



From the President

Dear Members

It was great to see a number of members at the "Question Time" event on 29 January. David Hyams put in a significant amount of time and effort to make the occasion the success that it was, attended by around 100 people at the College of Law. The debating was sparky and entertaining, and it is only a shame that even more members were not moved to attend. It is in events such as this that the Yorkshire Law Society can be both of benefit to its members and raise the profile of local solicitors, as a body, within the business and wider communities.

As I mention in my Yorkshire Union report later in this issue, I attended the Sheffield Law Society Banquet on 5 February. This was well supported by the local membership of Sheffield and District, but comment was also made in conversation about the fact that various local law societies had, by dint of current circumstances, abandoned their own dinner. We should therefore feel rightly pleased that our own dinner not only took place but was so successful. As the Treasurers Report will show, it even returned a very modest profit.

For the new Society's year starting in April we have vacancies for three new Council members and we also have another vacancy to be filled until 2012. Anyone interested in any of these positions should, please, contact me or Kathryn Cripwell.

Comment was made at the last Council meeting about the general lack of awareness of the membership of the very valuable and interesting silverware which the Society owns. It is kept in safe storage, but Council decided that it would be appropriate to have it photographed and for the photographs to be displayed on the website. Kathryn, with her usual zeal, has attended to that and members should look out for the photographs of it on the YLS website. Forthcoming events for the Council are the Yorkshire Union meeting in Leeds on 4 March, a Council meeting on 17 March and the next "date for your diaries" is 14 April when the AGM will be held at Escrick Park. I shall be handing over the presidential medal to Jenni Bartram on that occasion and wish her every success for her year in office and thank members for having done me the honour of making me their President for 2009/10.

Andrew Faulkes



The President, Mr Andrew Faulkes

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YLS AGM & President's Reception 2010

This year's AGM will be held at Escrick Park (Queen Margaret's School), Escrick, York, on Wednesday, 14th April at 5.00pm. The President's Reception will follow at 6.00pm. Formal notice and invitations to members will follow shortly.

Annual Ball 2010

This year the Yorkshire Law Society Ball looks set to be something really special. Taking place in the historic and beautiful surroundings of St William's College, we are hoping it will be both glamorous and fun. This year's ball takes place on Friday, 25th June 2010.

We are hoping that the weather will be warm so that the drinks reception can be held in the beautiful courtyard of St Williams College. Following the reception you will then ascend the grand staircase and enter into the beautiful Maclagen Hall for the main event!

With sponsorship from Brewin Dolphin, stockbrokers; a delicious menu; wines especially chosen to complement the food and good company, it promises to be an evening to remember. We have also booked "Night Owls" Disco to provide the after dinner music. They have 35 years' experience in mobile discos, and use only the highest quality DJs and equipment.

Please put this date in your diaries and we will be in contact with you again shortly with news about tickets.





CPD Training Programme 2010

The current YLS CPD Training Programme is set out below. However, it should be noted that this is constantly under review, with new courses added. In order to keep up to date with the programme, view course details and download booking forms, log onto www.yorkshirelawsociety.org.uk. Feedback is welcomed and any suggestions for new courses should be forwarded to paul.aber@lawcol.co.uk.

Date	Course Title	Trainer	CPD Hours
Thursday, 25th February 2010	Civil Litigation Update	Gary Barker	2
Monday, 8th March 2010	Criminal Law Update	Colin Beaumont	2
Tuesday, 23rd March 2010	Managing Risk	Mark Frost	2
Thursday, 8th April 2010	Personal Injury Update	John McQuater	2
Thursday, 6th May 2010	Leadership & Management of a Professional Services Firm	Denis Kaye	2
Wednesday, 9th June 2010	Understanding investment management to help you better advise your clients	John Newsome	2

Durham Land Registry Visits

As the Land Registry York office has now closed, YLS members undertaking conveyancing work have expressed an interest in visiting the Durham office to help establish a good working relationship with the office and address day to day concerns and queries.

