Society will be held on **Wednesday 4 May 2022** at 6.00 p.m. at the Exeter Golf & Country Club, when the following business will be proposed:-

AGENDA

ORDINARY BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. a) To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
b) Matters Arising
3. To receive the Report of the Committee for the year 2021-2022 and the President's Report on his term of office.
4. To receive the Report of the Honorary Treasurer. The Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 as reviewed by Glover Stanbury & Co. of Barnstaple will be laid before members at the AGM.
5. Rebecca Parkman and Sue Aggett as the Society's Representatives for 2021, to report on The Solicitors' Charity; and consideration of the recommendation of the Committee that a donation of £1,750.00 be made.
6. To receive reports on the year's activities from the following:

Council Member, Richard Adams	Vice President's Committee
Climate Change Sub-Committee	In-House Lawyers' Group
Contentious Business Sub-Committee	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee
Education and Training Sub-Committee	Practice Management Sub-Committee
International Relations Sub-Committee	Social Sub-Committee
7. To appoint officers and members of the Committee for the next year.
The following nominations have been received:

President	Adrian J Richards (South Devon)
Vice President	M Ian Merryweather (Somerset)
Deputy Vice President	Stephen M Forsey (Exeter & East Devon)

<u>For One Year</u>	
Honorary Secretary	Chris D Hart
Honorary Treasurer and	Richard A Adams
Membership Secretary	
<u>To the Committee for One Year</u>	
The Immediate Past President	Paul D Kelly (Exeter & East Devon)
The Law Society Council Member	Richard A Adams
Crown Prosecution Service Representative	<i>vacant</i>
Local Government Representative	Marie Downey
<u>To the Committee for Three Years</u>	no nominations received
8. To transact any other business of which prior notice has been given*.

*** N.B.** Any member who wishes to give notice of any other business at the Annual General Meeting should please address the same to the Honorary Secretary at the Society's Registered Office: Wollens LLP, At Harbourside, 67 The Terrace, Torquay, Devon, TQ1 1DP.

Dated 9 March 2022 By order of the Committee **C D Hart** Honorary Secretary

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is also entitled to appoint a proxy to attend, and on a poll, vote instead of him or her. The proxy need not be a member of the Society.

In order to be valid, completed proxy appointment forms must be lodged at the Society's registered office no later than 5.00 p.m. on Friday 29 April 2022 or scanned and emailed to info@dasls.com.

Full list of Somerset Law Society Chairmen and Presidents 1796-2007

Presidents were only elected from 1891; prior to that date the names given are those of the Chairman of the Meetings of the Somerset Law Society at the Taunton Spring Assizes.

