

**Society of Editors**  
www.societyofeditors.org

# WE ARE THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS...

The Society of Editors was formed by a merger of the Guild of Editors and the Association of British Editors in April 1999.

It has more than 400 members made up of 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](http://www.societyofeditors.org)

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Pictures by:

**PRESS  
ASSOCIATION**



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A YEAR ago we were preparing to debate the massive threats to the economic well-being of the media and the dramatic changes in platforms for news and the working practices required to support them.

There were many doom mongers who were predicting the demise of vast sections of the media, not least in my own world of regional daily newspapers.

Well, as the title of our 2009 conference - The Fightback - suggests we are still here and despite the soothsayers there is still life in all parts of Britain's media - as long as we are prepared to innovate... and accept change as a constant.

I am driven by the examples of colleagues across the media who are adapting, creating new ideas and building new and different platforms.

These are ones our commercial colleagues can exploit to help us ensure that we can continue to provide the free and fearless media that our communities and indeed the whole country needs and deserves.

I took over as president at Bristol where Simon Bucks and the team produced a superb conference that again made headlines and fuelled debate inside and outside the industry for months.

The work of the society since then is chronicled in detail elsewhere but I must praise the efforts of my board colleagues and especially, Robin Esser as chairman of the Parliamentary and Legal Committee and Peter Cole as chair of training as well as Pat Pilton who serves us so well as treasurer.

The work of the P&L committee is of course central to our activities but journalistic standards are also a key part of our aims and objectives.

That is why the work of Peter Cole along with Simon Bucks with training organisations has been so important. It is the recruits to the industry who are our future. They must be nurtured against that background of dramatic and fast-moving innovation in the industry.

The society represents the interests of editors and executives in all sectors of the media but I am naturally pleased that during my

The role of the society is to fight for the needs of any sector of the media when they come under fire from whatever corner.



term as president the society was able to lead the campaign which eventually brought about the Regional Media Summit called by Andy Burnham when he was Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport.

The role of the society is to fight for the needs of any sector of the media when they come under fire from whatever corner. While our prime concern is media freedom, the threat to the economic future of regional newspapers was a cause to fight under our wider banner of freedom of expression and the public's right to know.

I am proud to have been given the opportunity to lead an organisation that is vital to the journalists and the media generally and also important to our society. I am grateful to Bob Satchwell, executive director, and everyone else connected with the society for supporting me in the task.

Finally, I am delighted that your next president will be Donald Martin. He has wide experience as an editor and now works in the cauldron of media competitiveness that is Glasgow today. He started his editorial career as Bob Satchwell's deputy at the Cambridge Evening News and helped transform the paper. The team will be back together to take the society on to new heights.

**Nigel Pickover**  
Editor, Evening Star, Ipswich





# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**SIMON** Bucks' 2008 Bristol conference exploded in to life when Paul Dacre got up in the historic first class dining room of SS Great Britain to deliver his incisive Society of Editors Lecture.

With the generous help of ITV West and Sky News, Dacre's thesis was fed live into 24 hour news broadcasts and websites. His attack on judge-made privacy law kept media columnists in business for weeks and touched a nerve with the Culture Media and Sport Select Committee in the House of Commons.

So did several of the issues in the forefront of our campaigning reported on by Robin Esser.

Several issues have a chilling effect on journalism even in our relatively benign democracy but CFAs are freezing some kinds of investigative work because of the potentially crippling costs. The law of unintended consequences is working overtime and thankfully senior politicians recognise the dangers. Hopefully they will find the necessary palliative in time.

But as the Parliamentary and Legal Committee report shows, CFAs are

just one of the issues that have kept us camped out at the Ministry of Justice which has taken over from the Home Office as our main point of contact with government. Most of it has been reasonably amicable but we should never be complacent!

The P&L report demonstrates our key achievements over the past year but there have been others too as we reached and survived our tenth anniversary. Many were recorded in the special video compiled under the directorship of Simon Bucks and with the expertise of PA.

Those successes are clearly appreciated and recognised across the industry, not least by the substantial no-strings donation from the Newspaper Publishers' Association.

This replaces and enhances the support we received from individual national newspaper groups and we remain grateful for the generosity of this part of the media particularly.

It is especially welcome when revenue from other sources is at best a little wobbly, reflecting the extreme challenges of structural and advertising upheavals.

Those successes are clearly appreciated and recognised across the industry.



Bob Satchwell

With those in mind we have held delegate fees for the annual conference below last year's and with the confidence engendered by the NPA's generosity we have met our long term aim of substantially reducing membership fees for regional editors.

