

Editor's Note - 1 When Ken Blessley agreed to complete the ALAVES story it was decided by the new Local Authority Valuers Association that it would be printed, together with the first instalment, and circulated to members. Both parts have been printed unamended, the only liberty I have taken with the text has been to combine the appendices. As reprinting necessitated retyping any subsequent errors and omissions are my responsibility.

Barry Searle, 1987

Editor's Note - 2 As part of the preparation of "A Century Surveyed", Ken Blessley's tour de force has been revisited. The document has been converted into computer text and is reproduced herewith, albeit in a much smaller and condensed typeface in order to reduce the number of pages.

Colin Bradford, 2009

ALAVES - 1949-1986

Kenneth Blessley

The story of the Association of Local Authority Valuers & Estate Surveyors, 1949-1986. Compiled by Kenneth Blessley from minutes, memories and materials supplied by some members.

may well be inaccuracies. These can, of course, be corrected if they are of any significance. The final version will, it is hoped, be carefully conserved in the records of the Association so that possibly some future member may be prepared to carry out a similar exercise in perhaps ten years' time. The circulation of the story is limited, largely because of expense, but also because of the lesser interest of the majority of the current membership in what happened all those years ago. I have therefore, confined the distribution list to the present officers and committee members, past presidents, and others who have held office for a significant period.

1. HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The start of my exercise was somewhat discouraging, when it became apparent that all the original files prior to 1954 had gone missing. Fortunately Fred Ridge was able to provide an almost complete set of minutes which, together with some early correspondence from Fred Dawson and Dick Shepherd's account of the initial meetings, provided sufficient material to arrive at what I believe to be a fair account of this initial period.

It seems reasonably certain, that the basic justification for forming this Association was the Local Government Act of 1948, with the consequential transfer of rating functions from local authorities to the Inland Revenue. Prior to this there had been two Societies - the County Borough Valuers' and Metropolitan Borough Valuers' Association and the County Valuers' Association - both principally interested and concerned in rating matters. Clearly there were those who saw at an early stage the need, and indeed desirability, of forming a different kind of body covering a wider field of professional activity. I am personally quite satisfied that the main driving force in these early months was without doubt William Rothwell of Sheffield, although some competing claims have been registered by other "contacts".

The real beginning was probably on 13 June 1949, when five "conveners" (ominous word) got together at the RICS to discuss what action should, or indeed could, be taken. There is no minute of this meeting or of who attended, although it seems reasonably certain that Rothwell, James (Bristol) and Shepherd (Plymouth) were there, and possibly Cane (Chelsea), Walker (London) and Daniels (Croydon), the

PART 1: 1949-1977

Foreword

I think I must emphasise right at the outset that this is a purely personal account of the activities of the Association during this period, for which there has been no formal authority. It follows, therefore, that I take full responsibility for any of the statements and opinions expressed. The basic motivation was the growing realisation that fewer and fewer of the older members in terms of service with the Association were still active and that there was a danger of a considerable amount of interesting material, almost in the nature of archives, being lost. Much of the story had to be pieced together from available papers, recollection by founder members and past presidents, and my own not too reliable memory. There are undoubtedly gaps and there

latter somehow getting in on the action. The only other established fact is that Rothwell subsequently wrote a circular letter on about 17 June to all those who were potentially considered as being interested in forming such a new Association.

The outcome of this exploratory letter was the first Ordinary General Meeting on 30 June 1949, also held at the RICS. Here again there is sadly no record of those who attended, but it would seem that amongst those present were: Cane; Daniels; Haynes (Dover); Hill (Coventry); Hubbard (Suffolk); James; Logsdon (Somerset); Piper (Berkshire); Rothwell; Shepherd; Toole (London) and Walker. On this occasion, however, a minute of the proceedings has survived and the decisions taken included:

1. Rothwell appointed as Chairman of the meeting;
2. An Association of Local Authority Valuers and Estate Surveyors to be formed;
3. Housing managers to be excluded;
4. Membership to be limited to Principal Officers and Deputies;
5. The constitution to be drafted by a Sub-Committee of seven members.

A second OGM followed on 30 November, again at the RICS, but unfortunately once more there is no record of what took place. However, it seems that the constitution prepared by the Sub-Committee was adopted and rules agreed, with an annual subscription of two guineas. Twenty two founder members were named and at this early stage it is, I think, worth setting out the full list of those names with their authorities:-

- G A Severne Attack Nottinghamshire
- A Auffleck Northamptonshire
- G R Carter Hampshire
- T G Daniels^[1] Croydon
- F W Dawson Gloucestershire
- P H Hart^[2] York
- R G Haynes^[3] Dover
- V F Hill Coventry
- F F Hubbard Suffolk
- W A James Bristol
- E R Puleston Jones Montgomeryshire
- H Stewart Logsdon Somerset
- J P Moyle Derby
- P J Piper Berkshire
- F Ridge Coventry
- W H Rothwell Sheffield
- D Ivor Saunders Swansea
- W K Shepherd Plymouth
- J E J Toole London
- C H Walker London
- A S Wallis^[4] Marylebone
- R Whipp^[5] Derbyshire

The significance of the numbers against five of these founders is that in subsequent lists published with the printed constitution they were omitted. This was presumably because, for the reasons set out below, they disappeared from the Association at a fairly early stage.

1 Daniels - Entered private practice June 1953. Removed from membership.
 2 Hart - Removed from membership November 1950, reason not stated.
 3 Haynes - Transferred to Inland Revenue May 1950.
 4 Wallis - Resigned May 1950 - change of post.
 5 Whipp - Resigned October 1952 on health grounds.

From subsequent minutes it also seems that at the November 1949 meeting, officers and an Executive Committee were elected as follows:-

- President: Rothwell
- Vice-President: James
- Honorary Secretary: Toole
- Honorary Treasurer: Auffleck
- Committee: Daniels, Logsdon, Piper and Walker

In effect this team was to serve through until the second Annual General Meeting in 1951.

2. FIVE FORMATIVE YEARS: 1950-1954

This next section covers the establishing period of the Association when the future pattern of meetings was settled, a pattern which has basically undergone very little change since that time.

In 1950 four Ordinary General Meetings were held, divided between County Hall and the RICS with the first AGM in November at County Hall. The membership reached 29 by that time, but those who have held office as Honorary Secretary might be interested in a comment made by the then President at one meeting complaining that only eleven members had attended, ten had apologised and eight had not bothered to reply - a picture not altogether unfamiliar in proportionate terms today. Well known names added to the membership list during that year included John Soloman, Essex, and Monty Paine, Paddington.

At the AGM the President forecast that the total membership might rise to 100, but Stewart Logsdon was far more cautious. It was thought that probably all the county possibilities had by then joined, which seems rather surprising in view of the total numbers, but clearly the borough representation was very thin. It was agreed, therefore, to have a recruitment drive aimed at the clerks of authorities not represented, and it is perhaps worth recording that the then Middlesex County Clerk declined the invitation, probably because of the personal relationship of the County Valuer with a number of the primary movers behind the new Association. It was decided at one of the Ordinary General Meetings to seek recognition by the County Councils Association and the Association of Municipal Corporations.

The first business transacted at the February meeting was a paper by Joe Toole on Development Charges and the 1947 Act, and reading the account of the meeting makes it difficult to believe just how different the situation in land cost terms was at that time. Other papers were read by James on Rating problems which had hung over from the 1948 Act, and there was also the start of an ongoing debate lasting for many years on salaries of valuers.

The first AGM at County Hall was addressed by Mr A W Scott, the Deputy Chairman of the LCC, and although there had been earlier talk of a dinner in the evening at which ladies and guests were to be invited, there is no record of what actually happened.

The next year, 1951, followed on very similar lines, although unfortunately the minutes of the 9th meeting are missing. By the end of that year, as a result of new additions and some losses, the membership had crept up to 33, with the names of Newman Colledge and Gamble appearing for the first time.

The Executive Committee was very pleased to report at an early meeting that recognition of the Association had been formally accorded by the CCA, the AMC and the RICS.

During this session there was only one outstanding technical paper at the April meeting by Dick Shepherd on the reconstruction of the city centre of Plymouth, which served, of course, as an introduction to the subsequent visit during his Presidency. The other main topic of discussion was this question of valuers' salaries and inevitably how

these could be improved. Local authority valuers were outside the 'big five' and there was much discussion as to how membership of the NJC could be achieved and whether, indeed, this was worthwhile. It was understood that the Council was currently considering the salaries of chief officers not yet dealt with above a limit of £1,000 per annum. It was decided at one of the meetings that representations should be made to the local authority associations and to the Public Officers' Committee of the RICS.

The second AGM was held at the RICS headquarters with a guest speaker, Michael Rowe. There was a luncheon adjournment taken at County Hall and one other official guest was recorded, Mr Simpson, the President of the Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers. In his annual report the President referred to discussions with the County Land Agents' Association, where it had not been possible to take the matter very much further. "Plus ça change".

There was one change in the officers, in that Cyril Walker was elected President, presumably because James was in poor health. James in fact retained his Vice-Presidency, but only after a ballot, and I do not think that this situation has occurred again in the history of the Association.

All the meetings in 1952 took place at County Hall, and indeed, apart from Summer Meetings, this was to continue until the Association had to go elsewhere during the completion of the making good of war damage at County Hall. The average attendance at meetings was between 16 and 20 and the total membership again remained static, with some resignations and a few additions including Paul Susman of Great Yarmouth, subsequently Luton, and Alastair Jamieson of Devon. Consideration was given to the eligibility of Chief Estates Officers of New Towns, which was eventually found to be in order, although for a time there were no takers. The Association was delighted to congratulate Cyril Walker on the award of the CBE in the New Year's Honours List.

Business transacted was mainly in respect of members' enquiries, which covered a wide variety of items such as the rating of municipal car parks, fees on abortive negotiations and the relationship of controlled rents to capital values. All these various queries generated very active discussion. The only paper which was read was, rather strangely, by Rothwell on Swedish housing. He had apparently made a visit to that country and spoke rather disparagingly about the complete lack of "entertainment" there.

Once again salaries and the relationship of the Association with NALGO was an ongoing item and it was reported that the RICS was prepared to give evidence to the appropriate Government Committee on the status of valuers in relation to other chief officers but was not willing to act as a wage-negotiating body - an attitude which was considered to be reasonable. It was agreed that a representative should be appointed to the NJC, and this was Moyle. There then came the problem of Section 129 of the Local Government Act 1948 and its effect on the recognition of the Association by local authorities, with the linked question of income tax allowance. After some lengthy consideration it was decided that recognition was more important than negotiating salaries and it was decided, therefore, that in future the Association should not involve itself in such activities. It therefore withdrew from the NJC.

There were 20 present at the third AGM and the Honorary Treasurer had recommended that on this occasion lunch should be free to members in view of the credit balance. There was a recommendation that a Presidential badge should be purchased. Guests at lunch made a more impressive list, with several first appearances of holders of posts or appointments with a familiar ring: Mr Pritchard, the Vice-chairman of the LCC, was there, together with Sir Howard Roberts, the Clerk, and Randall, his Deputy (who was to become a regular); Michael Rowe, Lockwood, the President-elect of the Rating and Valuation Officers' Association, Brigadier Killick, the Secretary of the RICS, and F C Hawkes, Secretary of the CAEAI.



Ken Blessley in 1976

The appointments made included James as President, Logsdon as Vice-President, and Rothwell, Shepherd and Piper on the Executive Committee. The President suggested that one meeting in the year should be in the President's town and he indicated that he would be delighted to welcome the Association to Bristol in June. There was some opposition to this idea on the ground that Bristol was too far from London, but after a certain amount of confusion it was apparently eventually agreed that this suggestion should be implemented.

1953 was rather a static year, with virtually no change in the membership and the level of attendance. One major event was a paper read at the AGM by an outside speaker, Richard Costain, the Chairman of the Harlow Development Corporation, on the general subject of the New Towns. There was also a very interesting discussion on the Lands Tribunal award in respect of the Marylebone Baths case involving the LCC, where a claim had been submitted of about £500,000, an offer of just under £60,000 made, and the Tribunal awarded £81,000. Toole had quite a lot of comments to make about the background to the valuations. Many topics were discussed arising from members' queries, with the emphasis rather on rating, schools, car parks, pumping stations, for example.

The Association badge was purchased for £90 and James, the President, was invested appropriately at the Summer Meeting in Bristol. This meeting was restricted to members, but the guests at lunch at the Grand Hotel included the Lord Mayor, the City Treasurer and a certain Mr H H Moore. The afternoon was taken up by a tour around Avonmouth Docks.

At the lunch which followed the fourth AGM, the Association for the first time entertained, amongst their guests, the Presidents of the RICS, the CAEAI and the RVA. One also noted the name of Frank Othick amongst the company present.

Stewart Logsdon became President; Piper Vice-President; Dawson, Rothwell, Soloman and Toole made up the Executive Committee.

By contrast, 1954 was an outstanding year in many respects in this early period of the Association's life. The membership still remained static, being thirty four at the end of the year, but for the first time a New Towns man was included - Cook of Stevenage. A presentation was made to Joe Toole in recognition of all the work he had done in

these early years and he was also congratulated on his appointment as Valuer to the L.C.C. Rothwell was elected to the Council of the RICS.

It is interesting that there was no lack of volunteers to present papers or initiate discussions on technical matters at the meetings in 1954. There was a suggestion that new members should "read their way in" to the Association by preparing a paper on a selected topic. Amongst those papers which were read, Joe Toole contributed an outstanding commentary at a special meeting on the Town and Country Planning Bill 1954, Paine dealt with the Housing Repairs and Rent Bill, and Dawson the Leasehold Bill. Toole had in fact prepared two papers, the earlier on Compensation and Future Trends given in a somewhat in-between phase when he had expressed the view that to amend the 1947 Act would be a disaster. Nobody present appears to have disagreed.

There was some comment about the functions of the District Valuer, with a clear indication that his activities should be curtailed, but in view of the recent report of the Manpower Commission, the wise men of the Association recommended that the matter should not be pursued at the particular time.

A high spot of the year was undoubtedly the summer meeting at Taunton, with an official lunch at the County Hotel attended by the Chairman of the County Council and other colleagues. Afterwards there was a coach tour of Exmoor, but the major innovation was, of course, the inclusion of ladies as guests for the first time. Unfortunately this is another case where the minutes are missing, so I cannot record who was present on that memorable occasion.

At the lunch after the October AGM there was another first, in that the guest list included the Right Honourable the Chairman of the LCC, Mr Victor Mishcon. It is also worthy of note that the cost to members of that lunch was 15s. 0d. (75p).

Joe Toole was elected President, Solomon Vice-President, and, after a ballot, Dawson, James, Paine and Rothwell became the Executive Committee.

I gave this chapter the title of "Formative Years", and I hope that this brief account has justified those words. The form of the Association was firmed up and has really changed little in the succeeding twenty years. The structure of management through the officers and the Executive Committee; County Hall in London as the main centre; the Annual Lunch, with its guest list from County Hall and professional societies but not, as yet, the local authority associations; the summer meeting, with ladies invited - all these arrangements have been maintained, which either means that as a group we are resistant to change or that our founders were men of vision! The membership was virtually static, allowing for gains and losses, rising only from 28 to 34, and inevitably the officers in these first five years were drawn from the members who had been instrumental in bringing the Association into life. There was by now a Presidential badge and a degree of recognition from the associations and the professional societies. Acceptance by the Ministry within the terms of the 1948 Act meant that salaries could no longer be considered and also that the Association had to cease any direct involvement in union activities.

The most satisfactory feature was probably the nature of the business transacted. There was an inevitable tendency for a concentration on rating matters, particularly in the very wide spread of members' queries, which always gave rise to useful and spontaneous discussion. There were a number of outstanding technical papers, especially by Joe Toole on compensation matters, and he was clearly the driving force behind the Association in this particular quinquennium. It would, perhaps, be appropriate at this point to mention also the great assistance provided behind the scenes by Freda Emmert, his PA, who was the first in a series of such ladies who, whilst not having membership of the Association, provided vital back-up services rewarded by a very modest honorarium. Credit is undoubtedly due to the fairly limited attendance at that time for the life and vigour which they clearly gave to these early meetings.

In the next chapter I shall not devote quite so much of the text to recording formal matters such as changes of officers and business transacted, since these will be set out in schedule form in a series of appendices. It also so happens that my own direct involvement with the Association starts with this period and, indeed, there are still a number of members with clear recollections of what happened at the time. I am, therefore, somewhat at risk if I indulge in too much detailed reminiscence.

3. A DECADE OF GROWTH: 1955-1964

In the early years of this decade, Jim Auffleck made a drive for new members and initially this met with some success so that the total reached 50 by the AGM in November 1957. It then, however, remained static owing to the wastage through retirement, resignation, or sadly, deaths. A milestone was reached with an attendance of 30 in April 1956, but the average numbers present throughout this period remained disappointingly around the 25 mark. New names appearing in the five years up to 1959 who were to make their mark subsequently included: in 1955 - Blessley (Middlesex), Strachan (Bracknell), R S Walker (City of London) and Moore (Bristol); in 1956 - Webb (LCC); and in 1957 - Dutton (Brighton), Longdon (Sheffield), Thould (Somerset). It may also be noted that Harry Ellis (PLA) joined in 1956, the first non-local authority member to be elected. Balancing these new additions were almost as many retirements, notably Stewart Logsdon and Piper. Another new venture in this period was the formation of the BUPA Group, which was to benefit a number of members and their dependents in succeeding years.

The business side of the OGMs continued to be very active, with a number of outstanding papers. Once again Joe Toole led in this respect, particularly on the Town and Country Planning Act 1954, and there was an interesting cross-reference to a concurrent address by Jack Nardecchia to the RICS. Harry Karslake guested on one occasion early in 1956 on "Rental Evidence for the New Lists". He was never eligible for membership, although he did go on to become President of the RVA. It was about this time that that Society extended an invitation to the President and Honorary Secretary to attend the Annual Conference - a connection which has continued almost uninterrupted since then. Another regular speaker was Dick Shepherd of Plymouth, who on no less than three occasions in five years addressed the Association on activities in the City of Plymouth: January 1957 - "Problems arising from Reconstruction"; June 1957 - "Industrial Development in Plymouth"; and at his own Summer Meeting in June 1959 - "Post-war Construction". Mr McGarry was booked as another guest speaker on the Rent Bill 1957, but unfortunately he had to cry off and Paul Baker substituted. Bill Webb and I were associated in a joint exercise dealing with Local Government Decentralisation and the Use of the District Valuer - a topic which was to come and go for many years until we had the ultimate Borner solution (?). The same theme produced a number of papers on the Town and Country Planning Act 1959 (and its predecessor Bill), but I have a feeling that I did most of the work, with corrective editing by my partner. From a personal point of view this particular measure was my first contact in this field with Ministry officials (my role being as one of the advisers to the CCA.) - a love-hate relationship which was to continue through to the end (at the moment anyway) of the CLA/DLT trauma.

