The Society of Editors was formed by a merger of the Guild of Editors and the Association of British Editors in April 1999. Its members are editors, managing editors, editorial directors, training editors, editors-in-chief and deputy editors in national, regional and local newspapers, magazines, radio, television and online media, media lawyers and academics in journalism education. They are as different as the publications, programmes and websites they create and the communities and audiences they serve.

But they share the values that matter:

• The universal right to freedom of expression
• The importance of the vitality of the news media in a democratic society
• The promotion of press and broadcasting freedom and the public’s right to know
• The commitment to high editorial standards

These values give the Society the integrity and authority to influence debate on press and broadcasting freedom, ethics and the culture and business of news media.

To keep up to date with the society’s work visit our website: www.societyofeditors.org
President’s Report

Being President of the Society is a privilege. It offers a grandstand seat from which to witness the energy and determination that editors and journalists apply to meeting – and beating – the huge challenges facing our industry.

Lesser mortals might be worn down by the doom mongers, and take their bats home. Not us. Whether it is commercial pressures, threats to media freedom, from those who prefer the public is kept in the dark, or the incessant pace of technical and editorial change, we remain at the sharp end.

By their very nature, journalists relish something new every day and thrive on deadlines. That is why they have adapted so well to the digital revolution, the thrill and editorial change, we remain at the

sense is always welcome, complacency must be avoided. The campaign must continue to increase the scope of the Act, and to ensure it is not restricted.

My predecessor, Doug Wills, told the London conference that over the course of the event, delegates would hear more about raising revenue from content, how to make money from advertising and making the best use of social media. He did not disappoint. We heard practical, state-of-the-art ideas to take back to newsrooms.

He went on to highlight the work of the Society in encouraging editors and the wider public to oppose proposals to restrict the scope of the Act, charge for requests and, rather bizarrely, reject calls by Russell Group universities to allow them to be exempt from the important legislation, resulted in a government back-track. Editors across the country, nationally, regionally and locally, wrote to the Prime Minister; lobbied their MPs and highlighted the public interest and openness, and gradual attempts to improve relationships between the police and the media at all levels. Work continues on both fronts. This is without mentioning the numerous activities explained in more detail in Jonathan Grun’s parliamentary and legal report.

But fighting for the media and defending it against those critics who are only too ready to criticise it, is time-consuming and costly. The public has a right to know what is done in its name and with its money. When the media is attacked, it is ultimately the public that suffers.

That is why the Society’s campaign to attract new members and supporters is vital. Newsrooms have changed along with the roles played by those that work in them. The all-seeing singular editor is a personality of the past. If you share the basic objectives of maintaining freedom of expression and the right to give and receive information – fundamental rights so easily taken for granted and therefore equally easily threatened – you are welcome to join the Society.

We are actively seeking new associate members and affiliates to help us turn up the volume of our campaigning work. We encourage deputies, assistants, department heads and journalists generally to sign up at affordable rates to show their commitment to the freedom to deliver news in whatever way audiences demand, on whatever platforms that exist now, or are yet to be invented. The Society needs your support!

The Society of Editors’ National Press Awards and Regional Press Awards showcase the important journalism produced by the whole of the Press on paper and online. Despite the challenges, the standard is undimmed. Similarly, the world looks to the high standards set by UK broadcast and digital media.

Editors and journalists should be proud of all they have achieved, as the Society is proud of its role in maintaining and enhancing the reputation of the media.

This year, as President, I am taking the annual conference up north to Carlisle. And, as to the year ahead, I wish continued success to Ian MacGregor as our President, during what will be another important year for our industry.
The spectacle of journalists being hauled before the courts simply for doing their jobs has hopefully ceased. Sadly, attacks on the public’s right to know and the ability of the media to hold government to account, have not.

At the end of Doug Wills’ year as president, he reminded us of the battles for media freedom that had still to be fought and won. Both he and his predecessor Ian Murray presided over the Society through difficult years as enemies of a free, unfettered Press were waited for by juries to proclaim the guilt of a group of journalists and by implication the whole of the trade. It was a relief, then, to see the Elveden affair brought to a close.