The woes of regional news in particular were a centrepiece of debate at Bristol and Simon Bucks as our first president from broadcasting should be congratulated for demonstrating so ably how the society works on behalf of all parts of the media.

Simon also led the society's efforts to encourage training organisations – the NCTJ, BJTC and PTC – to work more closely together to reflect the needs of the converged industry.

The future of their relationships is for them to decide but they recognise the clear concern among employers that journalists need to be equipped with a range of skills required by the new, innovative media landscape. Editors, and potential recruits, need a transparent and easily understandable training regime for all journalists.

We are, as ever, grateful to board members and others who support our activities. Richard Catlow deserves special mention for maintaining regular and relevant practical meetings for editors in the North of England as does Donald Fullarton who is secretary in Scotland. Also north of the border Bill Livingstone has now retired after many years of valuable service to the old Guild of Editors and the society in Scotland.

Moira Sleight, Managing Editor, Methodist Recorder, Sarah-Jane Smith, Editor, Shropshire Star and Fran Unsworth, Head of Newsgathering at the BBC are new board members. Thanks to Alan Qualtrough who resigned from the board and to Steve Egginton and Charles McGhee who have completed their terms on the board.

Our budgets remain extremely tight but we have benefitted from the talents and efforts of Lily Brandhorst and then Sharon Nall as research assistants. Sharon has lived up to the challenge of the increasing workload and is an asset to our small team.

Lyn Disley and Paul Foulsham of MagStar, continue to contribute their skills to our website, conference planning and our other activities. Amanda Macchi of M-S-G plays a vital role in organising the domestic arrangements for the conference and Giles Wadsworth helps to deliver the event.

Elena Tulenkova helps us meet our day-to-day financial challenges and satisfies the auditors. Angela Varley powers the administrative machine with particular success in building membership. She is also ensuring the society can support the CPU Media Trust that is the on-going embodiment of the Commonwealth Press Union and launch Editors Inc as the consultancy arm of the society that helps put clients in touch with members who can offer a wide range of media services.

We are also grateful for the encouragement of our Advisory Council and our Fellows and the



equally valuable assistance of many other newspaper and broadcasting organisations and individuals that share our aims and appreciate our work.

We thank our landlords at the University Centre in Cambridge and the teams at Press Gazette and HoldTheFrontPage that publicise our activities.

The London Stansted conference will mark the end of an eventful and fruitful year of office for Nigel Pickover, who has had to balance his leadership of the SoE with the huge pressures that he faces along with the other regional newspaper editors.

Their resilience under fire is remarkable and along with the amazing initiative demonstrated by editors across the media at a time of unprecedented uncertainty, ensures not only the survival of the UK media but its continued global pre-eminence.

**Bob Satchwell**  
Executive Director



# PARLIAMENTARY AND LEGAL COMMITTEE

ON every important media issue these days the Society of Editors is consulted by the Government, the Opposition, politicians of all persuasions, the judiciary and the police, among others.

All these bodies recognise that the Society of Editors is the only organisation which represents all the mainstream media - national newspapers, regional and local newspapers, and broadcast and television and digital media interests.

The result is an ever-increasing workload for the society, for our Director, our staff and for others involved.

## CFA's libel and privacy

The Ministry of Justice and the courts have been key areas of activity over the past year. Contingency Fee Arrangements in media cases and the scandalous fees that are racked up by them have focused our attention especially.

While it seemed clear that Jack Straw was moving towards the idea of the abolition of success fees much background activity by the society and others was devoted

to trying to mitigate the delaying tactics that mean proper reform is unlikely until after Lord Justice Jackson's wide ranging report on costs in civil cases generally that is due next year.

Pressure from the SoE and editors individually ensured that the Justice Secretary remains committed to reform but it became clear that even a democratically elected senior government minister could not always overcome the dark forces standing in the way of common sense.

That it costs EIGHT times more to hold libel proceedings in Britain compared to the next most expensive country in Western Europe remains a scandal and a threat to Freedom of Expression.

Following the Max Moseley action against the News of the World our stance was that there is always concern about the development of a privacy law through the courts when Parliament has decided that the risks to media freedom are too dangerous.

It would be wrong for the law that affects all parts of the media to be

developed on the basis of either an individual case or the decision of an individual judge. The media in the UK must not become as weak and ineffective as the media in some European countries. Paul Dacre's lecture that opened the Bristol Conference grabbed headlines. His criticism of Mr Justice Eady over the Moseley case encouraged acres of comment in print, hours of broadcast and countless pages on-line.



