LOCAL PUBLICATIONS (SAFFRON WALDEN) LIMITED DIRECTORS' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2001

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Company No. 2814556

Darren Williams & Co Chartered Accountants

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors Mrs L Cordall

Mr D Cordall Mrs A Sewell Mr J Sewell

Secretary Mrs A Sewell

Company number 2814556

Registered office 10 Emson Close Saffron Walden

Essex

CB10 1HL

Accountants Darren Williams & Co Limited

32 Ashcombe Rochford Essex SS4 ISL

Bankers Barclays Bank Plc

12A Market Place Saffron Walden

Essex CB10 1HR

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|----------|
| Directors' report | 1 to 2 |
| Accountants' report | 3 |
| Profit and loss account | 4 |
| Balance sheet | 5 |
| Notes to the accounts | 6 to 9 |
| The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts | |
| Management profit and loss account | 10 to 11 |

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2001

The directors present their report and the accounts for the company for the year ended 31st December 2001.

Principal activities

The company's principal activity during the year was that of a free local newspaper.

Directors and their interests

The directors who held office during the year and their beneficial interests in the company's issued share capital are given below:

| Name of director | Share type | At 31st December 2001 | At 1st January 2001 |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Mrs L Cordall | Ordinary Shares of £1 each | 100 | 100 |
| Mr D Cordall | Ordinary Shares of £1 each | - | - |
| Mrs A Sewell | Ordinary Shares of £1 each | 25 | 25 |
| Mr J Sewell | Ordinary Shares of £1 each | 25 | 25 |

Statement of directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts 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 for that year. In preparing those accounts 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 accounts;

Prepare the accounts 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 enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2001

Small company exemptions ·

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within part VII of the Companies Act 1985.

By order of the Board

Mr D Cordall, Director

10 Emson Close Saffron Walden

Essex

CB10 1HL

28th March 2002

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS

ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF

LOCAL PUBLICATIONS (SAFFRON WALDEN) LIMITED

As described on the balance sheet you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2001, set out on pages 4 to 9, and you consider that the company is exempt from an audit and a report under Section 249A(1) of the Companies Act 1985. In accordance with your instructions, we have compiled these unaudited accounts in order to assist you to fulfil your statutory responsibilities, from the accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

Darren Williams & Co Limited

Chartered Accountants

32 Ashcombe Rochford

Essex

SS4 1SL

Date: 28th March 2002

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2001

| | Notes | 2001 € | 2000. £ |
|--|-------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Turnover | 2 | 220,756 | 196,442 |
| Cost of sales . | | (116,346) | (107,094) |
| Gross profit | | 104,410 | 89,348 |
| Administrative expenses | | (93,013) | (93,097) |
| Operating profit/loss Interest receivable Interest payable and similar charges | 3 | 11,397 71 (2,816) | (3,749) 74 (2,151) |
| Profit/Loss on ordinary activities before taxation | _ | 8,652 | (5,826) |
| Tax on profit/loss on ordinary activities | 6 | (7) | |
| Profit/Loss for the financial year | | 8,645 | (5,826) |
| Retained loss brought forward | _ | (17,858) | (12,032) |
| Retained loss carried forward | = | (9,213) | (17,858) |

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2001

| | Notes | | 2001 | | 2000 |
|--|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | • | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Intangible assets | 7 | | 4,087 | | 4,598 |
| Tangible assets | 8 | | 9,446 | _ | 7,381 |
| | | | 13,533 | | 11,979 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 9 | 21,538 | | 24,772 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | - | 11,711 | | 6,864 | |
| | | 33,249 | | 31,636 | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 10 | (35,872) | | (43,362) | |
| Net current liabilities | | | (2,623) | | (11,726) |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | 10,910 | | 253 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more | | | | | |
| than one year | 11 | _ | (19,973) | _ | (17,961) |
| | | | (9,063) | | (17,708) |
| Capital and reserves | | = | | = | |
| Share capital | 12 | | 150 | | 150 |
| Profit and loss account | | | (9,213) | _ | (17,858) |
| Shareholders' funds | | _ | (9,063) | | (17,708) |

For the financial year ended 31st December 2001, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 249A(1) Companies Act 1985.

No notice has been deposited under Section 249B(2) Companies Act 1985.

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The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 221 of the Companies Act 1985,

and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its results for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 226 of the Companies Act 1985, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective March 2000)

These accounts were approved by the board on 28th March 2002 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs L Cordall

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Director

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2001

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective March 2000).

The company has taken advantage of the exemptions in Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small company.

Turnover

Turnover comprises the value of sales excluding value added tax and trade discounts.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write down the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of all tangible fixed assets, with the exception of freehold land, by reducing balance method over their expected useful lives:

Plant and machinery Motor vehicles 25% on net book value 25% on net book value

Goodwill

Goodwill, which represents the excess of cost of acquisitions of businesses over the value attributed to their net assets, is amortised through the profit and loss account by equal instalments over its estimated useful economic life of up to a maximum of 10 years. Goodwill previously eliminated against reserves has not been reinstated and will only be charged to the profit and loss account on the subsequent disposal of any business to which it related.

Deferred taxation

Provision is made for deferred taxation using the liability method to take account of timing differences between the incidence of income and expenditure for taxation and accounting purposes except to the extent that the directors consider that a liability to taxation is unlikely to crystallise.

