

# 2012 Annual General Meeting Reports and Documentation



Any queries, contact the Administrator at DASLS Office

## From your President and Committee

It has been a great privilege and an enormous pleasure for me to represent our Society as President for the last year.



David Turner  
President  
2011/2012

I would firstly like to thank some of the people who have made my role as President easier and indeed all the more enjoyable. My sincere thanks go to the team at the DASLS office. You make such a difference. So thank you Monique Bertoni, Tony Steiner and Michelle Johnston for all your help. Good luck also to Hetty Rizman who has recently joined them. Thank you also to Tony Spiers, our Honorary Secretary and to Richard Adams our Honorary Treasurer. Both of these office

holders have been in place for some time and I was fortunate enough to be the recipient of their experience.

Next, my thanks go to the members of our Committee and Sub-Committees who have worked so hard throughout the year on behalf of DASLS. So **much of our Society's** work goes on in these committees and sub-committees. Thank you to all of you who give up your time for the **Society's benefit.**

The Law Society Regional Manager, Matthew Still, has been a great help to relations between this, our Society, and The Law Society. Matthew has

attended our Committee meetings. A link to his reports can be found on The Law Society website and I worked with him this year to ensure good communication links between our Society and Chancery Lane.

Thank you also to all those who have helped support the charity chosen by me as the **Society's charity for the last year. Children's Hospice South West** is such a worthwhile charity and we have managed to raise over £5,000 this year. That is very generous of you all. In addition, the **Charity's Co-** founder, Mr Eddie Farwell and

*Cont'd p.2*

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## Free one-hour CPD Seminar prior to the AGM!

### It's a New Tax Year – what should you be doing?

Free Seminar - Invite

The upcoming change in tax-year provides an ideal opportunity to focus on some key financial issues that affect all of us and to make the most of opportunities for enhanced planning. This seminar will examine:

- Current retirement regime and its impact on you
- Tax efficient saving and investing
- Asset allocation – beating the taxman!
- Key taxation issues
- The current economic climate and its impact on our financial decisions

**Speaker: Jon Parker, Business Development Manager, Wesleyan for Lawyers.**

Devon & Somerset Law Society with



**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

**Time: 4.45pm registration, 5pm to 6pm seminar**

**CPD: 1 hour**

**Venue: Tiverton Hotel**

**In order to claim CPD, it is essential that you book your place. Please contact Monique Bertoni at DASLS office – contact details above.**



**President's Charity of  
the year 2011/2012**

**“Thank you to all  
of you who give  
up your time for  
the Society's  
benefit. “**

**“I must say that  
all these  
[functions]  
impress upon  
me just how  
highly DASLS is  
considered in  
the local  
business  
community and  
also the wider  
legal  
community. “**



David Turner  
Acting Chair  
Contentious Business  
Sub-Committee

## From your President and Committee (continued)

his wife Erika were guests at our Annual Dinner in March at Sandy Park.

I have been fortunate enough to receive a number of invitations from other local law societies to attend their own local law society dinners. These are always enjoyable and a great chance to catch up with fellow solicitors. In addition, I have been invited, and attended, a number of other **professional bodies'** dinners. These have also been very enjoyable and I have had the opportunity of repaying that hospitality by inviting a number of the various Presidents back to **my President's Lunch** which was held at St Olaves in November last year. At that lunch, we also had the pleasure of hosting the

Lord Mayor of Exeter. I must say that all these lunches and dinners impress upon me just how highly DASLS is considered in the local business community and also the wider legal community.

I also appreciated the opportunity to attend and to speak at two congresses of the Federation of European Bars; in Florence and Wroclaw. Both trips were interesting and extremely worthwhile. I would like to thank the members of our International Relations Sub-Committee for all their work during the year. I would also particularly like to thank Rod Mole and Michael Cosgrave for their company, wisdom and assistance throughout these trips.

I would also like to thank all the past Presidents of our Society, and particularly Rebecca Parkman, our immediate Past President for all her help and encouragement during my year as President. It has been so helpful on a practical level to discuss things with you all. I would also like to thank my Vice President, David Bowen, who has always been on hand to discuss matters.

I have enjoyed the year enormously but it is now time for me to hand over the reigns to David Bowen, as President, who will be ably supported by his Vice President, Paul Dyson. Good luck and best wishes to you both.

**David M. Turner**  
*President 2011/2012*

## From the Contentious Business Sub-Committee

We have held three meetings at the Contentious Business Sub-Committee in the last year and I would like to thank all the members of the Sub-Committee for their help and assistance. It was particularly pleasing to welcome new members to our Sub-Committee. There is a real benefit in meeting other contentious lawyers from across the region. There is always however room for new faces and fresh ideas and if anyone is interested in joining this group please contact either myself or Monique Bertoni.

Members of the Sub-Committee attended many court user groups throughout the year across the region; attending court user group

meetings in Barnstaple, Torquay, Taunton and Exeter.

The Jackson Review addressing the funding of civil litigation threatens to change the way in which civil litigation is handled (or at least paid for). Your Sub-Committee hopefully are on top of the issues raised and ready to work for all members in assisting all contentious lawyers through the period of the Review and beyond.

It is also perhaps timely to look again at the terms of reference for the Contentious Business Sub-Committee and to remind ourselves of them. It is a forum whereby members with an interest in contentious work can meet

and discuss matters; to maintain effective liaison with the local judiciary and courts; to keep under review issues in Civil Litigation and Criminal Law, Practice and Procedure, including Legal Aid and keep DASLS members advised of changes.

To respond to government and other bodies e.g. Law Society, SRA, Legal Services Commissions (consultations documents).

To consider matters referred by members. DASLS main Committees and other Sub-Committees.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Contentious Business Sub-Committee throughout the year.

## From the Education & Training Sub-Committee

The role of the Education & Training Sub-Committee is:

- to provide input on the content of the future training programme
- to monitor the success (or otherwise) of courses that have been run by the Society
- to respond to consultations regarding education & training as may arise from time to time
- to keep members advised of changes to training requirements when they arise and arrange briefings and practical advice when required
- to consider such other matters regarding education and training as maybe referred to them by the main Committee from time to time.

The Sub-Committee is proud of its training programme; it seeks to provide quality training locally and at a cost effective price. The continuation of our *3 for 2 offer* during 2011 has proved popular and will be extended for 2012. In the

last year the Society has provided 67 training events covering a broad range of substantive law topics. Attendance has been strong with an average of 20.1 delegates attending each seminar. Around 90% of those attending DASLS courses have said that the event was Good or Very Good, exceeding our target of over 75%.

We are also providing online training in partnership with the College of Law at a very competitive price. If you have not looked at this yet I encourage you to do so. The feedback that I have had about the **College's Online training** has been very positive. Details can be found on the **Society's website**.

We have observed from our feedback that the majority of members who attend DASLS training courses have over 5 years POE which has led to look for more events that would be attractive to more recently qualified lawyers. There is clearly a demand for such events – over 70 delegates

attended the recent Top Tips on appearing before a District Judge District Judge seminar kindly given by DJ Andrew Moon and the Advocacy Training Day sold out before we sent our mailshot. I would welcome any ideas of further training that would be of interest to this sector of our membership.

I am grateful for the support given to me by all the members of the Education & Training Sub-Committee. They are the lifeblood of the training programme and their input ensures that the courses we offer remain relevant to current developments. If however you see a gap in the programme or identify a speaker that we should be inviting to the area please let me know – we are always on the lookout for new ideas. Better still, if Training & Education is of interest why not join the Sub-Committee?

Finally, thank you for continuing to support DASLS training events.



Tony Steiner,  
Acting Chair  
Education &  
Training

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**“Around 90% of those attending DASLS courses have said that the event was Good or Very Good, exceeding our target of over 75%.”**

## SBA The Solicitors' Charity Report

The total number of beneficiaries in our area helped by the SBA in 2011 was 22 of these 7 applications in Somerset, 3 in Cornwall and 7 from Devon. Of these beneficiaries 5 were widows, 4 single ladies, 7 single, 2 married couples, 5 dependent children and 3 applications for Student Grants. The total awards authorised were, £54,349,

of this sum £10,597 was by secured loan made to those on low incomes but with equity in their homes (which means the money will be recovered) and £43,752 was by grant.

