



## Newsletter 2010

### A few changes to the Board of Management:

Due to the retirement of George Aston [Trustee] there has been an internal shuffle to the Board of Management with the following results:

Chairman [Jan 2010-May2010]	Rodney Packer
Chairman [Jun 2010]	Stewart Guyan
Chief Executive	Peter Hambelton
Secretary	Terence Plaw
Asst. Secretary	Andrew Cluett MSc,MRICS,MAPM
Treasurer	D. Page
Trustee	John Briggs
Trustee	Anthony Verrill FRICS
Trustee	Keith White F Int L Ex
Board Member	Rodney Packer

Keith White has additional duties in that he is a Legal Executive specialising in landlord and tenant law and is therefore more than qualified to advise the Board of Management on such matters.

Anthony Verrill has additional duties, he advises the Board in his capacity as a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

### **Our outside professionals and consultants**

Auditors	Robert Heasman LLB,FCCA Hedley Dunk Chartered Accountants Trinity House, 3 Bullace Lane, Dartford, Kent. DA1 1BB
Appropriate Actuary	Christopher Critchlow BSc FIA OAC Actuaries and Consultants Pond House, Mill Lane, Marston Village Oxford OX3 0PY
Fund Manager	Nick Murphy BA(Hons), ASIP Quilter St. Helen's, 1 Undershaft London EC3A 8BB
Compliance issues	Paul Protheroe BSc(Hons) FCIB

Positive Insight  
Teasel Barn, Green Lane  
Turliegh, Bradford-on –Avon  
Wiltshire BA15 2HH

### **Grants**

There is a cut off date for all claims as in previous years and that will be 11AM Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010 any receipts for discretionary grants received after this time and date will be put against 2011. Don't ask, the answer will be no and no you cannot carry what you haven't claimed this year to next year.

### **Half Yearly Meeting Change**

Please note with immediate effect the Half Yearly General Meeting has been changed from the first Friday in November to the last Friday in October, so the meeting will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010 not the 5<sup>th</sup> November.

The date should give you some idea as to the reason for the change. The meeting always coincided with the local council's firework display and causes difficulty both getting to the meeting and the inevitable parking problems, so for this reason and as we were unable to get the council to move Guy Fawkes night we had to change our meeting night instead.

### **The effects of the present financial climate:**

As you are all aware the economic pressures are on everyone at the moment and I believe there is worse to come. The investment portfolio took a hit in 2008 as did the property values but made a good recovery in 2009. The Board of Management have continued to work hard to maintain the profitability of the Society in order that we can continue to meet our obligations to you our members. This is a perpetual task, one which needs continuous monitoring and adjusting.

The Board have decided as a result of these continual reviews to look at the membership numbers and alternative methods of paying subscriptions. After careful consideration it was decided that in these hard economic times the Board of Management would scrap the waiting list for membership and allow an expansion of the membership base.

The other change thought necessary was that of paying for your membership. It was agreed with immediate effect that contributions could continue to be paid quarterly, half yearly or yearly by cash, cheque or standing order. In addition subscriptions would now be able to be paid by standing order monthly

Age next Birthday	Monthly £	Quarterly £	Half Yearly £	Yearly £
17-20	8.50	25.50	51.00	102.00
21-27	9.50	28.50	57.00	114.00
28-35	10.50	31.50	63.00	126.00
36-40	11.50	34.50	69.00	138.00
41-45	12.50	37.50	75.00	150.00
46-50	13.50	40.50	81.00	162.00
51-55	14.50	43.50	87.00	174.00

How to work out your standing order payments

1. Select your right age bracket
2. Decided which method of payment you wish to make either,

- Monthly, quarterly, half yearly or yearly.
3. Enclose the right amount of premium with your completed application Form.
  4. Set up your standing order for the same amount to be deducted from your bank at the intervals and the day you have chosen for payment.
  5. Remember that premiums being paid monthly must be paid by standing order all other payment periods can be paid standing order, cash or cheque.

In the hope that this will encourage people to join without the burden of a full year's premiums having to be paid I have enclosed with this newsletter an application form together with a standing order form. Its easy, completed application form back to the Society, completed standing order form to your bank. The rest as they say can be left to the more than capable members of staff to process your application.

I speak for the Board of Management in saying that this has been the toughest two years economically since the Second World War. With wide spread fears that the dysfunctional banking system could put us into economic depression. Central banks responded by reducing the interest rates effectively to zero and the availability of credit proved to be as critical as the price. It took a series of unorthodox and unprecedented quantitative easing measures [QE] before limited confidence was restored.

With all the turmoil of the market place during 2009 it comes as a great and pleasant relief to the Board of Management that we came out the other end with an increase in value of 17.2% in our investment portfolio, against our specialist bench mark of 18.7%.

So we did not do as well as our benchmark for the reason that it reflects our lack of exposure to the more cyclical, higher risk assets during a period of strong recovery. Considering the economic climate The Board of Management believes the Fund Manager is to be commended for his efforts. Where else would you get 17.2% return on your investments, certainly not from the banks?

The property markets were also in disarray with property values running down hill, at the end of 2008 but increasing ever so slightly in value during 2009. The value of the Society's property portfolio was at the 31/12/08 £12.9m and by the 31/12/09 that had risen to £13.6m only £0.3m being added by way of revaluation.

The Society did not sit still during 2009 with four new 2 bed roomed houses and a 2 bed roomed flat being built on land already owned by the Society and being occupied by 26 lockup garages. The cost of demolishing the garages plus the value of the land and the build would cost approx £626,000.

These properties were not completed in time to be registered in the Society's balance sheet at the end of 2009. The build was completed in March 2010. However I will advise you that the valuation for these properties is set at £750,000. The rental income from these properties is £3,375 per month, £40,500 per annum.

### **Fraud**

Unfortunately as the financial belt is tightened it seems to be the easy option to try and get a little extra cash from falsifying insurance claims. Anglo-Saxons is not exempt from the fraudsters. They will do what ever they have to do to make a quick buck. Some attempts are so stupid as to make one believe that they are having a laugh.

A classic little stab at making a few pounds like changing a figure 0 to a 6 or an 8 to make less than ten pounds, or putting a number in front of another to make it 121 instead of 21 usually on a receipt that has check up written on it, would you pay £121.00 for a check up at a dentist. Then to add insult to injury they couldn't even be bothered to use the same colour ink.

Random checks are carried out at the practitioners to ascertain if the receipt has been tampered with in any way shape or form. The Society does have quite a good success rate with detecting fraud.

One particular fraud involved a dentist's receipt book being used to write their own receipts out. The dentist was completely unaware that a member of his staff was writing receipts out for their friends and family for a small consideration, so that they could claim money from the Society.

Although at first you admire their ingenuity and tenacity you cannot allow money which belongs to you the members to be stolen. The Society has a duty of care and to take all necessary steps to protect its member's funds.

I have made a request to the Board of management for permission to change the way in which the Society deals with fraud, I have asked for permission where fraud is proven, to involve the Police, so that a case can be put before the Crown Prosecution Service and to bring a case for obtaining money by deception before the Courts.

### **Accounts**

**Should anyone wish a full set of accounts please contact the office.**