

Heart of England Newspapers Limited

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2001
together with directors' report

Company number: 25139



Directors and advisors

DIRECTORS

Mr T J Bowdler

Mr S R Paterson (appointed 1 June 2001)

COMPANY SECRETARY

Mr A J Williams

REGISTERED OFFICE

2/4 Exchange Street

Aylesbury

Bucks

HP20 1UJ

COMPANY NUMBER

25139

Directors' report

For the year ended 31 December 2001

The directors present their annual report on the affairs of the company, together with the financial statements, for the year ended 31 December 2001.

Principal activity and business review

The company did not trade during the year or the preceding year and consequently no profit and loss account has been prepared.

Directors and their interests

All the directors are directors of the ultimate parent company, Johnston Press plc, and their interests are shown in that company's financial statements. The directors at 31 December 2001 are listed on page 1. On 1 June 2001 Mr S R Paterson was appointed as a director. Mr M L A Chiappelli resigned as a director on 16 July 2001.

Directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

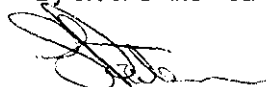
Auditors

As permitted by the Companies Act 1985 the company has elected to dispense with the requirement to appoint auditors.

2/4 Exchange Street
Aylesbury
Bucks
HP20 1UJ

10 May 2002

By order of the Board



S R Paterson
Director

Balance sheet

31 December 2001

	Notes	2001 £'000	2000 £'000
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year			
Amounts owed to parent undertaking		(60)	(60)
Capital and reserves			
Called-up equity share capital	3	65	65
Profit and loss account		(125)	(125)
Shareholders' funds		(60)	(60)

The company was dormant within the meaning of section 252 of the Companies Act 1985 throughout the year ended 31 December 2001.

For the year ended 31 December 2001 the company was entitled to exemption under section 249A(1) of the Companies Act 1985.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 249B(2).

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:

- i. Ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221; and
- ii. Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of its financial year, and of its profit and loss for the financial year in accordance with section 226, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

Approved by the Board of Directors



S R Paterson

Director

10 May 2002

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this balance sheet.

Notes to the financial statements

31 December 2001

1 Accounting policies

The financial statement have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. In preparing the financial statements on the going concern basis reliance is placed upon the letter of continuing support described in note 5.

2 Profit and loss account

The company did not trade during the current year or preceding year and therefore no profit and loss account is included.

The auditors' remuneration in both the current and prior year was borne by another group undertaking. No director received any emoluments from the company during the year (2000 - £nil).

3 Called-up equity share capital

	2001 £'000	2000 £'000
<i>Authorised:</i>		
65,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	65	65
<i>Allotted, issued and fully paid:</i>		
64,928 ordinary shares of £1 each	65	65

Share capital consists entirely of equity shares.

4 Value added tax

The company is a member of a group registration for value added tax and is with certain other group undertakings, jointly and severally liable for the value added tax payable under the group registration by Johnston Publishing Limited.

5 Continuing Financial Support

The directors have received a letter of continuing financial support from Johnston Press plc, whereby it has undertaken to provide continuing financial support to Heart of England Newspapers Limited until such time as it ceases to have net liabilities or is no longer part of Johnston Press plc group.

6 Ultimate parent company

The company is a subsidiary of Johnston Press plc.

The only group in which the results of the company are consolidated is that headed by Johnston Press plc. The financial statements of Johnston Press plc are available to the public and may be obtained from Johnston Press plc, 53 Manor Place, Edinburgh EH3 7EG.