A police investigation that had cost millions resulted in jurors seeing the Elveden affair brought to a close. It was a relief, then, to walk tall again – battling for exclusives, informing, entertaining and campaigning on behalf of the public.

In supporting our campaigns it is hard to remember a year in which the industry has been so unified in opposing attacks upon it. An editor’s job is to lead his or her troops into the sound of gunfire – and 2015, and now 2016, have provided plenty of examples of that. The industry that is more suited to fierce competition than cosy cooperation kicked back against attempts to shackle the free and vociferous UK media.

Defendants not guilty. Justice delayed was nonetheless justice denied.

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We heard from Sylvie Bermann, French Ambassador to the UK at the annual dinner. She spoke of her experiences with the British press, French media and the significance of the Charlie Hebdo attacks on the debate around Press freedom. Her address was followed by a lively repost from Sir Christopher Meyer, former UK ambassador the United States during 9/11, which provided light relief as well a serious defence of the British Press and the Society’s campaigns.

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The Society could not work effectively without the support of its board members. While we welcome the election of Ian MacGregor, Weekend Editor of the Telegraph, we bid farewell with heartfelt thanks to long-serving Robin Esser; former Executive Managing Editor of the Daily Mail, along with Simon Bucks, formerly of Sky News. The pair were instrumental in so many of the Parliamentary and Legal committee’s achievements down the years. We also offered thanks to Graham Dudman, former Managing Editor of the Sun, Chris Elliott, Readers’ Editor of The Guardian, and Paul Connolly from Northern Ireland, who also retired after a long and valuable service.

Jonathan Grun must get special mention. Not only is he chairman of the Parliamentary and Legal Committee, he is also vice chairman of the Defence Security Media Advisory committee and secretary of the Editors’ Code Committee. Not a bad package of retirement jobs for the Emeritus Editor of the Press Association. He has also twice been president of the Society.

Santha Rasaiah and the team at the News Media Association, and John Battle and the Media Lawyers’ Association, continue to offer advice and guidance and champion our causes. As a consultant for the Society, Anthony Longden continues to provide his expertise whenever it is called for.

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Director’s Report
Parliamentary and Legal Report

It requires constant vigilance to preserve our freedoms and the Society of Editors has been at the forefront of hard-fought campaigns. When the Society fights on an issue it does so on behalf of the whole of society.

For example, the Freedom of Information Act has shone a bright light into dark corners of our society, which may be why the government wished to water it down. It convened an inquiry that bore all the hallmarks of a kangaroo court. Faced with that threat, we worked with Press Gazette and HoldtheFrontPage, launched a campaign to defend FOI.

Speaking at the Society conference in October 2015, incoming President Nick Turner described the government’s plan to curtail FOI as a cynical and dangerous backward step in the long fight for greater openness and transparency.

He added “If MPs really want to serve their constituents, they will support this campaign to maintain the tremendous work of the Campaign for Freedom of Information.”

The #HandsOffFOI campaign was born. As well as encouraging editors and the public to highlight the successes of the Act, we gave evidence, both written and orally, to the Commission headed by Lord Burns and a cross-party review organised by Deputy Labour Leader Tom Watson.

We opposed proposals to introduce fees for requests, called for public service contractors to be subject to requests, and cited the numerous public interest stories that had resulted from the transparency legislation.

We co-ordinated a letter to the Prime Minister expressing widespread concerns with regard to the review. It was signed by more than 140 media organisations – an unprecedented act of solidarity and cooperation. We urged newspapers to run campaigns, and to write directly to their MPs opposing the review.

We welcomed the government’s announcement that it would not be making any legal changes to the Act in the wake of the Review’s report stating that it “was working well.” The report echoed the Society’s opposition to introducing fees for requests and called for a public interest time limit extension to tackle delays in responding to requests.

The report also said the Act should be extended to those who provide public services under contract and that there was no convincing evidence for the exclusion of universities from the scope of the Act.