Reading back through these old papers I am struck by the contrast in "back-bench" member activity in the constant flow of questions and queries. I mean by "contrast", of course, the current apparent apathy in this respect. This interest was so strong that a special procedure was evolved whereby the query was pre-circulated, discussed, and the answer and any comments summarised by the Honorary Secretary for distribution with the minutes. I was quite gratified to find that on one occasion at this time I had tabled three such questions, one actually on rating, which may surprise some of my readers. Indeed, it seems that even seven years after the 1948 Act there was still an emphasis on rating-based queries, which seems rather strange.

I must make specific mention of one query raised by George Gurney in March 1957, since so far as I can recall this was the first time that the question of rent reviews in ground leases had been mentioned at such a meeting, or indeed at any other professional gathering. It is I think, worth recording some of my notes which are still identifiable on the agenda paper. George was concerned at the prospect of continuing inflation making then present ground rents completely unrealistic and he was, of course, very much involved in the redevelopment of central Croydon. Alan Strachan intimated that such a system had in fact been operated with great success in Bracknell with investment companies of considerable standing. The principle adopted was that the ground rent would be reviewed at 21-year periods and adjusted upwards in the light of the true rack rental values then prevailing. No objection had been taken by the developers and the system was operating quite realistically. Bristol, Exeter and the City of London reported that they had no takers on this basis, and Dick Shepherd went rather further and said that he was against the idea, which had not been adopted in his City. He felt that there could be considerable difficulty over mortgage finance. Harry Ellis of the PLA was also enthusiastic and he reported on Canadian experiences which, although not altogether relevant, were interesting since even at that time ground rents in Canada were related to actual takings of a particular trade or business. The really significant point, however, was the outright opposition expressed by Joe Toole, who thought that such a policy of rent review would in fact encourage inflationary tendencies. He suggested that the proposal had probably emanated from the Silkin (Senior) ideas of 1944/45, which might have been appropriate for blitzed areas but were certainly not acceptable elsewhere. He too thought that there would be problems of mortgage finance and also complications over taxation. I found some indirect satisfaction in identifying my notes, because there was a subsequent reluctance here at County Hall to accept that at any time the valuation department had been opposed to rent reviews.

I was elected to the Executive Committee at the 7th AGM in November 1956, attending my first meeting in Joe Toole's room on 24 January 1957, and I have been directly involved ever since then. Some eight years later when I moved into that same room as Valuer at County Hall there were, as you can appreciate, many memories of events and personalities inspired by that occupation.

The Summer Meetings in these five years took place in London, on the Thames, Sheffield, Cheltenham and Plymouth, and I shall be recalling some of the high-spots in a subsequent chapter. This particular meeting had by now become established as the social peak of the year with an atmosphere of its own, no doubt largely due to the softening presence of our lady guests. I have noted that it was at Sheffield that we first invited the Chief Estates Officer of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, together with regional colleagues, as paying guests - a move which became a tradition broken only in the last year or so. GS Wheeldon remains in my memory, principally, I fear, because of his indignation over the failure to book him in at the Conference Hotel in Cheltenham. Whether for this reason or not, at Plymouth we were deprived of his company, welcoming instead two future friends in John Oswald and Philip Burnett.

The AGMs in this period also followed on the same pattern. Names appear on the luncheon guest lists with contemporary or subsequent interest. Bill Hart came on the scene in 1957 and he must have subsequently achieved a good collection of menus in later years. In the same year Sir Harold Banwell, Secretary of the AMC, attended, and we then had Ronald Borner taking over from Hawkes as Secretary of the CAEAI, Rear-Admiral Burnett of the RICS, and Dacey of the CCA.

There was an interesting exchange of views at a meeting in April 1955 about publicity, which at that time was apparently to be shunned: papers were of domestic concern and should not be reproduced. Eighteen months later, however, we were welcoming the press as guests at our Annual Lunch, with familiar names such as Mr Dudson of the Estates Gazette and Maureen Fitzgerald of the Local Government Chronicle. At the 1956 AGM there was for the first time a full report

by the Executive Committee on the year's activities - another practice which has been followed ever since.

I took on the unpaid job of toastmaster in 1957, which I suggest ought to be a recognised office, with distinguished successors such as Fred Dawson and, more recently, Leslie Austin-Crowe - all with apparently Aldershot-trained voices. They, however, did not always have to endure the six introductions which became necessary when we added the toast of the newly-elected President to the list. Some of our busier guests found these speeches rather much (once taking an hour and twenty minutes) and now we have a much more civilised list. In 1959 I had the unusual experience of introducing myself as the proposer of the toast of the London County Council, and I still have a note of what I said (pretty corny it was too, with hindsight), but I had several opportunities of improving the style and content in other toasts for later years.

I have divided this chapter really into two periods of five years because the second half was remarkable for a number of reasons. After a fairly static period there was an upsurge in members in the closing stages, the total eventually topping the 70 mark, and whilst one notes new names such as Bailey, Brigham and George, who were to make their mark in later years, there were far more who appeared on very few occasions if at all and at this distance in time I am quite unable to put faces to their names. It was also a very sad period, for amongst those disappearing off the active list were a number of good friends who died. Joe Toole had not been well in the early months of 1960 but, typically, he kept up all his interests at the same pressure, with probably the inevitable result that in October we heard the news of his death. The following June, two weeks before his Summer Meeting, Jim Auffleck, the President at that time, died. In the previous month he had entered hospital for an operation, but he never recovered. These two members had done more than anyone in these early years to promote and publicise the Association, read papers, organise meetings and record our discussions. They were entirely different in temperament and philosophy but were linked in their common enthusiasm. A rather different background, but no less sad, was the case of Bill Webb, who, within a month of Joe Toole's death, had been appointed to succeed him - a procedure which makes more recent events seem rather strange. Bill had entered into the affairs of the Association with just as much keenness as his predecessor and was clearly in line for office, but without any apparent outward warning he died in December 1962. Many of his friends and colleagues believed that this tragic loss was directly linked to the libel action which he had successfully brought against the Evening Standard and Mrs Lucille Iremonger (an LCC Councillor and wife of a Conservative MP). Although successful, this action had undoubtedly placed him under even greater stress than was associated with his post as Valuer to the LCC. The last entry in this sad catalogue did not have immediate terminal consequences but in some ways was even more harrowing. I refer, of course, to the events at the March 1962 OGM presided over by Newman Colledge, when, almost at the end of the session, his speech became slurred and he admitted to feeling very ill. Dr Cove Smith saw him, diagnosed a slight stroke and urged that he stayed in a London hospital overnight. Newman, however, insisted on going back to Chichester and suffered a major heart attack in the train, resulting in substantial paralysis and speech impediment. In the following weeks a number of us visited him in hospital and at Slindon and he insisted that his Summer Meeting went ahead. His wife Phyllis showed great courage and although at one time there seemed a slight improvement in his condition, he was never able to work again. Two or three of us kept in touch over the years, but he almost immediately resigned from the Association and really seemed to give up. His friends were not really surprised to hear of his death a while later in 1969.

This is a rather daunting part of my story, but those of use who were intimately concerned with these members will, I am sure, not easily forget that period of just over two years when we lost so many good friends.

A loss of a different kind happened in the case of Alan Strachan. He had left Bracknell to become Secretary to the New Towns Commission,

but this move still enabled him to remain a Past Member. Then he went as Chief Estates Officer to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and had to resign, although we still were happy to welcome him at our Summer Meetings. He had made a consistent contribution to our deliberations over a period of several years. Other more pleasant news: Dick Shepherd's OBE, Bill Hart's knighthood, and on a personal note, the warm congratulations which I received at the Bracknell Summer Meeting on my appointment as Valuer and Estates Surveyor to the new GLC.

One effect of Joe Toole's illness was to switch the Executive Committee to my office in Dartmouth Street and since then I have acted as host at the London meetings there, more recently in South Block and finally the Island Block at County Hall. We had had to lean on Jim Auffleck very hard to persuade him to become President and it was only with great reluctance that he had relinquished his offices of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. Indeed, Laurie Thould became Honorary Secretary only for a holding year on the understanding that Jim would take it back, but this, of course, never happened and in the event it was Fred Ridge who assumed this onerous task. Fred Dawson became Honorary Treasurer at the same time, but this was an appointment he was to hold for many years to come.

In January 1963 we had to leave County Hall for a time whilst war damage repairs were undertaken, and we were grateful, through the good offices of Robert Walker, to find a temporary home in the City Guildhall, where we operated for the next eighteen months. Amongst a number of procedural matters discussed in this period I mention only the touchy question of the eligibility of deputies and also the proposal to appoint a Press Officer, this latter suggestion arising from a "leaked" report of one of our meetings. However, no volunteer had been found by the end of 1964.

I can recall no outstanding issues at the Annual General Meetings in the autumn during this period and the pattern proceeded on the lines of previous years. I remember proposing the toast of the newly-elected President when Jim Auffleck had been so appointed, and looking back on my notes for that particular occasion makes sad reading in view of subsequent events. Personalities who appeared on the scene as guests were Colonel K G Post, the Director of the Civic Trust, 1961, Jim Swaffield, the Secretary of the AMC, in 1963, and Arthur Wicks, the then Chairman of the London County Council when our luncheon was held at St Ermins. He in fact was to set up another one-off in our book of records in that he had a second go when he became Chairman of the Greater London Council some ten years later. Naturally, for personal reasons, I have special memories of the 1962 meeting when I was confirmed as President.

The Summer Meetings also complied with the pattern already established and I shall record some of the high-spots later on: Kingston in 1960; Chichester 1962; Hendon and Feltham 1963; Bracknell and Old Windsor in 1964. 1961 was to have been Coventry and Castle Ashby, Northampton, but for the reason already outlined this event was cancelled.

Just before I took over as President I had suggested that we might have one of our Ordinary General Meetings in the provinces, since the Summer Conference would be in the London area. As a result we had the first of these successful events in Coventry in May 1963, which was well attended. We were entertained to lunch by the Lord Mayor, were shown round the central area and then put a number of questions to our host members, Messrs. Hill and Vickers. The afternoon concluded with a visit to the two cathedrals. This in fact was the last time that Vic Hill attended one of our meetings and it was evident that he was far from well on that occasion, so that his death just over a year later was not altogether a surprise to those who knew him well.

Another slightly unusual occasion was on the afternoon of the London meeting in May 1964, when the ladies having joined us for lunch, we visited the Shell Centre on the South Bank, with an opportunity of seeing the spread of London from the gallery, which unfortunately has been closed for some time now for security reasons.

Probably the most memorable feature of these five years, however, was the high standard of papers which were read at our meetings, and these were in addition to the continuing exchange of views on a wide range of subjects in dealing with members' queries. Indeed, there was some criticism because more often than not time ran out with business unfinished. I had made the suggestion that we might try to widen our interest by inviting outside speakers, and although I shall include this information in a separate schedule for ease of reference, I think that it is worth while noting the extent of our activities at this time. We had Frank Othick, an old friend, on the Rating and Valuation Bill; my colleague at the time, Bernard Collins, County Planning Officer of Middlesex, on Green Belts; and J G Jefferson, the County Planning Officer of West Sussex and a former President of the Town Planning Institute, on Planning in America. On the occasion of Newman Colledge's attack there had been a full-scale session with officers from the Central Electricity Generating Board, including E J Turner, the Chief Executive, and F R Allen, their Estates Surveyor. They brought with them a considerable amount of illustrative material which made an interesting contrast with a subsequent presentation at the RICS Conference in Edinburgh. One of the Divisional Engineers of the LCC, H J J Clayton, talked to us about Traffic Schemes, and Leslie Lane came to the Guildhall to tell us about the achievements of the Civic Trust.

This did not mean, however, that our own members were silent at this time, and one of the main themes was central area redevelopment. We had Cyril Walker drawing on his past experience with the LCC and his new role with city centres to fill in some of the general background. Bill Webb spoke about the Elephant and Castle, which has not proved to be one of County Hall's outstanding successes, and it was interesting to note that there was no provision for rent review in this development. This leads me to a rather smug personal note when mentioning the Middlesex project at High Street, Feltham, in which Peter Plunkett and I had had quite a hand and which formed the centrepiece of my own summer conference. The paper which I read on that occasion was discussed on two subsequent occasions, because it did illustrate some of the problems arising through lack of adequate powers. For my part the most significant aspect of this project was the provision for an annual review of the ground rent, which means in current terms that the basic figure of £75,000 per annum is currently supplemented by about £20,000 per annum and the first review of the shop rents is due any day now. I take some pleasure in recalling that the team representing the developers, Hallmarks, included Sidney Bloch, Dennis Pilcher and Richard Seifert. Jack Vickers had given us a very interesting paper on the Coventry operation in which he expressed his own typically very forcible views on the philosophy of central area development and which proved to be a very useful introduction to our subsequent visit. Finally, Bill Webb and I had co-operated in the preparation of a paper for submission to the joint RICS/RIBA Working Party which was looking into tendering methods for central areas and our paper became the formal Association input.

Other matters covered included the Town and Country Planning Acts 1959-1962 and the Land Compensation Act 1961, where I appear to have been rather talkative on at least three occasions; Harold Woolcott interpreting the property implications of the Labour propaganda paper "Signposts for the 60s", which of course presaged the Land Commission; Ron Duffield on Expanding Towns and Industrial Relocation, illustrated by the LCC film "Your Move Next"; Laurie Thould on Rating Systems in the Future; and George Gurney on Mortgages under the Housing Acts. I think it is fair to say that in aggregate this represents a most impressive field of activity.

There was another matter of general interest which became of increasing significance as we got nearer to the implementation of the recommendations for London government and I refer, of course, to the place of the valuer and estates surveyor. There had been an unfortunate incident arising from a Lands Tribunal case involving a past and a present member of the Association who had been advising the two parties, and the decision contained some very critical comments on the approach of the local authority valuer. This particular case has often been quoted subsequently by those not altogether friendly to our sector of the profession. Then there was the Evening Standard case

and Bill Webb, to which I have already referred. Some of us, however, had really begun to concentrate our minds on the Report of the Royal Commission on London Government which had been published in March 1962. I drew attention to the potential effect on ten of our members and the possibility of having thirty two new boroughs in Greater London. The RICS set up a working party on the function of the local authority valuer and estates surveyor, which I was invited to join, and I once or twice referred at Executive Committee meetings to my disagreement with Bill Hobbs, the VO representative on the Group, who was adopting a very hawkish line. Indeed, his attitude at that time contrasts quite starkly with the more conciliatory philosophy now adopted by Carey Street. Looking back on my comments which were recorded in the minutes, I am surprisingly satisfied with the line taken, which, indeed, I held consistently through Borneo and beyond, although this never seemed to please a number of our more militant members. In 1964 I was able to report on the results of my efforts to sell the idea of the valuer to the new London boroughs in the Middlesex area, although, sadly, these efforts were not matched by any equivalent action from the LCC department. Indeed, if anything the senior officers there were rigidly opposed to any idea of the new boroughs having directly employed professional valuation staff. The RICS paper on the place of the estates surveyor was not a very positive document but was probably the best one could expect to achieve in contemporary circumstances. There was correspondence with the Estates Gazette and the professional societies expressing our disappointment that the valuer and estates surveyor was not designated in the London Government Bill as a mandatory post, as was the case with the architect. There had, however, been a Ministerial statement in July 1963 emphasising the importance of the estates surveyor's function and mentioning the advantages of a separate professional department. The AMC had been persuaded to issue a paper generally supporting this line.

Summarising this very interesting ten years, I still look back on it as the high spot so far as I am concerned in the evolution of the Association. The membership had climbed to 70, with many useful new entrants, but also some sad losses. As I have just stated, the volume of business was quite extraordinarily wide, with outstanding papers and active queries, with concentration on central area development, compensation legislation, and the valuer in local government. We had some very enjoyable Summer Meetings, with increasing emphasis on the social side, and were surviving a temporary absence from County Hall. The average attendance was still within credible limits, so that our Ordinary Meetings retained something of the atmosphere of a quarterly dining club - friendly and intimate but still with a strong technical base. Although in subsequent years our strength grew quite significantly, I rather doubt whether we have ever really regained the feeling of the early 60s.

4. THE LONDON GOVERNMENT ACT AND BEYOND: 1965-1972

During this period there was a steady increase in the membership from 77 to 121, the 100 mark being passed in 1968. Of this total of 121, it is worth noting that only 10 were retired, which presumably meant that in 1972 we had 111 members actively employed in local government. I shall refer back to these figures when I mention the present position in the next chapter. No fewer than 21 of the increase in membership were based on London, almost all with the London boroughs, and even within this group there were changes in individual holders of posts. One interesting outcome was the formation of the London Borough Valuers Branch, which ever since has successfully operated under the general authority of the Association, providing a readily available source of consensus advice to the LBA. Their minutes are formally reported, officers appointed, annual lunches held to which guests from the London area are invited. Unfortunately it has not been found possible to set up similar organisations elsewhere in the country and the pattern clearly did not appeal to CLAVA. Names who appeared for the first time in the early part of this period included Kohn, Palmer, P J Plunkett, White, Higginson and Young, and our only lady member, Joan Naish of Enfield, who sadly was to leave us

after only two years to join the Inspectorate at the Ministry. Other newcomers who were not London Borough officers were Luff, Powell and Tindall, then of Reading. We had a brief but memorable link with the Republic of Ireland in Michael Lucey of Dublin. He lasted only a year, leaving to take up work with a building society, where he has, I understand, made a great impression. I also gather that he found our meetings and professional approach fascinating but not representing the more realistic work of Eire.

There were also inevitable losses of membership: some went temporarily to other posts or permanently into private practice. John Potter took over the top estates job at the Land Commission - an appointment which his friends viewed with some misgivings as being politically vulnerable, as indeed it subsequently proved to be. However, we were glad to welcome him back a few years later as an Honorary Member. There were also the sadder losses: Harry Ellis of the PLA; Newman Colledge finally succumbed to his illness; William Rothwell just before he retired, regrettably missing his last meeting of the Association when we had intended to acknowledge his pioneering work; Cyril Walker, another founder member, whose funeral in September 1970 was attended by many senior members of the Association.

