

Report of the Committee

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presented to the
ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of

Plymouth Law Society

to be held on the 28th November, 1979

The Committee present the 164th Report of the proceedings of the Society.

CHANGE OF NAME

At an Extraordinary General Meeting held on the 29th day of November 1978 the name of the Society was changed, with the consent of the Registrar of Companies from "The Incorporated Law Society of Plymouth" to "Plymouth Law Society."

CONSTITUTION

At the above mentioned Extraordinary General Meeting the Constitution was altered to provide for (a) representation on the Committee of a certain proportion of younger members of the Society and (b) the automatic retirement from the Committee of members thereof who had served for a certain period. Transitional provisions were also made and it is hoped that the result will be a more active participation in the affairs of the Society by more members of it.

It was also announced (although this required no amendment to the Constitution) that in future nominations for the Vice-Presidency would not be on seniority of membership alone.

MEMBERSHIP

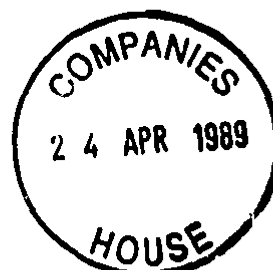
The number of members at the date of publication of this Report is 199 which is again an increase on the previous year.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that the Committee records the death during the year of Mr. W. Broad of Callington, for many years a member of this Society.

ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT

Perhaps the most important event during the course of the year has been the publication, on 3rd October, 1979, of the Report of the Royal Commission on Legal Services. To summarise in a few words



A Report which is printed in four volumes containing a total of 1,629 pages would be impossible but it is perhaps fair to say that the Report with certain reservations and with some recommendations for changes, maintains that the Legal profession generally is providing a satisfactory service at a cost which does not unduly enrich the profession and upholds a legal system which is to be admired. Many fears as to the outcome of the Royal Commission have been allayed but it remains to be seen what will result from its report when that comes to be considered by Parliament.

MEETINGS

The Committee has continued its monthly meetings, with meetings of its standing and ad-hoc sub-committees as necessary, and many topics have been considered. The question of costs and remuneration has of course continued to be of prime consideration and a General Meeting was held to discuss this, following which a useful exercise has been carried out by many members in evaluating the expense of their time. The results of such evaluation (since not all members have completed their calculations and submission yet) have still to be concluded and summarised, and at the date of this Report a major decision of the High Court on the subject is awaited, but it is hoped that as a result more realistic rates of remuneration can be negotiated with the various taxing authorities.

During the year members have been affected by two instances of industrial action. One of these for a time closed the Crown Court, the County Court and the District Registry of the High Court in Plymouth and the other created problems in dealing with the Local Authority. Members were circulated with any information available as to these troubles, and the steps which could be taken during them to keep essential matters moving.

The Society has continued to provide speakers and participants as required for local radio and television programmes--and even (in one instance) for a fraction of a nationwide programme, and for Careers Conventions and the like. The Legal Advice Sessions held in conjunction with the Citizens Advice Bureau have also been continued, and much dedicated service has been provided for these--especially by younger members.

The Annual Dinner in October 1979 was not as well attended as the previous year but was held generally, and apparently by the official guests, to have been a success.

Another event during the year was a reception when members of the Press and Broadcasting Authorities (Radio and Television) were invited to meet Mr. Graham Lee the Secretary of the Law Society's Public and Professional Relations Committee and Mr. Michael Moriarty, its Press Officer, together with the officers and members of the Committee of this Society. It is felt that this was another opportunity to continue and renew the Society's relations with the local media.

Reference ought to be made to the resignation during the year of Mr. W. E. J. Major from the Committee and also as Coroner for the City of Plymouth. His service to the profession is to be marked by a presentation, which it is hoped will take place at the Annual General Meeting.

