



Annual Review 2017



President's Report to the AGM, 28 June 2017



It has been an absolute honour to have served the members of the Tees Valley Law Society as the elected President for 2016/2017 having previously served as the junior vice-president and senior vice-president. I would like to thank the members, council, and my firm Punch Robson for their support and assistance throughout.



Addressing attendees at October's Breakfast Meeting event

National & Local Input

During my tenure there have been many national campaigns and consultations which I have been actively supporting. I have provided responses to consultations to the Law Society which in turn provided feedback to Parliament. The consultations included changes to regulate the profession, probate fees, Brexit, access to justice together with fees for personal injury, and many more.

On a national level Robert Bourns the current President of the Law Society and Joe Egan the Vice President of the Law Society have both been very active and prominent by meeting with me/us at certain events and also by speaking with me on telephone conference calls to discuss certain campaigns.

Locally I have worked with Newcastle Law Society and Sunderland Law Society where we have met quarterly and also have dialogue several times a month on certain matters. Robert Bourns has been very active with regards to campaigns and consultations and it has helped to be joined up with Newcastle and Sunderland where appropriate and resources allow.



*Attending the Matins for the Court
at Durham Cathedral*

Newcastle Law Society has sought my views with regard to consultations regarding Court closures in Northumbria which in turn can affect our clients.

TVLS

Events

I have had a very busy year starting with attending the Matins for the Court at Durham Cathedral on 10th July 2016. I attended a parliamentary reception to mark the centenary of the premiership of the Rt Hon David Lloyd George at the House of Lords on 12th December 2016.

I attended a two day Local Law Society conference in Birmingham in September 2016. This assisted me with regards to obtaining further contacts and ideas on how to get the best out of our Law Society. This also included reference to social media and obtaining sponsorship. This in turn allowed me to obtain sponsorship from BPP Law School for our annual dinner.

During the course of the year, I have also attended dinners and supported the Middlesbrough Institute of Insurance, Teesside's Society of Chartered Accountants and also the other local Law Societies.

Robert Bourns has invited me to attend the Opening of the Legal Year Dinner to be held on 1 October at the Law Society Hall Chancery Lane which I have accepted. This will coincide with his end of office – together with my own.



Elaine McLaine-Wood with Law Society President Robert Bourns at the House of Lords

TVLS Annual Dinner 2017



The annual dinner had a change of venue this year where it was held at Wynyard Hall. The dinner took place on 3 March 2017. Patrick Monaghan was retained to provide entertainment. The evening was a success. I was delighted to have raised funds for my chosen charity, Daisy Chain, and Santander plc match funded the amount raised on the evening. BPP Law School and Northumbrian Water provided sponsorship to enable the evening to be cost effective and help promote their own services.

Student Prizes

TVLS rolled out its first ever Tees Valley Award at the annual dinner where the student with the highest marks for the Legal Practice Course (or equivalent) would be the winner. The prize was awarded at the annual dinner.



Hannah Gawthorpe receiving the Tees Valley Award

There has been continuing dialogue with the Law Society regarding the long standing William Arthur Hutton Prize. To allow any distribution to be made the objectives for this have been amended at the Charities Commission. This has now been resolved and will be awarded later this year. Two representatives of Council will sit on a newly formed committee alongside two Sunderland Law Society Council members. The committee will consider nominations and allocate prizes. This will of course be advertised and shared with you once the criteria is set.

Education & Training

There has been some change when Geoffrey Crute (Education and Training Co-ordinator) retired from this role. Due to a strain on the funds for TVLS it was agreed by council that they would assist with the education and training needs for its members which has allowed the seminars to be scheduled and continue to run. During the course of the year we have hosted seminars on: Social Enterprises and Charities; Ethical Behaviour and the Regulation of Solicitors; Squatters, Squires, Tenants

and Trespassers (property law update); and a Conveyancing Update. More seminars are scheduled during the course of this coming year.

Finally

I know that Dermot Winters has lots of plans and further ways to promote our Law Society and make it relevant and necessary to our members in the legal profession within Teesside. I wish him the best of luck and again would like to thank everyone for their support.

Elaine McLaine-Wood
President
June 2017

The logo for Teesside Law Society (TALS) features the letters 'TALS' in a stylized, handwritten font. The 'T' is black, the 'A' is blue, the 'L' is green, and the 'S' is black.

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