In these economic times the SBA has had to re-examine its policy and some of the more generous allowances of the past have not been continued so

they can concentrate on those in real need.

May I ask everyone who is not a member to consider this very worthwhile Charity at a cost of only £10 per year payable by Bankers Order.

Application Forms are available from myself.



Jeremy Lee  
SBA Director  
c/o Symes Robinson  
& Lee, Manor Office,  
North Street, Crediton

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Liz Kendall,  
Acting Chair  
Mediation

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“We are certainly seeing a positive shift in attitude and consideration of the benefits of Mediation”.

## From the Mediation Sub-Committee

Whilst the DASLS Mediation Service continues to be an accredited Member body of the Civil Mediation Council, it came as no surprise to us that their National Mediation Helpline has disappeared. Referrals from this to DASLS Mediation Service were minimal.

The Sub-Committee has over the last year been concentrating on promoting the Mediation Service both to firms and businesses across the South West. Meanwhile Jeremy Ferguson continues to fly the Mediation flag both in England and in Europe with great success.

In May 2011 we reduced the cost of our Mediation Services by 50% to the first ten firms within the DASLS catchment area to take up the offer. The interest and take up on these were pleasing and, as those of you who have since enquired, our fees are now back to the standard of £775 + VAT for four hours and £600 + VAT for three hours, which is still markedly less than Mediation services being offered elsewhere. Our Mediators have a wealth of

mediation experience behind them – for more information see the DASLS main website. Why on earth would you pay more for less?!

As part of our continued training, a Mediation Training Day with an Introduction to Neuro Linguistic Programming was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October which provided an excellent insight and contrasting approach to compliment the way in which Mediation is currently undertaken.

I am sure you all enjoyed reading Frank Goddard's helpful and enlightening article “Mediation – Increasing the Odds” - if you missed this, then I urge you to review again the DASLS Newsletter, November 2011 issue.

The Sub-Committee have received and accepted an invitation from Exeter University to provide some training on Civil Mediation to those involved in the Law School's Community Legal Helpdesk, a community outreach project which has been running since October last year and seeks to provide support and assistance to members of the public who

are involved in civil legal disputes. Jeremy Ferguson will be overseeing this. Jeremy is also organising a short course on Mediation to be held at one of the North Devon firms in the next month or so.

Members of the Sub-Committee are currently visiting DASLS firms not only to promote our Service, but to ascertain what your views are on Mediation as a whole. (If I am down to visit your firm soon, mine is a tea please, white, no sugar!). We are keen to not only spread the word about mediation but to hear what you have to say.

We are certainly seeing a positive shift in attitude and consideration of the benefits of Mediation: coupled with Kenneth Clarke's announcement that he plans to divert up to 80,000 more cases to a small claims mediation process, it certainly makes for interesting times ahead and for the Sub-Committee to ensure that the DASLS Mediation Service is a serious contender for this and any other appropriate opportunities in the Mediation world.



Patricia Durham  
Hall,  
Chair  
Non Contentious  
Business

[patriciadurhamhall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:patriciadurhamhall@yahoo.co.uk)

## From the Non Contentious Business Sub-Committee

We are glad to have welcomed two new committee members: Nick Penwell of Dunn and Baker and Will Vine of Ford Simey, both in private client practice. It must be a reflection of current times that the Committee has now more private client representation than we had

previously. We are a well balanced and very active band of sixteen members across the region and across the disciplines that have addressed a wide spectrum of non-contentious issues throughout the year. It is interesting to note that the past twelve months has

suddenly seen a much greater input from our members to the Committee and this is to be welcomed.

We have been very preoccupied with unregulated will writing firms. We responded at some length to the Legal

Services Board on 4 November 2011 and our **working group's response** was posted on the DASLS web site for 8 weeks for members to access. Thanks especially to Steven Came (Ford Simey) who has also taken over the post of my Vice-Chair this year. We shall keep a close eye on developments over the next year regarding regulation as it is on the agenda of STEP, the SRA and the Legal Ombudsman. Any further input from our members would be welcomed.

Although it has taken over a year I am pleased to report that both the Devon and the Somerset Register offices have now stopped disseminating leaflets from the Bereavement Advice Centre. This is a great achievement in our efforts to ensure a level playing field. We are still aware of the commercial pressure wielded by Barclays and the ITC, but it is a step in the right direction. We will keep abreast of the new wills and **probate firms' accreditation** scheme proposed by the Law Society (similar to CQS).

One of our members, Graham Gover (specialist planning solicitor) has been closely monitoring the Localism Act through Parliament and the Upper House. He will apprise the Committee of the final version and then write a report for our members in the DASLS Newsletter.

We are delighted to be maintaining our DASLS links with the Plymouth Land Registry. Jackie Goodfellow, the Land Registrar at Plymouth, attended our meeting last October and gave a fascinating presentation of

the issues currently at the top of their agenda. She also wrote a Q & A piece for the DASLS Newsletter. We will continue to treasure this valuable link to our profession.

One of our stated aims as a Committee has been the standardisation of documents, where possible, for DASLS members. This year has seen the updating of our Residential Leasehold Enquiries before Contract (see DASLS website). This document is being used nationwide and is much to our credit. Our Working Group is now considering a version of Short Commercial Leasehold Enquiries that we hope we may be soon able to recommend to our members. It has been often requested for use in small shop leases and I have been liaising with the Bournemouth District Law Society over the potential use by our members of their version. Watch this space!

Apart from commending the Conveyancing Quality Scheme to our members as a *fait accompli* – there is not a great deal more we can say about it. Despite the apparent pressure from the CML for firms to become accredited, it seems to have made no difference to some lenders, namely the HSBC and Santander, in their restrictive practices. We are very much immersed in the problems that these two lenders are causing, especially (although not at all exclusively) to sole practitioners and small firms. It is clear that Chancery Lane is also much concerned with their conduct. I have received several letters from our members on the subject

just recently and I know that it is yet another worry for the profession seeing its potential client market being eroded. We have **commended Des Hudson's** lobbying initiative to all but we shall be using our best endeavours to take the matter ourselves as far as we can. Any further input from members would be very welcome.

I have also received letters recently regarding the ambiguity of conveyancing conflict rules following the new SRA Code of Conduct October 2011. We are debating the issues and hope to write further on the subject. Similarly, the divisive issue of referral fees continues to raise its head. We published an article in the DASLS Newsletter recently (thanks to Ian Bradbury of WBW) for our members to consider. I remain in touch with our regional branch of the National Association of Estate Agents on your behalf.

As you can see, it has been a busy twelve months and I look forward to Chairing the Committee for a further twelve months in these competitive and often depressing times. I would like to thank all those members who have written in to us and I can assure you of our very best attention. I would also like to thank all the hard working members of my Committee for their valuable time and hard work.

## **Inquiries before Contract of Managing Agents / Freeholders**

**An updated version of this helpful proforma is now available at:**

**[www.dasls.co.uk/uploads/LhE2011.doc](http://www.dasls.co.uk/uploads/LhE2011.doc)**

**This form may be completed on screen and saved on your own system.**

**“One of our stated aims as a Committee has been the standardisation of documents, where possible, for DASLS members.”**

## From the Social Sub-Committee



Claire Revell,  
Chair,  
Social

*C.Revell@Kennedys-law.com*

“The Social Sub-Committee ran its first summer party event, the Summer Sizzler, at the Bar Venezia on the quay in Exeter.”

