

THE ACADEMY OF EXPERTS

Volume 28 - Issue 4

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Members Information

All of The Academy's information is available to Members from the Resources page of the website.

This includes:

- ☐ Guidance
- ☐ Publications
- ☐ Reports
- ☐ Model Terms of Engagement

This and past editions of 'update' are available from:
www.academyofexperts.org

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'update'

From the Chairman



Santa you're on mute!

The end of the year is when we often look back and from there look forward.

2020 has been a brutal year for many and difficult for all.

We worried, we cried, we lost loved ones, we clapped in the street on a Thursday. We stayed at home, we home-schooled, we learned how little we remembered from our own schooling. We painted rainbows, we Zoomed (a lot), we stayed 2m apart, we learnt that some cannot measure distance. We learnt new skills, we took up new hobbies, we took exercise locally, we took no exercise. We wore masks – on our chins, our necks, under our noses, not at all, sometimes covering everything it should.

We locked down, we opened up, we fire-break'd, we locked down again... and again.... We formed bubbles, we lived in bubbles, we extended bubbles, we burst some bubbles. We visited: in other people's gardens; in 'hospitality' over a substantial meal, we learned that a small salad transformed a pastie into a substantial meal.

We rubbed ourselves in alcohol, we washed our hands, we cleaned hard surfaces, we washed our hands again, we panic bought toilet rolls

and anything in cans. We should have bought shares in Amazon and every food delivery company. We shopped online, we clicked n collected, we visited foodbanks, we donated to foodbanks, we should not need foodbanks. We classified essential workers, we recognised the need for that essential contribution, we applauded their contribution, how did we reward that contribution?

Some drove to test their eyesight; non-essential journey's became 'necessary' eyesight tests. We were put into tiers, we moved between tiers, there was a different tier at the end of the street, there was the same tier across there, but it had different restriction than the tier over here, we don't understand tiers.

We worked from home, we peered into other people's homes, we discovered virtual backgrounds to stop people peering into our homes. We saw too many pets' bums in front of camera lenses, children ran in, children had tantrums and children cried, children were children. We forgot our camera was on, we forgot our mic was off. Can you hear me, can you see my slides, is Jonathan on the call? Who is Jonathan?

continued inside...

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From the Chairman cont...

We were furloughed, we struggle, we rage, we despair. We found community, we helped strangers, we supported each other. We attended too many funerals, we stood in the street to pay our respects because we could not all attend. We postponed, we re-arranged, we went virtual. We dressed from the waist up, some stood up, some of that went viral, we can never unsee that, we went nowhere.

Whoosh Zoom!!!

Santa's sanctuary in the run up to Christmas may have been to turn off his hearing aid. Even then he still had to contend with the issue of squirming, often damp and dribbly, kids.

Enter Zoom and socially distanced, dry, interaction with small children from behind the comfort and safety of a protective LCD screen with a mute button. We adapt. Out of that necessity we may find some small benefit, even while we lose something in the process.



Photo Courtesy Stephanie Rues, Huron Daily Tribune 30-Nov-18

Throughout the year I have paid tribute to the staff, Executive and Council of The Academy for the commitment, agility and dedication that has been at the heart of The Academy's adaptation in the face of ongoing uncertainty and moving restrictions as we find ways to deliver meaningful support and value to members. I would like to express that again here. It has been my honour to be Chairman of The Academy and witness the resilience of our members and our

organisation during this period. I look forward to consolidating the benefits we have developed out of necessity in 2020 and to building on those in 2021 whilst re-establishing what has been lost when restrictions start to dissipate.

2020 will have a lasting impact on all of us and how we interact with each other and the wider world both on a personal and business level.

Looking forward, we now have delivery of the first vaccine in the UK and progressively around the world, with more to follow. The logistics of delivering that to everyone that wants it is challenging and will take many months. That is not a cure all but a significant step forward from where we are and where we have been in 2020. It is important that we all continue to be cautious and responsible in our interactions and behaviours and look after each other. In the words of Janey Godley "Let's put on our emotional lifejackets and help keep each other afloat".

I wish everyone a much better 2021 and I hope that Santa and all his subordinate clauses [I know!] are good to you.

Stay safe,

Derek Nelson QDR FAE
Chairman
December 2020



Member Discounts

We would like to let you know that members can now get discounts on our entire range of Inspiron desktops, Inspiron 3000 & 5000 series, Alienware, Dell Gaming and XPS ranges featured in our www.dell.co.uk/forhome area of the site.

This is in addition to discounts of up to 20% on all laptops, desktops and accessories in the www.dell.co.uk/forwork area.

Please refer to your members area of your Association site on how to secure these discounts.

AGM Minutes

Minutes of The Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday 14th October 2020.

Present: D Nelson – Chairman, in the Chair and Members

Apologies: The President, Deputy President, Vice Presidents, Messrs Allen, Gardner-Thorpe, Owen, Tonkin

The Chairman welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

1 Minutes of AGM held on Thursday 10th October 2020

The minutes of the AGM were adopted.

2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had prepared a written report which was circulated and would be published on the members area of the website. There were no questions to the Chairman.

