



Annual Review 2016



President's Report to the AGM, 4 July 2016



*Helen Scourfield hands over
to Helen Lyne*

My year in office as President has been truly phenomenal, and one that I certainly will never forget. It has been one which will also shape my future career and my outlook on the legal profession going forward. I am therefore truly grateful for it.

When I was elected last year, I was naturally a little bit apprehensive, particularly being elected as the youngest ever President of the Tees Valley Law Society.

This year, like many others, has seen a lot of change for the legal profession and a lot of challenges. Cuts to Legal Aid, the Criminal Legal Aid Tender and Court closures have particularly troubled the Tees Valley. As a profession, our united front has demonstrated our resilience in these troubled times.

I am particularly proud of the launch this year of the Tees Valley Junior Lawyers Division. I am hopeful that the new JLD will mark a change for the young lawyer professionals of Teesside, in its offer of personal and professional support.

Not really knowing what was expected of me as President, I do hope that the last year will be seen as a success and I will take this opportunity to wish the future President the best of luck in the year that



*Helen Lyne with Tony Brooke of Florit Brooke
at the JLD Launch event*

they have ahead. I would also like to thank all of those who have helped me throughout the year including our committee, administrator and Tilly Bailey & Irvine LLP who have provided me with endless support.



Junior lawyers at the Tees Valley JLD launch event

Social Media

Love it or hate it, social media is the future and it is something which the TVLS has tried to embrace over the past year. I hope that our members have noticed an increase in our Twitter activity and our attempts to keep our members more informed of what we are getting up to as a Society.

I was also keen to document my journey as President to allow others to be involved with this also. I have therefore created a series of blogs which tell my story as President. I hope that these have been well received as I have certainly had fun creating them.

Junior Lawyers Division

Following the successful launch of the Junior Lawyers Division in September last year, the junior lawyers have had a number of social events and marketing events which really helped establish the group in Teesside. Membership is on the increase and a committee is now in place that is busy planning future events including a number of CPD and professional development events.

Michael Stevens of Tilly Bailey and Irvine is the current President of the Junior Lawyers Division and has done a great job keeping it on its feet in its early days. I wish the Junior Lawyers Division success in its future, which I hope, and have no doubt, will be a long and successful one.





*TVLS Quiz Night held in aid of
Teenage Cancer Trust*

Judiciary

2016 saw the retirement of HHJ Taylor whose valediction took place in February. Of course, it is always bittersweet when seeing such notable members of our local professional community leave, but I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate HHJ Taylor and thank him for his services in the Tees Valley.

This year has also seen the swearing in of a number of new District judges in Teesside which I have been lucky enough to be part of, including District Judge Lindsay and District Judge Wright. Again, I would like to extend my congratulations to District Judge Lindsay and District Judge Wright, and wish them well in their future judicial careers.

TVLS Annual Dinner 2016

On 4 March 2016, the annual Tees Valley Law Society dinner took place at the Jurys Inn Hotel in Middlesbrough. I hope everyone in attendance would agree that it was an extremely entertaining evening, particularly with thanks to the fantastic stand up routine provided by comedian Paul Boardman.

The evening was held in aid of my chosen charity, the Middlesbrough and Teesside Philanthropic Foundation, with a staggering £4,400 being raised on the evening, making this our most successful dinner to date and something we are all extremely proud of.

The event was attended by 185 members of the legal profession and their guests.

I would like to thank Nicola Neilson for all her help and



*The President, Senior Vice President
and guests at the Annual Dinner*

support in making sure that the evening was such a success.

Visit of Jonathan Smithers, Law Society President



On 11 May 2016, I attended a joint Law Society meeting at Hay and Kilner's offices in Newcastle. This was attended by the Presidents of Newcastle and Sunderland Law Societies, as well as myself. The meeting proved extremely useful and it is intended that the three societies will continue to meet on a more regular basis going forward to provide more of a 'united front' than in years gone by. In the spirit of this, we met again on 23 June 2016 to welcome the President of the Law Society, Jonathan Smithers, to the region. We enjoyed an informal lunch and discussion with Jonathan on matters affecting the profession.

Prize award at the JLD launch event

Finally

I would like to thank the Education and Training Committee and my fellow council members for their hard work and support over the past 12 months. It has been both a pleasure and honour to represent the profession in the Tees Valley area and I thoroughly enjoyed my term as President.