The Social Sub-Committee recently completed the most recent round of the DASLS Challenge Cup, which has proved to be as popular as ever. This year competitive wine tasting was introduced as an event, along with old favourites such as skittles and five a side football. Rivalry between the local law firms seems to remain strong! Gilbert Stephens were this year's worthy winners, securing victory in a nail biting final round at the quiz in January. Can anyone beat Gilbert Stephens at a quiz?

The Committee is always looking for new events to include in the programme and welcomes suggestions for events from all society members. Please do let us know if you have any ideas. The first round is, as always, skittles at The Atmospheric Railway Inn in Starcross and we look forward to seeing as many members as possible.

The Social Sub-Committee also ran its first summer party event, the Summer Sizzler, at the Bar Venezia on the quay in Exeter as the traditional annual dinner did not take place.

Guests enjoyed a salsa class, buffet and live music. Although the turnout was not as high as we had hoped, a good time was had by all and it is an event that could be run again if there was demand. Many thanks to Julie Tiao and Becky Smyth for their sterling work in organising this event.

We are also always keen to host events in Somerset and will shortly be announcing details of the next Somerset Quiz, after the success of last year's event. I am sure that this year's quiz will be equally successful.

Unfortunately, difficult financial times seem to have led to a decline in attendance at social events in recent years. We always welcome feedback on events which we have run as well as suggestions for events to be run in the future. Please do not

hesitate to get in touch if you have an idea for a fun event that we can run. We are also always keen to welcome new faces to our committee so please let us know if you'd like to join us.

I am, as always, proud to have chaired the Social Sub-Committee this year and pleased to note that support for the Challenge Cup just keeps on going. My thanks go to all the members of the Sub-Committee; the members do all the work that the Committee does and give up their free time to ensure that we have a variety of social events that everyone can enjoy. Special mention goes to Tony Steiner who works tirelessly behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly and also makes a pretty great quizmaster.

I look forward to seeing you at a social event soon!

### DASLS Challenge Cup 2012 - 2013

The first round of the 2012- 2013 Challenge Cup is the always popular Skittles at Starcross on 15 March 2012 at 7.00 pm. The winning team will also hold the Skittles Cup for 1 year.

[www.dasls.com/uploads/Skittles2012.pdf](http://www.dasls.com/uploads/Skittles2012.pdf)

## From the Vice President's Committee



David Bowen,  
Vice President

*David.Bowen@cps.gsi.gov.uk*

The Vice-President's Committee met twice during the year and considered topics such as the public relations activities of the Society, the provision of grants to our three local universities and the extension of members services and benefits.

The main focus of our attention, however, was to

**draft the Society's Business Plan** for 2012 to 2015. A Working Group was created comprising some members of the committee and other co-optees. After **canvassing members' views**, the Group met in November 2011 for a full day and worked hard; reflecting on the events of the last three years, examining the current

situation and plotting our course for the future.

Consensus was achieved and a draft plan was perfected over the next three months and we were pleased to present the Business Plan to the main Committee for adoption.

## From The Law Society Council Member

It is difficult to summarise a year in the life of Chancery Lane.

For the record I attended 8 Council Meetings, the AGM of The Law Society and 3 meetings of the Scrutiny and Performance Review Committee of which I am also a member. All in all a good number of days spent in London with of course the associated travelling. In addition I have attended ASWLS meetings and meetings of other Societies in the West Country and Gwent Constituency.

The year has seen the end of **Linda Lee's term of office** as President and the installation of John Wotton as the new President.

In the current changing times, The Law Society has an even greater obligation than ever to live up to its **motto of "Supporting Solicitors"**. It is a representative body for more than a 145,000 Solicitors qualified in England and Wales and practising at home and around the world. It is tasked with promoting the interests of the Profession from sole practitioners and High Street Practices to in-house Solicitors and those working in global firms. It endeavours to do so through the activities of its officers, executives, divisions, sections, committees, boards and Council.

The Law Society aims to be the leading representative **of the world's best legal profession**, valued as a vital partner by all it serves and engages with.

To achieve this vision the Law Society has resolved over the next three years to

work directly and in partnership to:

1. Improve the competitiveness of the environment for the legal profession
2. Provide exemplary services and
3. Be an exemplary organisation

It will be for members to judge the level of the success achieved by The Law Society in achieving those aims.

As to the proceedings of Council, to my mind the jury is still out. Whilst it functions as a debating forum its role as a decision making body is in practice somewhat limited. A considerable number of the papers it receives and **considers are "for noting"**. Whilst Council members are privy to a considerable amount of inside information their ability to discuss or report the same with or to their constituents is in a lot of cases constrained by the application of The Law Society's code of practice on freedom of information. More and more of the agenda items are being **presented on "pink" paper** and consequently any dialogue with constituency members is very often in the form of after-the-event reporting.

Notwithstanding those comments Council does retain a decision making role and can be influential in its debating function.

The issues that have faced Council during the past twelve months have been many and varied and by and large are rehearsed in the Minutes published on The Law Society website. I

would however list below a number of those issues:-

- 1) SRA implementation of Outcomes Focused Regulation.
- 2) SRA implementation of the New Handbook.
- 3) **The Law Society's** policy in relation to the SRA becoming an ABS Licensing Authority
- 4) The implementation of **"mySRA" and online** practising certificate renewal
- 5) **The "SRA Enabling Programme Review"**
- 6) The setting up and implementation of the new **"Business and Oversight Board"**
- 7) **The "Blueprint Programme" and business** case
- 8) **The "Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders"** Bill.
- 9) The MoJ consultation on the reform of Civil Litigation Costs and Funding.
- 10) Professional Indemnity Insurance, the assigned **risks pool and "run off"** cover
- 11) **The "Conveyancing Quality Scheme" and the** HSBC panel
- 12) Accreditation and **"QASA"**
- 13) The Regulation of Will Writers
- 14) Referral Fees
- 15) LeO and the Publication of Complaints
- 16) **"Solicitors from Hell"**

For my part I have seen my contribution during the year as one of representing on Council the interests of this Local Law Society and its members to the best of my ability and I take heart without taking any credit for the fact that we remain a valued consultee with a reputation for innovation, involvement and influence.



Rod Mole  
Council Member  
for West  
Country and  
Gwent  
Constituency

[rmole@chanterferguson.co.uk](mailto:rmole@chanterferguson.co.uk)

"I take heart without taking any credit for the fact that we remain a valued consultee with a reputation for innovation, involvement and influence."



The Law Society  
Regional Manager for  
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Chris Hart,  
Chair,  
Practice  
Management

“We had one major new development this year, which was our first Practice Management Conference.”

## From the Practice Management Sub-Committee

The work of the Practice Management Sub-Committee continues to be of significant relevance to member firms given the continued economic and practice/management challenges faced by law firms across our region.

The Sub-Committee continues to run a good number of training courses dealing with topical management issues. The courses are generally very well supported, although occasionally it is challenging to secure sufficient numbers. The feedback reviews reflect the excellent quality of the courses that are run, and I must thank Tony Steiner for his work in ensuring a good range of high value management courses and for his support of the work of the Sub-Committee. The feedback reviews are always considered by the Sub-Committee members so please do record any relevant comments and please also let us have any suggestions for any additional courses that you would wish to see being run. I should mention that the Law Management Development Course was very successful, although not supported in significant numbers, and it is our intention to run the programme again in the autumn of this year.

We had one major new development this year, which was our first Practice Management Conference. We were delighted with the support for the conference which achieved 65 attendees and support from sponsors. The day included enlightening and entertaining sessions with Tim Aspinall (Strategy), Tim Prior (Risk) and Adam Sampson (Legal Ombudsman). Adam **Sampson’s session, in particular, resulted in lively debate with those in attendance. The feedback from the day was extremely positive, and we have already begun our preparation for this year’s conference in the autumn.**

We have again this year run the inter-firm Practice Management Surveys. The surveys prove to be of considerable benchmarking benefit to those firms that partake, but it has to be said that we are struggling to get good numbers of firms to participate. The Salary Survey remains well supported, but the Financial Comparison Benchmarking Survey does not receive the support that it should, and the Sub-Committee is beginning to look at other ways in which the Comparison Survey might be operated.