Robin Esser

We supported and contributed to an industry-wide submission to the Department of Culture Media and Sport Parliamentary Select Committee inquiry into Press Standards, Privacy and Libel. Our evidence emphasised the chilling effect of CFAs on the media as a whole.

The society endorsed the response from the Media Lawyers Association to the consultation on Controlling Costs in Defamation Proceedings. Looking to the future, we had a working lunch with Dominic Grieve in April. His response was positive. He remained of the view that measures should be taken to control the legal costs incurred in defamation and some other publication proceedings as a matter of priority.

The director was asked to speak at a seminar as part of Lord Justice Jackson's Civil Litigation Costs Review. At the seminar Professor Michael Xander formerly of the London School of Economics explained that 'uplift' fees meant that some media lawyers acting for plaintiffs were making 130 per cent profits.

## Family Courts

The continuing debate about openness in the Family Courts has also been a subject on which the society's voice is heard in the top circles.

Jack Straw announced that Family Courts would be opened up to the media in an attempt to make them more transparent and accountable by 'lifting the veil' and allowing the public to see how justice worked. The society and other media organisations had last minute

meetings to draft a new media guide with MoJ officials. However not much progress was made. We followed up by sending an urgent letter to Straw expressing concerns that his aims were being thwarted.

The new rules, when they finally emerged certainly caused confusion with judges telling reporters that they were allowed in but could not report hearings. Reporting restrictions were being imposed and court staff were unaware or unprepared with how to deal with the media.

The government has now signalled fresh legislation to open up the courts.

## Televising Courts

Against this background a small positive step in the direction of televising the courts will take place in the new Supreme Court from October 2009.

## Reporting Restrictions

The society along with the Newspaper Society and Times Newspapers' legal teams has worked on updating the guides to reporting restrictions in the criminal courts for the Judicial Studies Board. These guides have transformed relationships between the courts and the media since they were first published in 2000. The foreword has been written by Lord Judge.

Progress towards the establishment of an electronic database of court reporting restrictions has been painfully slow but the principle is accepted and it is hoped that a system will soon be in place.

The abolition of charges for court lists was a significant step forward for open justice. It had been 20 years

since the former Guild of Editors negotiated the provision of court lists and now they would be free. The media should now be able to access information from criminal courts electronically and free of charge.

## Coroners Courts

Early in 2009 the society criticised fresh government plans to hold inquests behind closed doors. Jack Straw re-introduced proposals ministers had previously scrapped to hold inquests in secret and without juries in cases involving national security. The Coroners Bill was due back in the Commons in May. It was later agreed to remove some clauses from the Bill.

## DA-Notices

The society plays a full part in the Defence Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee which is continuing to debate changes in the DA Notice system to reflect changes in the converged media and instant global communications through the internet. We have ten members on the committee including the vice chairman, Simon Bucks.

## Swine flu

In April we asked for a meeting of the Media Emergencies Forum to discuss the swine flu pandemic. Sir Liam Donaldson praised media reporting and agreed that the term 'essential workers' included people in the media. There has been a further updated briefing and the MEF also plans to revisit media plans for dealing with major terrorist incidents. We also commented on the Cabinet Office review of the publication Emergency Response and Recovery, emphasising the changes in media platforms.



### P&L working lunches

Parliamentary and Legal Committee working lunches have continued for senior government ministers, Opposition spokesmen and other officials with whom we need to work closely.

The then culture secretary Andy Burnham was asked to take our concerns across a wide range of issues to his Cabinet colleagues and we emphasised the need for urgent action on problems faced by the media during the economic crisis.

This led to series of meetings in which the president led a delegation including senior officers from the Newspaper Society to focus on regional press issues. This was followed by the minister's House of Commons summit on regional news. The SoE highlighted regional newspapers' special problems on television and radio.

New Press Complaints Commission chairman Baroness Buscombe discussed the PCC's role in the converged industry, the threat posed by council newspapers and whether the PCC should regulate them, whether we should have one regulator for the whole of the media and what the PCC could do to move forward. It was a valuable meeting not least because Lady Buscombe gained insights from our broadcasting members.

### The police

Significant progress was made with ACPO when new guidelines on the release of images were issued that would hopefully deal with an area that has caused friction in many police areas. In effect the guide recommends routine release

of images unless there is a good reason for withholding them. We are continuing discussions with the Media Advisory Group about updating and simplifying the rest of the police media guidelines. The society also discussed public order events and the G20 report and interference with photographers.