It was a victory of sorts – and a warning. There are still those who prefer to stop us informing the public about issues they are entitled to know. Newspapers across the country have done a brilliant job, but pressure must be maintained to ensure the Act is extended rather than curtailed.

In March 2016, more than four years after Deputy Assistant Commissioner Sue Akers of the Metropolitan Police sat in front of the Leveson Inquiry and spoke of the increased resources required for Operation Elveden, the police investigation into allegations of inappropriate payments to police officers and public officials was finally shelved.

The failed prosecutions of journalists undoubtedly humiliated and tarnished the reputation of the Crown Prosecution Service and the Metropolitan Police Service. The lives of innocent reporters who spent years on police bail, were ruined.

It took independent jurors little time to throw out case after case based on the archaic charge of ‘conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office’ when it had taken years to bring some cases to trial.

They clearly took the view that the journalists really were acting in the public interest.

The Met declared that the Elveden debacle was ‘certainly not an attack on journalists or free media’. Perhaps, but police relations with the media had plumbed new depths – fuelled by paranoia and distrust on the part of senior officers. The public has suffered as a result.

We have done our best over the past year to melt the pernicious Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe asked the Society to help to improve relations. We are now working with the MPS to build on the College of Policing’s Code of Ethics in including guidelines on investigative issues including journalistic confidentiality. That is a small step in the right direction.

With the support of the Media Lawyers’ Association and the News Media Association, we have worked with the National Police Chiefs’ Council in trying to update police and media guidelines, trying to change the mindset which states: ‘tell them nothing unless forced to’. That is best described as work in progress.

The Society also worked with the MPS to arrange briefings on counter terrorism that led to an informal voluntary understanding regarding requests to delay live broadcasting during terrorism events. We will continue to assist in any way that we can.

In other areas of legislation, the Government has so far reneged on its promises to promote freedom of the press and the public’s right to know.

Journalists have a moral obligation to protect their sources – the information they provide can benefit the whole of society. And yet the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act – in which police used, some would say abused, their powers to access journalists’ phone records – showed how vulnerable our sources can be in a surveillance society.

Despite recommendations by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Investigatory Powers Bill that it does not go far enough in protecting sources, widespread opposition has currently fallen on deaf ears.

While the Bill requires that a ‘judicial commissioner’ give prior approval to a police application to obtain information likely to identify a source, the Home Secretary has the power to approve an “urgent warrant”. We oppose the lack of a requirement for prior notification to be given to the subject of a communications request and the failure to ensure that the legislation contains similar provisions.
to the Police and Criminal Evidence and Terrorism Acts to protect journalistic information.

We remain committed to ensuring that Theresa May’s promises when Home Secretary come to fruition, and that the then Culture Secretary Sajid Javid’s assurances to our members at our annual conference in 2014 are not selectively forgotten.

To our dismay, privacy injunctions also re-emerged in 2016. While the public interest in the sex lives of celebrities continues to polarise opinion, court orders that ban the publication in the UK of information which is widely available on social media, on the front page of US magazines and even in Scottish newspapers, is as much of a waste of the courts’ time and money as it makes a mockery of the justice system. As the Daily Mail succinctly put it: “the law is an ass”. We will continue to campaign against and highlight the absurdity of the draconian legislation.

The Society wrote to Greg Dyke, then chairman of the Football Association to voice concern about requests that local newspapers should not publish the results of under-7 and under-11 youth games. A newspaper should not publish the results of under-7 and under-11 youth games. A reply from the chief executive said that after the problems of recent years any such protection must be straightforward and uncompromising not just for the media but for the wider public’s right to freedom of expression.

The Society has monitored the work of the Independent Press Standards Organisation over its first two years. It has welcomed wider publication of its adjudications and the industry’s acceptance of changes to ensure budgetary independence and the appointment of an external review of its work. The Society has reprinted the website version of the revised Editors’ Code of Practice which have been distributed to newsrooms and colleges and universities across the country.