The quarterly local Practice Management Forums continue to operate and be well supported in Torbay and South Devon, Exeter and East Devon, Plymouth and Somerset. The forums continue to be an excellent way to discuss a number of relevant topics with other management responsibilities. The North Devon Forum has not met for a while, and if you would like to participate in restarting that local forum please let Tony Steiner know.

Attendance at the Sub-Committee has been good, and we are well represented by members **from across the Society’s** region. I would like to record my thanks to Hugh Winterbotham for his service to the Committee over many years, serving as Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Hugh has decided to stand down from the Committee and John Tomalin is the Sub-**Committee’s new Vice-Chairman.** We would always welcome the participation of new members and if you would like to join the Sub-Committee or participate in the quarterly local forum meetings please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Tony Steiner.

[chris.hart@wollenmichelmore.co.uk](mailto:chris.hart@wollenmichelmore.co.uk)

## From the Honorary Treasurer

Phew. Back in the black. Having lost £17,807 in 2009 and a further £12,810 in 2010, your Society ended 2011 £5,848 to the good. It now has reserves of just under £466,000, £206k of which is represented by the office and the other £260k cash.

While it cost us a bit to acquire our chunk of Aston Court, get it running and dispose of our suite at Renslade House, you can see one of the differences owning makes as compared to renting (in a time of low interest rates, at least) in our accounts, where establishment costs for the year are down from £26,725 to £16,603, a good saving.

So, with the bar chart back just a smidge above the line, and the appearance being that **we've survived our dip**, I feel a little more comfortable this year writing this report from a position of overall surplus than I did last.

But taking a closer look **at the figures**, I'm not sure that I should.

I wrote last year that ignoring exceptionals such as the one-off costs of the move and the 2% depreciation charge we include against the cost of the office in the accounts each year, we were about £4,000 in the black in 2010. So, should we not have done better than we did in 2011?

**I'm afraid that from the Treasurer's point of view**, if the object of the exercise is to run in healthy surplus, then there is still cause for concern. A glance at the trends of our main source of income – training – is not terribly reassuring. Our income in £000s for the last seven years has been £119, 117, 164, 179, 138, 142 and now a five-year low of 129. I have always seen this as our reliable bread and butter. In fact for the last three years it has dropped back significantly and is now getting on for 30% below its 2008 high water mark. Clearly our members are feeling the squeeze and not buying our courses in anything

like the same numbers as three years ago. I do wonder if all solicitors are fulfilling their CPD requirements as they should.

Thank goodness we also do recruitment, which at £80k did well for us (and our members) last year. Subscription income was also stable.

Thank you all for your continuing support, in light of which I see no need to ask you for more money to cover expenses or increase our capital reserves, and so will hold subscriptions at their current (pre-1998, I think) level for another year.

We parted company with Michelle Johnston towards the end of last year and now, to **Monique and Tony's** great relief, greet Hetty (short for Henrietta) Rizman, who joined us on 5 March. We wish her good luck; please make her feel welcome by booking lots of the courses she will be offering to you.



Richard Adams  
Honorary  
Treasurer

RichardA@  
crosse.co.uk

“Thank you all  
for your  
continuing  
**support.”**



To book a place on any of DASLS seminars, simply contact DASLS Office on 01392 366333.

## Continuing Professional Development

**DASLS has over 21 years' experience** of organising a comprehensive programme of CPD courses annually, including in-house training, with experienced and high-quality speakers; Delegates enjoy the benefits of training undertaken nearer to the office, reduction in travel and associated expenses resulting in cost-effective training with discounts available for multiple bookings - **look out for our 3 for 2 Offer** when you can book 3 people on the same seminar and get the cheapest place free.

For full course details and prices, simply download flyers from our website: [www.dasls.com](http://www.dasls.com)



Rod Mole  
Chair,  
International  
Relations

rmole@chanterferguson.co.uk

“The activities of the Sub-Committee through the year have been dedicated to strengthening the International profile of the Society and discharging those objectives”.

## From the International Relations Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee has amongst its terms of reference the following:

- to raise DASLS profile and represent DASLS members abroad.
- to monitor DASLS' membership of the Federation of European Bars
- to arrange appropriate representation at meetings, and to inform DASLS members of FBE activities
- to organise Lawyer/ Student exchanges and individual visits with Lawyers from DASLS Twin Bars and to assist with placements abroad.
- to organise in turn the Annual International Lawyers meeting of the Twin Bars and to co-ordinate input to meetings organised by the other Twin Bars usually via working parties
- to develop and nurture links with lawyers in other countries on an informal basis through personal contacts while consolidating the existing links with the core Twin Bars on an annual basis through arranging a weekend programme linked with the Legal Sunday Service

The activities of the Sub-Committee through the year have been dedicated to strengthening the International profile of the Society and discharging those objectives. The Sub-Committee continues to be well supported which in itself reflects the on-going commitment to and interest in international affairs.

A summary of the Sub-Committee's activities can

conveniently be provided under a number of standing agenda headings.

### FBE

Representatives attended the General Congress held in Florence in May at which the Chairman was installed as the Second Vice President of the Federation. The subject under discussion was “**Pension and Welfare Benefits for Lawyers**”. In many countries lawyers have no entitlement to any State benefits; consequently, as in Madrid, it falls to the Bars to administer their own pension, welfare and health care schemes. DASLS President gave a paper on the position in England.

It should be noted that Michael Cosgrave continues to Chair the Ethics Committee of the FBE and that representatives of the Society also sit on the Mediation and Human Rights Commissions.

The Stage and Intermediate meeting was held in September in Wroclaw, Poland. The Society was well represented and direct flights from Bristol made travel arrangements more straightforward than originally envisaged. The Stage debate considered Changes in Legal Education in Europe and also The Legal Profession and Data Protection. Once again DASLS President was one of the Platform speakers. The Scientific Programme considered the power of Social Media and the Ethical Concerns connected with their use by lawyers. The Chairman was one of the presenters and

Michael Cosgrave provided a conclusion to the debate.

2012 is a special year for the FBE as it celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its formation. From the original five members it has grown to a membership of almost three hundred and now represents almost one million European Lawyers!

To mark the occasion and the start of the anniversary year, the Barcelona Bar included in its annual celebration of the Festival of Sant Raimon de Penyafort an initial meeting, attended by civic and national dignitaries including King Juan Carlos who holds the position of Honorary President of the Federation. In his address, reported widely the following day, the King praised the Federation and lawyers for their role in upholding the rule of law and defending the rights of the individual. The Chairman had the honour to be presented to the King.

Further events are planned for the coming year; the General Congress is to be held in Brussels in May, at which it is hoped there will be a significant attendance by “**Young lawyers**” and the Stage and Intermediate Meeting will be held in Geneva.

### International Meeting of the Twin Bars

The 2011 meeting was held in Leuven and was attended by representatives of the Society. Twinning links are truly unique, and remain a valuable resource for all DASLS members.

The 2012 meeting is to be hosted by Rennes.

## From the International Relations (continued)

### Legal Sunday Service

The Society entertained 7 guests and 5 accompanying spouses from various international Bars. All were welcomed by the Presiding Judge at the reception following the service. The social programme on the Saturday worked well, with optional tours of Exeter Cathedral in the morning and a guided tour of Exeter City late afternoon followed by dinner at Rendez-Vous restaurant in Southernhay. The President should be thanked for organising the Quiz with a European theme and which was hotly contested. The “Turner Prize” was presented to the winning team headed by the Dean of the Rotterdam Bar.

### Other functions

Listed below are functions attended by representatives of the Society during the year.