Hire purchase and leased assets

Assets held under finance leases and hire purchase contracts are capitalised in the balance sheet at their fair value and depreciated over their expected useful lives. The interest element of leasing payments represents a constant proportion of the capital balance outstanding and is charged to the profit and loss account over the period of the lease.

All other leases are regarded as operating leases and the payments made under them are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2 Turnover

The turnover was derived from the company's principal activity which was carried out wholly in the UK.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2001

| 3 | Operating profit | | |
|---|---|--|-------------|
| | The operating profit is stated after charging or crediting: | 2001 | 2000 |
| | | £ | £ |
| | Depreciation of tangible fixed assets: -owned assets | | |
| - | -assets held under finance leases and hire purchase | 1,213 | 1,617 |
| | Amortisation of intangible fixed assets | 1,936 511 | 844 255 |
| | Profit on disposal of fixed assets | (319) | 233 |
| | | (313) | |
| 4 | Interest Payable and Similar Charges | 2001 | 2000 |
| | | £ | £ |
| | Interest payable includes: | | |
| | On finance lease and hire purchase contracts | 635 | 246 |
| | | | |
| 5 | Directors' remuneration | | |
| | | 2001 | 2000 |
| | | £ | £ |
| | Aggregate emoluments | 13,250 | 11,244 |
| | | ===================================== | _=_== |
| 6 | Taxation | | |
| U | i axation | 2001 | 2000 |
| | | £ 2001 | 2000 £ |
| | Based on the profit/loss for the year: | & | 2 |
| | UK corporation tax at 10% (2000: 10%) | 7 | _ |
| | | | |
| | | 7 | _ |
| | | | |

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2001

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|---|
| |

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| • | Goodwin | igjor |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Cost | £ | £ |
| At 1st January 2001 | 5,109 | 5,109 |
| , | 3,109 | |
| At 31st December 2001 | 5,109 | 5,109 |
| | | |
| Amortisation | | |
| At 1st January 2001 | | *** |
| | 511 | 511 |
| Provided during the year | 511 | 511 |
| At 31st December 2001 | 1,022 | 1,022 |
| | | |
| Nist hands and an | | |
| Net book value | | |
| At 31st December 2001 | 4,087 | 4,087 |
| | | |
| At 31st December 2000 | 4,598 | 4,598 |
| | | |
| Constitution of the second | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | | |
| <u>.</u> | Plant and | Total |
| | machinery | Total |
| | etc | |
| | £ | £ |
| Cost | <i>&</i> | æ |
| At 1st January 2001 | 20.072 | 20.072 |
| Additions | 20,972 | 20,972 |
| Disposals | 7,745 | 7,745 |
| Disposais | (7,995) | (7,995) |
| At 31st December 2001 | 20,722 | 20,722 |
| Depreciation | | |
| At 1st January 2001 | 13,591 | 12 501 |
| Charge for the year | | 13,591 |
| On disposals | 3,149 | 3,149 |
| On disposuis | (5,464) | (5,464) |
| At 31st December 2001 | 11,276 | 11,276 |
| Net book value | | |
| At 31st December 2001 | 0.446 | 0.445 |
| THE SAME PRODUCTION WOLL | 9,446 | 9,446 |
| At 31st December 2000 | 7.301 | 7,381 |
| 711 3731 December 2000 | 7,381 | 7,301 |

Assets held under finance leases originally cost £7,745 (2000: £7,995) and have a net book value of £5,809 (2000: £2,531). Depreciation charged for the year was £1,936 (2000: £844).

Goodwill

Total

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2001

| 9 | Debtors | 2001 € | 2000 £ |
|----|--|-----------|-----------|
| | Trade debtors | 21,388 | 24,622 |
| | Called up share capital not paid | 150 | 150 |
| | | 21,538 | 24,772 |
| 10 | Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 2001 | 2000 |
| | | £ | £ |
| | Bank loans and overdrafts | 1,511 | 10,138 |
| | Obligations under hire purchase and finance lease | 1,724 | 1,663 |
| | Trade creditors | 12,535 | 10,862 |
| | Other creditors | 18,602 | 20,324 |
| | Directors' loans | 1,500 | 375 |
| | | 35,872 | 43,362 |
| | The bank loan and overdraft are secured by a fixed and floating charge over all of the composition of the co | • | |
| | Other creations include £10,802 (2000, £10,110) in respect of taxacton and social security | • | |
| 11 | Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year | 2001 | 2000 |
| | | £ | £ |
| | Bank loans | 16,095 | 17,521 |
| | Obligations under hire purchase and finance lease | 3,878 | 440 |

| | · | £ | £ |
|----|---|--------|-------------|
| | Bank loans | 16,095 | 17,521 |
| | Obligations under hire purchase and finance lease | 3,878 | 440 |
| | | 19,973 | 17,961 |
| | Amounts included in creditors and payable after more than five years: | 2001 | 2000 |
| | | £ | £ |
| | Loans payable by instalments | 17,606 | 19,032 |
| | | | |
| 12 | Share capital | 2001 | 2000 |
| | , | £ | £ |
| | Authorised | | |
| | 10,000 Ordinary shares of £1.00 each | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| | | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| | Allotted | | |
| | 150 Allotted, called up and fully paid ordinary shares of £1.00 each | 150 | 150 |
| | | 150 | 150 |
| | | | |