1796-1817 No Records			1885 Hill, W. John			Langport			1950 Pulliblack, Maurice			Taunton		
CHAIRMEN			1886 Swayne, Walter T.			Glastonbury			1951 Powell, W.E.			Weston		
1818	Batten, John	Yeovil	1887 Louch, John			Langport			1952 Hurford, H.J.			Minehead		
1819	Baker, John	Blagdon	1888 Meyler, Thomas			Taunton			1953 Addleshaw, J.H.			Shepton Mallet		
1820	Leigh, Henry James	Taunton	1889 Payne, Alexander Richard			Milverton			1954 Saul, I.W.			Taunton		
1821	Pinchard, William Price	Taunton	1890 Bath, Edward			Glastonbury			1955 Harris, C.W.			Wells		
1822	Nicholetts, John	S Petherton	PRESIDENTS						1956 Rutter, C.L.			Wincanton		
1823	Trevor, John William	Bridgwater	1891 O'Donoghue, Henry O'Brien I.			Ashton			1957 Rutter, J.J.B.			Wincanton		
1824	Coles, James	Bridgwater	1892 Payne, Alexander R.			Milverton			1958 Jowett, C.J.P.C.			Yeovil		
1825	Fisher, Joseph	Bath	1893 Swayne, Walter T.			Glastonbury			1959 Wyatt, F.N.			Wells		
1826	Do.		1894 Easton, Richard			Taunton			1960 + Wyatt, F.N.			Wells		
1827	Boys, Percival	Bridgwater	1895 Dunn, William			Frome			1961 Powell, W.H.			Weston		
1828	Dyne, Edward	Bruton	1896 Do.						1962 Powell, W.H.D.			Weston		
1829	Pinchard, William P.	Taunton	1897 Louch, John			Langport			1963 Arrow, C.J.			Yeovil		
1830	Do.		1898 Kite, George Henry			Taunton			1964 Rickards, L.E.			Shepton Mallet		
1831	Clarke, Thomas Edward	Chard	1899 Lovibond, George			Bridgwater			1965 Husband, C.J.R.			Bridgwater		
1832	Leigh, W.	Taunton	1900 Poole, Hugh Ruscombe			S Petherton			1966 Reed, N.W.			Bridgwater		
1833	White, Frederick	Wellington	1901 Harris, Richard			Wells			1967 Harding, T.H.			Wellington		
1834	Mullins, Charles	Chew Magna	1902 Poole, Walter J Ruscombe			Bridgwater			1968 Smith, P.E.G.			Wellington		
1835	Leigh, Henry J.	Taunton	1903 Trevor, Edward			Bridgwater			1969 Fryer, L.J.			Weston		
1836	Randolph, James	Milverton	1904 Alms, Edward Theodore			Taunton			1970 Cruttwell, S.H.			Frome		
1837	Payne, John	Milverton	1905 Louch, Edward Queckett			Langport			1971 Boodie, A.T.			Yeovil		
1838	Mullins, Thomas	Goathurst	1906 Poole, William			Taunton			1972 Ash, R.G.			Bridgwater		
1839	Newman, Edwin	Yeovil	1907 Chubb, Francis O.O.			Wells			1973 Collett, S.W.			Weston		
1840	Anstice, Richard	Bridgwater	1908 Booker, William T.			Wellington			1974 Hannah, D.G.			Weston		
1841	Nicholetts, John	S Petherton	1909 Watson, Edgar Henry			Taunton			1975 Meller, D.C.			Wincanton		
1842	Newman, Edwin	Yeovil	1910 Goodall, Sidney Frederick			Wells			1976 Creswick, G.B.N.			Frome		
1843	Taylor, John	Bath	1911 Barham, T. Foster			Bridgwater			1977 Gosling, B.J.			Weston		
1844	Leigh, Henry James	Taunton	1912 Clarke, Charles Peard			Taunton			1978 Collett, D.J.			Weston		
1845	Bradford, John Willmott	Langford	1913* Baker, William Thomas			Bridgwater			1979 Bennett, P.F.			Wrington		
1846	Messiter, George	Frome	1914 Broomhead, Thomas			Taunton			1980 Carpenter, R.M.			Langport		
1847	Taylor, John	Bath	1915 Nalder, Arthur Edward			Shepton Mallet			1981 Shaw, J.L.			Bridgwater		
1848	Davis, William	Frome	1916 Channing, Archibald			Taunton			1982 Fielden, J.H.			Burnham/Sea		
1849	Messiter, Henry	Wincanton	1917 Mackay, Douglas			Shepton Mallet			1983 Rutter, J.F.			Wincanton		
1850	Dyne, Edward	Bruton	1918 Hagon, Chas Edmund			Bridgwater			1984 Hallam, E.W.L.			Midsomer Norton		
1851	Davies, Edmund	Wells	1919 Sheppard, Herbert Byard			Taunton			1985 Thorne, J.R.A.			Minehead		
1852	Trevor, John	Bridgwater	1920 Goode, William Winter			Langport			1986 Baker, S.G.B.			Yeovil		
1853	Messiter, Henry	Wincanton	1921 Harris, Richard Granville			Wells			1987 Osmond, J.G.			Taunton		
1854	Murley, G.B.	Langport	1922 Pearse, Thomas Vincent			Wiveliscombe			1988 Stokes, R.M.			Yeovil		
1855	Hill, John	Paulton	1923 Chubb, Alfred Everard			Wells			1989 Gardner, A.J.			Cheddar		
1858	<i>No Minutes</i>		1924 Wilson, Colin McClure			Wells			1990 Close, J.M.			Taunton		
1859	Hill, John	Paulton	1925 Teek, Henry Comer			Axbridge			1991 Mulligan, R.K.			Wellington		
1860	Louch, John	Langport	1926 Watson, Douglas Statham			Burnham			1992 Warren, Olga			Taunton		
1861	Murley, G.B.	Wincanton	1927 Bath, Robert			Glastonbury			1993 Moule, P.F.			Yeovil		
1862	Randolph, James	Milverton	1928 Foster, E.P.			Wells			1994 Fox, P.L.M.			Taunton		
1863	Hill, John	Paulton	1929 Wedd, H.G.			Langport			1995 Watkis, J.B.			Burnham/Sea		
1864	Swayne, Walter Thomas	Glastonbury	1930 Channer, O.R.M.			Taunton			1996 Pollard, T.G.			Wells		
1865	Pinchard, Wm. P.	Taunton	1931 Whitley, G.			Bridgwater			1997 Rose, M.R.			Taunton		
1866	Trevor, John	Bridgwater	1932 Burrough, W.G.			Wedmore			1998 Jerram, K.I.			Weston-s-Mare		
1867	Boucher, Benjamin	Wiveliscombe	1933 Warry, H.C.			Yeovil			1999 Pulvermacher, F.M.			Taunton		
1868	Foster, John Hopkins	North Curry	1934 Barrington, T.			Bridgwater			2000 Priest, S.R.			Yeovil		
1869	Messiter, Henry	Wincanton	1935 Stiling, W.H.C.			Burnham/Sea			2001 Davidson, J.R.			Wells		
1870	Trenchard, Henry C.	Taunton	1936 Dodson, F.S.			Taunton			2002 Allan, N.J.			Crewkerne		
1871	Warden, Thomas	Williton	1937 Willmott, F.W.			Taunton			2003 Edwards, R.			Yeovil		
1872	Auber, Henry P.	N Petherton	1938 Moger, H.G.D.			Taunton			2004 Morgan, R.W.			Taunton		
1873	Baker, John	Ilminster	1939 Poole, G.S.			S Petherton			2005 Murray, F.G.			Taunton		
1874	Trevor, John	Bridgwater	1940 Cruttwell, G.H.W.			Frome			2006 Morris, W.P.			Taunton		
1875	Do.		1941 Pulman, T.M.			Taunton			2007 Hayllar, C.F.			Bridgwater		
1876	Do.		1942 Lee-Michell, F.			Wellington								
1877	Messiter, Henry	Wincanton	1943 Thorne, W.H.A.			Minehead								
1878	Payne, Edward Turner	Bath	1944 Batten, Major H.C.C.			Yeovil								
1879	Do.		1945 Briggs, A.H.H.G.			Weston								
1880	Do.		1946 Boxall, F.S.			Yeovil								
1881	Do.		1947 Clarke, Geoffrey P.			Taunton								
1882	Trevor, John	Bridgwater	1948 Pardoe, C.B.			Bridgwater								
1883	Do.		1949 Blake, J. Humphrey			Crewkerne								
1884	Do.													