The bracket of attendance rose very gradually, the lower figure staying at about 35, but the 50 was reached for the first time at the AGM in October 1967. Our enforced exile from County Hall continued, apart from the AGMs, but those of us with longer memories will not in a hurry forget the Charing Cross Hotel, where, despite the plush conditions, the overcrowded luncheon room and limited drinking facilities left us limp and unprepared for an afternoon session. We shall no doubt also remember Cavell House, with its faded and rather tatty furnishings but nevertheless still impressive, and the exotic atmosphere of the Tavistock Dining Rooms to which we adjourned for lunch. We were always glad to have as a fall-back, facilities at the City Guildhall from time to time.

There were changes in the officers: Cyril Dutton took over as Honorary Secretary for four years, to be succeeded by Geoffrey Brigham. Our first Press Officer was Paul Susman, in October 1965, and he handed on to Eric Kohn two years later on assuming the Presidency. Eric continued to deal with our public relations right up to 1976. He also produced the first draft of a hand-out describing the Association which was in due course approved and published. With the increase in membership there was a need for more help on the administrative side, and Bill Plunkett was appointed Assistant Secretary for the last three years of the period.

Protests at the number and length of speeches at our annual lunch continued to be received and it was eventually decided to have a Presidential address as part of the AGM, thus cutting out two of the subsequent speakers. The first of these was given by Paul Susman in October 1967, and he selected as his theme (to be repeated many times since) our role and image in local government, the need to make our voices heard and heeded. It is interesting to read in the succeeding years how this same strain recurs in the Presidential address in some form or other, presumably demonstrating that there was a need to keep the issue constantly before the membership.

Another repeated item on the agendas of the Executive Committee was the wooing of CLAVA. Reading the minutes from our end does, perhaps, give a one-sided impression. Nevertheless, it seems clear that all the initiatives came from our side. However, despite many meetings (sometimes it was apparently difficult to bring their delegates to the table), the outcome was always reported as "CLAVA were unable to accept our view"; "this approach was rejected". At one stage the Association went so far as formally to resolve that unification would be in the best interests of both societies, but nothing came of it. Looking back through all these minutes, I venture to suggest that they do seem to justify (in any event in my mind) the impatient, irritated and at times hawkish attitude which I adopted on the matter in later years.

Amongst other matters discussed of a non-professional nature I have noted the attendance of elected members at the annual meeting, which was rejected in 1965 and again in 1970. We discussed the inclusion of deputies and two-tier membership; salaries and conditions of service, noting that the RICS was unable to help, indeed, their suggestion was that we changed our own constitution; the unification of the professional societies, with Eric Kohn and myself taking the lead in reporting on events; the use of computers in our field of work; representation on the NALGO Joint Consultative Committee, where Eric Kohn became our delegate, continuing for many tedious but useful years. Frank Longdon provided us with our first issue of identification badges, a source of subsequent irritation to the administrators, but nevertheless a much needed aid to those with limited memories for faces and names. Another of Eric Kohn's ideas which was implemented was the charging of a conference fee for the Summer Meeting. Some of the cynics amongst us saw this as an excellent way of extracting money from those members who were compulsive lunchers (usually civic hospitality) but found it impossible to get to the Association dinner! There was a plea for more uniformity in our titles - still a relevant issue in status terms - but reasons were put forward why some of the rather bizarre designations had to be retained, reason which I fear now escape me.

I did an analysis of potential venues for a provincial meeting and came up with Derby as a suggestion. This was accepted and we went there in March 1972. The Executive, plus a few others (but with no ladies) stayed in the Pennine Hotel the previous night, which was not without some interest, and the business session on the next day was rendered rather equivocal by the late arrival of Hugh Jenkins and his colliery team. However, Geoff Durrant reversed the batting order and we had a good meeting after all, based on the central area redevelopment in Derby. Incidentally, the meeting a month later had to be cancelled because of a rail strike - another one-off in the book of records, I am happy to say.

There was a great deal of activity in working parties and sub-committees. Fred Ridge and his group started on their crystal ball exercise, forecasting the Future of the Association, an issue only recently reopened. Some of us also took part in a series of meetings with Janes at the Ministry, not the easiest of civil servants, preparatory to the eventual setting up of the Borner Committee, which was originally intended to look into the use of the DV. Len Tatham became a member of that Committee, representing our side, and although we were a little cross by the failure to get him elevated as a full voting member, this did not really affect the eventual style of the Report. The same second-class status applied, incidentally, to the representative from the Valuation Office. The Association submitted written observations backed up by a subsequent appearance before the Committee, and I shall touch on the Report in the next chapter.

In 1969 we had the first rumblings about the Royal Commission on Local Government in England, and towards the end of the period this was occupying the minds of the Executive Committee and indeed of all members outside London. We submitted evidence and had the benefit of several papers by eminent speakers on various aspects of the material proposals. In the closing months we had the Bains Report, which to our way of thinking was something of a curate's egg. Much earlier, Ted Turner and I had an audience of the Mallaby Committee on Staffing in Local Government and put forward our views. This was yet another of those committee reports which apparently find a place on some top shelf in a Ministry. The RICS mounted an exercise on Surveyors and their Future, but our comments went in too late. Eric Kohn and I were reporting at one stage on the Divisional structure proposals in the new Institution. We were the parents of the Seventh Division - something which is perhaps no longer recognised - and indeed what has emerged as the Planning and Development Division bears little resemblance to what we originally had in mind.

I gave an outline of the Urban Motorways Committee recommendations, where I had been the only valuer representative, presaging some of the proposals introduced in subsequent legislation. There was also a very useful working party on blight.

We were invited to comment on the papers produced by the Law Commission, and this acceptance meant the involvement of a number of members in a great deal of reading, not always of obvious relevance to our activities. On a rather different note, A C Thomas, the Deputy at Westminster, was carpeted by the Executive Committee for an article he wrote on the implications of a certain London transaction. The book was thrown at him but to no avail, and he remained impenitent so that the matter had to be allowed to drop. Eventually he resigned and the Association thereby lost its only member who had had a play televised, whatever his professional contribution may have been. This ill-advised "court martial" was another one-off, thankfully not since repeated.

Apart from all this activity, most of which went on outside the Ordinary Meetings involving a few of us in a great deal of work, there was no lack of normal business. Members' queries fell right away, provoking the Honorary Secretary to a plaintive protest, but our prepared papers still present a formidable spread of activity, as the Appendix will show. Picking a few random examples of guest speakers one notes Alan Strachan and Hugh Jenkins on town centres; Frank Knowles on shopping trends; Sir Michael Rowe on the Land Tribunal; Jack Longland on the Royal Commission proposals; Sir Harry Page and subsequently J B Cadigan, County Treasurer of Durham, on finance; D G Rogers and J Miller, respectively Chief Executive and County Treasurer of Gloucester, on corporate planning and organisation. All this latter group were very relevant in the context of what was about to happen. Members who contributed in this period included Frank Longdon, our man on the Land Commission, with John Potter coming back to give us his views on the operation of the scheme; George Gurney on the Rent bill, on electricity substations and on revaluation; Eric Kohn on fair rents; Bill Plunkett on ex-gratia payments, the Town and Country Planning bill and blight. I find that I had spoken on compensation and betterment more than once, leasehold reform, urban renewal, professional training and, rather strangely, registration of estate agents. There were also, of course, many papers at Summer Meetings, usually given by the reigning President.

Distinguished guests to add to the usual attendances at the annual lunch included Sir Henry Wells, Chairman of the Commission for New Towns (also involved in the Land Commission), Sir Michael Rowe, and in October 1971 our first Minister, Michael Heseltine, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Department of the Environment, who replied on behalf of the guests. At that same meetings one noted the names of Lou Sherman of the LBA and Frank Marshall of the AMC, both since knighted and conspicuous in other fields.

The Summer Meetings will be described in more detail in a later chapter, but they continued the pleasant tradition of a social event with a professional background. Taunton, in 1965, was the only one I have missed in 23 years (because of my new GLC involvement); Croydon, the City, Luton, Bristol, Brighton, Manchester, Cheltenham - all no doubt evoking individual memories of people and places.

So I end this chapter, which really saw the close of another distinctive phase in our history: the growth of membership due to London reorganisation; the wider spread of speakers; the increasing involvement in outside activities like Borner and the Royal Commission, which was to prove to be a dominant issue in the years which immediately followed.

5. THE EFFECTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION: 1972-1977

This chapter of my story opens on a high note so far as I am personally concerned, since 1972/73 was my second tour as President, following the precedent created by Fred Dawson, who had also served as a chief officer with two authorities. It was a memorable year with good attendances, excellent speakers (all hand picked!), and a Summer Meeting which I still recall as hectic, lucky with weather, well lubricated and therefore highly successful. It did indicate to me, however, that

mounting this type of exercise virtually covering three days, with complex transport, hotel and feeding arrangements, quite apart from the programme itself, was perhaps getting beyond the amateur capacity of the President and his secretary. At this London meeting a total of 140 different people participated - members, wives and guests - and this can be compared with the average RICS Conference where a special unit of staff is in operation for about twice that number of delegates. We seem to have managed very well since 1973 on the same ad hoc basis and presumably my misgivings, therefore, were, as often proves the case, unfounded.

The most dramatic aspect of the period, however, was, of course, the effects of the 1972 Act, which really hit the Association in the two years 1973 to 1975. A trickle of retirements became a flood, soon to be overtaken by an influx of new members from far away places with strange sounding names. Some members resigned, with the disappearance of their pre-1974 authority, and promptly rejoined in their new capacity. A few had to accept a lower status as a result of amalgamation of authorities, but a good number opted to retire at an early age and to carry on an active professional life either as part time consultants, or putting up their own plates, or even in the Valuation Office. This led us to reconsider the status and eligibility of these Past Members and to approve a consequential change of rules covering what we now term Honorary Members. A quick analysis of the "profit and loss" account shows that in these five years there were over 80 new members and upwards of 55 "departures", many of whom remained on as Honorary Members. I was doing an unofficial monitoring exercise during this transitional period and this helped to keep in touch with most of the new appointments. The result of all this activity inevitably transformed the whole atmosphere of our meetings. I for one have found it virtually impossible to remember names even if discs are worn, and sad that so many regular supporters in the past were no longer in their places except for the social events. Thould, Bunny Moore, Bailey, Longdon, Susman, Rose, Vickers, Gray, Barratt, Tatham - so the list grows. But then there were other departures not linked directly to reorganisation. Fred Dawson eventually bowed out and his last meeting was marked with a presentation which I had been delighted to organise. Fred Ridge, another founder member, retired at the end of 1976 with a great record of service behind him. Robert Walker was another loyal supporter who opted out in this period, and not only did we recall his presidency but also his efforts in providing accommodation for our meetings during part of the exile from County Hall. We were subsequently delighted to congratulate Dick Luff on succeeding to this important office in the Corporation of London. On a sadder note, we had wished George Palmer well at his last meeting in June 1976, but many of us were to attend his funeral only a few months later, realising what a tragedy so short a period of retirement was after a lifetime of public service.

There were the happier things. Alastair Jamieson got the OBE for his charitable works, and I was very touched by the messages I received in respect of the CBE in 1974. George Gurney had a memorable year as President of the RVA, Bill Plunkett was Chairman of the South London Branch of the RICS, and at one time or another we had Dick Luff, Frank Samson, Leslie Austin-Crowe and myself as members of the General Council. I became the first ever public officer to be President of the General Practice Division in 1976 and I greatly appreciated the support which I received from members both at official and social events during my year of office.

There were administrative changes. John Higginson took over from David George as Honorary Secretary and Peter Plunkett replaced Dick Luff as Assistant Honorary Secretary, adding the duties of Press Officer when Eric Kohn relinquished this onerous post. In the interests of continuity of succession it was decided in 1975 to institute the office of Junior Vice-President, and Brian White became the first name in that particular slot.

The total membership climbed, subject to these exits and entrances, from 129 to 170, of whom 46 were on the honorary list. This meant in effect that compared with 1972, and despite reorganisation, there were only 15 more "operational" local government members in 1977.

The bracket of attendance did not change much - a low of 35 and a high of just under 70.

After a number of discussions about the Chief Officers' Negotiating Committee, it was eventually decided at the Bath meeting, I believe, to form a Guild, and tribute must be paid to the pioneering work done by Eric Kohn, Gordon Powell and Alan Duchars. This, however, must not form part of my script for fear of offending against the rules of the Association and possibly forfeiting any right to tax relief. As a modest balancing factor to this additional venture, the BUPA Group was eventually wound up.

We talked a lot about the Ombudsman and cases were cited where members had been directly or indirectly involved, but there was not seen to be any need for concerted action in protest against or support for what had been said. An inevitable ongoing item was the relationship with CLAVA, which almost merits a book on its own. Meetings were held, cautious approaches made; I opted out, there was an appearance of progress and Dick Luff reported on a possible joint solution for consideration. But then CLAVA took unilateral and premature action in 1976 and, to put the thing in current terms, blew it. The Executive Committee therefore decided that no useful purpose would be achieved in continuing discussions and, despite a few plaintive protests, this line was endorsed by the whole Association at a full OGM. It has, however, since been agreed that we will seek to set up each year one joint meeting with CLAVA, and may be this could lead to closer links.

This issue is, of course, of great importance to the future of the Association. It was agreed back in 1972 that there would be no point in considering the Ridge recommendations in view of pending reorganisation, but it took us until November 1976 really to mount an updating exercise on that earlier report. There was then a special meeting of the Executive, supplemented by Messrs. Ridge, Dutton and Brigham, and the recommendations reached have been adopted and now agreed, so that the way ahead ought to be that much clearer. One significant outcome is that there will no longer be two tiers of membership.

Another matter which took up a lot of time in the period was the Borner Report, which, after months if not years of vacillation, was finally published with guarded Government support. We had meetings with DoE officials and with the VO, as a result of which a code of practice was evolved, but unfortunately many of our members were far from satisfied. We had clearly hatched a number of fledgling hawks. The greyer heads, however, advised caution in taking too strong a line although there are obvious points of friction, on balance and over the country as a whole the thing seems to be working reasonably well. One way in which we may ease any frictions is the setting up of a series of regular meetings between Ivan Prevett, the Chief Valuer, backed by a few of his senior colleagues, and a selected number from the Association. This group has met twice and already the benefits of such close consultation have become apparent.

Perhaps one of the most outstanding aspects of this period was the increasing strength of our links with the RICS. A regular item of the agenda of our Committees was allocated to a report on Institution matters, and this has usually been a Blessley spot, amplified by reports from David George, Dick Luff and others with specialist interests. I have already mentioned the General Council representation, but the Association also have a strong element in the new Planning and Development Division with several members on its Council, the Honorary Secretary, David George, and, in the last year, the Junior Vice-President, Bill Plunkett, presaging an imminent future honour there. Dick Luff has chaired the Valuation and Rating Committee of the GP Division and many other members have made their mark, participating in working parties and the like. This has certainly applied to the two Finance Sub-Committees which have made recommendations in respect of subscriptions. We may not have been impressed by the end product, but at least our voice was heard. Dick Luff and I took part in two of the groups set up by the Professional Institutions Council for Conservation (PICC) and reports were in due course produced, but I

fear that their impact was of no great significance, at least so far as I could judge. It is interesting to see comments in our minutes about the new Division from time to time, which we were assured would not be dominated by planners. This may have been the original intention, but I have a feeling, watching from the wings, that something like this is now taking place. In all this RICS activity there is one rather strange anomaly and that is the apparent complete lack of representation of this Association (or for that matter CLAVA) in the LA and A Division.

In addition there was a more obvious demonstration of our involvement as a group, and that is in the papers which were read. With some hesitation I have to open the record on this section with my own contributions which became rather frequent. There was the open session on Bains, not very well organised but reasonably attended by local authority members, opened by the Minister, and where another of the quartet of speakers was Jim Swaffield, shortly to become my Chief Executive. At the end of this period I made my farewell comments on twelve years of GLC experience, which was a rather hilarious affair with a disappointing attendance. The main impact, however, was in relation to the Community Land legislation, and I spoke at the first of these many sessions early in 1975 at the Inn on the Park, opened by John Silkin and with a capacity crowd. I also recall an earlier contribution where I was over persuaded by the indefatigable Frank Othick, wearing his Land Institute hat. Other Association members became increasingly involved as the Acts took shape. Dick Luff, David George, Bill Plunkett, Brian Coales, Leslie Austin-Crowe, all read papers or took part in conferences up and down the country (there may well have been others) and we certainly matched the excellent input made by the Valuation Office. Indeed, the public sector as a whole must have come out of this exercise with an enhanced reputation for professional co-operation.

For many months a number of us representing our various local authority associations wore a path to Marsham Street to the meetings chaired by the formidable June Bridgeman, and although much of what we had to say went unheeded because decisions had already been taken at political level, nevertheless we were able to achieve a number of significant amendments and modifications. It was, perhaps, appropriate that at the peak of all this activity we were able to welcome John Silkin, the Minister of Planning and Local Government, as a principal guest at the October 1974 luncheon. In his speech he emphasised the part which valuers would have to play in making the legislation work.

Two other areas in which we made a mark were professional education, where, for example, Bill Plunkett addressed us on the Test of Professional Competence, and Scale 5A fees, an ongoing and somewhat torrid exercise spearheaded by Dick Luff and involving much delicate behind-the-scenes activity including talks with our own members advising their various associations.

On one occasion we had the pleasure of entertaining to lunch Martin Argles, the then President of the Institution, together with Robert Steel. They stayed on for a frank afternoon discussion which was not minuted and hence was the more valuable. Martin Argles then visited quite a number of our offices to talk to Chartered Surveyors in the public service. This was a first-class promotional exercise not since repeated, and all credit to him for his pioneer effort. Unfortunately it did not quite have the desired effect, for within a few months there was a somewhat acrimonious exchange of letters between our Honorary Secretary and Robert Steel on the way in which the Association appeared to have been ignored in setting up certain working parties. I suspect that this was one of the first signs of the difficulties subsequently experienced in dealing with the Public Affairs Committee. Anyway, our criticisms were met, or intended to be met, by a talk with Frank Knowles and Stuart Siston, a pleasant occasion but hardly memorable in what it achieved. Incidentally, at the lunch with Martin Argles, which happened in my Presidential year, I was pleased to welcome as a guest another Chartered Surveyor, Sir Desmond Plummer, then Leader of the GLC.

So much for the RICS, but as these notes have, I hope, shown, reports on all its various activities had become a major item at our meetings - a development which, certainly in my view, was right and proper.

A quintet of Summer Meetings - London, Ascot, Leicester, Durham and Sheffield - were all highly successful in their individual ways, with, however, a rather disappointing attendance in view of the growth in membership. The maximum number was, perhaps understandably, at the 1973 London event, and we must look forward to that target figure being regularly exceeded.