We have welcomed wider publication of our website. These included updated reporting restrictions guidance for the Criminal Courts which was published in February and we are currently discussing updating guidance on reporting diversity with the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The so-called D-Notice system has been reborn as the Defence, Security and Media Advisory system complete with a review of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of the so-called D-Notice system has been reborn as the Defence, Security and Media Advisory system complete with a review of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notices. The aim is emphasise the importance of DSMA Notice
The Society has continued to champion the training of journalists, the promotion of high editorial standards and the need for ongoing personal development.

The Society is proud of the part it plays in encouraging and supporting the National Council for the Training of Journalists. The approved courses and qualifications have achieved growing status as a ‘must-have’ for journalists seeking to enter any part of the industry.

In response to editors’ requirements in 2015, the NCTJ unveiled its revamp of the Diploma in Journalism which aims to integrate digital and traditional skills, and the Diploma to cover mandatory subjects all news platforms.

Changes include revising the structure of the National Qualification in Journalism that goes into mastering necessary skills. Flexibility is key in an industry innovating in response to the many commercial and technological changes it faces. Training and development opportunities through continuous professional development initiatives are essential for both a thriving media and individuals’ success. CPD requires a mixture of formal development of skills that can be measured, and informal gathering of knowledge and experience that will provide leaders for the future.

Initiatives to encourage diversity in the industry were also discussed so that newsrooms can better reflect the communities they serve. The Journalism Diversity Fund, set up by the Society of Editors and the NCTJ in 2005, celebrated its 10th anniversary and to date it has awarded more than 200 bursaries to support students from backgrounds of all kinds helping them forge successful careers.

The Society continues to support and promote the fund passionately because it is right so to do, both ethically and for the future success of the media.

As a members’ organisation the Society does not seek to make profit. That said, it is important our finances can support our crucial campaigning work and services to members along with the promotional activity we undertake for the industry as a whole.

While the annual accounts for 2015 are fundamentally sound, we continue to rely heavily on the support of the industry and our partners, for which we remain ever grateful, and which we must seek to increase as our activity and influence grows.

The formal accounts for 2015 show we had maintained or increased revenues and carefully controlled costs. However, based on the snapshot position at 31 December they show a loss for the year and therefore a negative figure for members’ reserves at the year end. That picture changed within days as the New Year began and funds owed to us were realised. By the end of the first quarter of 2016 the accounts revealed a more healthy position with a positive net figure of £109,249 owed to us. Adding in money in the bank, this meant we had a notional balance of £160,340 as money came in from the National and Regional Press Awards.

While a healthy position in the early part of the year is good news, this should not disguise the fact the Society needs more revenue to overcome cash flow issues across the year. The core issue is insufficient funding to the tune of £50,000 a year. We have an established cash flow pattern, with income arriving early in the year and expenditure reaching a peak at the year end, due to the conference and both awards programmes being held in the winter months.

We maintain vigilant on expenditure in all areas. We have to continually renew efforts to increase sponsorship for the awards programmes and for general activities on behalf of the industry. In addition we have to progress membership recruitment activity, which has already attracted members from new areas including students and associate members.

That is an investment both in future activity we undertake for our industry and the people we represent and for our future.

We remain a victim of our own success in that costs continue to grow but we believe that as our profile develops so too does our ability to access new revenue. Profile and revenues are, of course, interlinked and both require considerable effort in order to achieve our ambitions.

Major efforts to chase funds that have been owed to us for more than 90 days bore fruit, but we do need the help of members and the industry more widely to pay bills as soon as possible. Total amounts outstanding consistently remain in excess of £100K and we are looking for these small debts up uses valuable secretariat resource, which would be better used on our positive activities. We particularly need to encourage faster payment of both personal and corporate invoices to overcome the resultant cash flow issues.

Overall, finances have been managed well over the year. We have invested in the redevelopement of the website, initiated a significant recruitment campaign, delivered cost-effective and sustainable events, and controlled costs. The next few years will require a concerted effort to generate new income and increase commitment from all areas of the media industry we strive to champion.
 Accounts

SOCiETY OF EDITORS
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FiNANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

This is an extract from the full company accounts which are available for inspection at the society’s office and on the website www.societyofeditors.org

PRINCiPAL ACTiVITIES
The principal activity of the company during the period was to represent newspaper editors and their counterparts in broadcasting as a professional association.