We were able to cite examples of how the CPS/ACPO guidelines on the release of information from the courts has transformed court coverage. Openness has helped the CPS, the police, courts, and judges and helped to encourage greater public confidence in the legal system.

We took part in a Risk and Regulation Advisory Council forum on risk aversion within the police service. This involved work initially with the police following a request from Sir Ronnie Flanagan, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

### Other freedom issues

There have been several other major issues concerning media freedom during the year. The case against Milton Keynes reporter Sally Murrer was thrown out of court. It demonstrated that the police should think twice and be more careful about interfering with the media, freedom of expression and the public's right to know.

The society contributed to the House of Lords Communications Committee as part of their inquiry into the implementation of the Phillis Review of government communications. We responded to a consultation from the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Meanwhile, yet another parliamentary committee wanted to know whether there should be bans

on reporting during the financial and economic crises. The SoE response was understandably short!

The inquiry into Press Standards, Privacy and Libel was re-opened following Guardian allegations about the News of the World. Discussions will no doubt continue about improved definitions of justification for breaching the law or the code but the Editors' Code is already strict and has been further reviewed.

The DCMS Committee inquiry has also looked into the Future of Local and Regional Press and the society submitted evidence. This focused on issues such as the threat of council newspapers and the concerning decline in advertising.

### Sports coverage

The battle for sports editors to cover their local teams for the benefit of fans without undue hindrance or the need for complex contracts about football clubs' 'rights' came to a head last year in a row about coverage arrangements.

Briefed by the society, Andy Moger, of the News Media Coalition, had informal discussions with the Football League and Football DataCo to try to defuse the problem before it got out of hand. At the same time the society wrote to Lord Mawhinney, chairman of the Football League, suggesting a meeting to try to restore common sense that would allow local papers to continue covering their teams.

This year, again with only days to the new season the "crisis" concerned Football DataCo's web-based centralised system.

The News Media Coalition, on behalf of newspapers, agencies and sports journalists, and the SoE are raising the industry's concerns with Football DataCo.

### Suicides

The society had several meetings with Madeleine Moon MP, the Samaritans and other groups to discuss the reporting of suicides. We pointed to the strengthened clauses in the Editors' Code of Practice and PCC decisions regarding the need for care in the reporting of detail of suicides. We raised our concern that factual reporting by the news media should not be confused with dramatised portrayals of suicide in fiction. We have, however, reminded editors to look again at the Editors' Code and Samaritans' reporting guide.

### Battling on

Sometimes it feels like the Charge of the Light Brigade.

Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon in front of them  
Volley'd and thunder'd;  
Storm'd at with shot and shell.

But we shall not ride on into the Valley of Death. We are better organised and too strong for that and we will continue the battle to preserve Freedom for the media for all our members – and for the wider causes of freedom of expression and the public's right to know that are so important in a democracy.

### Robin Esser

Executive Managing Editor,  
Daily Mail  
Chairman, P & L Committee





# TRAINING COMMITTEE

THE activity of the training committee over the past year has focussed on course accreditation in a converging media world.

Responding to our membership and its need to recruit young journalists equipped with the necessary skills to work across publishing platforms rather than solely in the traditional areas of print, broadcast or magazines, the society took the initiative in bringing together the three traditionally platform specific accrediting bodies to establish a common approach to skills relating to convergence. Under the chairmanship of our former president, Simon Bucks, a working party met regularly. It was made up of Joanne Butcher, NCTJ, Jim Latham, BJTC, Loraine Davies, PTC, and, as well as Simon, Bob Satchwell, director, and myself, training committee chair, from the society.

The challenge was to ensure that employers knew what they were getting when they recruited from accredited courses, which, through clearly stated criteria and regular assessment of course curriculum, delivery and assessment underpin what is provided by universities, colleges and commercial training providers.

Employers and editors (members of the society) involved in recruitment of young journalists made it clear that in this new era of converged media it was not sufficient for recruits to have acquired skills in print, broadcast or magazine journalism. They needed overlapping skills to serve the websites most traditional single platform publishers were now providing, as well as the platform specific skills to the high standards the three accrediting bodies demanded.

The accrediting bodies have agreed collectively to integrate multi-media skills into their accreditation process.



Peter Cole

Earlier attempts by the three bodies to reach agreement on what these common (web directed) criteria should be were lost in detail, vested interest, concern about lowering traditional platform specific skills and differing structures and scales of operation.