The Chairman's report was adopted nem con.

4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts. He reported that there was a small deficit of just over £5000 which was in large part due to a provision for the increase in rent which was not known at the time the accounts were prepared. The rent has subsequently been agreed. The Academy is still in a positive financial position. There were no questions to Treasurer.

The adoption of the annual accounts was proposed and they were adopted by the meeting nem con.

5 To appoint the Auditors for the year 2019-2020

The Treasurer stated that the Executive would like to propose Greenaways as the auditors for the coming year. They had completed the last few audits for the Academy. The meeting agreed nem con that Greenaways be reappointed as auditors.

6 Election of Officers

The Secretary stated that nominations were as follows:

- ☐ Chairman Derek Nelson
- ☐ Deputy Chairman Ben Johnson
- ☐ Vice Chairman Mike Allen
Nigel Young
- ☐ Secretary Paul England
- ☐ Treasurer Joe Skilton

They were declared elected.

7 Election of Council Members

The Secretary stated that there were 4 vacancies for Council. The following were duly elected.

- ☐ Charles Claoue
- ☐ John Cock
- ☐ Michael Rocks
- ☐ Michael Tonkin

8 Subscriptions

The Treasurer stated that it was Council's recommendation was that the annual subscription should be increased by not more than 5% rounded. The Treasurer stated that it was hoped that any subscription increase would, particularly in the current climate be kept to the minimum. This was agreed.

9 Any Other Business

The Chairman thanked all members of the Council and in particular those who are retiring from office for their contribution over the last year.

Ben Johnson, Deputy Chairman, on behalf of the membership proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his efforts for the Academy in what has been a very difficult year.

The meeting closed.

External Events

One new feature of the website is the ability to advertise 'external events' on behalf of other organisations.

If you, or your professional organisation, are running an event that you think might be of interest to Academy members please contact the office so we can make arrangements for you.

DIARY, NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Fees for Expert Witnesses

The Legal Aid Agency has recently updated its guidance for Expert Witnesses in legal aid cases. The guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/expert-witnesses-in-legal-aid-cases>

Expert Witness Fee Survey

Our Expert Witness Fee Survey, launched last month, has had a great response but we would like to have over 500 responses to make this a truly representative piece of work. We have, therefore, decided to extend the deadline for submissions until the end of the month. If you have not yet completed the survey please take five minutes now to do so.

<https://academyofexperts.org/expert-witness-fee-survey-2020/>

Whether you are a sole trader or work in a large multi-national we want to hear from you and your colleagues so please share the link with other experts far and wide.

That Was the Year

Despite the Chairman's Lunch now not proceeding at the end of January the annual seminar 'That Was The Year That Was 2020' is still going ahead as planned.

Taking place in its traditional slot on the last Friday of January the seminar will be taking place online. See the TAE website to book your place.

Office Closing

The TAE Office will be closed over the holiday season from 24th December until 4th January.

If you have an urgent enquiry during this period please email us in the usual way but do bear in mind that we may not be able to respond immediately.

Mediation Guidelines

Attached to this edition of 'update' is an advance copy of a new guidance note for Expert Witnesses participating in Commercial Mediations.

The guidance is primarily aimed at Experts who participate on the instruction of a party in a commercial mediation taking place in England and Wales but will be of use to anyone participating in Commercial Mediation anywhere in the world.

The formal launch of the guidance will be in the new year.



ADR Working Group

Earlier this month a new TAE ADR Working Group met. With the intention of regular meetings the Working Group aims to drive forwards TAE's work with all forms of ADR.

If you were unable to attend the meeting or would like more information please contact the office. The next meeting of the Working Group will be on Tuesday 12th January.

Diary Dates

December

Thursday	17	➤ Chocolate & Wine Tasting
Thursday	24	TAE Office Closed
Friday	25	Christmas Day
Saturday	26	Boxing Day
Monday	28	Boxing Day Bank Holiday
Thursday	31	New Years Eve

2021

January

Friday	1	New Year's Day
Monday	4	TAE Office Reopens
Tuesday	12	➤ ADR Working Group
Tuesday - Friday	19-22	➤ Foundation Course
Tuesday - Wednesday	26-27	➤ Law & Procedure
Friday	29	➤ That was the Year that was 2020 - online

February

Tuesday	2	➤ Into Court
Tuesday	9	➤ ADR Working Group
Wednesday	10	➤ Member Meeting

March

Wednesday	10	➤ Member Meeting
Thursday	25	➤ CI Arb East Anglia Meeting

April

Friday	2	Good Friday
Monday	5	Easter Monday
Wednesday	14	➤ Member Meeting

May

Monday	3	May Day Bank Holiday
Wednesday	12	➤ Member Meeting - Joint with CI Arb
Monday	31	Spring Bank Holiday

June

Wednesday	9	➤ TAE Council
Wednesday	9	➤ President's Dinner

Unless otherwise shown all courses/meetings will be held online until further notice.

Some training courses are held as half day sessions - full details online.

TAE dates are published in the **Events Calendar** - www.academyofexperts.org

Key to events:

- Academy Courses
- Academy Events & Meetings
- External/Joint/Supported Events