DIRECTORS

Company secretary R E Satchwell
Registered Number 03047323
Registered office The University Centre
Granta Place, Mill Lane
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
CB2 1RU

Auditor Price Bailey LLP
Chartered Accountants
Tennyson House
Cambridge Business Park
Cambridge
CB4 0WZ

DIRECTORS’ RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT
The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors’ Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company’s transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

Each of the persons who are directors at the time when this Directors’ Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company’s auditors are unaware,
- that director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company’s auditors are aware of that information.

Profit and loss account
For the year ended 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURNOVER</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(458,019)</td>
<td>(431,997)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative expenses</td>
<td>(41,830)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest receivable and similar income</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOSS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(41,655)</td>
<td>(65,809)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax on loss on ordinary activities</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOSS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(41,655)</td>
<td>(65,815)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS
This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board on and signed on its behalf.

R E Satchwell
Company Secretary
Balance sheet  
As at 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIXED ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>209</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>46,291</td>
<td>104,684</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank</td>
<td></td>
<td>73,528</td>
<td>55,237</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>119,819</td>
<td>159,921</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>(126,751)</td>
<td>(125,293)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td>(6,932)</td>
<td>34,628</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS</td>
<td>(6,818)</td>
<td>34,837</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit and loss account</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(6,818)</td>
<td>34,837</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(6,818)</td>
<td>34,837</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2015

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

2 OPERATING LOSS
The operating loss is stated after charging:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation of tangible fixed assets - owned by the company</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditor’s remuneration</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>6,666</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the year, no director received any emoluments (2014 - £NIL).

3 TAXATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments in respect of prior periods</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax on loss on ordinary activities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Factors that may affect future tax charges
The company has tax losses carried forward of £37,575 (2014: £22,654) to utilise against future profits.

4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2015</td>
<td>£ 13,602</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 January 2015</td>
<td>£ 13,393</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charge for the year</td>
<td>95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31 December 2015</td>
<td>£ 13,488</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Book Value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31 December 2015</td>
<td>£ 114</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31 December 2014</td>
<td>£ 209</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on

R E Satchwell
Director
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2015

5 DEBTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade debtors</td>
<td>£28,041</td>
<td>£70,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other debtors</td>
<td>£18,250</td>
<td>£33,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£46,291</td>
<td>£104,684</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 CREDITORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amounts falling due within one year</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade creditors</td>
<td>£66,857</td>
<td>£28,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporation tax</td>
<td>£84</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other taxation and social security</td>
<td>£456</td>
<td>£1,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other creditors</td>
<td>£59,354</td>
<td>£93,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£126,751</td>
<td>£125,293</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 COMPANY STATUS

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 for every full member, and 25 pence for every other member, towards the assets of the company in the event of liquidation.

8 RESERVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At 1 January 2015</td>
<td>£34,837</td>
<td>34,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss for the financial year</td>
<td>(41,655)</td>
<td>(41,655)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31 December 2015</td>
<td>(6,818)</td>
<td>(6,818)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN MEMBERS’ FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening members’ funds</td>
<td>£34,837</td>
<td>£100,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss for the financial year</td>
<td>(41,655)</td>
<td>(65,815)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing members’ (deficit)/funds</td>
<td>(6,818)</td>
<td>34,837</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

RR E Satchwell is a director of the company. During the year the company incurred consultancy fees and reimbursed expenses of £74,928 (2014: £62,036) from R E Satchwell.
S J Ryan is a director of the company. During the year the company incurred consultancy fees of £2,500 (2014: £5,000) from S J Ryan.