What did emerge as a regular and popular feature was the Spring meeting, held in a town outside London where it was felt that a Summer Conference was not immediately foreseeable. This idea dates back to the earliest visit to Coventry but has now become almost a fixed point of the programme, and very pleasant occasions they proved to be, especially as the Honorary Members and the ladies are also invited. Indeed, one of the most enjoyable aspects is the very informal dinner on the evening previous to the OGM, after the Executive Committee has concluded its deliberations.

The 1973 event was in Oxford, the hotel for those who stayed the Eastgate and our meeting place the Council Chamber in the Town Hall. The paper was to have been given by Fred Pooley, then County Planning Officer, on the Buckinghamshire partnership scheme, but he had tooth trouble or something and was unable to come, so his place was very ably taken by the County Valuer, David Rose, who dealt most effectively with a very active period of questioning. We also managed to inspire some comments from Colin Bonsey (a rare event), still then County Valuer of Hampshire, on their scheme with Hill Samuel - a scheme which has intriguing implications in view of subsequent legislation. Meanwhile the ladies went on a conducted tour of some of the colleges, meeting up with us as guests of the Lord Mayor of the City for lunch in the Town Hall. Later we visited the Marina assembly line at Cowley, an experience not easily forgotten and perhaps making the uneasy situation in industrial relations terms easier to appreciate. We were indebted to Gordon Powell for making all the arrangements for a very successful meeting.

Basingstoke was our venue for 1974, with the Mercury Motor Inn as the overnight stay, affording an absorbing insight into the dolce vita of a new town. Basil Wratten read us a paper describing the growth of the town, and after a buffet luncheon in the Development Group offices we went on a coach tour to see some of the achievements, including, of course, the very ambitious sports centre. Our thanks were gladly given to Basil (now in Hong Kong, I believe) and his staff for organising our visit.

Further west, in 1975, for a very different background - Bath - with a memorable evening for a variety of reasons in the Francis Hotel. Next day, after launching the Guild, we had a most interesting paper by Hugh Gunton revealing all the problems of economics and building construction when attempting conservation on this scale. After lunch as guests of the city, we visited some of the schemes completed and in hand and also saw certain planning disasters. Hugh Gunton had gone to a lot of trouble to set up this full programme, only marred by the incessant rain.

From the old to the new the following year, with Northampton as the venue. I cannot report on the evening before at the Saxon Hotel, as this was one of the few Executive Committees I had to miss. The OGM itself took place in the impressive offices of the Development Corporation, where Leslie Austin-Crowe gave us a typically forthright and uninhibited talk on commercial development in Northampton. The Corporation generously entertained the members and ladies to lunch, after which we had a visit to the main centre, a Grosvenor joint venture, followed by one of the district schemes at Weston Favell. Again our thanks were sincerely offered to Leslie and his colleagues for all the work they put in to that day.

Finally, last March, to another different objective, the National Exhibition Centre at Solihull. Our hotel base was the St. John's, where

we had an informal and congenial dinner attended by a good number of Honorary Members. This hotel had obviously profited from the nearby Centre, so much so that some of us, including very seniors citizens, were upposted to the Barn Motel. This will probably be remembered as a four-star rating which served one of the slowest and most unsatisfactory breakfasts in conditions which can only be described as sordid. However, we had two excellent papers about this impressive Centre, whilst the ladies went shopping in Birmingham, and after a rather uncomfortable buffet lunch, toured parts of the development in which perhaps the servicing and construction side was the most interesting. Reg Ross went to a lot of trouble to put this thing together and although there were some rough edges, we were most grateful for all his efforts.

It might be thought that with Spring and Summer Meetings and all this inter-relationship work there was little time left for the more normal business of OGMs, but the schedule of papers included in the Appendix tell their own story. It is difficult to make a selection for mention in this note but nevertheless I shall do so. From outside the membership we had J G Cuckney, then of the PSA; Janes and Warren Evans of the Department of the Environment; Peter Stott of the Water Council; Sir Dennis Pilcher; and Maurice Stonefrost. In any professional society that would make an impressive list of heads, and they are only a selection. We had a quartet of speakers, including Bill Plunkett, as the framework for a most valuable symposium on housing covering a wide range of related subjects. Obviously a lot of time was spent on Community Land legislation, with points raised and clarification sought. There was a useful day fairly early on in the passage of the bill when six members covered various parts of the new proposals, providing an opportunity for a discussion in depth and producing many constructive comments. One of our last subjects was the contemporary problem of the inner city, when we had papers by Stephen Byrne and Tony Ryden, both of whom had been members of the RICS Working Party. Finally, a mention of a one-off address unlikely to be repeated, when our then member for Aberdeen, Sturgeon, talked to us about the effects of North Sea oil on property. With all this volume of business it is hardly surprising that there were few members' queries answered, but it had already become evident that this was no longer a significant part of our programme, contrasting with the early years.

That ends these chapters on the various phases of the Association's life since its formation 27 years ago, and after touching on the various Summer Meetings I hope to bring out one or two summary points in a concluding chapter.

6. SUMMER MEETINGS 1953 - 1977

As I have already indicated, I feel that it would be appropriate to devote a separate chapter to these Summer Meetings, because to many of us they have a very special spot in the calendar. The comparatively recent idea of the Spring meeting is a popular event in its own particular way, but the summer gathering, with its friendly, almost family atmosphere - somewhat of a reunion I suppose - has meant a great deal to the band of loyal supporters including, of course, the ladies, whose attendance adds immeasurably to our pleasure. The return to Sheffield this year, which concludes my story, ought to have been our Silver Jubilee of Summer Meetings, but sadly one had to be cancelled in 1961. Of the 24 held, I have missed only four and therefore I can comment with some personal knowledge on 20 of these occasions. Quite apart from listing briefly the main ingredients, any account must be based on one's own memories and I have no doubt that all who read this story would have their own individual anecdote to tell: a lady's hat, a joke in a bar, a ride in a coach, a brick dropped in a speech. Perhaps this brief summary which follows will stir your recollection and produce a nostalgic smile (or blush).

The first was in Bristol in 1953, a comparatively modest affair with the Lord Mayor as guest and a tour of Avonmouth Docks as the centre-piece. This included an inside inspection of a cold store, for which one of our past Presidents found his tropical suit very poor cover

indeed. Probably his mind was still in the West Indies. Perhaps the most important event was the first wearing of the Presidential badge by the late W A James.

The next year was Taunton, with one significant change - ladies were invited. This time there was a coach tour of Exmoor ending with tea at Winsford as guest of Stuart Logsdon and his wife. 1955 will probably always be high in the ranking list, because this centred on the river trip in the PLA launch, St. Katharine, an honour in itself, for whose passage Tower Bridge was opened up. We went all through the London and Royal Docks with a guide reeling off the names of the ships moored at almost every berth. A similar visit today would show a dramatic change - vacant warehouses, filled in docks, only a few ships in the tideway. But in 1955 the Port of London meant what it said and not a location in Tilbury. We had had a formal dinner the night before at County Hall, and it might be of interest to note my bill for the whole meeting: 2 dinners, 2 lunches and 2 coach places - £3.10. We were on the river again in the following year on the MV Odelia, going upstream from Kew to Hampton Court, but unfortunately the boat ran on the putty and even Harry Ellis's running commentary ground to a halt. However, eventually we floated off, had tea on board and reached the end of the "voyage".

With William Rothwell as President one could expect quite a memorable visit to Sheffield, and this it proved to be in terms of programme, entertainment and the "hard stuff". The Lord Mayor and the Master Cutler appeared; Dick Shepherd talked to us about Plymouth, whilst the ladies went, of all places, to the Express Dairy (so the minutes say, anyway). I had obviously eaten something at the dinner that had disagreed with me, because I did not really enjoy the noise, flames and smoke at the steel works of Thomas Firth and John Brown Limited, nor the clattering cans and incessant music at Batchelor's, with girls whose arms were stained red, green or yellow, dependent on whether they were canning rhubarb, peas or corn. All most interesting and educational, but obviously a little hard on sensitive and fragile characters like myself.

Then it was Fred Dawson's turn in Cheltenham and Gloucester. We had our dinner at the Irving in Cheltenham and then went over the downs via Painswick to Berkeley Castle for a personally conducted tour by the Master of the Hunt himself. Unfortunately the weather was unfriendly and we were at one time edging through a thick mist with headlights blazing. Our business meeting was out at Cowley Manor, where Alan Strachan talked to us and the ladies had improved their minds with a visit to the Cathedral. This programme really set a pattern for future years, and it was cruel luck for Fred and Joyce that the weather let them down. We went further west in 1959, down to Plymouth, staying at the Grand Hotel on the Hoe, where the dinner was held. Not for the only time, the date clashed with the RICS Conference and the attendance was, therefore, rather disappointing. Our tour of the country took us to Buckland Abbey and over the moors. We also went to a fashion show at Dingle's Store, naturally enjoyed by all members who had carefully managed to leave their cheque books in the hotel. My personal memory is of a very early morning swim down in a sea water pool, and it is certain that I should not survive a shock like that today. The centre-piece in professional terms was, very properly, Dick Shepherd's talk on post-war reconstruction, progress on which we had been able to see for ourselves.

The trouble with Kingston was weather and speeches, the former wet and the latter too long. We had an interesting visit to Ham House and a damp tour through Surrey's Green Belt; dinner at London County Hall; luncheon at Kingston at which Sir Cyril Black, a distinguished operator both professionally and politically, was amongst the guests. The next two years were sad occasions: 1961 cancelled because of Jim Auffleck's death, 1962 overshadowed by Newman Colledge's cruel stroke. His Summer Meeting did go ahead, the responsibility for organising the programme falling on his Deputy, Len Tatham, his secretary and myself. Our hotel base was the "Dolphin and Anchor", right opposite the Cathedral, and those with frontage rooms will not easily forget the bells (shades of Genevieve). We visited the Shoreham CDA, lunched at the Beach Hotel, Littlehampton, and then

toured Arundel Castle as, unfortunately, we were not permitted to see the new theatre in Chichester. The meeting ended with a champagne party at the Bailiff's House in Slindon, the Colledges' delightful home and garden set in a National Trust village, followed by an informal dinner at the King's Head, Pagham. For many members that was the last contact with Newman, although one or two did keep in touch for the few more years left to him.

1963 was a happier meeting, especially for me, as this was my year. A meeting based in Middlesex had its problems, mainly in keeping an identity separate from London, and as a result we did not in fact use the Middlesex Guildhall in Parliament Square. The Chairman of the Council entertained us to dinner at the Hendon Hall Hotel (the first time, incidentally, that dinner jackets were decreed) and one of the guests was an attractive blonde in her early thirties, an intelligent and vivacious conversationalist, as Monty Paine has since confirmed. This was the local MP for Finchley, then Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the Ministry of National Insurance, a certain Margaret Thatcher. So who knows, if there should be a follow-up to this story covering the next decade, possibly we shall find a note that at one of our earlier social meetings we had entertained a future Prime Minister. The business meeting was based on the Feltham scheme, whilst the ladies went to Osterley Park. We all then met up for lunch at London Airport, subsequently having a chance of seeing the main control tower and also the effect of torrential rain in run-off terms. We concluded with an informal dinner at West Lodge, Cockfosters, a former hunting lodge set in the Middlesex Green Belt.

The Association's dinner for the 1964 meeting was held at the Old House Hotel, Windsor, and whether our guests were late or the hotel were not ready to serve, the record shows that this was the most expensive drinking session in the annals of the Association, all very pleasantly spent in the open air. The only worried face was that of our Treasurer, Fred Dawson, but he gradually became reconciled to the impending adverse balance. We had a very full inspection of the Bracknell Development Area, concluding with a dinner at the Belvedere Arms, Blacknest. Monty Paine had entertained a number of his friends at his own house and we shall remember the charming hostess for this particular meeting. Unfortunately I had to miss Taunton in 1965, but understand that it was a pleasant party with a dinner at the County, lunch at Shire Hall and a tour round Exmoor. According to the then President, however, the high spot was a mixed skittles match which produced some splendid bowling by the ladies, who finished, as always, victorious. His description of their "action" is perhaps too erotic for such a sober story as this. We were back in Greater London in 1966 at Croydon, where George and Margaret Gurney had arranged a very full programme for us. The main centre of activity was the Fairfield Hall, where the Association dinner was held and also the formal meeting. We were able to see the concert hall and after lunch, as guests of the Corporation, walked through part of the central area development. The ladies had visited Addington Palace, the Royal School of Church Music. Later in the afternoon we went to the National Recreation Centre at Crystal Palace and after drinks at the Gurney residence ended with an informal dinner at Oxted.

The following year will certainly be remembered, as we were in the City of London itself, with a sight of the procedures and ceremonies based on centuries of tradition. We dined in the Mercers' Hall with the Master of the Company and the Chief Commoner as principal guests, and were entertained to lunch the next day in Guildhall by the Lord Mayor, Sir James Miller. The weather prevented our look at the Barbican and so we had to be satisfied with a film. The conference concluded with the by now accepted informal dinner at the Anchor, Bankside, one of the best known river taverns with its multitude of bars (including "Clink") and well publicised associations with Dr Johnson. My own most vivid memory is of Michael Lucey, attending his only Summer Meeting and obviously enjoying every moment. He had to be restrained from bursting into song in the vaults of the Mercers' Hall, quite apart from having his ardour in other directions damped down. Then in 1968 out to Luton, where I am happy to record that the ladies did in fact visit a hat factory. We dined at Dunstable, lunched in Luton and visited the Demonstration Farm at Silsoe, where the sight of urban

members being transported around the estate on tractor-drawn trailers with bales of straw for seats had all the elements of a Monty Python script. No doubt this would be normal practice at a CLAVA meeting. The end-of-session dinner, which included the President's family, was at the "Bull", Wheathampstead. Westwards to Bristol in 1969, with dinner at the Grand and lunch with a "Lady" Lord Mayor presiding, somewhat delayed because of our ladies' devotion to their morning chore, a sherry-tasting at Harvey's, from which, according to the memory of our President at that time, they returned late with flushed faces and bonnets askew. We had a coach tour around the city to see the works described to us in the morning, tea at the airport and a concluding dinner in one of the city's more fashionable and expensive eating houses.

We started the 70s so far as Summer Meetings were concerned with a trip to the seaside, Brighton, with our base in the Norfolk Hotel - a somewhat faded establishment in terms of accommodation but providing a splendid dinner, preceded by a useful but costly liquid session. Cyril Dutton told us all about the marina, progress on which I have been able to monitor in subsequent years; a fascinating project, but whether income will ever pay for the massive engineering works must surely be open to doubt. The ladies went to the Royal Pavilion, where we joined them for lunch with the Corporation, and in the afternoon the gardeners amongst us were able to envy or criticise the display at the Stanmer Park Nurseries, returning via Rottingdean for tea and an informal dinner at the Devil's Dyke Hotel.

1971 was very different in situation and weather - a rather damp Manchester. We stayed in the Midland, and apart from the Lord Mayor our guests at dinner included Lord Bernstein (of Granada) and our old friend Alan Strachan. The business paper was given by Frank Longdon, whilst the ladies admired Hilda's skill in flower arranging. After a civic lunch we went on a very wet tour of the city centre, including the Shambles, where we observed in amazement the jacking up of an old pub, which seemed just about the most expensive way of maintaining drinking facilities. After tea, but alas no fashion show, at Kendall Milne's, the more seaworthy characters took to Amsterdam-type launches to view the docks and canal, with dire warnings about stomach pumps if you were unwise enough to go overboard. The meeting ended with a fascinating tour of Granada TV studios, when we were actually allowed to sit in the Coronation Street set and were most generously entertained to a buffet supper. Fred Dawson had a second go at Cheltenham in 1972, with better luck with the weather. We were in the Queen's Hotel this time, where our dinner was held, and at the business meeting whilst we listened to two excellent papers, the ladies went off to Bourton-on-the-Water, joining us for lunch as guests of the Borough in the Pittville Pump Room, an appropriately elegant setting for such a distinguished gathering. We took note of the relationship between our President and his Chief Executive and wondered whether this had anything to do with the evil-tasting spa water, which some rash characters actually drank. We had a view of the town from the top of their "skyscraper", the Eagle Star building, and then out to Sudeley Castle, with its Son et Lumière and a display of costumes from a current TV serial. A pleasant, informal dinner at the Mill House, Withington, brought the meeting to a close, although a few privileged members were able to make their bow or curtsy to the Squire of Battledown at his residence next morning.

I too had a second Summer Meeting in May 1973 and for most of the time we were lucky with the weather. To avoid West End prices I opted for the Alexandra National Hotel at Finsbury Park (since taken over by Haringey for housing), and this was the setting for the formal dinner. Getting 100 people to County Hall next morning by coach, car and public transport on time was quite an exercise, and I was fortunate in having the use of the Council Chamber for the papers given by my colleagues on the South Bank story, at which the ladies also attended. The GLC provided a luncheon on a lavish scale in the conference hall and here again luck was on my side, for this was only weeks after the Labour victory in the election and within a few months hospitality at this level had been cut to ribbons. In addition to the guests from the Association there were also present Baron Greenwood of Rossendale, the chairman of the Local Government Staff Commission (a rather

vital contact at this time) and a number of representatives from government departments associated with our work. After lunch we went a half mile downstream to the London Weekend Television headquarters, where, after a talk describing their operations, we had a guided tour and a view over London from the roof and watched a live rehearsal for one of their less memorable series, the Fenn Street Gang. Tea was somewhat interrupted by the operations of a candid camera. This visit provided for some of us an interesting contrast with the Granada complex in Manchester. In the evening we went on board the MV Abercorn downstream to Greenwich and back as far as Chelsea. There was a glorious sunset and a fine night, albeit somewhat gusty, as George Gurney found when he got to the windward of a rather lively and frothy beer service. A number of us will probably recall one of our newer members and his bride of a few weeks who remained sublimely oblivious to all the social and professional activity. Indeed, one could not help wondering why they had come. My personal meeting ended with a few friends in a box at Lords for the MCC versus New Zealand match. Glenn Turner made a ton, it finally rained, and we all got rather wet, but only inside.

Our venue the following year was a complete contrast - the Berystede Hotel at Ascot, set in superb grounds. It was just as well we missed the race week which immediately followed, judging by the room prices which were being quoted. The pattern followed on customary lines, with the formal dinner in the hotel and the ladies going off to Windsor Castle whilst we had our business meeting on the following day. After lunch with members and officials from the Royal County, we had a pleasant visit to an interesting house and garden, Greys Court at Henley, and once again brought the meeting to a close with dinner at the East Arms Hotel, Hurley.