Two visits have been provisionally arranged on 25th March and 29th April 2010. The visits will comprise a tour of the Registry office and facilities and a chance to meet some of the staff, with Land Registry staff also taking a question and answer session. Each visit is scheduled to last 2 to 2.5 hours and groups up to a maximum of six can be accommodated on each occasion. Additional visits can be arranged, if necessary. Would anyone wishing to attend please contact Helen Coates by telephone or email on 01759 302791 or helen-coates@woodsherwood.co.uk, indicating their preference as to date and any specific questions or concerns they would like Land Registry staff to address on the day.

Yorkshire Union - Andrew Faulkes

The latest Yorkshire Union meeting took place on 10 December 2009 in Harrogate. The Law Society's regional representative, Fiona Tatton, is a regular attender at the Yorkshire Union meetings and also at our own Yorkshire Law Society Council meetings. She produced a report of current Law Society events and promotional/educational activities. It is noticeable, to my mind at least, that since the Law Society lost its regulatory role it is much more effective in its representative role, and I feel that this can only be beneficial to practitioners. Members will be aware of the issues raised by the regional manager in the information circulated by our administrator, Kathryn Cripwell, by e-mail. If any members are not receiving that then they should contact Kathryn whose details are at the end of the newsletter.

The Yorkshire Union meeting focused upon an analysis of the perceived benefits and weaknesses of the Union. One of the major benefits of the existence of the Yorkshire Union was felt to be this: that the Law Society proper in Chancery Lane receives comments from regional law societies on consultations. It, for obvious reasons, accords a great deal of weight to the representations received from the City of London Law Society and other larger regional societies such as Birmingham and Manchester. There is a feeling which has been expressed which is that the Yorkshire Union as a collective of the Yorkshire Law Societies carries more weight through its collective representation than individual law societies could hope to achieve.

On Friday 5 February I had the pleasure of attending the Sheffield and District Law Society Dinner which they described as a "banquet" and which was set in the splendid surroundings of the Cutlers Hall. They were fortunate in that their guest speaker was the Hallamshire MP, Nick Clegg. A significant part of his address was to express the view that the proliferation of, particularly, criminal legislation has brought the law into some disrepute. He compared the increase in criminal offences with the exceptionally high levels of young inmates in our prison population and lamented the lack of attention to detoxification and rehabilitation programmes. There was some food for thought within the politicising.

York Junior Lawyers Division

Who are we? The Junior Lawyers Division (JLD) is an independent body set up by the Law Society to provide advice, information and networking opportunities for junior lawyers. The York JLD represents junior lawyers in and around the York area, including York, Wetherby, Harrogate, Selby and Malton. This includes paralegals, trainee solicitors, and legal executives and qualified solicitors with up to 5 years PQE. There is no age restriction on membership. **What do we do?** The York JLD organises a variety of social events throughout the year. Our events range from traditional events such as careers events, to charity quiz nights and social nights. Our events are an excellent opportunity for our members to network and seek advice from fellow professionals. **What's coming up?** We have a careers event on Thursday 11th March – a great chance to consider your prospects for 2010 and chat with recruitment specialists on an informal basis. We will also be holding a Charity Quiz Night in April so start brushing up on your random trivia now! Full details for both events will be sent to our members shortly. **How do I join?** If you would like to join the York JLD's mailing list, please email Nicola Cooper at nicola.cooper@warekay.co.uk. We will then keep you up to date with all the activities of the York JLD. Membership is free so you've got nothing to lose!

Question Time

YLS held a Question Time event at the York College of Law on Friday, 29th January. This provided members and their guests, together with individuals from the wider business community, with the opportunity to take part in a debate about legal services, as well as topics of more general interest. The panel consisted of Gilbert Gray QC (Chair), Hugh Bayley - MP for York Central (Labour), Julian Sturdy - PMP for York Outer (Conservative), Diane Wallis - MEP for Yorkshire & the Humber (Lib Dem), Godfrey Bloom - MEP for Yorkshire & the Humber (UKIP), and David Taylor - Green Party Councillor (City of York). The debate was held in front of an audience of around 100 people, including predominantly local business, legal, economic and political figures. The Business Editor of The Press attended and ran an article on 30th January (which can be viewed in full on our website at www.yorkshirelawsociety.org.uk). Feedback from members has been that the evening was both interesting and enjoyable, and the Society would like to thank David Hyams of Ware & Kay for his hard work in putting the event together and the College of Law for hosting the debate.



