

Hull Incorporated Law Society

President's report for May 2017 Annual General Meeting

I have really enjoyed being President of the Hull Law Society for 2016/2017 and would like to thank the members, the Council and Bunty and Suzi for their support and assistance. Sarah Thomsen has also undertaken her first year as Treasurer and has worked extremely hard and provided substantial support to the Hull Law Society as well.

This year, I have met personally or liaised with partners, practice managers, training principals and others of the various law firms/barristers/local government in Hull and it has been very interesting to see, in particular, what they want from the Hull Law Society. We have focussed heavily on training courses and I have liaised with the local firms, providers and sponsors to give us a varied and interesting programme of courses this year. This includes discussion groups set up this year which have worked very well in pooling ideas/experiences and includes extending courses beyond the practitioners such as to cashiers/accounts departments and others that work within the local legal profession. Hull Law Society has also been able to rent out its training space to providers who want to give courses in the Hull area and this has been another welcome source of training (and income) for us.

I have also done a detailed paper for the Council about providing a substantive and yearly programme of professional courses to meet our CPD needs and this discussion with providers and firms is ongoing. I do intend to keep this discussion going and hope to introduce thorough professional training programmes on substantive areas of law as well as for soft skills to service all of the local firms without having to leave the Hull area.

Hull has re-joined the Yorkshire Union of Law Societies this year and I have attended their quarterly meetings in Leeds which have been very useful in dealing with and discussing some of the most recent published consultations.

It is a forum for all the local law societies in Yorkshire to meet and as such have attracted high quality speakers including most recently Robert Bourns, the current President of the Law Society. We are very pleased to welcome David Barraclough, the President of the Yorkshire Union of Law societies as a speaker today.

With the Yorkshire Union's support we have responded robustly as a local law society to the proposed reforms to the solicitors' training route and the introduction of the SQE as well as to consultations dealing with changes to regulation of solicitors, the merger of Humber and South Yorkshire and reforms to the personal injury sector. We will keep on ensuring the Hull Law Society has a voice in these changes that affect us locally.

We've also strengthened ties with our regional Law Society managers, in particular Catherine Carter has been in regular touch and attended two meetings and are kept up to date by them in respect of all relevant information. We have also unfortunately lost Clare Johnson as our local Council member but current have three Yorkshire representatives (Peter Wright, Mark Newby and Chris Cole) all of whom I have met and are a valuable source of information and updates.

In respect of our own events, the Ball was held in the Deep in October 2016 and for the first time involved raising funds for charity which we did for Mind Hull and East Yorkshire in the sum of £1500. The Ball was well attended and open to other professionals outside the legal profession. I was particularly grateful for all the prizes we were given for the raffle and in particular the donation of £750 for a holiday through Andrew Earles which I understand paid for a trip to the Canaries for the lucky winner. Our annual Quiz, annual Golf Day and Carol Service were all held as well and enjoyed by those attending.

Lastly, I have attended some very interesting and varied events as the President. The North Eastern Legal Circuit Service was held at York Minster this year and was very well attended. I've attended the Accountants' Annual ball and the Insurance Institute's Annual ball. I've attended the new High Sherriff's inauguration, attended our new DJ' Cook's swearing in Sheffield and met with HHJ Richardson to discuss promoting the Civil Forum within Hull.

I've attended the annual President and Secretaries Ball at Chancery Lane which had some amazing conferences and a fantastic dinner on the night. I spent a lot of time with the Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds Law Societies in particular and got a lot of useful information from our northern counterparts. Lastly I've been asked to be a Judge at the Yorkshire Legal Awards and hope to see Hull represented there.

I know that our new nominated President Mina Andreakos has lots of plans and further ways to promote our Law Society and make it relevant and necessary to our members and the legal profession generally in Hull. I wish her the best of luck and again would like to thank everyone for their support.

Nathalie Stewart – 2016-2017