*Helen Lyne
President
July 2016*

TVLS

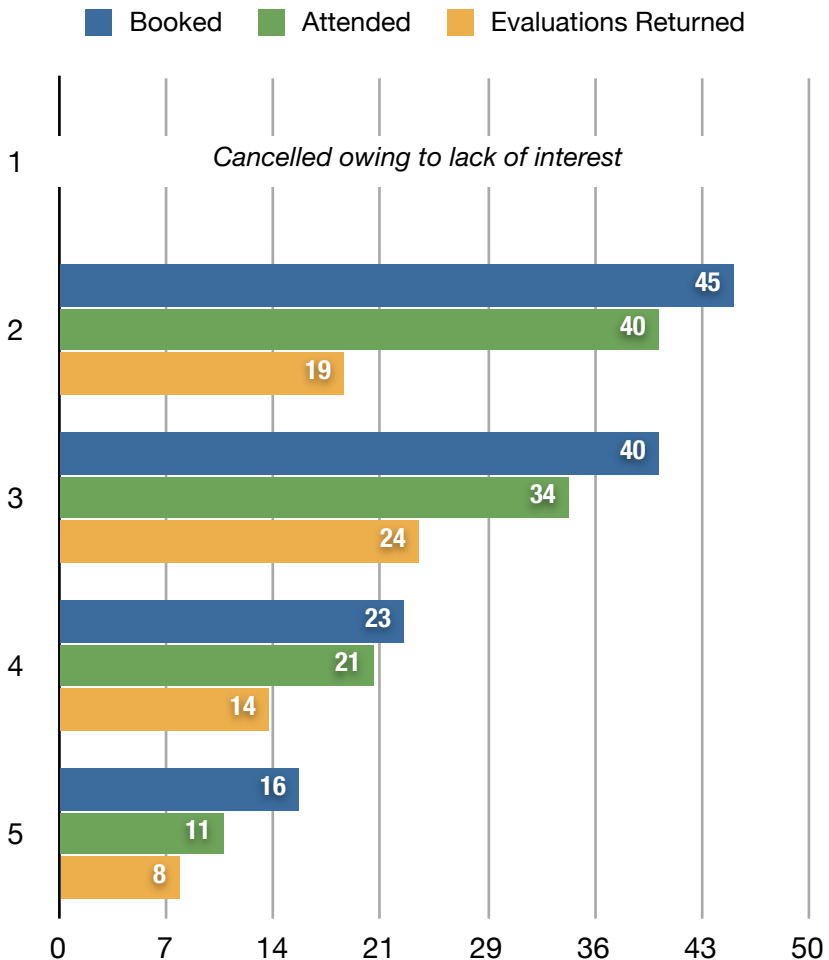
Education and Training Committee

Chairman: Geoff Cruickshank

Co-ordinator: Geoffrey Crute

CPD Seminars

During 2015, 5 cpd events were organised, as set out in the table below. 3 events relating to the 2014/15 “training year” took place before 31 December 2014 which were reported on at the 2015 AGM. The number of events in a calendar year is variable for this reason; and the annual fee income is similarly variable.



Date	Topic	Speaker
1. 03/02/2015	Developments in Criminal Law	Francis Fitzgibbon QC Trinity Chambers
2. 17/03/2015	Social Media for Professionals	Suzy Ashworth Our PSL
3. 19/05/2015	Changes in Conveyancing, Compliance and Competitiveness	Panel of speakers organised by Property Information Exchange
4. 20/10/2015	Cyber Security and Data Loss	LBS Legal (Leeds) and Xy-One Cyber Security (Lancaster)
5. 08/12/2015	Pensions Updated	Anthony Field Towry, Leeds

Members will see that in the 12 months under review one event had to be cancelled, one was sparsely attended, two were well-attended, and the October session drew an “average” attendance, although in terms of its practical importance it was surprising that it was not better supported. Evaluations, where provided, were overwhelmingly positive. The committee concluded some time ago that member-preference was the single determinant of how well-supported an event was likely to be, but it is still difficult to find out what the silent majority prefer. The committee itself has not attracted a broad base of professional interest to enable programme decisions to be taken in the light of informed judgment.

Significant time investment has again been made to try to formulate an “offer” to meet the requirements of the impending cpd. However, members appear to prefer the “outgoing” prescriptive points system, and are unsure of how to address



the “new world” which could be described as compulsory self-regulation. The February 2016 seminar, which described the changes in detail, was well-supported, but your feedback suggested that it was short on “how to” do it. We are therefore offering workshops on request for groups of up to 15 people; so if your firm, or a group of firms, would like one, please contact the co-ordinator to discuss arrangements.

Please “have your say” on these matters by responding to our on-line questionnaire which was sent out on 10 June, and that can be accessed at:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DY6GVXT

The Training Bulletin which was sent out on 17 June sets out our future approach to cpd, and the programme structure for the next 12 months. What we don’t cover is any specialist knowledge which a lawyer may require in their main practice area, and which, in general, will need to be purchased from professional suppliers.

*Geoffrey Crute
E&T Co-ordinator
June 2016*

New Contact Details

The Society’s main postal and email addresses have changed. Please update your records with the new details:

**Tees Valley Law Society
Office 11, Moor Chambers
26 Front Street
Framwellgate Moor
Durham
DH1 5EJ**

Email: admin@tvls.org.uk

NB: *The old postal address (2 Larkin Close) and email address (adam@tvls.org.uk) are both still active, and communications sent to these addresses will be attended to.*