Law Society Regional Manager's Update - Fiona Tatton

Retraining: an introduction to wills, probate and trusts (3rd March 2010 - All day event): Park Plaza Leeds, Boar Lane, City Square, Leeds
In response to demand, the Law Society is repeating this retraining event first held in June 2009. In the current economic climate many practitioners are actively seeking to retrain in other practice areas. The Law Society has developed this one day introductory training session to help solicitors considering a move into wills, probate and trusts. Cost: £80 incl VAT. For more details, contact rita.oscar@lawsociety.org.uk.

Investing in Change: Opportunities in regional legal markets

Date: 23rd February 2010, Location: 3 Albion Place, Leeds LS1 6JL, Time: 6.00-9.00pm

This event is the first in a series of seminars being held by the Law Society to explore new business opportunities created by the Legal Services Act. Most of the discussion about alternative business structures (ABS) to date has focused on the regulatory framework within which these new businesses will operate. The Law Society's new seminar series will shift the debate to encourage innovative law firms and business leaders to explore the opportunities for business development opened up by the emerging regulatory regime and bring together entrepreneurial lawyers with potential investors and intermediaries to exchange ideas and build networks. The ideal time to explore the potential for alternative business structures is now, while the impact of the LSA is becoming fully realised. Cost: £50 plus VAT. For more information and details on how to book visit www.lawsociety.org.uk/events or e-mail events@lawsociety.org.uk.

Legal Sector Alliance Forum

Date: 10th March 2010, Location: Addleshaw Goddard, Sovereign House, Sovereign Street, Leeds LI 4BJ, Time: 4.30-6.00pm

The Legal Sector Alliance (LSA) Forum will showcase the business benefits of taking a proactive approach to climate change, with a focus on key climate impacts and opportunities for law firms. The event is free and spaces are limited, so please register promptly by e-mailing fiona.tatton@lawsociety.org.uk.

The SRA 'Achieving the Right Outcomes' Consultation

You are invited to take part in the debate about how the SRA intends to transform the regulation of solicitors and the organisations in which they work. They are planning to move towards outcomes-focused regulation in 2011, meaning that their work will concentrate more on the quality of what a solicitor is delivering to the client than prescribing how they reached that stage. Consultation closes: 6th March 2010. Go to: www.sra.org.uk/consultations.

The above is just a summary of the information contained in Fiona's monthly report which can be accessed at www.lawsociety.org.uk/yorkshire. Further information includes details of current consultations, practice notes and forthcoming events and training. The Yorkshire page also contains regional contact details and links to Law Society events in the region and JLD groups.

Discounted Offers for Members

From time to time, Yorkshire Law Society is approached by companies wishing to offer discounted rates to members taking up their products and services. Whilst YLS does not endorse or recommend these products and services, we do wish to offer members the opportunity to save money through such arrangements, with members forming their own judgements. A summary of current offers available are listed below. Full details can be found on our website at www.yorkshirelawsociety.org.uk under "Benefits of Membership".

T.M. Lewin (Shirt & Suit Retailers) - Go to the YLS website to download the current special offer voucher, which can be used in store or online.

IKON Office Solutions - IKON are a national company with over 20 offices in the UK, providing document related services to law firms and other markets. Specialising in providing analysis and solutions relating to reducing cost in print, photocopying, colour output, scanning, document management, fax solutions, posters, literature/mail shots/marketing material and retrieval solutions. IKON are offering YLS members discounted rates for their services. To find out more, contact David Wright - Corporate Account Manager - Tel: 0113 244 5050 - E: dswright@ikon.com (please mention YLS05 in order to obtain discounted rates).

Geotrupes Consulting - Geotrupes has recently launched a web based marketing service - www.marketyourlawpractice.co.uk. MarketYourLawPractice is a business development and marketing tool specifically designed for solicitors, incorporating learning tools and detailed guidance to create and implement effective initiatives. The service can also be incorporated within individuals' annual personal development plans and for CPD points. Geotrupes is offering the discounted rate of £900 (plus VAT) for 12 months access to the site. To find out more, visit www.marketyourlawpractice.co.uk and use the code "YLS-500" to secure the discounted rate.