Then we had a visit to Leicester, with another contrast in background, as our headquarters hotel, the Holiday Inn, was located in the centre of a new traffic gyratory system. One unusual feature was the signs welcoming the Association displayed at strategic roadside points; another was the presence at the formal dinner of His Grace the Duke of Rutland in his county capacity - the only Duke we have managed to score in our 28 years. A third departure was to have the formal meeting away from the county town, although Oakham did, of course, once have that status in Rutland, and at the Crown Hotel there we had a fascinating illustrated talk by Dick Luff on furniture. Apart from putting Chippendale in his rightful place, he inevitably left us dissatisfied with our own "pieces" (I hasten to add, furniture, of course) and amazed that he finds time for this specialist activity in addition to his official and other extramural involvements. After lunch, by coach to Belvoir Castle, the Duke's home, where he and the Duchess helped to show us round a rather mixed collection of treasures. It was an interesting experience, the grounds were lovely, and there were splendid views over the famous hunting country. Our evening dinner was at the Grey Lady Restaurant, Newton Linford, and the highly successful meeting ended the next day on a quieter note when most of us managed to find the Brigham family at home, apart, that is, from myself, as I got lost, mainly due to Cyril Dutton's speed from a standing start. But finally I homed in on a friendly beacon. We shall certainly recall the heat of the afternoon sun and also the delicate Presidential touch on the piano, evoking memories of the 'top ten' of his formative years.

1976 saw us making our furthest northern trip, and the event was fixed rather later than usual in the first week of July. This probably accounted for the absence of some of our more regular supporters who were involved in other conferences or summer holidays. It also meant that I had to miss the latter half of the meeting, as we were due in Somerset for a wedding. There was another unusual aspect to this meeting, since our accommodation was in the new university complex with views over the city itself. We were very comfortably housed, but one of the memorable features was the shared "ablutions" which gave rise to some interesting comments on the theme songs whistled by various members when engaged in the traditional early morning activities. The dinner was in Durham Castle in most impressive surroundings, and we scored another first in that we were actually piped in to the meal. The next morning we had an interesting

coach ride through parts of the surrounding country, including a trip through a safari park with indications of what was likely to happen if the coach broke down, including instructions to await the arrival of the white hunter, which seemed contrary to race relations. We then saw part of the central area development of our President's new town, no doubt providing a pre-run for another Presidential visit in the following year. We had a paper by the General Manager and then lunched under marquees at Usworth Hall as guests of the Corporation. I am told that the rest of the meeting, with a visit to the Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle and an informal dinner at Sedgefield, lived up to the high standards expected on these occasions.

And so to last week, with a return to Sheffield after an interval of 20 years, and a very changed city it is from 1957. A changed Association too, for there were only four members who attended both meetings, two honorary - Frank Longdon and Geoffrey Goss - and two current - Cyril Dutton and myself. The weather was unfortunately miserable, but this did not affect our enjoyment of the splendid programme which David George had arranged. Our main base was the St George's Hotel (and where else?) in the western approaches, and we were guests of the Lord Mayor at a formal dinner at the Town Hall on the first night. The following day was a very full one, with the main centre of activity the British Steel Corporation plant at Tinsley Park. After an introductory talk by Brian Crawshaw, the works manager, we were taken on a fascinating tour of parts of the works to see the realities of steel production and some of us were fortunate enough to witness the tapping of 130 tons of molten steel, an awe-inspiring spectacle. The Association lunch was in the impressive Cutlers' Hall with the Master Cutler as the principal guest, and the afternoon session was in complete contrast to the morning visit, when we went to the Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet to see some of the original plant for steel-making in the 18th and 19th centuries, together with a Craftsmen's Fair. The day finished with a coach tour through some potentially delightful country, including Chatsworth, rather spoiled by the cloud and mist. Our evening objective was the Anglers' Rest at Bamford - a most congenial gathering which had as its climax some long drawn out manoeuvring in order to extricate the coaches from the car park, aided(?) by the guidance, sometimes conflicting, of a number of members including Bryan Eaton and Dick Luff. Indeed, it did occur to one or two members that National Car Parks would perhaps not be a suitable post-retirement vocation for these gentlemen. On the Saturday morning members of the Executive Committee and other elder statesmen were able to express our thanks to Ann and David for a memorable Summer Meeting when we visited them at Woodsetts, and a suitable "team" photograph was taken to round off the whole affair.

7. CONCLUSIONS

I said at the outset that this would be a personal account and such it has proved to be. Inevitably it has become something of a catalogue of names and places; as I went through the various papers and minutes I found it difficult to exclude some of the detail and, as with all these exercises, nostalgia constantly crept in as incidents and personalities emerged from the record. I hope it is a reasonably accurate picture, but no doubt I shall be picked up on a number of points. It was significant, when compiling the lists of members, present, honorary and past, that I seemed to know more of the latter two groups than of the first, and I wonder how many faces my readers will honestly be able to link to the 250 names included. It is a chastening thought to realise, for example, that the "second senior citizen" has appeared on only about two or three occasions since 1956 and I certainly should not recognise him. Since my election I could have attended 112 OGMs and I believe I missed out on only six, with an even smaller proportion of the Executive Committee meetings. It might be interesting to calculate how many tuns of sherry have been consumed at the gatherings in my various offices, to say nothing of the tea and biscuits!

I have tried to show how the phases have come and gone, from the early almost closed society, the gradual increase in size leading to

a fairly static situation in the early 60s, the London explosion after 1964 and then the extraordinary transformation as a result of the 1972 Act. As I have said earlier, the Association has really ceased to have that atmosphere of a friendly professional luncheon club and I for one regret this change. At one of the earliest meetings William Rothwell forecast a total membership of 100: we are not much above that now, although there are far more authorities with valuers than he could ever have imagined and I rather doubt whether it can expand any further. London is fairly fully represented, also the counties, and with cut-back in public spending it seems unlikely that many more districts will now set up departments or sections in our field of activity. If CLAVA should ever agree to link up formally this could add ten or twelve new members, but I should be surprised if there is scope for significant growth. However, that is all for the future and I may even end this story by some rash crystal-gazing. The unsatisfactory and frustrating dialogue over 25 years with CLAVA certainly comes out loud and clear from our minutes, and I think this is one of the saddest aspects of the story. I look on it as almost a personal failure, since I had hoped to make some form of amalgamation the primary objective of my second year as president. The CLAVA flirtation contrasts with the closer links which we have established with the RICS and our increased representation there. Our status with the Institution is assured and respected, as indeed it always has been with the RVA. We now have an excellent relationship with the Valuation Office and I like to think that at the Department of the Environment our contributions are welcomed, as was shown to be the case with recent legislative proposals. I am not quite so convinced that our role has been established and accepted with certain of the local authority associations and in my view more ought to be done in this respect.

Glancing through the Appendix which lists the papers read one sees the wide spread of interest which has been generated, and we have over the years had some outstanding speakers. It is clear that there has been a reluctance on the part of members in more recent years to make a real contribution, and this contrasts with the enthusiasm of the earlier days. The main recurring themes have understandably been, firstly, compensation, with a paper read at the earliest meeting covering development charges under the 1947 Act, right through to our last session during which we spent a lot of time on the Community Land legislation. Incidentally, I wonder how many can recall the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources and put a name and a face to the Minister. Next in importance, central area development, with visits and papers on many schemes; and thirdly, the place of the valuer and estates surveyor, with Bains, Borner and the 1972 Act all having vital influences on our future status and credibility. Rating has tended to fall away, but this too was to be expected. The virtual disappearance of the members' queries item is, I think, unfortunate, because between 1955 and 1965 this was one of the most instructive features of our meetings, provoking lively discussion and almost always producing guidance and information useful for the membership as a whole.

The success of any society, whether it be professional, technical, cultural, sporting or social, depends on its officers, and that success can be assured if there is a dominant personality prepared to spend time, effort and often money in pursuing an enthusiastic course of action. In the early years we had Rothwell, then Toole, who combined administrative and professional expertise. Auffleck stuck to the administrative side, and although when he died we had a succession of most able officers to run things for us - Dawson, Ridge and Dutton spring to mind - nevertheless I should be less than honest if I did not suggest that the main driving force for some twelve years or more was KHB. Today we have an excellent executive team and an obvious abundance of professional talent, but I have a feeling that we are tending to coast, or indeed drift. I await with eager anticipation the emergence of another "bossy organiser" Mr Fixit type of member who will arrange, correspond, write papers himself and foster relationships with other bodies. We have continued to rely on honorary officers, although if we grow much larger we might have to contemplate full time staff, but so far we have been lucky in this band of volunteer enthusiasts. They in turn have been dependent on their secretaries, of whom I have already mentioned Freda Emmert. It would be invidious to mention all the other ladies but I shall name one, the producer of

this impeccably typed record, Betty Clayden, who has herself almost qualified for Honorary Membership over these past 21 years. One final advantage in this period has been the virtually free accommodation provided here at County Hall, and that friendly relationship certainly needs to be preserved.

The future of the Association has been the subject of recent discussion at an OGM, but on that occasion I held my peace. I believe that this future is linked with the future of the professions as a whole, which have been and will continue to be under attack, especially one like ours with its political and public relations always under the spotlight: compulsory purchase, compensation, rents, rates, etc. The real world outside will be increasingly dominated by organised bodies such as the CBI and the TUC, and that makes the existence of our new Guild even more important. The RICS, along with other similar societies, will in my view have to change its attitude towards trades unions and move into a BMA type of situation. So far as local government is concerned, I forecast a further reorganisation within ten years with even fewer authorities, the disappearance of the shire counties and the creation of elected regional authorities with strategic powers, much on devolution lines. Tactical activity would then be concentrated in all-purpose district councils. What would I suggest the Association should do to meet such new circumstances?

1. Resolve the CLAVA situation. Their reluctance to affiliate, federate, join, is difficult to justify with over 30 of their members already in this Association. The hard-liners will in due course disappear, and the sooner some acceptable, rational and common-sense solution is achieved the better. If not, I am convinced that they will be the eventual losers, not this Association.
2. Try to bring about some degree of uniformity in our designations on the lines of the Treasurer, Education Officer, Architect and Planner. We must surely diminish our potential impact by the multitude of permutations which at present describe our activities.
3. Maintain, or indeed raise, the conditions affecting entry, which I personally feel for many years have been far too low, bringing no advantage to the Association; indeed, if anything, dissipating its strength by the increasing numbers.
4. Reduce the number of meetings by at least one. Attendance is expensive and time-consuming and many authorities are cutting back on their support. There are other societies with conferences and meetings in competition, to say nothing of holidays. My pattern would be: an Annual General Meeting with a formal prestige lunch in London; a Summer Meeting; a provincial meeting; and one other OGM also in London. The form of the Annual Meeting should change, with a top rank speaker at a morning OGM, leaving just time to appoint the President at the AGM immediately before the lunch break. After lunch, for those who bother to stay, there could be the routine business reports, appointment of officers, etc. There is no real need for the President to deliver his "speech from the throne": this could be circulated and issued to the press.
5. Maintain, and possibly increase, the strength of our representation on the various councils and Committees of the RICS. This means a greater effort by members at Branch level by active and constructive participation in their affairs, leading eventually to office and nomination to HQ Committees. Time-consuming and demanding, but in my view essential.

I have already acknowledged the dedicated work which has gone into the typing of this script and appendices, but I must also thank my Land Survey colleagues for the excellent job they did with the outside cover. It has been quite an exercise putting all this material together. I think it has been worth while and it does go some way towards repaying all the pleasure which I have obtained from my membership over the past 22 years.

Curtain

PART 2 - 1977-1986

Foreword

*What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning
The end is where we start from. Eliot*

In March 1977, I faced a situation similar to most other Honorary and Past Members with retirement only a few months away - the need to dispose of the accumulated files and papers which for many years had been undisturbed in cupboards, cabinets and drawers. Amongst these dusty archives were the agendas and minutes of the Association dating back to 1954 when I first became a member and, as I started to leaf through them, I got the feeling, arrogant maybe, that an era was coming to an end. From this feeling developed the thought that some sort of record ought to be made, particularly of the early days before I joined and, since my involvement and interest in the work of the GLC was inevitably on the wane leaving me with some time on my hands, I started, as a very personal exercise, to put together a history. I was greatly assisted by the memories of certain founder members who were able to fill in gaps where no minutes had survived and eventually the account was completed shortly before I vacated that office with the best view in London. I owed much to the help given to me by colleagues at County Hall, the typing, copying and binding of the pages and particularly the splendid effort by the drawing office in producing the coloured facsimile of the presidential badge on the cover.

The reason for this account of the background of ten years ago is to emphasise that the whole thing was a very personal effort without any authority or backing by the Executive Committee. Only 40 copies were made available on a limited distribution - founder members, past presidents and others directly involved during these first 28 years. Subsequently, I believe, more copies were printed and sent on request to other members. Some were even released to chairmen of "host" authorities as a form of brief, a move which I had never envisaged and indeed, having regard to some of my comments, would not have supported. At one time a copy was in the RICS library, I suppose as a kind of archive, but basically the intention was to keep it strictly within the "family".

With mission accomplished and all my old papers consigned to the shredder, I was content to become a back bench attendee on the more social occasions. A suggestion was made 3 or 4 years ago that there should be an update of the story, but this came to nothing. Then, a few weeks before the final AGM last November, Gordon Smith asked if I would say something at the meeting about the life-span of the Association and this I was very pleased to do, reviving many old memories. Possibly activated by this valedictory address, Remo Verrico expressed the hope that I would write a follow-up to the 1977 account and so complete the saga. I was reluctant to take this on for a number of reasons: non-involvement in the formal meetings and policy discussions, a happy ignorance of current conditions in local government, too many unknown faces among the active membership.

Eventually, however, a work pattern was agreed, on rather different lines from 1977. A complete set of minutes and other relevant papers would be made available together with necessary back-up facilities and a presidential letter would be sent to all members, suggesting that they should let me have any comments or special memories.

Supplementing this, I would write to some 25 members - presidents, officers, branch chairmen, provincial "hosts", inviting them to give me their uninhibited and non-attributable observations. My final draft would be vetted by a small editorial team to ensure that any outrageous or blatantly biased passages could be excised, although I should naturally be mortally offended if a single word was changed.

Now, in this opening, I have to report on the result of this search for supplementary, supporting material as requested in Remo's letter (hence the quotation under the heading). The active membership was apparently agog with apathy, seething with indifference or whatever, since the harvest was precisely nil. Indeed, senior honorary and Past Members will understand when I say that the whole thing represented a classic TEWT⁽¹⁾. This does not augur well for the circulation prospects and I doubt whether there will be much competition for the T.V. or film rights. Maybe I should have circulated a draft title - "The Alaves, an everyday story of valuation folk"? Or perhaps in line with a bar of current American legal soap - "L.A. Val"? I suppose there could have been a distribution of car window stickers on the contemporary craze for how people "do it". "Alaves do it under compulsory powers"? or "with the help of tables"? or "on a dumpy level"? Perhaps there is scope for a summer meeting competition here. So far as my personal approach was concerned the results were better but rather slow in coming: extracting responses from senior members makes getting blood out of a stone a piece of cake (deliberate mixed metaphor so don't write). At one stage I came to the conclusion that Remo's objective could have been achieved by stapling together the annual reports, minutes and lists of members but, in the words of the mighty Magnusson "I've started so I'll finish".

No sex, no violence, no racism, and party politics are out in the run-up to a general election so the end product is somewhat bland, even boring: nobody will complain if you now press the destruct button. What follows, therefore, is the cobbling together of those bits and pieces which appeared to me to be not only of interest but also seemly and printable and whereas much of it is expressed in a personal style, the editorial team, in theory anyway, will have to bear the ultimate responsibility. I suggest, therefore, in all fairness, that if there should be any complaints or criticisms, these should be addressed to Remo Verrico who, after all, activated the exercise.

The first part of the history closed with David George's summer meeting in Sheffield in July 1977 and we pick up the story a few months later at the AGM when Brian White took over. James Callaghan was in No. 10; Cutler led the GLC; Livingstone was better known coupled with Stanley than with Ken; inflation was at 14%; unemployment 1.3 million; Frank Knowles was RICS President; The Mousetrap only in its 25th year; England under Mike Brearley had won the Ashes; and there were very few professionals in the public service with salaries over £20,000 pa.

And so, if you've managed to stay with me this far, now read on!

1. MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

This section of the story is divided into four sections: the London meetings, (OGMs and AGMs), the Study Days, the provincial/Spring meetings and the Summer gatherings. My own direct experience is limited to the AGMs, the Summer Meetings and three of the provincial meetings. Otherwise I have relied on the minutes, the annual reports and a very limited number of individual comments.

(i) Business in London

*Business was his aversion
Pleasure was his business* **Edgeworth**

All the AGMs were held in County Hall as were the OGMs in the first half of the period. These then switched to Caxton Hall and on one

¹ For the militarily uninitiated, a TEWT is a Tactical Exercise Without Troops, a way to illustrate a tactical point in the field without actually manoeuvring your forces.

occasion to the IBM Centre. A summary of all the papers read with the names of the speakers can be seen in Appendix D.

So to October 1977 and the 28th AGM. Brian White struck a new note by circulating his comprehensive presidential address, commenting briefly on the main features with particular emphasis on the problems of inner urban decay which had been under political discussion for 15 years with no prospect of any practical solutions. Plus ça change. There was a new Honorary Treasurer, Arthur Tindall taking over.

The January 1978 meeting was the first held jointly with CLAVA and the principal speaker was Ted Turner talking on the problems of farming on the urban fringe. In the contemporary scene we may wonder whether the recent announcements by Messrs Jopling and Ridley will not make such problems even more acute. We also heard from John Tibbs, who in between other posts was for a short time in charge of the new Lands Directorate at the D of E. There was a report that selective checking was still running at about 3,000 cases per quarter.

Industrial development was the theme for the May meeting. We were let down by the Chief Executive of English Estates but N J Edwards of Bernard Thorpe helped us out, speaking on redevelopment packages involving local authorities and institutions. He was followed by A A Pelling of the D of E outlining the Ministry approach to industry in the inner city.