2008	<i>DELS/SLS Merger</i>	
* Mr. Baker died within a short time of his election.		
+ There was no General Meeting in 1960 and Mr. Wyatt held office until Mr. Powell was elected at a special Meeting in June 1961.		

Officers of Somerset Law Society 1796 - 2007

<u>Honorary Secretaries & Treasurers</u>	<u>Honorary Secretaries</u>	<u>Honorary Treasurers</u>
1796 – 1810 Charles Edwards, Chard	1777 – 1881 F.M. Pulvermacher, Taunton	1777 - 1881 D. Perratt, Taunton
1810 – 1836 Uriah Messiter, Wincanton	1984 F.M. Pulvermacher, Taunton]	1882 - 1993 W.P. Morris, Taunton
1837 – 1862 Wm. Price Pinchard, Taunton	R.M. Fountaine, Wells] (joint)	1994 - 1997 F.G. Murray, Taunton
1863 – 1897 John Henry Biddulph Pinchard, Taunton	1985 – 1988 R.M. Fountaine, Wells	1998 - 2007 R.E.E. Parkman, Weston-super-Mare
1898 – 1899 John Edward William Wakefield, Taunton	1989 R.M. Fountaine, Wells]	
1900 – 1910 Edgar Henry Watson, Taunton	J.S. Walters, Radstock] (joint)	
1911 – 1927 Herbert Byard Sheppard, Taunton	1990 – 1991 J.S. Walters, Radstock	
1928 – 1948 Geoffrey Peard Clark, Taunton	1992 J.S. Walters, Midsomer Norton]	
1949 – 1960 Walter Rex Williams, Taunton	K.J. Shearn, Bridgwater] (joint)	
1961 – 1970 Patrick Fenton Moule, Yeovil	1993 – 2007 K.J. Shearn, Bridgwater	
1971 – 1976 Francis Michael Pulvermacher, Taunton		