Detailed trading and profit and loss account
For the year ended 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turnover</td>
<td>£22,027</td>
<td>£10,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>£357,924</td>
<td>£321,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference income</td>
<td>£33,333</td>
<td>£33,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
<td>£2,905</td>
<td>£919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£416,189</td>
<td>£366,061</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative expenses</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Secretary</td>
<td>£114,468</td>
<td>£110,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent and water rates</td>
<td>£12,022</td>
<td>£12,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurances</td>
<td>£2,646</td>
<td>£2,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and subsistence</td>
<td>£3,627</td>
<td>£3,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone and internet expenses</td>
<td>£13,556</td>
<td>£6,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing, stationery and postage</td>
<td>£6,367</td>
<td>£2,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry expenses 162 653</td>
<td>£162</td>
<td>£653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference expenses</td>
<td>£277,352</td>
<td>£254,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting expenses</td>
<td>£119</td>
<td>£764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and publications</td>
<td>£3,944</td>
<td>£3,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts and donations</td>
<td>£12,591</td>
<td>£9,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>£2,238</td>
<td>£177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrecoverable VAT</td>
<td>£4,458</td>
<td>£4,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal and professional</td>
<td>£2,800</td>
<td>£6,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountancy fees</td>
<td>£95</td>
<td>£153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditors’ remuneration</td>
<td>£1,534</td>
<td>£1,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>£458,015</td>
<td>£431,597</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest receivable</td>
<td>£175</td>
<td>£127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objectives of the Society

• To defend and promote the freedom of the media and to champion the universal right to freedom of expression.
• To represent members’ interests in all matters of editorial and professional concern and interest.
• To monitor legislation on matters affecting the news media either directly or indirectly and to make appropriate representations to parliaments, regional assemblies, the European Commission and Parliament and other organisations and authorities at all levels of public life.
• To interpret legislation and advisory notices to other organisations.
• To provide a forum for discussion of the practical problems of editorship and to promote the objectives of the Company.
• To provide access to a network of professional contacts.
• To offer advice to members on issues of practical and ethical concern and to support other bodies in promoting standards in journalism, independence of the media and self-regulation.
• To help improve the quality of journalism through the active support of education and training.
• To represent the UK’s senior journalists internationally, assisting editors abroad to establish independence and ethical standards.

Governing Body

The Society is managed by a board of directors elected by the membership and administered by an executive director. An advisory council made up of senior figures in the industry offers advice and support.

International Links

The Society has long-standing relationships with the CPU Media Trust (formerly the Commonwealth Press Union), WAN IFRA, the Global Editors’ Network and ISWNE (International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors based in the USA). Their David Greenslade Bursary enables a member to visit North America.

Committees and External Representation

The Society’s two standing committees – Parliamentary and Legal and Training – draw up policy guidelines and report to the board through the chairmen. Working parties and think tanks are set up as required. The Society welcomes any time that members can give to support its work. Society members serve on key industry bodies including the Editors’ Code Committee, the Defence Security and Media Advisory Notice System, the National Council for the Training of Journalists, regional training advisory committees and the Journalism Diversity Fund which the Society founded with the NCTJ.

The Society works closely with other industry organisations including the News Media Association and Media Lawyers’ Association and the regulatory affairs teams provide legal and research support.

The Society also co-operates with other organisations by briefing visiting groups of editors from around the world. The Society maintains links with the Government Information and Communications Service, the Association of Police Public Relations Officers, the Information Commissioner, the Policing College, the National Police Chiefs’ Council and other public organisations. It frequently submits evidence and comment to Government consultations, to Parliamentary committees and the Competition Commission.

The Society has close working relationships with the Campaign for Freedom of Information, the London Press Club, the Media Society, the Journalists’ Charity and the Media Trust. It works with other organisations such as the Samaritans, the Youth Media Agency, the Age Action Alliance and other lobbying groups.

MAGSTAR

The Society is supported by MagStar Ltd who organise events for the Society including the annual conference, the National Press Awards, the Regional Press Awards and regional seminars.