- a) Verona Bar Celebrations of San Pietro Matire
- b) Bilbao Luncheon
- c) Rotterdam - the Dean's Meeting at which the Chairman presented a paper on regulation of the Legal profession
- d) Barcelona Bar Festivity of San Raimon de Penyafort

### Cooperation Agreements

During the year the Society has signed Cooperation Agreements with the Bars of Frankfurt and Madrid. The fact that such eminent City bars should wish to associate themselves with the Society is indicative of

the international regard with which the Society is held. Forging such links can only add value to the **Society's membership services.**

### Any other business

- A. Bob Symons continues to fly the Society's flag in Kosovo
- B. Jeremy Ferguson continues to promote the Society worldwide in his role as Mediation Ambassador.

### CONCLUSION

As will be evidenced the Sub-Committee has had a very busy year and thanks are due to the individual members who have contributed to deliver the International Profile, which the Society has set for itself.



Legal Sunday Service Procession  
June 2011

## From the In-House Lawyers' Group

A significant proportion of our profession is now employed “in-house” – in providing legal work to their employer usually for a commercial enterprise, government body, in-house and central/local government solicitors together amount to some 14% of the profession in the South West. Nationally, the figure is around 26% and growing.

DASLS saw the need to recognise in-house solicitors. We are an inclusive society and very much want to embrace all solicitors in our region and give them the opportunity to participate fully. Accordingly, the In-House Lawyers' Group was

created and in the previous 12 months met three times.

On the last two occasions the meetings were hosted by Exeter University (which has a large in-house legal team befitting its status as one of the leading universities in the UK) and by Pennon Group Plc (which also has a large in-house solicitor presence). Thank you to everyone for attending and participating, and particular thanks to Claire Turner from Exeter University and Sharon White from Pennon for hosting these meetings.

The issues facing in-house lawyers are many and various. The European

**Court of Justice's decision** in the Akzo Nobel case, which stated that documents containing legal advice from in-house counsel did not attract legal professional privilege, has quite rightly been criticised by in-house lawyers. I am pleased to see that it does not appear to be followed and now more or less stands on its own. The amount of criticism of it – including heavy criticism from DASLS – looks thankfully to have done the trick.

It very much looks as if the **In-House Lawyers' Group** will go from strength to strength.

David Turner  
Acting Chair

The European **Court of Justice's** decision in the Akzo Nobel case, which stated that documents containing legal advice from in-house counsel did not attract legal professional privilege, has quite rightly been criticised by in-house lawyers.





## NOTES

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## Agenda

**TAKE NOTICE** that the 204<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Devon and Somerset Law Society will be held on **Tuesday 17 April 2012** at 6.30 p.m. at the Tiverton Hotel, Tiverton, when the following business will be proposed:-

### 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 2011/2012 and the President's Report** on his year of office.
- 4) **To receive the Report of the Honorary Treasurer and consider the Committee's** recommendation that the report and the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011 as audited by Glover Stanbury & Co. of Barnstaple be approved and that Messrs Glover Stanbury & Co. be nominated as Auditors for another year.
- 5) **Mr J C R B Lee, as the Society's Representative for 2011, to report on the SBA The Solicitors' Charity;** and consideration of the recommendation of the Committee that a donation of £1,750.00 be made.
- 6) **To consider the Committee's recommendation that:**  
The sum of £1,800.00 be set aside for another year for division between the law schools at the three Universities (Exeter, Plymouth and West of England) at the discretion of the Vice President's Committee.
- 7) **To receive reports on the year's activities from the following:**

Council Member, Mr P R Mole	Mediation Sub-Committee
<b>Vice President's Committee</b>	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee
Contentious Business Sub-Committee	Practice Management Sub-Committee
International Relations Sub-Committee	Social Sub-Committee
Education and Training Sub-Committee	<b>In-house Lawyers' Group</b>
- 8) To appoint officers and members of the Committee for the next year. The following nominations have been received:
 

President	Mr R D Bowen (Exeter)
& Crown Prosecution Service Representative	
Vice President	Mr P R Dyson (South Devon)
Second Vice President	Mr A Mason (Somerset)
<u>For One Year</u>	
Honorary Secretary	Mr J A Spiers MBE
Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary	Mr R A Adams
<u>To the Committee for One Year</u>	
The Immediate Past President	Mr D M Turner (Exeter & East Devon)
The Law Society Council Member	Mr P R Mole
Local Government Representative	Mrs S C Aggett
<u>To the Committee for Three Years</u>	
Mrs R E E Parkman (Somerset)	
Mr K D Woodier (Exeter & East Devon)	
Mr M B G Cosgrave (South Devon)	
- 9) 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 (address below).

Dated 28 February, 2012 By order of the Committee **J A Spiers MBE** Honorary Secretary  
Registered Office: Aston Court, Pynes Hill, Exeter Devon EX2 5AZ

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. *Form of proxy on page 19.* 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 13<sup>th</sup> April 2012.



Best Western  
Tiverton Hotel

**NOTE** that this year's AGM will be preceded by a FREE CPD seminar for DASLS Members from 5.00 until 6.00 pm with Q&A afterwards.

Further details and booking form on DASLS website.



RETURN  
YOUR PROXY  
FORM BY  
13/04/12

The 203<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday 5 April 2011 at 6.00 p.m. at the Exeter Golf & Country Club, Exeter.

PRESENT Attendance list filed in Minute Book.

Rebecca Parkman, President in the Chair; David Turner, Vice President; Rod Mole, Law Society Council Member; Anthony Spiers MBE, Honorary Secretary; Richard Adams, Honorary Treasurer; Sue Aggett, Ralph Bell, Steven Came, Frances Canning, Robin Challans, Charles Cooper, Robert Coram, Michael Cosgrave, James Cross, Patricia Durham Hall, Charlotte Evans, Chris Hart, Pam Johns, Toby Kippax, Jeremy Lee, Lisa McClelland, Alec McNeill, Angus McNicol, Christopher Palmer, Andrew Pryce, Kevin Shearn, Zoë Sims, Robert Symons, Alastair Teague and Kate Williams.

Also in attendance Matthew Still, *The Law Society South West Regional Manager*, Miss M Bertoni, *DASLS Administrator*, Mr A J Steiner, *DASLS Executive Director*.

The President was pleased to see so many people this evening and welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE \* indicates proxy form received

Apologies for absence were received from Nicholas Allan, David Bowen\* *Junior Vice President*, Peter Cox\*, Clive Dixon\*, Paul Dunn, Paul Dyson, Jeremy Ferguson, Michael Freeland, John Hawkins, Julia Honeywill, Helen Jarvis, Kerry Larbaestier, Stephen Lawson\*, David Morgan-Wynne, Sarah Mudge, John Pearn, Tom Penny\*, Claire Revell, Edward Richards, David Scarrott, David Stacey, Christopher Thomas, Samantha Thompson, Shirley Tull and Joanna Williams.

2. THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 20 April 2010, having been circulated (with copies available at the meeting), were confirmed and signed by the President as proposed by Mr Spiers and seconded by Mr Symons. There were no matters arising.

3. THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE FOR 2010/2011

The President said that it had been a privilege to serve and that she had really enjoyed her presidential year. It had been a stimulating experience for she had met members and colleagues practising in different areas of work from her speciality which was Wills and Probate. It also allowed her to keep in touch with the many issues and significant changes currently affecting the profession. She hoped she had well represented DASLS and its members at the various functions and events she attended during the past twelve months. She thanked everyone at DASLS office for their support and guidance – being a figure head could be difficult when at times she was uncertain about what she was expected to do. She also expressed her gratitude to DASLS Staff, Officers and Past Presidents for their advice. She hoped that David Turner was looking forward to the forthcoming year.

She reported that over £4,000 was raised for the Somerset Community Foundation and the Devon Community Foundation. The final total had yet to be confirmed with the additional amount raised from the Bike Ride held last month including gift aid and match-funding through the Grass Roots challenge. Both Foundations were grateful not only for the financial support but also for the profile-raising DASLS involvement had generated.