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YLS Wine Club; don't beware the Ides of March - look forward to them!

Invitation letters have just been sent out for our next meeting at 7pm on the 15th March at our usual intimate and charming venue of Bedern Hall. Geoff Walker, our resident wine expert, is opening up his "bargain basement" where little gems can be found at surprisingly low prices. There will be a glass of welcome wine followed by tastings of five whites and six reds of assorted grape varieties and countries. The ticket price of £15 per head will include a sit down buffet supper prepared by Bedern Hall's own excellent caterers "Time and Place".



There will of course be no obligation to buy anything – just come along and enjoy the evening. Guests are very welcome too. If you are not already on our mailing list and would like to be included, please contact Stephen Thorn at Drivers' Malton office sgt@malton-drivers-solicitors.co.uk (01653) 600075.

The Golf Society

The matches for the 2010 season have now been set and have been notified to all members. The Prestigious Captain's Invitation Day is to be on 8 July 2010, and there are still four places left. If anyone is interested in joining us for the full day at Ganton Golf Club please let me know immediately to reserve a place for you and a guest.

The new Winter League Trophy is well underway, despite the weather, and two rounds have already been played and although December's day had to be called off as a result of very bad weather, the date has now been re-arranged for April 2010.

Please note the Fixtures for the Winter League which are shown below. Please remember that each event is a tournament within itself, but the best four aggregate scores are the ones that count to the Trophy. Each Winter League event is an individual Stableford, so why not come and join us.



Monday, March 8th 2010 York Golf Club - Strensall
Monday, April 12th 2010 Forest Park Golf Club

If you are interested in joining our Society, or know anyone who is within your firm, then please contact:-
Brian W Copley, HON SEC, at Harrowells LLP, 1 St Saviourgate York YO1 8ZQ (DX 61506 YORK)
E-mail brian.copley@harrowells.co.uk Tel: 01904 680134

Annual Dinner - 20th November 2009

This year's Yorkshire Law Society Dinner took place, as is our custom, at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall in Fossgate, York on 20 November.

In common with many other Societies, the take up of tickets was down on previous years. We tried a new arrangement for the layout of the tables; seating members and their guests at round tables in the hall, but preserving a top table arrangement. A large number of members have said to me that they had thought, in advance, that the round table arrangement would be a regrettable change from tradition, but that, in the event, everyone who has spoken to me found the round table arrangement more pleasant, slightly less formal, but more convenient for the purposes of holding conversations with fellow guests.

I am very pleased to be able to report that the Dinner has been said to be a great success and I am very grateful to the Lord Mayor and the Sheriff (who are pictured with me) for attending. There is a requirement and convention that wherever the Sheriff is present, in her capacity as representative of the Queen, she proposes the Loyal Toast, which she duly did on this occasion. We were entertained to a particularly lively and relevant speech by our guest speaker, Charles Taylor. Part of his speech focused on the recent pervasive loss of liberties suffered by the British people, which struck a cord with many present in the room. The success of the evening bodes well for another successful Dinner on 19 November 2010 when our guest speaker will be Baroness Hale.



Andrew Faulkes

Vacancy - Dinner Secretary

The Society's thanks go to Georgia Bull of Ware & Kay for her help in organising the 2009 Annual Dinner. Georgia is shortly to leave the York area and, as such, a vacancy now exists for Dinner Secretary to assist with the organisation of the 2010 Annual Dinner, to take place on Friday, 19th November. There is no requirement to join Council, yet this represents an ideal opportunity to become more involved with the Society. Interested members should contact Jenni Bartram at j.bartram@crombielwilkinson.co.uk (Tel: 01653 600070).

Dear Members

I hope you have enjoyed this issue of the YLS Newsletter. As mentioned by Andrew Faulkes on the covering page, pictures of the YLS silver, together with details of the inscriptions on each item, can now be viewed on the website under "History of YLS".

As always, I am keen to receive any feedback and suggestions for items to include in future issues of the Newsletter and/or on the website and would be very pleased to hear from you.

Best wishes,

Kathryn

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