Dick Luff was installed as President at the 29th AGM, the first of many subsequent high offices which he was to hold. In his address he took a broader view of local government, concentrating on the financial aspects of property investment both public and private. He stressed the interdependence of the property market and outlined the contemporary monetary state of the country. He forecast an imminent property boom but questioned whether finance would be available for inner city redevelopment. On an equally sombre note but at a lower level, the Honorary Treasurer drew attention to the cash situation of the Association, a balance of only £56 due to losses at recent meetings. The principal guest at the lunch was Guy Barnett, then Parliamentary Under Secretary at the D of E, a popular MP whose recent death caused the Greenwich by-election. The January meeting was shared with CLAVA, the main topic once again the Urban Fringe, with a paper by a lady (the only recorded occasion in the history of the Association when this happened) from the Countryside Commission. In March there was a return visit by Mr Pelling with further general comments on inner city policies, his previous paper having concentrated on industrial aspects. It was reported that Alan Duchars was chairing a committee preparing comments on the RICS Review of Education Policy. Professional topics raised by members were discussed in June including for the first time professional indemnity insurance, but there was also an item concerning the availability of an Association tie, another of Roger Waters' ideas.

Then it was Gordon Powell's year and having outlined his own progression in the Association, he urged younger members to take a more active part. He forecast a rough ride in the public service against a background of cuts and stressed the vital need to make efficient use of all available resources. Gordon Smith took over as Honorary Secretary and, due to a profit of £300 on the summer meeting, the financial crisis had lessened. On branch matters, the AGM approved the constitution for the Scottish and North West and also a formal proposal that GLC officers should be excluded from membership of the London Branch - a rather strange decision which subsequently, and happily, was rescinded. A working party was set up to consider the status of and qualifications for Honorary Membership together with the whole question of subscriptions.

The principal guests at the lunch were Baroness Young, Minister of State for Education and Lord Bellwin, Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Environment; a noble pair indeed and probably our strongest political representation. The lunch ended, appropriately, with a farewell embrace between the President and the Baroness - a good title for this section perhaps?

CLAVA again joined with us for the January meeting with papers read by a director of Hoveringham's on minerals and on waste disposal by a Cambridge County officer. There were reports of inaugural meetings of the two new branches. The February meeting concentrated on topics of professional interest but included a discussion paper on the Local Government Planning and Land Bill presented by George Touchard. This meeting was the first to be held in Caxton Hall, courtesy of Westminster City Council.

The installation of Bill Plunkett as President at the 1980 AGM provided the fourth County Hall valuer to hold that office, but there was a sombre note to his address. He described local government as in a state of disarray with open hostility between it and Whitehall and this had obvious repercussions on the responsibilities of Association members. He went on to mention the potential implications of enterprise zones and urban development corporations. On a happier note he commented on the progress of the Valuation Liaison Group with the issue of Ministry Circular 18/80 and the end of selective checking. This was the culmination of years of strenuous effort by certain members and he reminded the meeting that every member would now be fully and publicly accountable for every transaction. He paid tribute to the friendly co-operation shown by the Valuation Office in bringing about this satisfactory conclusion. I shall refer again to the Group in a later section including its formal structure and constitution.

The working party on membership and subscriptions chaired by David George had reported and its recommendations were approved. The principal change was the creation of two categories of members: a restricted number of Honorary Members and the more general class of Past Members. Ten names were agreed as the first of the new Honorary Members. The effect of these changes will be further mentioned under Membership.

The main speaker at the January 19 81 meeting was the Local Ombudsman. Some members had already had direct experience of his office but his account of the powers and scope of the organisation was useful and interesting. Three papers were read at the May meeting, two on aspects of the recent Local Government Act. Two Department of Environment officials attended by invitation and played a constructive part in the afternoon discussion session, particularly on enterprise zones.

The only EGM in the history of the Association was called for August. The theme subject was the Right to Buy and there was a good attendance. Because of the absence on leave of many members, substitutes were nominated in their place.

So to October 1981, and John Higginson ranged wide in his comments from the domestic matter of communication within the Association to contemporary professional issues such as public participation in planning, the inner city, enterprise zones, the generation of employment and members' involvement in new legislation. He forecast a busy year but unfortunately the 152nd OGM in the following January was the meeting that never was, being cancelled due to a threatened rail strike although the meeting number was still retained. March saw another joint effort with CLAVA with an address by a senior surveyor from the British Rail Property Board. He covered many points which were of direct concern to the Association, indeed some of them a source of frustration and irritation. Members clearly welcomed the opportunity to seek clarification of the Board's policies and practice. There was also a discussion on the ongoing question of professional indemnity insurance. It was reported that the President and Honorary Secretary had attended a SOLACE meeting which had considered the public image of local government. Reading the notes of the discussion leaves the impression that despite any efforts which may have been made as a result of the recommendations from that meeting, this image is, if anything, rather worse today. Another interesting point raised by a member revealed that certain London firms of chartered surveyors were virtually touting for local authority business with direct letters to chief executives even though there was clearly a valuer and estate surveyor in charge of the appropriate

department. This was taken up with the RICS without any evident result.

Alan Duchars, with many years of membership behind him, was installed as President at the 33rd AGM in 1982, but his occupancy of the chair could have been the shortest on record. The Honorary Toastmaster at the lunch which followed had prayed silence for "your President, Len Humphries, who will reply to the toast of the Association". Alan ignored his premature dismissal and went on to mention many contemporary issues bearing in mind the likelihood of a General Election. He reviewed current legislation and referred to the Opposition's proposals on certain aspects of property administration as contrasted with the Government's pressures for more privatisation. He also referred to the changes in departmental structures with the appointment of directors and stressed the need for Association members to preserve professional integrity and independence.

Peter Plunkett resigned after a long stint as Assistant Honorary Secretary and Press Officer, responsible for the minutes, arrangements for meetings, lunches and publicity, essential but rather thankless tasks. He no doubt hoped for a quiet time: little did he realise that he would be recalled within a year. There were comments on the Dalton Mark II Committee considering Government valuation services which will be mentioned later on and I had something to say about the Nattrass letter in the CSW which will also be an item in a subsequent section. The principal guest at the luncheon was Sir George Young, yet another Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Department of Environment, a former GLC member and with a reputation as a cyclist. I noticed a reference in the Scottish Branch minutes to the "rudeness" of one speaker with a suggestion that the Executive Committee should be more careful in future selection. The other guest was the then GLC Chairman, Sir Ashley Bramall, a pleasant enough chap, so I read through Sir George's brief which was quite flattering to the Association with sensible comments on Land Registers, the Right to Buy, the VLG and our role in all these matters. Nothing to which exception could be taken, so what upset the Scots remains a mystery.

The January 1983 meeting was another arranged jointly with CLAVA with a paper read by Christopher Howes of the Department of Environment. This was very well received as members appreciated his comments on the good relationship between his department and the Association: indeed he was contemplating a closer informal liaison. There was also a general discussion on professional topics.

In March there was a warm welcome for Dick Luff attending as President of the RICS. He gave a general review of institution activities and explained in some detail the role and management of CSW. He made a strong plea for greater involvement in RICS affairs by newer members, especially at Branch level. David George spoke to his AMA paper on the public property portfolio and other professional topics were discussed. Dick Miller was putting together a study of computers in valuation departments and asked for members' experiences.

The liaison proposed by Chris Howes took practical form in a group comprising Department of Environment officials, three CLAVA members, together with Messrs Higginson, Searle and Tindall from ALAVES. It was reported that John Higginson was chairing a working party looking at the RICS discussion paper on compensation for compulsory purchase.

Moving on to 1983/84, Len Humphries covered a great deal of ground in his address, making much of the need to publicise the skills of the valuer not only to the world at large but more specifically within his own authority. Internal communication was all too often defective. He went on to comment on the register of unused land, rating reform, enterprise zones, urban development grants and portfolio management. There were two major changes in the Honorary Officers, Tim Foster taking over as Secretary from Gordon Smith and Harvey Cox relieving Arthur Tindall of his financial burden (in Association terms only) so that he could free himself for the responsibilities of the senior vice-presidency. The rules governing the rights of Honorary Members were bent to enable Peter Plunkett to resume his role as

Assistant Honorary Secretary and Press Officer, his replacement for less than a year having resigned from the Association for reasons other than the worries of this particular office. It was reported that the Association had presented its evidence to the Dalton Committee and further reference to this will be made when our relationship with the VO is described. Dick Miller was able to say that his research into computers in valuation departments was virtually complete.

The choice of speakers at the annual lunch departed from the hitherto accepted custom, both being from the private sector - Dennis Marler of Capital and Counties (and Fulham) who were of course very much involved in Newcastle activities and Geoffrey Powell, then senior partner of Gerald Eve but perhaps on this occasion wearing his PAG protective headgear.

The January OGM concentrated on various professional topics: simplified planning zones for the first time with comments to the Department of Environment and mention was made of yet another touting letter from an "eminent" firm of chartered surveyors, addressed to the chief executive and offering their services. A working party had been set up, chaired by Remo Verrico, to consider the white paper, Streamlining the Cities.

CLAVA organised the joint meeting in February and members were entertained by a witty and relevant paper from Sir John Boynton on the future of local government. The after-lunch session concentrated on various items raised by members. Comments were made on the formation of CoPROP and a potential clash of interest. Alan Darg was chairing a working party on Value for Money and Peter Leigh had become a member of PAG.

Arthur Tindall's commendably brief presidential address produced something of a contrast in that it concentrated on certain contemporary issues of major significance rather than attempting to cover the whole field of professional activity. He referred in particular to members' involvement in the complete management of a property portfolio owned by a local authority and compared current responsibilities with those facing the founder members 35 years ago. There is, of course, no connection between the consequent additional pre-lunch available time and the unacceptable elements of our principal guest's speech - Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction. He saw fit to express criticism of the slowness in selling surplus land and the filling of empty houses and flats, putting the blame on to members of the Association. Predictably this didn't go down too well, provoking audible comments the mildest of which was "bloody rubbish". Contrary to one press report, the President did not tell the Minister to "get stuffed" but he did react in justifiably strong terms, suggesting with restrained courtesy that the Minister should direct his carping comments elsewhere, probably to his own department. It is perhaps worthy of note that Mr Gow did not last very long, a fate which seemed to befall many of our ministerial guests, irrespective of the whim of the electorate. A deservedly warmer reception was given to our other guest speaker, an old friend, Tom Hoyes of Reading University. In the appointment of officers, Peter Plunkett handed over his duties for a second time hoping for a more lasting respite and Barry Searle took over. It was reported that Alan Duchars was chairing an RICS Working Party considering the Chartered Surveyor in the public sector.

There was another joint meeting with CLAVA in February 1985, held in the IBM Centre on the South Bank, a very appropriate setting for a computer seminar. This was the culmination of all Dick Miller's hard work and research. There were four speakers, it was well attended and voted a great success. In the preliminary business items it had been reported that Messrs Darg and Duchars had presented papers to a Public Works Congress organised by CLAVA but it is not true that they were billed as the Two Alans. Reference was also made to the second report of Alan Darg's working party on value for money and he was commended for his efforts. The Executive Committee had decided to set up two standing groups: the first chaired by the Senior Vice-President would consider new and amended legislation and the second, under the Junior Vice-President would organise further study days, meetings, speakers and consider proposals for new branches.

The Association had been invited to submit observations to the Widdecombe Committee.

The atmosphere at County Hall in October 1985 was understandably gloomy and despondent, but not so far as the Association's AGM was concerned. Gordon Smith's address ranged wide over contemporary issues such as the Audit Commission, competition in the provision of local authority services, portfolio management, and he made a special point of the need to strengthen the links already forged with central government units with similar interests, in other words the VO and the Department of Environment. The RICS Committee chaired by Alan Duchars on Chartered Surveyors in the public sector had submitted its report with practical and interesting recommendations. It also revealed that local authority members included about 2,800 in the GP Division with 455 in P and D: no doubt a large proportion of these were in departments headed by Association members. It was reported that Barry Searle had attended a meeting of the Local Government Training Board which had discussed education and training. This could well have been a subject meriting fuller consideration by the Association but there is no record of any follow-up action. The guest speakers at the Annual Lunch were John Banham of the Audit Commission and Albert Fallows the Chief Valuer: a happy choice.

The February 1986 OGM was another joint occasion with CLAVA held at Great George Street and it was reported that the working party of both Associations looking into the possibility of a merger was making good progress. A South West Branch was to be formed from the members representing authorities in Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucester, Somerset and Wiltshire. A proposal that Residuary Body officers should be admitted as members was not recommended by the Executive Committee and was defeated on a vote (a rare occurrence at ALAVES meetings). The speaker, Malcolm Bowles, was from another Government organisation, the PSA, and he talked on property repayment schemes.

The 37th and last AGM held once again and appropriately at County Hall on 27 November 1986 produced a record attendance for such meetings of 82 including 22 honorary and Past Members. This was the last assembly of ALAVES and only formal business was taken, but I had been invited by Gordon Smith to say something about the Association, an invitation which I gladly accepted. My comments have been circulated to all members and, inevitably, some of these will reappear in this story.

(ii) Study Days

Much study is a weariness of the flesh. Ecclesiastes

During this period, three study days were organised but the records and minutes do not provide much information on what happened. From various sources I have pieced together most of the background but there are still some missing details.

The idea seems to have originated with the NW Branch, who undertook the organisation of the first of such events, and this took place in February 1982 at Great George Street. A steering committee was formed and much effort went into the preliminary work, particularly by John Higginson who presided on the day itself. The theme was something of a mouthful: "The Impetus to the Local Economy by Land and Property Development and Management" and the Branch provided the main speakers from Association membership. It was evident that considerable interest had been aroused and the event was fully attended - about 150 in all - made up of 60 from ALAVES, another 30 officers from different departments and 60 elected members. Nevertheless the end product seems to have been something of a "curate's egg". The RICS was not particularly enthusiastic except the catering division which did provide an excellent lunch, but other support was not forthcoming despite earlier assurances, possibly due to the non-use of the full STS machine. The Day was directed specifically at elected members and chief executives: Bill Jackson, chief executive of Kent County Council and the then Chairman of SOLACE opened the proceedings and took an active part in later discussion.

Unfortunately one of the speakers was ill on the day and the substitute arranged by the Branch was unwilling to read that paper. Moreover none of the papers nor a synopsis had been circulated beforehand. A subsequent report at an OGM did describe the event as a reasonable success and it was evident that the local elected members went away having enjoyed their day. However, this was not the view of a Scottish member who reported to his Branch that "two of the speakers failed to give papers and the discussion was at a low level". Nevertheless there is no question of the financial success which initially revealed a profit of £910, subsequently scaled down by the Treasurer to £774 and it should be noted the Study Day fee was £15 including lunch and refreshments: rather a contrast to certain other events of a similar kind held at HQ.

John Higginson's experiences and analysis were evidently taken into account by Len Humphries, who presided over the March 1984 event, and especially by Barry Searle, chairing the steering group with back-up from Tim Foster. This was again aimed at the same potential attendance and it too was held at Great George Street, the theme being "Public Property - an Asset". An impressive group of speakers was selected - John Banham of the Audit Commission, Noel Hepworth of CIPFA, Geoffrey Powell, Chairman of PAG, with a summary by David Mellor, Chief Executive of Leicester City Council. Despite a one-day strike by London Transport and torrential rain, the event was a considerable success, reflecting great credit on the organisers. There was again a capacity attendance (162 paid) with 80 local authorities represented by elected members and chief officers. Indeed 60 applications had to be turned away. The charge was £20 per delegate inclusive of lunch and wine, and the Association's finances benefited by a net profit of over £900.

For reasons which are not apparent in the papers, the 1985 Study Day was a more limited exercise run jointly with CLAVA and no elected members attending. The venue was Great George Street and the theme "Value for Money". Remo Verrico chaired the steering group, Arthur Tindall presided and papers were read by Barry Searle, Gordon Smith and Alan Darg. Eighty six delegates attended from the two Associations and the event was budgeted to be self-financing at an all-in cost of £10 per person.

There was a plan to hold an event in 1986, developing the theme of partnership between the public and private sectors. It was decided to liaise through Alan Duchars with the RICS, who had a similar idea in mind, and Dick Miller took over the working group from Remo Verrico. However, in April it was reported that the RICS had apparently lost interest in the project and no further action was taken. It is understood that something may be arranged in 1987.

After all that rather boring record of papers and talks and administration, I can now turn to the lighter side, to the wine and the roses, the music and the dancing and, of course, the ladies. In other words, the Spring and Summer Meetings.

(iii) Provincial or Spring Meetings

It gets through more business in Spring than in any other season. M Twain

In March 1978 the Association visited Wales for the first and only time, to Mold in the county of Clwyd. The idea for this meeting stemmed from the enthusiasm of Roger Waters, then a member of the Executive Committee, and it was sad that, despite his efforts, the attendance was disappointing. Three years later he moved into private practice and the Association was the loser. The overnighters stayed in the Curzon Hotel in Chester some 12 miles distant but most members attended for the day.

The OGM was held in the County Civic Centre and papers were read by county officers on local industrial development and on Theatre Clwyd. The ladies had a conducted tour of the city of Chester including a walk on the walls and were returned to Mold in a very overloaded minibus along with three back-sliding males who were, of course,

the cause of the problem. Hospitality was understandably limited as Clwyd is certainly not a wealthy authority but we were made very welcome. Brian White was able to swap Millwall stories with the County Chairman who was also Chairman of Wrexham FC, celebrating a recent Cup victory. In the afternoon, we trod the stage of the new theatre and looked round the Technological Centre.

Brighton in April was the 1979 location, with a sea-front hotel, the Royal Norfolk then owned by a member of the Corporation. We were well received but there were extensive renovation works in progress which did create certain hazards in bathrooms and corridors. We were given a civic reception at the Brighton Centre followed by a conducted tour, noting the preparations for a flower show. The informal supper was attended by the Mayor and other local members. The OGM provided another new experience in Association terms, held on board the SS Medina, the HQ of Brighton Yacht Club, moored in the marina. Cyril Dutton described the current state of the project: some members had heard his account of the early problems at the 1970 summer meeting. Unfortunately the layout below deck and the acoustics made it difficult for some to hear his address. He did say that the Corporation would participate in the profits, outlined the difficulties of constructing the outer moles, a fascinating engineering feat, indicated that there would ultimately be residential and leisure development on the shore section and a terminal for a cross-channel Jetfoil. Lunch on board was hardly memorable: even the gulls didn't fancy the bread and butter pudding and the subsequent walk round the marina was desirable especially for digestive reasons. There was a recent interview in the Sunday Telegraph with the present owner, a former boxer I believe, who considered he had a bargain. It would be interesting to know how Taylor Woodrow, Nat West, other pension funds and the Corporation now view the project.

Brighton is always worth a visit and the Association was fortunate in having such a good host in Cyril.