4. THE REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

As disclosed on page 7 of the accounts which were circulated at the meeting, Mr Adams had to report a second financial year in deficit. In his written report, Mr Adams explained that the loss was due to the purchase, move and associated costs of DASLS administrative office to Aston Court. However, an analysis of the figures excluding these one-off costs showed that our accounts would have shown a small income surplus. Therefore compared with 2009, he was a much happier Treasurer. He added that the impact of the recession would no doubt continue but to date we were on budget for the first quarter of 2011 and assuming we meet our targets, he expected to be able to report a modest surplus, rather than a third consecutive loss, for 2011.

The adoption of the accounts of the Society for the year to 31 December 2010 and the resolution to reappoint Messrs Glover Stanbury & Co. as the Society's Auditors for the forthcoming year were proposed by Mr Adams, seconded by Miss Durham Hall and accepted unanimously.

5. SOLICITORS' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

Mr Jeremy Lee reported that the SBA undertook a rebranding exercise including a new logo at the end of last year and was now known as **SBA The Solicitors' Charity**. A new Business Development Officer has been appointed to persuade City firms to contribute again. He clarified that help was not available to those who had brought the profession into disrepute or been struck off the Roll although assistance may be offered to their dependants. He emphasised that awards were based on the circumstances of each applicant and support given to genuine hardship cases. He asked those present to take back the message to their firms and colleagues to consider supporting this worthwhile Charity by way of donations or subscriptions. Mr Spiers added that firms could also donate unclaimed balances in their client accounts to the SBA with the guarantee that such sums would be refunded in full if requested. Mr Mole said that he had been invited to renew his SBA subscription at £5 per month and if we all subscribed to this minimum of £60 per annum, much needed funds would be raised.

**The Committee's recommendation that a donation of £1,750.00 be made to the Association was seconded by Mr Bell and approved unanimously.**

6. GRANTS

**Mr McNeill proposed that we adopt the Committee's recommendation that a total of £1,800.00 be set aside for division between the law schools at the three Universities (Exeter, Plymouth and West of England) at the discretion of the Vice President's Committee. This was approved unanimously.**

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

Written reports had been circulated from The Law Society Council Member, the Vice President's Committee, the Contentious Business, the Education and Training, the In-House Lawyers' Group, the International Relations, the Mediation, the Non-Contentious Business, the Practice Management and the Social Sub-Committees. The President recorded our thanks for all the work done by the Society's Sub-Committees. She thanked in particular Angus McNicol and Patricia Durham Hall who had stepped down as respective Chairs of the Mediation and Non Contentious Business Sub-Committees. We also recently said goodbye to Ashley Bevans who had moved to a new post in Birmingham. He had been a very active member of DASLS, had chaired the Social Sub-Committee before briefly chairing the last meeting of the Non Contentious Business Sub-Committee.

## 8. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

His being the only nomination, the President welcomed Mr David Turner to office investing him with the Somerset Presidential Jewel. This was agreed and greeted with acclamation. In the absence of Mr David Bowen, the new President explained that he would keep the Devon Presidential Jewel and maybe for one year would wear them both!

The President said it had been daunting for him to see what Rebecca Parkman had achieved when reading her regular President's Diary columns in DASLS Newsletter. He had worked with Rebecca for the past two years but prior to that Rebecca was Treasurer of the Somerset Law Society for nine years starting in 1998 when her father Mr Ian Jerram was President of the Somerset Law Society. As far as he knew, this was the first father/daughter combination for presidency. In addition, Rebecca was also the first DASLS President from Somerset. He congratulated her also on achieving her aim to increase DASLS membership. Currently there were 1,148 members, the highest percentage he believed of any local law society. He then moved a vote of thanks to Rebecca Parkman for her hard work on behalf of DASLS and presented her with the Past President's Jewel incorporating the new DASLS shield.

The President explained that he was currently living in Taunton and working in Exeter. He had joined (then) DELS back in 1994 as soon as he came down from London where he trained to join Bond Pearce in Exeter. He was elected to the main Committee in 1996 and also became involved with the annual costs liaison exercise when he would send out financial questionnaires and gather information for submission to the local judges in order to raise the recoverable hourly rates in civil litigation. In 2005 he moved to Bristol and joined the local law society there but missed being involved with DELS. So a couple of years later he was pleased to join Foot Anstey in Exeter, a firm with strong links with local law societies. He recalled his being approached to become a nominee for DASLS Junior Vice President and was grateful for the great help he had received from many members and Past Presidents since then which made him feel better prepared and looking forward to the year ahead.

He paid tribute to DASLS and believed that members would miss the services the Society offered if they were not available. Furthermore we should not underestimate what DASLS members can achieve and sometimes we can make a difference; a pertinent example was when following the Legal Services Commission's (LSC) announcement to reduce the family and social welfare contract awards, the Contentious Business Sub-Committee organised a meeting last August. It gave those present an opportunity to air and discuss their concerns and a letter was sent to The Law Society in support of their efforts to lobby the LSC about the impact of the tender round which resulted in their successful application for Judicial Review.

Following tradition, the President announced that the theme for his year would be to put solicitors in touch with solicitors in our area both professionally and socially and that his chosen Charity would be the Children's Hospice South West. In support of this worthwhile organisation, he would be arranging some events.

The President thanked DASLS members for giving him the opportunity to be their President. He knew he was in good hands with DASLS team. The Society too was in a healthy state which allowed us to invest and organise projects with confidence. It was worth noting how far DASLS had come financially from 1995 when it had assets of some £13k to 2011 when the accounts showed cash and property worth circa £0.5M. He urged everyone to visit DASLS new office in Aston Court.

He then proposed the following nominations to the Committee and it was resolved that the officers and committee members listed below be appointed:

Vice President and Crown Prosecution Service Representative Mr R D Bowen

Second Vice President Mr P R Dyson

For One Year

Honorary Secretary Mr J A Spiers MBE

Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary Mr R A Adams

To the Committee for One Year

Immediate Past President Mrs R E E Parkman

Law Society Council Member Mr P R Mole

Local Government representative Mrs S C Aggett

To the Committee for Three Years

Miss L McClelland (Somerset)

Mr C J A Cooper (South Devon)

Mr A C P Teague (North Devon)

Miss P H Durham Hall (Somerset)

Mr P J Cox (South Devon)

Mr T G Penny (North Devon)

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No member had given notice of such business. The Annual General Meeting closed at 6.35 p.m. following which 15 members and guests gathered for dinner.

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

1926	C R M Clapp	Exeter	1954	F F Annear	N	1982	D G Williams	E
1927	G B Oerton	B'ple	1955	W F Pugsley	N	1983	J I Mosley	S
1928	A Anstey	Exeter	1956	J J Malim	S	1984	M E Barnes	N
1929	H C Brown	Oke'ton	1957	G H S Butcher	E	1985	J W Parkinson	E
1930	G H Stephens	Exeter	1958	L J Hallett	E	1986	D J Jones	S
1931	J Symes	Crediton	1959	C Hamlyn Taylor	S	1987	F P de M Horsey	N
1932	M A Mathew	Exeter	1960	S W Wright	N	1988	J F Eden	E
1933	T Phillips	Exeter	1961	V O M Donnithorne	E	1989	B G Nelson	S
1934	T J W Templeman	Exeter	1962	N H H Cordwent	S	1990	G A Feinson	N
1935	S Hilton	Torquay	1963	D C Harward	N	1991	S A Lawson	E
1936	F P Cottey	Exeter	1964	T Anstey	E	1992	M B G Cosgrave	S
1937	H W Michelmore	Exeter	1965	H A T Coles	S	1993	J M Rowland	N
1938	R Boase	Torr'ton	1966	D F Brown	N	1994	R D Newman	S
1939	S H Easterbrook	Torquay	1967	A J McGahey	E	1995	J C N Robinson	E
1940	N J Lake	Exeter	1968	H Sykes-Balls	S	1996	C J C Palmer	N
1941	B R Dunning	Honiton	1969	D W Blackwell	N	1997	A N Pryce	S
1942	H T Michelmore	E	1970	J S Pope	E	1998	S W Arnold	E
1943	H Linford Brown	E	1971	The Rt Hon Lord Citrine	S	1999	D L Whiteley	N
1944	G C Daw	E	1972	Sir John Palmer	N	2000	G G N Bond	S
1945	P H W Almy	S	1973	W J Hallett	E	2001	R J Challans	E
1946	V Thompson	E	1974	B R Wordsworth	S	2002	J J Ferguson	N
1947	F M I Watts	S	1975	E F Clark	N	2003	J W Howell	S
1948	J W Waddingham	E	1976	D B Crosse	E	2004	P A Derbyshire	E
1949	G H McMurtrie	S	1977	T C Richards	S	2005	P R Mole	N
1950	S W Cleave	E	1978	J M H Arthur	N	2006	C D Hart	S
1951	S A Copp	N	1979	B A Harris	E	2007	V E S Salomonsen	E
1952	F C Landsell	S	1980	Mrs M Anstey	S			
1953	Sir Godwin Michelmore KBE	E	1981	C M Verney	N	2008	DELS/SLS Merger	