Full list of Devon & Exeter Law Society Presidents since Incorporation until 2007

1926	C R M Clapp	Exeter/East Devon	1954	F F Annear	North Devon	1982	D G Williams	Exeter/East Devon
1927	G B Oerton	North Devon	1955	W F Pugsley	North Devon	1983	J I Mosley	South Devon
1928	A Anstey	Exeter/East Devon	1956	J J Malim	South Devon	1984	M E Barnes	North Devon
1929	H C Brown	North Devon	1957	G H S Butcher	Exeter/East Devon	1985	J W Parkinson	Exeter/East Devon
1930	G H Stephens	Exeter/East Devon	1958	L J Hallett	Exeter/East Devon	1986	D J Jones	South Devon
1931	J Symes	Exeter/East Devon	1959	C Hamlyn Taylor	South Devon	1987	F P de M Horsey	North Devon
1932	M A Mathew	Exeter/East Devon	1960	S W Wright	North Devon	1988	J F Eden	Exeter/East Devon
1933	T Phillips	Exeter/East Devon	1961	V O M Donnithorne	Exeter/East Devon	1989	B G Nelson	South Devon
1934	T J W Templeman	Exeter/East Devon	1962	N H H Cordwent	South Devon	1990	G A Feinson	North Devon
1935	S Hilton	South Devon	1963	D C Harward	North Devon	1991	S A Lawson	Exeter/East Devon
1936	F P Cottey	Exeter/East Devon	1964	T Anstey	Exeter/East Devon	1992	M B G Cosgrave	South Devon
1937	H W Michelmores	Exeter/East Devon	1965	H A T Coles	South Devon	1993	J M Rowland	North Devon
1938	R Boase	North Devon	1966	D F Brown	North Devon	1994	R D Newman	South Devon
1939	S H Easterbrook	South Devon	1967	A J McGahey	Exeter/East Devon	1995	J C N Robinson	Exeter/East Devon
1940	N J Lake	Exeter/East Devon	1968	H Sykes-Balls	South Devon	1996	C J C Palmer	North Devon
1941	B R Dunning	Exeter/East Devon	1969	D W Blackwell	North Devon	1997	A N Pryce	South Devon
1942	H T Michelmores	Exeter/East Devon	1970	J S Pope	Exeter/East Devon	1998	S W Arnold	Exeter/East Devon
1943	H Linford Brown	Exeter/East Devon	1971	The Rt Hon Lord Citrine	South Devon	1999	D L Whiteley	North Devon
1944	G C Daw	Exeter/East Devon	1972	Sir John Palmer	North Devon	2000	G G N Bond	South Devon
1945	P H W Almy	South Devon	1973	W J Hallett	Exeter/East Devon	2001	R J Challans	Exeter/East Devon
1946	V Thompson	Exeter/East Devon	1974	B R Wordsworth	South Devon	2002	J J Ferguson	North Devon
1947	F M I Watts	South Devon	1975	E F Clark	North Devon	2003	J W Howell	South Devon
1948	J W Waddingham	Exeter/East Devon	1976	D B Crosse	Exeter/East Devon	2004	P A Derbyshire	Exeter/East Devon
1949	G H McMurtrie	South Devon	1977	T C Richards	South Devon	2005	P R Mole	North Devon
1950	S W Cleave	Exeter/East Devon	1978	J M H Arthur	North Devon	2006	C D Hart	South Devon
1951	S A Copp	North Devon	1979	B A Harris	Exeter/East Devon	2007	V E S Salomonsen	Exeter/East Devon
1952	F C Landsell	South Devon	1980	Mrs M Anstey	South Devon			
1953	Sir Godwin Michelmores KBE	Exeter/East Devon	1981	C M Verney	North Devon	2008	DELS/SLS Merger	

Officers of Devon & Exeter Law Society 1920-2007 and of Devon & Somerset Law Society 2008 - present