There were also issues about the fact that just one of the accrediting bodies, the NCTJ, set its own exams which had to be taken in addition to those qualifying students for degrees and diplomas. There was also detectable concern among the bodies about a growing view that converged media might require converged accrediting bodies.

The society's working party has tried to steer a path through this complex area, insisting that it was not seeking to be a fourth accrediting body, or to interfere with the independence of the existing three. It sought only agreement from the three bodies that they would each expand their own criteria to embrace 'convergence skills'. It has been a long and at times tense debate, but it has ended with the three bodies achieving a closeness and acceptance of continuing dialogue that did not exist before. They have agreed collectively to integrate multi-media skills into their accreditation process.

This much debated list of skills, put forward by the society, is deliberately loosely defined, allowing both the accrediting bodies and the training providers room for interpretation and variation of delivery. But we have reached the stage where publishers can expect that when they recruit from an accredited course (whichever body it is accredited by) the journalist



being recruited will have knowledge of and skills in:

- Writing text for the website
- How to adapt and amplify material created for one platform - newspaper, magazine, radio or television - for use on the website
- How to prepare a basic video product for use on the website
- How to prepare a basic audio product or podcast for use on the website
- How to prepare a basic slide show or gallery of still pictures for use on the website
- How to load such material into a content management system for the website
- Awareness of search engine optimisation, what it means and how it can be exploited
- Awareness of alternative forms of publication of journalistic material such as SMS, RSS, social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter

The three accrediting bodies accept that these skills should be integrated into accredited training and have resolved to meet regularly to monitor progress.

Through the SoE editors will continue to remind the whole of the training sector of the need for this dialogue to continue.

It would be an exaggeration to say at this stage that media convergence is leading to accrediting body convergence, let alone merger. But the society's initiative has clearly set in train a necessary coming together of three bodies which in the past pursued very separate agendas.

**Peter Cole**  
Professor of Journalism,  
Sheffield University  
Chairman, Training  
Committee



# TREASURER'S REPORT

THE society finished the year 2008 in a healthy enough position. Members' funds stood at £107,500, only slightly below the sum deposited in the bank at the end of 2007. And, despite difficult trading times, these reserves have been maintained at an acceptable level throughout the first six months of the current year (£117,500 at the end of June).

Our income was £229,000 against a budget of £233,000 and we spent £216,000 against a planned £231,000.

Direct comparison with our performance in the previous trading year is difficult as, members will recall, during this period we adjusted our financial year from July through to June to January through to December. This was done to simplify our budgeting and accounting process, but to achieve the change it was necessary to extend the financial "year" by six months. Thus the audited financial statements reported in last year's Annual Review covered the 18 month period from July 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007.

But a trading profit of £13,052 for 2008 compared favourably with that of £20,352 audited for the previous 18 months. You won't find that profit figure in the accounts that follow, however, as the pre-tax profit has been adjusted by the auditors to £646. This adjustment relates to VAT payments. VAT in itself is extremely complicated – but for the society even more so because our income is derived from membership fees (which are VAT exempt), gifts and donations (which are zero rated), conference income (which is fully taxable at 15%) and purchases (which are part-exempt).

Because we pay no VAT on our main sources of income (membership and sponsorship), the society is deemed to be only partly exempt from paying tax on certain essential purchases it makes in pursuance of its business (a new office desk for example). In our accounts we have assumed more was "owing to us from Her Majesty's Revenue" on these items than was in fact the case.

New initiatives by the Board and funding from the NPA has brought positive benefits to members, particularly in the regional press.



Pat Pilton

Our auditors have therefore adjusted the final figures in the accounts to cover the past two years – i.e. transferred the "money" from the balance sheet as a debtor to the profit and loss account as an expense.

This is purely an accounting exercise and doesn't mean we spent any additional cash or that our reserves are any less. But it does mean that the business in 2008 has not put any new money into the bank. The auditors recommended that in future we adjust our VAT payment quarterly and this good practice has now been implemented.

We always knew that 2009 would be a difficult year both for the Society of Editors and for its membership, not least those working in the regional press. The board agreed at its meeting in January to actively explore ways to reduce the cost of membership, particularly for those working in the hard-pressed regional press, and also the cost of attending our annual conference. Positive steps in these recession-hit times from which a number of members will have already benefited.