SOCIETY PREMISES AND LIBRARY

During the course of the year the Society gave up its tenancy of the premises at Fimington Terrace, Mutley, Plymouth. It had been hoped that, by terminating the payment of rent for such premises and by housing the Library in the new Magistrates' Courts, the library could be revitalised without further demands on members for financial assistance. Unfortunately the accommodation available for the library was not as extensive as had been anticipated and a decision has therefore still to be made as to the future of the library.

SOCIETY FINANCES

The accounts incorporated in the Annual Report show a not unremarkable loss on the year's activities. This is due in part to the increased administration costs of the Society but mainly to the temporary burdens imposed over the library move, namely rent and rates for three months longer than had been anticipated at the start of the year, and the removal expenses.

R. E. Jackson (*President*)

W. H. Davey (*Hon. Secretary*)

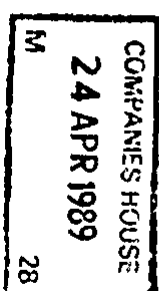
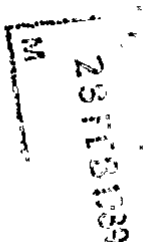
THE INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY OF PLYMOUTH

5452

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1979

EXPENDITURE

1978	£	1979	£
TO LIBRARY EXPENSES			
New Books, Reports etc.		961	
Rent		600	
Rates		143	
Cleaning		-	
Light and Heat		35	
Insurances		52	
Librarian		291	
Removal		<u>103</u>	
		2,185	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES			
Postages, Stationery, etc.		432	
Bank Interest		-	
Insurances		10	
Audit Fees		63	
Hon. Secretary		250	
Hon. Treasurer		100	
Filing of Annual Return		20	
Storage of Furniture		<u>34</u>	
		909	
LECTURES AND MEETINGS			
Hire of Rooms for Meetings		184	
Lecture Fees, etc.		-	
		184	
		<u>117</u>	
		25	
		<u>198</u>	
		223	
		55	
		60	
		-	
		<u>53,524</u>	



£3,451

(273) 6
 Less Receipts
 Deficit on A.G.M. Luncheon
 Provincial Law Societies
 Subscriptions
 Delegate Expenses
DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS
 Solicitors Benevolent Association
 Miscellaneous Expenses
 Excess Income to Accumulated Fund

THE INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY OF PLYMOUTH
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1979 (continued)

1978		INCOME		
£			£	
1,147	By	Subscriptions		1,119
17	"	Entrance Fees		17
1,015	"	Library Surcharge		503
	"	Contract forms		
		Stock as at 1st October, 1978	109	
		Purchases	<u>597</u>	
			706	
			<u>131</u>	
		Stock as at 30th September, 1979	575	
946		Sales	<u>1,794</u>	
				1,219
307	"	Functions and Members Meetings		180
15	"	Annual Dinner		18
4	"	Halifax Building Society Interest		5
	"	Miscellaneous Receipts		463
	"	Excess Expenditure to Accumulated Fund		
<u>£3,451</u>				<u>£3,524</u>

THE INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY OF PLYMOUTH

BALANCE SHEET 30TH SEPTEMBER 1979

Accumulated Fund
Balance at 30th September, 1978 4,844
Add Surplus for the year 565

5,409
(463)

4,946

Current Liabilities
Creditors 361
Monies held for 1979 Annual Dinner 998
RICHARD D. SPEAR, Hon. Treasurer
11th October, 1979

522
517

£5,409

£5,985

Fixed Assets
Books and Law Reports at Valuation in 1965 4,315
Furniture and Shelving at Valuation in 1965 750
Presidents Chain of Office at Valuation in 1965 225

5,290

Current Assets
Contract Forms at Cost 109
Halifax Building Society 46
Bank 1,133
Debtors 190

131
64
12
488

695

£5,768

£5,985

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY OF PLYMOUTH

We have examined the books and accounts of the Society and have obtained all the information and explanations required by us.

In our opinion the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs as at 30th September 1979, and that the attached Income and Expenditure Account gives a true and fair view of the results for the year.

22nd October, 1979

WINTER, HOVEY & Co.
Chartered Accountants