## Officers of Devon &amp; Exeter Law Society 1920-2007

Honorary Secretaries

1920 – 1929	M A Mathew
1929 – 1934	J W Nowell*
1934 – 1946	J W Waddingham*
1946 – 1952	J S Pope
(1951	D Lyon Smith - Assistant Secretary)
1952 – 1968	D Lyon Smith
(1963 – 1968	J F Eden - Assistant Secretary)
1968 – 1974	W S Simey
1974 – 1975	W J M White
1975 – 1980	J W Parkinson
1980 – 1987	S A Lawson
(1985 – 1987	C J C Palmer - Assistant Secretary)
1987 – 1994	C J C Palmer
(1987 – 1989	P L Mattholie - Assistant Secretary)
(1993 – 1994	J A Spiers - Assistant Secretary)
1994 - 2007	J A Spiers MBE

Honorary Treasurers

1920 – 1929	M A Mathew
1929 – 1934	J W Nowell
1934 – 1936	J W Waddingham
1936 – 1946	M A Mathew
1946 – 1949	J W Waddingham
1949 - 1959	J W Waddingham ]
	M A Mathew ] joint
1959 – 1975	G H S Butcher
1975 – 1988	B R Wordsworth
(1987	D L Whiteley - Assistant Treasurer)
1988 - 1998	D L Whiteley
1998 - 2007	R A Adams

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

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

1796 - 1817	<i>No Records</i> CHAIRMEN		1866	Trevor, John	Bridgwater	1912	Clarke, Charles Peard	Taunton
1818	Batten, John	Yeovil	1867	Boucher, Benjamin	Wiveliscombe	1913*	Baker, William Thomas	Bridgwater
1819	Baker, John	Blagdon	1868	Foster, John Hopkins	North Curry	1914	Broomhead, Thomas	Taunton
1820	Leigh, Henry James	Taunton	1869	Messiter, Henry	Wincanton	1915	Nalder, Arthur Edward	<b>Sh'ton Mallet</b>
1821	Pinchard, William Price	Taunton	1870	Trenchard, Henry C.	Taunton	1916	Channing, Archibald	Taunton
1822	Nicholetts, John	S Petherton	1871	Warden, Thomas	Williton	1917	Mackay, Douglas	<b>Sh'ton Mallet</b>
1823	Trevor, John William	Bridgwater	1872	Auber, Henry P.	N Petherton	1918	Hagon, Chas Edmund	Bridgwater
1824	Coles, James	Bridgwater	1873	Baker, John	Ilminster	1919	Sheppard, Herbert Byard	Taunton
1825	Fisher, Joseph	Bath	1874	Trevor, John	Bridgwater	1920	Goode, William Winter	Langport
1826	Do.		1875	Do.		1921	Harris, Richard Granville	Wells
1827	Boys, Percival	Bridgwater	1876	Do.		1922	Pearse, Thomas Vincent	Wiveliscombe
1828	Dyne, Edward	Bruton	1877	Messiter, Henry	Wincanton	1923	Chubb, Alfred Everard	Wells
1829	Pinchard, William P.	Taunton	1878	Payne, Edward Turner	Bath	1924	Wilson, Colin McClure	Wells
1830	Do.		1879	Do.		1925	Teek, Henry Comer	Axbridge
1831	Clarke, Thomas Edward	Chard	1880	Do.		1926	Watson, Douglas Statham	Burnham
1832	Leigh, W.	Taunton	1881	Do.		1927	Bath, Robert	Glastonbury
1833	White, Frederick	Wellington	1882	Trevor, John	Bridgwater	1928	Foster, E.P.	Wells
1834	Mullins, Charles	Chew Magna	1883	Do.		1929	Wedd, H.G.	Langport
1835	Leigh, Henry J.	Taunton	1884	Do.		1930	Channer, O.R.M.	Taunton
1836	Randolph, James	Milverton	1885	Hill, W. John	Langport	1931	Whitley, G.	Bridgwater
1837	Payne, John	Milverton	1886	Swayne, Walter T.	Glastonbury	1932	Burrough, W.G.	Wedmore
1838	Mullins, Thomas	Goathurst	1887	Louch, John	Langport	1933	Warry, H.C.	Yeovil
1839	Newman, Edwin	Yeovil	1888	Meyler, Thomas	Taunton	1934	Barrington, T.	Bridgwater
1840	Anstice, Richard	Bridgwater	1889	Payne, Alexander Richard	Milverton	1935	Stiling, W.H.C.	Burnham/Sea
1841	Nicholetts, John	S Petherton	1890	Bath, Edward	Glastonbury	1936	Dodson, F.S.	Taunton
1842	Newman, Edwin	Yeovil	PRESIDENTS			1937	Willmott, F.W.	Taunton
1843	Taylor, John	Bath	1891	<b>O'Donoghue, Henry O'Brien I.</b>	Ashton	1938	Moger, H.G.D.	Taunton
1844	Leigh, Henry James	Taunton	1892	Payne, Alexander R.	Milverton	1939	Poole, G.S.	S Petherton
1845	Bradford, John Willmott	Langford	1893	Swayne, Walter T.	Glastonbury	1940	Cruttwell, G.H.W.	Frome
1846	Messiter, George	Frome	1894	Easton, Richard	Taunton	1941	Pulman, T.M.	Taunton
1847	Taylor, John	Bath	1895	Dunn, William	Frome	1942	Lee-Michell, F.	Wellington
1848	Davis, William	Frome	1896	Do.		1943	Thorne, W.H.A.	Minehead
1849	Messiter, Henry	Wincanton	1897	Louch, John	Langport	1944	Batten, Major H.C.C.	Yeovil
1850	Dyne, Edward	Bruton	1898	Kite, George Henry	Taunton	1945	Briggs, A.H.H.G.	Weston
1851	Davies, Edmund	Wells	1899	Lovibond, George	Bridgwater	1946	Boxall, F.S.	Yeovil
1852	Trevor, John	Bridgwater	1900	Poole, Hugh Ruscombe	S Petherton	1947	Clarke, Geoffrey P.	Taunton
1853	Messiter, Henry	Wincanton	1901	Harris, Richard	Wells	1948	Pardoe, C.B.	Bridgwater
1854	Murley, G.B.	Langport	1902	Poole, Walter J Ruscombe	Bridgwater	1949	Blake, J. Humphrey	Crewkerne
1855	Hill, John	Paulton	1903	Trevor, Edward	Bridgwater	1950	Pullblank, Maurice	Taunton
1858	<i>No Minutes</i>		1904	Alms, Edward Theodore	Taunton	1951	Powell, W.E.	Weston
1859	Hill, John	Paulton	1905	Louch, Edward Queckett	Langport	1952	Hurford, H.J.	Minehead
1860	Louch, John	Langport	1906	Poole, William	Taunton	1953	Addleshaw, J.H.	<b>Sh'ton Mallet</b>
1861	Murley, G.B.	Wincanton	1907	Chubb, Francis O.O.	Wells	1954	Saul, I.W.	Taunton
1862	Randolph, James	Milverton	1908	Booker, William T.	Wellington	1955	Harris, C.W.	Wells
1863	Hill, John	Paulton	1909	Watson, Edgar Henry	Taunton	1956	Rutter, C.L.	Wincanton
1864	Swayne, Walter Thomas	Glastonbury	1910	Goodall, Sidney Frederick	Wells	1957	Rutter, J.J.B.	Wincanton
1865	Pinchard, Wm. P.	Taunton	1911	Barham, T. Foster	Bridgwater	1958	Jowett, C.J.P.C.	Yeovil