Raising additional revenue was essential, however, if these initiatives were to come about, and our Executive Director is to be congratulated on his discussions with the Newspaper Publishers Association which has resulted in a generous donation of £100,000. Not all new money, as this will replace in part the £25,000 gifted annually by individual national newspaper groups, notably: Telegraph Media Group, Associated Newspapers, News International, Guardian Media Group and MGN.



But sufficient to enable the Board to introduce the savings to members ahead of this conference and the new membership year.

The board also agreed to increase the consultancy fee paid to our Executive Director to more correctly reflect his additional hours and workload as the society's activities expand and its public profile continues to grow. A recognition, too, of the unstinting commitment and energy Bob exudes on behalf of the society.

Even allowing for the new funding, the society continues to rely on a successful conference, one that entices compelling speakers,

encourages lively debate and, from the treasurer's perspective, ensures healthy delegate numbers. President Simon Bucks and the City of Bristol succeeded on every count.

My thanks once again to our finance officer Elena Tulenkova who produces, and makes sense of, all the figures, and to Bob, his secretariat team and the board for all their support. Doubtless we are all heading for another tough financial year, but we will continue to strive to keep society funds healthy while offering real value for money to our members.

**Pat Pilton**  
Treasurer



# ACCOUNTS

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 3047323**

**SOCIETY OF EDITORS  
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
31 DECEMBER 2008**

This is an extract from the full company accounts which are available for inspection at the society's office and on the website at [www.societyofeditors.org](http://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.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

R E Satchwell, P G Cole, R C Esser, S Egginton, P Horrocks, N Benson, P W Pilton, D Martin, A Watson, S Bucks, C McGhee, R Catlow, N Pickover, P L Charlton, A R Qualtrough, G M Dudman (Appointed 26 September 2008), N D Turner (Appointed 25 April 2008), F Unsworth (Appointed 10 November 2008), M R Sleight (Appointed 10 November 2008), S J Smith (Appointed 10 November 2008)

Company secretary R E Satchwell

Registered office University Centre, Granta Place, Cambridge, CB2 1RU

Auditor MacIntyre Hudson LLP  
Chartered Accountants &  
Registered Auditors, New Bridge  
Street House, 30-34 New Bridge  
Street, London, EC4V 6BJ

## THE DIRECTORS' REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 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.

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- the directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

## DONATIONS

During the year the company made the following contributions:

	Year to 31 December 2008 £	Period from 1 July 2006 to 31 December 2007 £
Charitable	1,233	10,200

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY OF EDITORS

OPINION - In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2008 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
- the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

MACINTYRE HUDSON LLP- Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors,  
New Bridge Street House, 30-34 New Bridge Street, London EC4V 6BJ

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

	Note	Year to 31 Dec 08 £	Period from 1 Jul 06 to 31 Dec 07 £
<b>TURNOVER</b>		<b>219,720</b>	<b>374,806</b>
<b>Administrative expenses</b>		<b>228,467</b>	<b>365,395</b>
<b>OPERATING (LOSS)/PROFIT</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(8,747)</b>	<b>9,411</b>
Interest receivable		9,407	10,941
Interest payable and similar charges		(14)	—
<b>PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION</b>		<b>646</b>	<b>20,352</b>
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	3	1,952	2,133
<b>(LOSS)/PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<b>(1,306)</b>	<b>18,219</b>











## NOTES TO THE PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

### 1 Sponsorship

This is in respect to the sponsorship income from The Joseph Rowntree Foundation, News International, Associated Newspapers, Trinity Mirror, Guardian Media Group and the Telegraph Group Ltd.

### 2 Conferences

This income relates to Bristol conference in 2008.

### 3 Secretariat

The sum of £51,924 (2007: £78,875) includes fees and re-imbursed expenses to Robert Satchwell in the sum of £40,754 (2007: £59,359), who is the company secretary.

### 4 Rent and Water Rates

This represents payments to University Centre in Cambridge.

### 5 Operations

This includes printing, stationery, telephone, catering, insurance, postage, bank charges sundry expenses, and irrecoverable input VAT under partial exemption.

### 6 Audit and Accountancy

Accountancy fees include payments to Elena Tulenkova for the provision of book-keeping services.

### 7 Parliamentary legal fees

The Newspaper Society has charged the Society £12,000 per annum for the provision of legal expertise.



# SOCIETY PROFILE



## 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 government and 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, the 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 and treasurer. An Advisory Council made up of senior figures in the industry offers advice and support.



