

## **President's Report 2018-2019**

**It was a very great honour to be elected as your President for the past year. This is the fourth time that I have led this local Law Society, which is moving towards its' 60<sup>th</sup> birthday next year, since 1997.**

**The past 12 months or so have not been easy for the profession. There have been constraints on public funding and ever-increasing costs, scrutiny and regulation with which all solicitors have to absorb and cope. However, this Law Society is thriving and has had, I would submit, a successful year.**

**Unfortunately, my personal health problems over the past few months gave rise to issues with which the Committee and Officers dealt – rising to that challenge with admirable ability. My sincere thanks go to them for their support and willingness to step into the breach when required, sometimes at very short notice.**

**The events over the past year have been varied and interesting; those members who missed them, missed hearing about and discussing many complex issues of relevance to the West London legal community, missed some extremely interesting events.**

**We held events in connection with family law issues, financial planning, entertainment at a jazz event hosted by a former President Michael Simmons, and the start of my series of events titled 'An Evening With ...' hosted at the University of Law and at 4 Field Court in Gray's Inn.**

**We heard from Jerry Hayes who prosecuted the Liam Allan case which collapsed due to disclosure failures – and he gave us all a very interesting, forthright and sometimes humorous explanation about what went wrong with the case and how the criminal justice system is in chaos.**

**We also hosted An Evening with Milton Jones and we certainly were both entertained and informed about his views on life, lawyers and humour ... and his various grandfathers!**

**I also attended the annual Presidents and Secretaries conference and heard much about networking and how to make the best use of social media to promote local law societies. Our Twitter feed @WLonLawSoc contains advance notice of events and points of interest. Follow us if you can.**

**Our annual Xmas party, generously sponsored as before, was another tour de force and I look forward to the next one in December.**

**We have links with the University of Law and have offered to lecture to students who will form part of the next generation of lawyers. We are also moving forward in setting a topic and date for the West London Law Society prize essay.**

**There is one note of sadness, our former President [1984] and life member, Maurice Nadeem, passed away and we offer to his family our condolences for their sad loss. He was ever a stalwart member of the committee and a source of much wisdom, he will be sadly missed.**

**This local Law Society would not function if we did not have support from Council Members and our committee to whom I offer my thanks for helping me and the Society over the past year.**

**However, all the effort is for nothing if the membership does not contribute and I hope to see more members and additions to the committee during the forthcoming year.**

**I must finish this Report by repeating my sincerest thanks to the committee all for their hard work – the West London Law Society will move onwards and upwards; from strength to strength in the coming years.**

**Julian**