Full list of Somerset Law Society Presidents *Continued*

1959	Wyatt, F.N.	Wells	1976	Creswick, G.B.N.	Frome	1993	Moule, P.F.	Yeovil
1960 +	Wyatt, F.N.	Wells	1977	Gosling, B.J.	Weston	1994	Fox, P.L.M.	Taunton
1961	Powell, W.H.	Weston	1978	Collett, D.J.	Weston	1995	Watkis, J.B.	Burnham/Sea
1962	Powell, W.H.D.	Weston	1979	Bennett, P.F.	Wrington	1996	Pollard, T.G.	Wells
1963	Arrow, C.J.	Yeovil	1980	Carpenter, R.M.	Langport	1997	Rose, M.R.	Taunton
1964	Rickards, L.E.	<b>Sh'ton Mallet</b>	1981	Shaw, J.L.	Bridgwater	1998	Jerram, K.I.	Weston-s-Mare
1965	Husband, C.J.R.	Bridgwater	1982	Fielden, J.H.	Burnham/Sea	1999	Pulvermacher, F.M.	Taunton
1966	Reed, N.W.	Bridgwater	1983	Rutter, J.F.	Wincanton	2000	Priest, S.R.	Yeovil
1967	Harding, T.H.	Wellington	1984	Hallam, E.W.L.	<b>Midsomer N'ton</b>	2001	Davidson, J.R.	Wells
1968	Smith, P.E.G.	Wellington	1985	Thorne, J.R.A.	Minehead	2002	Allan, N.J.	Crewkerne
1969	Fryer, L.J.	Weston	1986	Baker, S.G.B.	Yeovil	2003	Edwards, R.	Yeovil
1970	Cruftwell, S.H.	Frome	1987	Osmond, J.G.	Taunton	2004	Morgan, R.W.	Taunton
1971	Boodle, A.T.	Yeovil	1988	Stokes, R.M.	Yeovil	2005	Murray, F.G.	Taunton
1972	Ash, R.G.	Bridgwater	1989	Gardner, A.J.	Cheddar	2006	Morris, W.P.	Taunton
1973	Collett, S.W.	Weston	1990	Close, J.M.	Taunton	2007	Hayllar, C.F.	Bridgwater
1974	Hannah, D.G.	Weston	1991	Mulligan, R.K.	Wellington			
1975	Meller, D.C.	Wincanton	1992	Warren, Olga	Taunton	2008	<i>DELS/SLS Merger</i>	

N.B. 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.

\* 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

Honorary Secretaries & Treasurers

1796 – 1810	Charles Edwards, Chard	1911 – 1927	Herbert Byard Sheppard, Taunton
1810 – 1836	Uriah Messiter, Wincanton	1928 – 1948	Geoffrey Peard Clark, Taunton
1837 – 1862	Wm. Price Pinchard, Taunton	1949 – 1960	Walter Rex Williams, Taunton
1863 – 1897	John Henry Biddulph Pinchard, Taunton	1961 – 1970	Patrick Fenton Moule, Yeovil
1898 – 1899	John Edward William Wakefield, Taunton	1971 – 1976	Francis Michael Pulvermacher, Taunton
1900 – 1910	Edgar Henry Watson, Taunton		

Honorary Secretaries

1977 – 1983	F.M. Pulvermacher, Taunton
1984	F.M. Pulvermacher, Taunton ] R.M. Fountaine, Wells ] (joint)
1985 – 1988	R.M. Fountaine, Wells
1989	R.M. Fountaine, Wells ] J.S. Walters, Radstock ] (joint)
1990 – 1991	J.S. Walters, Radstock
1992	J.S. Walters, Midsomer Norton ] K.J. Shearn, Bridgwater ] (joint)
1993 – 2007	K.J. Shearn, Bridgwater

Honorary Treasurers

1977 - 1981	D. Perratt, Taunton
1982 - 1993	W.P. Morris, Taunton
1994 - 1997	F.G. Murray, Taunton
1998 - 2007	R.E.E. Parkman, Weston-super-Mare

## Presidents and Officers of Devon and Somerset Law Society 2008 - present

Presidents

2008	A McNeill, North Devon
2009	J.M.G. Cross, South Devon
2010	R.E.E. Parkman, Somerset
2011	D.M. Turner, Exeter

Honorary Secretaries

2008 - present	J A Spiers MBE
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Honorary Treasurers

2008 - present	R A Adams
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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 17th April 2012, and at any adjournment thereof.

Signed: .....

Name: ..... [Block Capitals please]

<sup>1</sup> Insert Name

<sup>2</sup> Insert your address

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



POLL CARD

NAME OF MEMBER (BLOCK LETTERS)	RESOLUTION NO.	VOTE	
		FOR	AGAINST
	1.	.....	.....
	2.	.....	.....
	3.	.....	.....
	4.	.....	.....
	5.	.....	.....
	6.	.....	.....
	7.	.....	.....
	8.	.....	.....
	9.	.....	.....
SIGNATURE OF MEMBER, PROXY OR CORPORATE REPRESENTATIVE  .....	HAS A PROXY FORM ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED? YES / NO	PLEASE INSERT ✕ IN THE APPROPRIATE COLUMN ABOVE	

DEVON AND  
SOMERSET  
LAW SOCIETY

SUPPORTING SOLICITORS IN PRACTICE

Administrator:  
Miss Monique Bertoni  
Aston Court  
Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5AZ  
[DX 8361 EXETER]  
  
Tel: 01392 366 333  
Fax: 01392 366 278  
E-mail: monique@dasls.com

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR  
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To reserve a seat for the  
dinner, please return this  
form to the Administrator  
by no later than  
Tuesday 3rd April 2012

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2012

Tiverton Hotel, Tiverton - Crystal Suite

The meeting will be preceded by a free CPD seminar and followed by a Members' Dinner, the arrangements being as follows:

- 4.45 pm CPD Registration
- 5.00 pm Seminar by Jon Parker of Wesleyan for Lawyers
- 6.30 pm Annual General Meeting
- 7.00/7.30 pm Cash Bar
- 7.30/8.00 pm Dinner at £18.50 per person inclusive of VAT

Please reserve ..... seat(s) for the Dinner following the AGM on 17/4/12 at 7.30 for 8.00 pm at the Tiverton Hotel.

We enclose a cheque for £ ..... (£18.50 pp incl. VAT) made payable to Devon & Somerset Law Society.

CONTACT NAME .....  
FIRM and ADDRESS (DX preferred) .....  
.....  
Tel. .... Ref. ....

Please tick your choices on menu below  
(one form per person, please photocopy)

DINNER MENU SELECTOR FROM  
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .....

- Grilled Scallops with Toasted Hazelnut and Coriander Butter OR
- Roasted Vegetable and Mozzarella Terrine with Chive Oil

- \*\*\*\*\*
- Roast Topside of West Country Beef served with a Yorkshire Pudding OR
  - Tagliatelle with Stilton and Field Mushrooms (vegetarian option)

- \*\*\*\*\*
- Fresh Fruit Salad OR
  - Selection of Local Cheeses with Water Biscuits

All main courses served with a selection of Vegetables and Potatoes  
Includes Coffee or Fresh Tea and Mints.

Please indicate any allergies and/or special dietary requirements: .....

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