Gordon Powell had a problem with his plans for 1980: having selected Ipswich as the venue, he lost the host and, wanting to stay in East Anglia (a first visit to these parts by the Association), he switched to Norwich. He had some difficulty in firming up details with Pat Saunders - incidentally another member with a Housing responsibility - only at the last moment did everything slot into place. The base for the overnight visitors was the Castle Hotel. At the formal meeting three papers were presented at the City Hall by officers and members with conservation as the main theme. One speaker, a member of the Coleman family, concentrated on the rehabilitation and use of redundant churches and some of these were visited in the afternoon.

Gordon recalls that the reception and lunch given by the City was on a very generous scale presided over by a charming lady Lord Mayor. The programme ended with another gastronomic treat in (I quote) a "fabulous Italian restaurant" which needed, apparently, rather tricky navigation to find. The then President recalls this as a truly memorable meeting and I can't understand why I missed it! There should also be a note that a presidential gavel was presented to the Association by Dick Luff, for the keeping of proper order. No doubt a working party will have to decide who will use it under the new organisation.

April 1981 took us to Liverpool. The organisation for this meeting was undertaken by the NW Branch, in particular by Tony Ryden and John Roberts. There were problems. In the first place the Grand National was taking place on the Saturday, which put a premium on hotel accommodation, so early booking was vital to ensure favourable terms. This was done. The second was more crucial and involved the availability of real ale. Sadly this vital need could not be reconciled with the hotel selected but the majority attending were content to endure this hardship and soldier on in the otherwise acceptable surroundings of the Liverpool Centre Hotel, where an informal dinner opened the programme on the Thursday evening. The OGM was held in the Town Hall, a really splendid building reflecting the great days of the city. Professional topics were discussed including enterprise zones and the disposal of land followed by a paper on the Mersey Tunnel given by the County Engineer. The ladies went to the Pilkington Glass

Museum, some of them having had a previous glazed experience at the Lewisham summer meeting. The whole party then assembled for a civic reception and a lunch hosted by the Lord Mayor, a lady who was clearly interested in the objects and activities of the Association. A conducted tour of the major rooms in the Town Hall followed and then the party divided, members to view the tunnels and the ladies to the Anglican cathedral.

The 1982 provincial meeting was switched to July and for the first time the Association visited Scotland, where Remo Verrico and the branch had gone to a lot of trouble to organise a programme of considerable interest in the Glasgow area. Unfortunately, and despite early pleas by the President and by Remo for more support, the attendance was very disappointing. It is to be hoped that the 1987 LAVA meeting will present a different and happier picture. The party was accommodated in the Holiday Inn, near the city centre, complete with indoor pool in which a few of the more energetic members impressed us with demonstrations of aquatic ability - after dinner and even before breakfast. The Branch gave an informal reception involving a whisky-tasting session where clearly it was not the done thing to spit it out after the appropriate ritual. There followed an audio visual introduction to the city and an informal supper. The morning OGM was addressed by a speaker from the Scottish Development Agency on the Glasgow Eastern Area Redevelopment whilst the ladies visited a shopping centre and an art gallery. The Corporation were hosts for a lunch at the City Chambers: unfortunately the Lord Provost had been unexpectedly called away and was represented very ably by Bailie James Mullen, Chairman of the Building and Property Committee. There followed a coach tour of parts of the redevelopment area marred by torrential rain and members motoring south later experienced some rather appalling road conditions. The President, John Higginson, unfortunately had his car ransacked in the hotel car park but the good news was that the Presidential Jewel was in his pocket at the time and so a potential disaster was saved: not that this was much consolation to Sheila and himself.

The 158th OGM was held in Southampton in April 1983 and Michael Daisley had arranged an ambitious programme in collaboration with President Alan Duchars. The base was in the hall of residence at South Stoneham, part of the University of Southampton, and the programme started with an informal dinner at the Polygon Hotel with city members as guests. The business meeting took place in the Guildhall with two speakers. Firstly our host talked about the Western Esplanade development. The original concept had covered some 50 acres and, at that time, was billed as the biggest single development in Western Europe. Unfortunately it had not received all-party support and a subsequent change of political control has resulted in the scheme being drastically reduced in size and changed in content. The second speaker dealt with the possibilities of geothermal energy from a one mile deep borehole under the Western Esplanade. An intriguing prospect but latest reports seem to indicate that further exploration has been deferred, probably on financial grounds. The ladies had visited the Mountbatten home at Broadlands in the morning but joined the main party for a civic lunch in the Guildhall hosted by leading members of the City Council.

After lunch, everyone went to Beaulieu and were first addressed by one of the directors on tourism and leisure which basically was the same paper which Lord Montague had personally read at the RICS Jersey conference the previous autumn. There followed a general tour of the house and grounds, including of course the Motor Museum with all those magnificent machines in which you could actually see the driver (and smell the fumes). The return trip to South Stoneham took us through the New Forest and the meeting ended with an informal supper at Carey's Manor Hotel, Brockenhurst.

The success of this very full programme, however, had repercussions and at a meeting early in 1984, the Executive Committee decided that, in order to obviate certain criticism that the provincial meetings were becoming replicas of the traditional summer event, they would in future be, as originally planned, ordinary meetings held at a venue outside London and Nottingham in April was the first to accord

with this decision to the undoubted disappointment of Phil Mason, who took on the organisation of the programme. Members staying overnight were at the Victoria Hotel and, following the business items at the OGM, Phillip gave a paper on the Royal Centre. Lunch in the Council House was hosted by the Deputy Lord Mayor and other civic leaders and in the afternoon members were able to see for themselves the Centre, a complex comprising the refurbished Theatre Royal, the new 2,500 seater concert hall and the 200 bed Royal Hotel incorporating a multi-storey car park. The theatre and concert hall were financed by Nottingham out of capital receipts and the hotel was a private venture. The more mobile members scrambled between the ceiling and the roof of the concert hall and no doubt appreciated tea in the delightful hotel.

The 1985 provincial meeting was switched to June in Wakefield and Eric Ashton undertook the organisation on the same lines as the previous year but with similar regret that the social side was excluded. In the event, three "unauthorised" wives attended and Sheila Ashton arranged a mini-programme for them including a visit to Harewood House. A number of members stayed overnight at the Post House Hotel but the official programme was limited to one day and at the OGM held in Holmfild House, three speakers including Eric Ashton gave papers on the Ridings Shopping Centre which has received international acclaim. The Mayor was host at a buffet lunch after which members toured the Centre.

There is no record in the minutes of any formal change of policy and it may have been due to members' comments that the last of these Spring/Provincial meetings reverted to the earlier pattern rather than "business only". It was held in April 1986 in Weston-Super-Mare and Alan Darg was responsible for the arrangements. The base was the Grand Atlantic Hotel facing out over the bay: only Plymouth in 1959 and Brighton 1970 and 1979 had previously provided members with a breath of sea air. On the Thursday evening there was a visit to Harvey's Wine Museum in Bristol with suitable sampling and a very late return for supper. A certain bon viveuse, who shall be nameless, considered that the quality of the sherry on this occasion was inferior to that provided during Bunny Moore's meeting in 1969 but she was, of course, that much younger then! The OGM dealt with professional topics after formal business which included approval of the proposed SW Branch, a report that the merger with CLAVA had been agreed in principle but that there would be no joint study day with the RICS. The 15 ladies in attendance had visited the Pump Room at Bath and after lunch there was another trip to Bristol to board the SS Great Britain and tour the associated museum. The party was able to see the progress on the restoration of this famous ship which will, of course, never sail again.

Rather a different package from Nottingham and Wakefield.

(iv) Summer Meetings

This is a rotten argument but it should be good enough for their lordships on a hot summer afternoon. Anon.

Summer is not really correct in all respects since we have had spring and autumn meetings as the main event: add winter and perhaps they could be retitled the Vivaldi Meetings. Indeed, around 1982 they became the "Presidential" Meeting but I have been unable to trace any authorisation for this change although it may be noted that LAVA have adopted this title thus perhaps according some measure of retrospective legitimacy. Does this mean that future Presidents will underwrite any loss or have they noted the profits in recent years? A pleasant practice, developed over the years, was the Presidential party at the close of the meeting when officers and friends gathered, usually at the presidential residence, for an informal lunch. Mention of only two or three such gatherings will be made which had some special feature but no doubt each of them is memorable to those present.

June 1978 saw the members and the ladies assembling at the Clarendon Hotel overlooking Blackheath in the London Borough of

Lewisham. The formal Association dinner was held in the Riverdale Hall attended by leading borough members and Roland Moyle, Minister of Health, but Audrey Callaghan, Jim's wife, who was to have been there, had to cry off as she was required to pour the drinks at No.10. The Town Crier of Olde Deptforde acted as a toastmaster complete with deafening bell, a replica of which was presented to each lady and has no doubt been put to good use subsequently in summoning members to afternoon tea on Saturdays and Sundays or perhaps to carry out some essential chore or service.

The OGM was addressed by the Chairman of the Planning Committee on Conservation whilst the ladies visited the United Glass Works. After a buffet lunch in the Town Hall there was a tour of the older part of Deptford including the Rum Warehouses associated with Pepys and converted by the GLC into upmarket apartments. Then there was St Paul's an interesting church (with an interesting vicar) and members were particularly intrigued by the decor of the crypt complete with bar. A somewhat late return to the Riverside Hall and Sports Centre produced a welcome cup of tea and a Grosvenor Estates biscuit.

The meeting ended with an informal evening at the Inn on the Lake at Shorne near Gravesend, where the majority of the party enjoyed the maximum decibels produced by only three musicians. This provided another first for Brian White as the only occasion in its 37 years when the Association visited Kent.

One fascinating item of information which came to light as a result of my direct enquiries was that this was the last occasion on which the secretary to the Hon. Secretary was invited to attend on an accommodation-paid basis. Why this concession was withdrawn remains a mystery but it could provide scope for further research under the heading "The Case of the Disappearing Secretary".

The 1979 summer meeting was really an early autumn event in September, deferred to fit in with the Lord Mayor's programme, and this will remain in the minds of all those attending as the outstanding occasion in the years under review. We were based in halls of residence of the City University in Islington and this was memorable for rather different reasons. Hardly the most impressive surroundings and breakfast was not really in the Egon Ronay class, indeed one lady guest was enquiring who had the swill contract. However, the location was convenient and, of course, cheap: the attendance would probably have been much lower had we been located in even a modest bracket London hotel. One of the briefing items had an intriguing inference: "In view of the type of accommodation it is suggested that members and wives should bring dressing gowns". One or two interpretations were put on this suggestion but they are not really suitable for inclusion in a record such as this.

Something of a sensation was caused by the departure from the halls of the coaches laden with glamorous people (including the ladies) on their way to the Mansion House where the reception and dinner "in honour of the President" were held. This was indeed a unique setting and the Association received the same hospitality as would have been accorded to a visiting head of state. The Lord Mayor, Sir Kenneth Cork, presided, supported by the Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs, several Aldermen and virtually all the senior members of the Court of Common Council. Sir Kenneth in proposing the toast to the Association was careful to choose a subject he thought would be appropriate to his audience, and in a witty speech dealt with the limitations of the Mansion House plumbing. It should be recorded that 348 sat down to dinner including 87 members of the Association accompanied by 75 ladies, an all-time record attendance for any Association meeting. This was a truly splendid occasion, a night to remember.

On the following morning, members were given a conducted tour of the final phase of the Barbican redevelopment scheme, including the theatre, concert hall and arts centre. Completion was still four years distant and in consequence it was even harder to find one's way than it is today. The ladies had visited the Stock Exchange and the whole party lunched in the Porter Tun Room, one of the first functions

held in the former Whitbread's Brewery, a restoration which won the company the first City Heritage Award. The reply on behalf of the guests was given by the Chief Commoner who had to cut his speech short to allow the ladies to go to Buckingham Palace for a private view of the Queen's Gallery and a tour of the Royal Mews. Police co-operation between the City and the Met. ensured a clear run for the ladies' coach.

In the evening there was a visit to the Aldwych Theatre where the RSC put on "Love's Labours Lost" as a special favour to the Association. John Barton directed and the stars were Tony Church, Richard Griffiths, Michael Pennington and Jane Lapotaire. Not the easiest of Shakespeare's comedies but this was deservedly a highly praised production. This most enjoyable meeting was completed by an after-theatre supper at the adjacent Waldorf Hotel. We had had two splendid days and all credit was due to Dick Luff and his colleagues that everything went so smoothly.

The Association returned to Oxford for the 1980 summer meeting; there had been a previous spring meeting in 1973. We were housed in the very pleasant college surroundings of St Edmunds Hall, but car-parking arrangements were somewhat complicated involving a minibus shuttle service out of the city and a key system reminiscent of single line railway working. The car park was, incidentally, adjacent to the running track where Doctor Bannister ran the first sub-four-minute mile. It all worked out quite well and nobody had to walk unless they opted to do so.

The formal dinner was held in the College Hall with the Lord Mayor as principal guest and on the following morning we met for the OGM in the Town Hall. A pleasant item of a "formal" nature was the presentation to the ten Past Presidents attending of a decanter, a practice which became a tradition - at least until 1986. A paper was read on conservation in Oxford by the appropriate city officer followed by a conducted tour of certain of the colleges. The ladies meanwhile visited the Botanical Gardens and the shopping centre, joining the members for lunch provided by the City Council.

In the afternoon the whole party went by coach to see Blenheim Palace and the town of Woodstock, the return trip memorable if only for Bunny Moore's conducting of the company in full song. This musical theme was continued in the evening by an entertainment of songs, readings and music on the theme of "Pleasure and Repentance" (a light-hearted look at love) compiled by Terry Hands and performed by a talented amateur group, mainly academics and including David Yardley now the Chief Ombudsman. A most enjoyable evening and although the College failed to provide a late bar, members ferried in adequate supplies from nearby pubs and off-licences. Gordon Powell and his staff had done us proud, although he recalls one or two hiccups such as the member and his wife who found their allocated room in College occupied by coloured students smoking 'Pot'. However, no permanent scars were left.

Final mention must be made of Joan and Gordon's personal party out at Lidstone, attended by a large gathering of their friends - according to the "team" photograph something like 60 were there. Expert assistance was provided by family and neighbours in coping with the hospitality, to say nothing of the car-parking. Lidstone had seen nothing like it since Queen Victoria's Jubilee. We were able to view the garden despite the unfriendly weather conditions, including the brook which bisects it, but it is not true that one particular spot has since been known as Hilda's Leap.

Bill Plunkett faced a problem with the arrangements for the July 1981 summer meeting. The GLC elections were taking place in May and the Leader of the Labour opposition party would give no assurances as to hospitality or even attendance of principal members. This obviously made forward planning on the normal expectations impossible and so he decided to go it alone and to exclude any idea of formal GLC participation.

Accommodation was arranged at the Ralph Hall of Residence adjacent to Battersea Park and the usual programme was changed in that the formal dinner which had hitherto been the opening event was switched to the second night, an apparently popular move. The meeting therefore opened with an evening trip from Westminster Pier on the "Silver Dolphin" down river to the Thames Barrier with commentary from a G.L.C. Engineer and a representative of the consultants. A buffet supper was served on board and although the windy conditions made the top deck less favoured, the party obviously enjoyed an unusual event. Incidentally there were a few members (and ladies) for whom this was the third Association Thames voyage - 1955, 1973, 1981. Should there not be a special tie for this exclusive set?

The ladies were not to be trusted on their own in central London so everyone met at County Hall for the OGM to hear papers read by two of the GLC Covent Garden team on the development and management of the project. Coaches took us from County Hall to Bow Street, debussing between the Opera House and the famous police station, causing a certain amount of traffic chaos. A buffet lunch was available in the Punch and Judy, one of the new hosteleries in the Central Market redevelopment, and the team members then pointed out some of the many interesting buildings in a walk-about which concluded with a visit to the London Transport Museum, a fascinating collection of buses, trams and trains transferred to this central location through the initiative and enthusiasm of GLC officers. The last formal event was another "first" and certainly impressive - the Association Dinner in the Members' Dining Room at the House of Commons hosted by Neil Thorne, MP, FRICS (also a GLC member but not attending in that capacity!).

There was however one final gathering on the Saturday morning when Gwen and Bill Plunkett invited officers, past-presidents and ladies to join them for lunch on HMS Belfast, the famous cruiser moored in the Pool of London. So this last London summer meeting started and ended on the Thames, a very happy idea and a very successful party.

John Higginson had switched his summer meeting (Presidential for the first time) in Hull to April since there were again potential election complications but, I hasten to add, not similar to the unpleasantness of the GLC member. The base on this occasion was in Nicholson Hall in the Lawns Centre, Cottingham, part of the University, and there was once again an intriguing cautionary briefing item which advised members to note "the variety of brick steps which should be negotiated with care". Whether the warning was intended to apply only to late night navigation was not clear but there were, fortunately, no reports of serious casualties.

The programme started with the formal Association dinner in the Guildhall with the Lord Mayor (a lady), other city chairmen and the party leaders as our guests. The OGM on the following morning was addressed by the President on the regeneration of the old city of Hull followed by a walk around part of the area. Meanwhile the ladies had visited the Smith and Nephew's complex. The Lord Mayor hosted a civic lunch and the whole party then went out to see the Humber Bridge and to hear some of the background story from the Bridgmaster. The engineering and construction details were indeed fascinating but some members may have had doubts whether the project really complied with the current concentration on value for money.

After a brief evening visit to Wilberforce House with its slave-trading associations, the programme ended with an informal buffet dance at the Waterfront Club where the sound of music no doubt pleased the majority of those present and dancing. As with so many of such meetings, the logistics and timing can go sadly wrong but John and his team had everything under control and the whole affair was a great success.

Alan Duchars was the second Essex County Valuer to be president. John Soloman in 1956 had held his summer meeting in London but in July 1983 we went to Chelmsford, the county town, with our headquarters

in Writtle College, a few miles out of the city. Whereas on many previous such occasions the Association had suffered from rain, wind and cold, this year went to the other extreme, a real heat wave, which made dressing up (in male terms) something of an ordeal. This was demonstrated at the inaugural dinner at the Heybridge, Ingatestone when, with the full support of our principal guest, the Chairman of the County Council, permission to strip was given (only DJ's). Two members did not comply, one because he had forgotten his cuff links and his sleeves were rolled up; the other because his braces could not compete with the very bright crimson support unexpectedly revealed by the County Chief Executive, a revelation which is still mentioned in hushed tones in the County Hall.