## 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 their 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 Press Complaints Commission, the Editors' Code Committee, Defence Advisory Committee, the government's Media Emergencies Forum, the National Council for the Training of Journalists, regional training advisory committees, the Journalism Bursary Fund and the Information Users Group at the Department of Constitutional affairs.

The society works closely with other industry organisations and the Newspaper Society's government and regulatory affairs team provides legal and research support. The society supports the work of the Campaign for Freedom of Information.

The society also co-operates with the Central Office of Information and the Thompson Foundation and 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 and other public organisations. It regularly submits evidence and comments to parliamentary committees and the Competition Commission.

## INTERNATIONAL LINKS

The society has active links with FIEJ (International Federation of Newspaper Publishers) and is an associate member of World Editors Forum.

The society has long-standing relationships with the CPU Media Trust and ISWNE (International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors) covering the US and Canada. Their David Greenslade Bursary enables a member to visit North America.



## SOCIETY OFFICIALS

**President:** Nigel Pickover (from 10.11.08)

**Vice President:** Donald Martin (from 10.11.08)

**Immediate Past President:**  
Simon Bucks (from 10.11.08)

**Treasurer:** Pat Pilton

**Chairman, Training Committee:** Peter Cole

**Chairman, Parliamentary and Legal Committee:**  
Robin Esser

**Executive Director and Company Secretary:**  
Bob Satchwell

**Research Assistant:**  
Lily Brandhorst (until 20.2.09)  
Sharon Nall (from 18.3.09)

**Administrator:** Angela Varley

**Finance Officer:** Elena Tulenkova

**Board as at 30 June, 2009:**  
Neil Benson, Simon Bucks, Richard Catlow, Peter Charlton, Peter Cole, Graham Dudman, Steve Egginton, Robin Esser, Paul Horrocks, Charles McGhee, Donald Martin, Nigel Pickover, Pat Pilton, Moira Sleight, Sarah-Jane Smith, Nick Turner, Fran Unsworth, Tony Watson

**Advisory Council:**  
Kevin Beatty, Tim Bowdler, Robin Burgess, Mark Byford, Carolyn McCall, Paul Dacre, Paul Davidson, Bill Emmott, Ivan Fallon, David Fordham, John Fry, Philip Graf, Phil Harding, Les Hinton, Clive Jones, Murdoch MacLennan, Chris Oakley, Keith Parker, Michael Pelosi, Paul Potts, Richard Tait

**Fellows:**  
Ben Bradlee, Geoff Elliott, Walter Greenwood, Phil Harding, Bob Pinker, Peter Preston, Richard Tait, Tom Welsh

## Past Presidents:

Geoff Elliott, Neil Fowler, Edmund Curran, Liz Page, Jonathan Grun, Neil Benson, Keith Sutton, Charles McGhee, Paul Horrocks, Simon Bucks.

**Training Committee Chairman:** Peter Cole

## Members:

Neil Benson, Joanne Butcher, Drew Cochrane, Robert Cockcroft, Chris Elliott, Colin Grant, Liz Griffin, Jonathan Grun, Tony Johnston, Doug Melloy, Alan Powell, Marc Reeves, David Rowell, Chris Rushton, Peter Sands, Keith Stafford, Keith Sutton, Richard Tait, Rick Thompson.

**Parliamentary and Legal Committee Chairman:**  
Robin Esser

## Members:

John Battle, Ian Beales, Neil Benson, Nick Carter, Ed Curran, Chris Elliott, Jonathan Grun, David Jordan, Anthony Longden, Doug Melloy, Alan Powell, Peter Preston, Santha Rasaiah, Alan Rusbridger, Sue Ryan, John Spencer, Neil Wallis, Graham Dudman and Tony Jaffa.

## The following are ex officio members of the committees:

President, Vice President  
Immediate Past President  
Executive Director





## FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

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

## THE SOCIETY IN THE REGIONS

Each member of the society is assigned a region. Each regional organisation is autonomous and can decide how to organise itself so long as it signs up to the society's objectives. Regional meetings are organised to meet the requirements of members in those regions, if they so wish. They are encouraged to develop a programme with the help of head office.

## REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

### Eastern Region

Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, North Essex and Kettering. **Nigel Pickover, Editor, Evening Star, Ipswich** Tel: 01473 324785  
Email: [nigel.pickover@eveningstar.co.uk](mailto:nigel.pickover@eveningstar.co.uk)

### Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland

**Edmund Curran, Editor-in-Chief, Belfast Telegraph,** Tel: 02890 264400  
Email: [edmund.curran@belfasttelegraph.co.uk](mailto:edmund.curran@belfasttelegraph.co.uk)

### London & Home Counties

Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Berkshire, Central London, Greater London, Surrey, Kent, West and East Sussex, Essex (South). **Ms Hannah Walker, Editor in Chief, South London Press,** Tel: 0208 7106506  
Email: [hannahwalker@slp.co.uk](mailto:hannahwalker@slp.co.uk)

### Midlands

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Humberside south of River Humber, Peterborough, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Hereford and Worcester, West Midlands, Warwickshire, and Walspool and Banbury.

### North Western

Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Leek.  
**Richard Catlow**  
Email: [richardcatlow@hotmail.com](mailto:richardcatlow@hotmail.com)  
**Ken Bennett, Head of PR, Key 103,** 01457 820494,  
Email: [kd.bennett@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kd.bennett@yahoo.co.uk)

### Northern

Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham, Cleveland.  
**Malcolm Warne, Editor, Darlington & Stockton Times,**  
Tel: 01325 505109  
Email: [malcolm.warne@nne.co.uk](mailto:malcolm.warne@nne.co.uk)

### Scotland

**Julian Calvert, Journalism lecturer, Glasgow Caledonian University**  
Tel: 0141 331 3000,  
Email: [julian.calvert@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:julian.calvert@gcal.ac.uk)  
**Secretary: Donald Fullarton**  
Tel: 01436 673774,  
Email: [dsf@btinternet.com](mailto:dsf@btinternet.com)

### Wales

**Alastair Machray, Liverpool Echo,** Tel: 0151 2272000  
Email: [alastair.machray@liverpoolecho.co.uk](mailto:alastair.machray@liverpoolecho.co.uk)  
**Spencer Feeney, Editor, South Wales Evening Post,** Tel: 01792 510000  
Email: [spencer.feeney@swwp.co.uk](mailto:spencer.feeney@swwp.co.uk)

### Wessex

Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, parts of Somerset, Newbury, Reading, Salisbury and Wokingham.  
**Ian Murray, Editor, The Southern Daily Echo**  
Tel: 02380 424777  
Email: [ianmur@soton-echo.co.uk](mailto:ianmur@soton-echo.co.uk)  
Email: [joe.scicluna@andoveradvertiser.co.uk](mailto:joe.scicluna@andoveradvertiser.co.uk)

### Western

Gloucestershire, Avon, parts of Somerset, Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall.  
**Steve Egginton**  
Tel: 01761 463888, 07768991997  
Email: [steve.egginton@btinternet.com](mailto:steve.egginton@btinternet.com)

### Yorkshire

South, West and North Yorkshire, and Humberside north of River Humber.  
**Peter Charlton, Editor, Yorkshire Post,** Tel: 0113 2432701  
Email: [peter.charlton@ypn.co.uk](mailto:peter.charlton@ypn.co.uk)

# SOCIETY OF EDITORS AGM

NOTICE OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER AT 6.00 PM AT THE RADISSON BLU HOTEL, LONDON STANSTED

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 Thursday 30 October 2009. 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](http://www.societyofeditors.org) or from the executive director. To be valid a proxy must be received at the society office no later than on Thursday 30 October 2009 or at the Radisson Hotel by 12 noon on Saturday 14 November.

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 10th November, 2008.
4. ACCOUNTS: To receive and, if approved, adopt the accounts for the financial year up to 31 December, 2008.
5. ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009: To receive and, if approved, adopt the Annual Report.
6. RE-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS: To approve the re-appointment of MacIntyre Hudson as auditors for the forthcoming year.
7. To approve the co-option of Sarah Jane Smith, Editor, Shropshire Star, Fran Unsworth, Head of Newsgathering, BBC, Moira Sleight, Managing Editor, Methodist Recorder as members of the board of directors and to approve the election of Simon Bucks and Peter Charlton for a further term as ordinary board members.
8. To record the society's thanks to retiring board members for their service: Steve Egginton, Charles McGhee, Alan Qualtrough
9. To note and approve the re-appointment by the board of Pat Pilton as treasurer.
10. To note and approve the re-appointment by the board of Bob Satchwell as executive director and company secretary.
11. To elect the president for the year 2009-2010 – Donald Martin, Editor-in-Chief, Herald & Times Group, Glasgow is the unanimous nomination of the board.
12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will take place in the autumn of 2010 at a time and venue to be confirmed.
13. Any other business

Society of Editors  
[www.societyofeditors.org](http://www.societyofeditors.org)



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