Their team is:

Lyn Disley
Managing Director

Paul Foulsham
Creative Director

Krista Gallione
Head of Market Development and Events

Robyn Honey
Head of Operations and Digital Systems

Olivia Disley-Stevens
Marketing Project Coordinator

Adrienne Deller
Administration Manager

President
Nick Turner

Vice President
Ian MacGregor

Immediate Past President
Doug Wills

Honorary Treasurer
Moira Sleight

Chairman, Training Committee
Donald Martin

Chairman, Parliamentary and Legal Committee
Jonathan Grun

Executive Director and Company Secretary
Bob Satchwell

Accountants
Price Bailey

Research Officer
Claire Meadows

Administrator
Angela Upton
The Society

In the Regions

REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

Eastern Region
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk; North Essex and Kettering. Nigel Pickover, Editor-in-chief, Archant Norfolk, 01603 772401, nigel.pickover@archant.co.uk. Society of Editors head office, Cambridge 01223 304080, office@societyofeditors.org.

Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland
Paul Connolly, 02890 264000, pconnolly@belfasttelegraph.co.uk.

Northern
Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham. Joy Yates, Group Editor, Johnston Press North East, joy.yates@jppress.co.uk.

Scotland
Donald Martin, Head of Publishing, DC Thomson, 01382 575788, dmartin@dcthomson.co.uk.

Wales
Barrie Jones, Editorial Director, NWN Media, 01352 707721, barrie.jones@nwn.co.uk.

Wessex
Dorset, Hampshire, parts of Somerset, Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall. Andy Cooper, Editor, Devon Life, 01803 860910, andy.cooper@archant.co.uk.

Yorkshire
South, West and North Yorkshire, and Humberside north of River Humber. Peter Charlton, former Editorial Director, Yorkshire Post Newspapers, Peter.Charlton@blueyonder.co.uk.

Financial Administration

The income of the Society, whatever its source, must be applied solely in promoting the objects of the Society.

Members of the Society are assigned a region. They are given details of board members or other regional contacts. Regional meetings are organised to meet the requirements of members in those regions, if they so wish.

Parliamentary and Legal Committee
Chairman: Jonathan Grun

Members

Training Committee
Chairman: Ian Murray

Members

*Board members can attend standing committees ex officio if they are not already members.
NOTICE OF THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS
TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2016 AT THE HALSTON, CARLISLE

Any full or deputy member who wishes to put a resolution or raise a matter under any other business should advise the executive director by Friday 30 September 2016. Full and deputy members are entitled to vote and qualified members may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his or her stead in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association. A copy is available on the website www.societyofeditors.org or from the executive director. To be valid a proxy must be received at the Society office no later than on Friday 30 September 2016 or at the Halston, Carlisle by 12 noon on Sunday 16th October 2016.

R E Satchwell
Executive Director and Company Secretary

AGENDA

1. President’s opening remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. MINUTES: To adopt, if approved, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 October 2015.
4. ACCOUNTS: To receive and, if approved, adopt the accounts for the financial year up to 31 December 2015.
5. ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16: To receive and, if approved, adopt the Annual Report for 2015/16.
6. To record the Society’s thanks for service on the board to Graham Dudman, Simon Bucks, Chris Elliott and Robin Esser, who retired from the board during the year.
7. To confirm co-option of Charles Garside as an ordinary member of the board for three years. This is the unanimous proposal of the board.
8. To re-elect Fran Unsworth and Donald Martin as ordinary members of the board for a period of three years. This is the unanimous proposal of the board.
9. To note and approve the appointment by the board of Jonathan Grun as chairman of the parliamentary and legal committee for a period of three years. This is the unanimous proposal of the board.
10. To note and approve the re-appointment by the board of Moira Sleight as Honorary Treasurer. This is the unanimous proposal of the board.
11. To note and approve the re-appointment by the board of Bob Satchwell as Executive Director and Company Secretary.
12. To elect the President for the year 2016-2017: Ian MacGregor, Weekend Editor of the Telegraph, is the unanimous proposal of the board.
13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will take place in the Autumn of 2017 at a time and venue to be confirmed.