Honorary Secretaries		Honorary Treasurers	
1920 - 1929	M A Mathew	1920 - 1929	M A Mathew
1929 - 1934	J W Nowell*	1929 - 1934	J W Nowell*
1934 - 1946	J W Waddingham*	1934 - 1936	J W Waddingham*
1946 - 1952	J S Pope	1936 - 1946	M A Mathew
(1951)	D Lyon Smith - Assistant Secretary	1946 - 1949	J W Waddingham
1952 - 1968	D Lyon Smith	1949 - 1959	J W Waddingham and M A Mathew <i>joint</i>
(1963 - 1968)	J F Eden - Assistant Secretary	1959 - 1975	G H S Butcher
1968 - 1974	W S Simey	1975 - 1988	B R Wordsworth
1974 - 1975	W J M White	(1987 - 1988)	D L Whiteley - Assistant Treasurer
1975 - 1980	J W Parkinson	1988 - 1998	D L Whiteley
1980 - 1987	S A Lawson	1998 - 2007	R A Adams
(1985 - 1987)	C J C Palmer - Assistant Secretary	2008 - present	R A Adams
1987 - 1994	C J C Palmer		
(1987 - 1989)	P L Mattholite - Assistant Secretary		
(1993 - 1994)	J A Spiers - Assistant Secretary		
1994 - 2007	J A Spiers MBE		
2008 - 2014	J A Spiers MBE		
2014 - present	C D Hart		

** It should be noted that Mr J W Nowell and Mr J W Waddingham were one and the same.*

Presidents of Devon and Somerset Law Society 2008 - present

2008	A McNeill, North Devon	2018	S St J Mahoney, Somerset
2009	J M G Cross, South Devon	2019	N H Lyons, Exeter/East Devon
2010	R E E Parkman, Somerset	2020 *	N H Lyons, Exeter/East Devon
2011	D M Turner, Exeter/East Devon	2021	P D Kelly, Exeter/East Devon
2012	R D Bowen, Exeter/East Devon		
2013	P R Dyson, South Devon		
2014	A Mason, Somerset		
2015	W F Michelmores, Exeter/East Devon		
2016	M S Roome, North Devon		
2017	S Aggett, South Devon		

** There was no AGM in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic with all officers remaining in post for a further 12 months.*



DEVON & SOMERSET LAW SOCIETY

Devon & Somerset Law
Society

TO RESERVE A PLACE FOR THE DINNER,
PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO
THE ADMINISTRATOR **BY NO LATER
THAN TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2022**



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4 MAY 2022

6.00 pm, Exeter Golf & Country Club

The meeting will be followed by a Members'
Dinner for which the arrangements are as follows:

6.00 pm	Annual General Meeting
6.30 pm	Cash Bar
7.00 pm	3-course Dinner at £30.00 pp inc. VAT (or £25.00 pp inc. VAT for 2 courses)

Please tick your choices (one form per person)

- ☐ Asparagus, cured ham, soft poached egg, hollandaise sauce *OR*
- ☐ Wild garlic and potato soup, chive crème fraîche
- ◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇
- ☐ Chicken Supreme, spring greens, confit chicken leg, fondant potato, light chicken jus *OR*
- ☐ Potato Gnocchi, ratatouille vegetables, baby spinach, basil oil
- ◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇
- ☐ Rhubarb panna cotta, ginger shortbread, *OR*
- ☐ Cheese plate, chutney and biscuits

Includes Tea/Coffee

Please indicate any allergies and/or special dietary requirements:

.....

.....

A bar will be provided and wine
may be ordered before dinner.

*Please reserve place(s) for the Dinner following the AGM on 4/5/22 at
6.30 for 7.00 pm at the Exeter Golf & Country Club.*

We will provide a VAT invoice for payment (BACS payment preferred).

CONTACT NAME

.....

FIRM / ADDRESS

.....

.....

.....

Tel.

Email

PLEASE SCAN AND EMAIL TO DASLS ADMINISTRATOR

Miss Monique Bertoni

Tel. 01392 325 166 Email. monique@dasls.com

The Society was established in 1808 and incorporated in England as a Company
Limited by Guarantee in 1926 with registration number 213866.
Registered Office – At Harbourside, 67 The Terrace, Torquay, Devon TQ1 1DP.
VAT No: 141 338 689