The OGM was addressed by the President and one of his senior colleagues on the South Woodham Ferrers New Town. An interesting example of co-operation between a local authority and private enterprise and unusual in that a county council was initiating a new town although not in the accepted Ministry interpretation of that status. The ladies had been to the shopping centre at Basildon and the Yardley's cosmetic factory, returning for lunch at County Hall heavily laden with fragrant samples which, it seems, were temporarily stored in an adjacent committee room. The aroma, full of Eastern promise etc., lingered for some days inspiring erotic thoughts and ribald comments - but only of course from the elected members. In the afternoon there was a visit to the New Town, welcomed by the sellers of cool drinks and ice cream who sold out fairly rapidly, as evidenced by the sight of many high-powered Chartered Surveyors in open-necked shirts, perspiring profusely and clutching their rapidly melting cornets. The survivors completed the programme with an informal buffet supper at the Furze Hill Restaurant.

Everyone enjoyed this meeting and certainly endorsed the subsequent press comment - "The hottest conference on record".

Alan and Pat had invited friends to a lunch at their home on the Saturday and the guests could not accept that the concurrent Galleywood Carnival was a coincidence, especially when the marching bands with drum majorettes passed the Duchars' residence. It is, however, not true that he took the salute.

The July weather in Newcastle the following year was very different, especially on the day of the main events when we suffered torrential rain. We were again based in an academic background, the Claude Gibb Hall of the Polytechnic and, despite location maps with scale and north point, some members experienced difficulty in navigation, especially in finding the car park. The Association dinner was held in the Banqueting Suite of the impressive new Civic Centre with the Lord Mayor and other civic dignitaries as guests. In ascending to the dining level, we passed the burnt out Council Chamber and there may well have been questions in some members' minds as to how to achieve the same result in their own authority.

After the OGM on the following morning, there was a presentation by Capital and Counties on the Eldon Square Development, the ladies travelling to Durham to see the cathedral and castle. The Lord Mayor was the host at an informal civic luncheon held in the Mansion House during which time the weather became quite appalling. A few hardy members looked at Eldon Square in the afternoon but the majority travelled by coaches some seven miles south to the Beamish Open Air Museum. Here we were able to ride on a vintage Newcastle tram, the hardier members could experience 1910 coal-mining conditions and the less adventurous go shopping in a Victorian emporium. Everyone got very wet but there was a good tea provided amongst all this memorabilia. The meeting ended at Linden Hall, Longhorsley near Morpeth, where we enjoyed an informal supper in this stately home situated in the "beautiful Northumbrian Countryside" which, sadly, was blotted out by mist and rain. Some of us will recall the surprise of seeing Gordon Jackson in the bar ("isn't he small?") who, as Hudson, we imagined should not have been Upstairs but more properly awaiting a summons from his Downstairs pantry.

Once again, in 1985, dates for meetings were affected by local elections and Arthur Tindall decided to hold his Lincoln event in April. The main base was Constance Stewart Hall in Bishop Grosseteste College, a title which inevitably provoked some ribaldry. The formal dinner was held in the Hall with the Mayor, other civic dignitaries and senior RAF officers as official guests.

Amongst the business items at the OGM mention was made of the Association's memorandum submitted to the Widdecombe Committee and I reported on the final stages of the Local Government Bill which would abolish the GLC and the metropolitan counties. Short discussion papers were then read by four members, and the ladies, having visited Harrington Hall, met the main party for lunch at the Moor Lodge Hotel, Branston, deep in the heart of pickle country.

After lunch we went to the RAF Station at Waddington where, after an introductory talk, we were able to see the Vulcan which flew to the Falklands, some members (and ladies) actually getting into the driving seat. We passed a Nimrod resting rather forlornly on the tarmac on the way to watch a demonstration of RAF police dogs in operation and the fire service section extinguish an oil-fed fire in a simulated aircraft crash.

In the evening, in vile weather, we were invited to the Chapter House in the Cathedral where the Mayor was host at a reception and buffet supper. The surroundings were somewhat cold but most impressive, although some members showed most interest in a mysterious drainage trap in the floor or in sitting to be photographed on a throne-like chair no doubt usually occupied by some distinguished cleric.

Arthur had extended the programme to include the Saturday morning with guided tours of the cathedral, fortunately in dry but bitterly cold weather. The majority were content to be shown the main features, including the Lincoln imp, by informed and courteous guides, but some intrepid souls tramped through the enormous roof space to get a pigeon's-eye view. There were vertigo casualties but one member, built on rather generous lines, failed to negotiate a narrow trap door and was forced to return to base: perhaps there should be a width gauge at ground level.

This was another successful meeting with a very full schedule and all credit is due to Arthur and his helpers that it all went so well.

The Leicester meeting in July 1985 could perhaps have been subtitled the Last of the Summer Wine. After seven years in student rooms, we were back to a hotel, the Grand, a somewhat rambling building with all the essentials but not a lot of atmosphere. The Association dinner was held in the King's Hall in the Hotel attended by the Lord Mayor together with other members and chief officers of the city. There were a number of items to be taken at the OGM in the Guildhall, the first, sadly, tributes to Len Humphries and Cyril Dutton. The question of Residuary Body officers as members was reopened, the supporters of accepting them relying principally on the New Towns precedent established and maintained over many years. Those against emphasised the short life and undemocratic origins of the Bodies and the voting reaffirmed the February decision not to accept applications. In real terms this meant the rejection of only the London case since the RB estates officers had all been Ordinary Members in their previous posts and had been accepted as Past Members.

The establishment of the proposed new Association was approved complete with draft constitution and rules. Members who had doubts over parts of the small print were warned that any changes might wreck the whole deal and so no amendments were moved. There followed a presentation on the St Martin's Square Shopping Development. The ladies had been to the knitwear and hosiery factory of Corah Ltd (accompanied by one or two crafty members) and joined up with the more diligent delegates for a civic lunch in the County Rooms. The workers went to see the Beaumont Leys scheme in the afternoon before catching up with the historically minded types who were re-fighting the War of the Roses at Bosworth

Field. After walking through the battle area, there was a unique and leisurely return to the museum for tea, transport being a horse-drawn barge on the Canal: the only way to travel. The programme ended with an informal evening in the medieval Guildhall, eating, drinking and "music" for dancing. The more timid members had been assured by the President that the band would be like the Palm Court Orchestra but as the night wore on so the decibels grew and those members with structural experience were watching the stonework with some alarm. Come back Max Jaffa, all is forgiven.

Safely back in the lounge bar of the Grand amidst the empty glasses of apparently most of the city's drinkers, the late late party sat enthralled whilst Gordon Powell told the tale of his outward bound venture to the South of France. Stirring stuff and a splendid way to end the saga of another in the line of enjoyable and successful Summer Meetings.

(v) The Story So Far: New Readers Begin Here

And that is a pot-pourri of nine years of meetings ordinary and annual, study days, liaison groups, standing committees, working parties, and it would be quite wrong to give the literal French translation of "rotten pot". Unlike the period of the first part of the story, I have not been privy (and quite rightly so) to what went on in the Executive Committee which might have thrown some light on the policy decisions but it is appropriate to record a pleasant happening when, at the end of one such meeting, Bill Plunkett entertained the Committee in the GLC Box at the Royal Festival Hall.

Reading through this mass of material it is clear that much of it has since become obsolete or irrelevant but there were recurring items which will no doubt continue to appear on the LAVA agenda - inner city, portfolio management, right to buy. The first two Study Days were a valuable experiment with the inclusion of elected members in Association affairs for the first time, a controversial innovation but, on balance, apparently successful since it did provide an opportunity for projecting what the valuer's contribution can be. It seems unfortunate that this initiative was not continued even if only on a two/three year basis.

Guest speakers at the Annual Lunches provided a mixed bag of political and professional personalities although in only a very few cases is there any memorable recollection of what they said. Business meetings provided a better selection with papers by informed people from the Audit Commission, DoF, British Rail, PSA and especially Sir John Boynton. The abolition of the GLC will surely mean that the Association probably had the last free accommodation for a major event and future locations may not be as conveniently placed - or as cheap! We were indeed fortunate to enjoy a good relationship with County Hall over the whole of the 37 years and this unofficial base did much to help the growth and status of the Association.

An analysis of attendance shows that the average for OGMs in London was 55 with a minimum 40 (161st February 1984) and maximum 72 (156th January 1983); for AGMs the average figure was 71, minimum 62 (1980), maximum 83 (1986, the last).

Provincial and Summer Meetings covered 18 locations as shown in the Appendix, Glasgow to Brighton, Mold to Norwich, including three in the Greater London area. It may prove difficult to find a new setting for future Provincial meetings and there seems little doubt that attendances in the later years were affected by confused thinking by the Executive Committee leading to doubts as to who could participate in terms of Past Members and the ladies. The largest attendance was at Southampton (50) and the lowest (27) at Glasgow with an average of 42, but in the last three years Honorary and Past Members accounted for only 6 at the most - a significant factor. There were more at the Summer Meetings with the record 87 in 1979 and 72 in 1980, a low 50 in 1982, the average being 62, but the honorary/past contingent was in the 25% to 33% bracket. We were of course always delighted to welcome the ladies at these meetings (75 at the Mansion

House) adding glamour and colour to what at times could have been rather dull proceedings. One final statistical note; it is perhaps worth recording that at the last summer meeting in Leicester there was a total attendance of 106 (63 members; 43 ladies). Of these totals 26 members were honorary or past, accompanied by 22 ladies - nearly half. It would have looked rather thin without them. There is another small point on attendance: the "Presidential" meeting includes a conference fee but you only get a mark for being there if you are at the OGM. Surely attendance at any of the "conference" events should be accepted for the record.

Seven of the Summer Meetings plus one provincial were in student accommodation, ranging in environmental terms from Islington to Oxford. There must be many memories, some of them bizarre, of these occasions and members (and wives) will no doubt have their own star classification in terms of bed and breakfast, often not very high. There were, on occasions, complications in clothes storage, as for example in Lincoln with all cupboards locked and hangers for several changes precariously balanced on door-knobs, mirrors and blackboards. There are recollections of a past president arriving empty-handed with his lady, African style, following behind laden with all the luggage; of another such member cosily moving his bed in with his mate next door, which looked very touching but may have been to make the other room more suitable as a bar. And of course the problem of the unisex loos, showers and baths over (and around) which a discreet curtain should be drawn.

As I have already said, the Mansion House dinner was probably the most impressive event but there are many other outstanding memories - the Mersey Tunnels, Humber Bridge, Thames Barrier, the RAF Station; museums ranging from Beaulieu to Beamish; the contrast on water between the SS Great Britain and a horse-drawn barge; the climatic extremes of equatorial heat in Chelmsford to the early monsoon in Newcastle. The ladies will have their own list - cultural visits to cathedrals and castles and stately homes; a range of industrial experiences - glass, perfume, lingerie. However, I have a feeling that many members, especially the oldies, are "up to here" with shopping centres but local pride in achievement is, of course, understandable.

Some intrepid travellers regularly attended by caravan but not always at the most convenient sites: returning in evening dress late from a function to a pitch dark field full of cows could be hazardous. There was talk of certain delegates making their way to Leicester by narrow boat on the canal system but apparently this would have taken a month and the idea was abandoned.

We should be grateful for so much civic hospitality during these years when money was tight and past-presidents have all retained warm memories of the friendly reception they received from so many Lord Mayors and Chairmen, especially the charming ladies.

So much for the meetings, and the remaining chapters will cover matters such as the branches, external relations, CLAVA, membership and finance.

2. THE BRANCHES

And a branch shall grow out of his roots. Isaiah

The development of new branches was a significant feature during this period and this, it seems, will be maintained under LAVA. The London Boroughs Branch had been established in 1968, to be joined by the Scottish and North Western Branches late in 1979, whilst South West England met formally for the first time a few months before dissolution. Each of the three established units had its own distinctive qualities as the following section will show. The principal officers of the four branches from 1977-1986 are set out in Appendix B (iv).

(i) London (Boroughs) Branch

This had a special distinction in that it had two objectives: firstly to consider topics and problems of general professional interest but

especially those affecting the London metropolitan region and secondly to act as an advisory body to the London Boroughs Association (LBA). A designated member attended certain LBA committees, working groups and the like, offering advice and commenting on referred papers, reporting back to the Branch on relevant issues. This worked reasonably well until the publication of the White Paper proposing the abolition of the GLC. This led to the fragmentation of the LBA and the formation of the Association of London Authorities (ALA). This period was one of some animosity among the boroughs and officers of various authorities were instructed to have nothing to do with the LBA. As a result some members had to distance themselves from direct involvement in advising LBA committees while still managing to play a full part in the Branch. There are 33 authorities in the metropolitan area and I was rather intrigued to find in the Municipal Year Book that 21 belong to LBA and 16 to ALA: four have apparently placed an each way bet. Back in 1983, George Touchard gave a warning to the Association that there could be possible wider implications arising from this political constraint but the membership generally appeared to believe that this was just another problem for London and the matter was not further considered outside the Branch.

The original title of London Boroughs Branch was probably deliberately adopted to exclude GLC officers and indeed at the October 1980 AGM of the Association there was a specific decision to this effect. The exclusion may have had its roots in the feelings of some of the founder members of the Branch who had spent earlier years with the former LCC and who felt that authority's Big Brother attitude would prevail if County Hall officers were admitted. I hasten to add that there was nothing personal in this and I was always made welcome at the annual Branch lunch. Eventually, however, wiser counsels prevailed, probably inspired by Dick Luff, and in April 1981 GLC officers were invited to join. The Branch became the London Branch, dropping the Borough title, in June of that year. The agenda for meetings became two parts: part I meeting as the ALAVES London Branch and part II as the advisory body. This change of attitude was certainly to prove of considerable practical value as the Local Government Bill progressed and such matters as the transfer of property, the GLC industrial portfolio, ring-fencing and the operation of the Residuary Body (LRB) appeared on the agenda of most meetings after 1983. A steering group was set up with the LRB Director of Property Services who certainly felt, and indeed still feels, that his membership of the Association would have been mutually beneficial, but this was not to be as has already been described.

During the period under review, the Branch membership was continually changing. There were 24 authorities represented in 1977, the same number but not the same authorities in 1986. Only seven of the 1977 members were still involved - Ainslie, Ewart-Smith, Randall, Searle, Touchard, Williamson and Young, and even two of these had changed London posts. There was a constant coming and going, the total never rose above 28 and a few of the authorities did not have a valuer representative at any time from 1977-1986. It may be noted that John Ewart-Smith was Honorary Treasurer throughout, a tribute to his accounting ability and staying power. There were six to seven meetings annually, usually geared to LBA Committees, and an AGM, and most years attendance was in the bracket 15 to 20, a good proportion although this fell in 1985 due to political directives. As an advisory body it obtained free accommodation at Westminster City Hall, where all but three of its meetings were held during this period - one at Lambeth, two at County Hall. In September 1982, the President attended a meeting of the Branch for the first time, a practice followed in subsequent years.

There is no indication that any papers were read by members or guest speakers during this period except by a computer expert with a trip to IBM. The meetings, however, always had full agendas covering a wide range of topics - BR surplus land, DLT, inner urban areas, Third Schedule rights, Borner, recruitment and a range of day to day problems with inevitably some duplication of national OGM business.

It would seem that the only social event was the annual lunch, which in most years in terms of guests was targeted at the host authority -

mayor, chairmen, leaders, chief officers, together with the Chief Valuer, the GLC Valuer and Estates Surveyor and an RICS representative. On some occasions a local MP would be included, for example Ron Brown and John Watts. In later years there seems to have been a slightly less formal approach with encouragement for personal guests to be invited.

The London Branch was clearly a very effective forum, concentrating on professional matters and well served by its officers; but it did suffer from constant changes of members, as for example in 1985 when both the Vice-Chairman, Dick Miller, and the Hon. Secretary Dennis Cox moved to posts outside London. It is hoped that the political difficulties will soon be resolved and that there are no further reorganisation plans for London -perhaps something of a forlorn hope.

(ii) Scottish Branch

The initial meeting of this Branch was held in Glasgow in October 1979 with 15 attending, of whom 5 were members of ALAVES. It had been agreed that having regard to the circumstances of estates and valuation departments north of the border, appropriate officers who were not members of the national body would be accepted in the Branch and this flexible approach is still operated. It should be mentioned that ten members at that 1979 meeting were still in post in 1986, seven of them in ALAVES. The names are Galbraith, Macfarlane, MacColl, MacNab, McConnell, McNeilly, Murray, JDC Simpson, RDC Simpson and Verrico.

At that first meeting Remo Verrico was elected chairman, a position he held for the next four years, and Walter Murray became the Secretary/Treasurer. He continued this joint responsibility until 1983 when a separate Hon. Treasurer was appointed but remained on as Hon. Secretary, a record of service which has obviously been of great benefit to SLAVES (the letters by which the Branch became known).

Membership at November 1986 had risen to twenty four, of whom ten were in ALAVES, and attendance at meetings had varied between ten and fifteen which, having regard to the spread of the authorities represented and consequential problems in terms of travel and time, can be considered as very satisfactory. Incidentally, Sassenachs looking through the Branch minutes were no doubt struck by the title on the attendance sheet - Sederunt - presumably from the Gaelic??^[1]. The pattern of meetings remained unchanged, four or five in the year including the AGM and, apart from single visits to Aberdeen and Stirling, these were held alternately in Glasgow and Edinburgh. An analysis of the minutes of these meetings reveals an impressive spread of professional items, each meeting with a full quota and usually based on a general discussion rather than a prepared paper. When papers were read these were delivered by a member - surplus property, rating revaluation, Cumbernauld town centre, Waverley Market - and there seems to have been only one outside speaker on computers in local authority property records. A recurrent item was Jack Simpson's summary of Scottish Lands Tribunal decisions: he had taken over as Hon. Treasurer in 1983 and was Branch Chairman in 1985/86. Another regular contributor was Neil Macfarlane, Chairman 1983/85 and a member of the national Executive. But the main driving force for many years has been Remo Verrico, who hosted the Glasgow meeting in 1982, joined the national Executive in 1981 and is currently the first President of LAVA.

Alan Duchars was the first President to attend a Branch meeting in September 1983, setting a pattern for future years, and the lunch in his honour was one of the rare social events. Indeed it is evident that our Scottish members kept formal items to a minimum and concentrated at their meetings on professional business: on two occasions they minuted concern at what they considered to be an over-emphasis on social aspects at ALAVES functions. Whilst there might be justification for some criticism of one or two meetings, it has to be emphasised that a gathering of 15, almost a committee or working party, is very different from a 60+ assembly. I have a feeling that Scottish meetings

1 No. Just Latin. Third person plural, perfect tense of sedere - to sit.

were not dissimilar from what happened in ALAVES in the 50s, when discussion on "members' queries" was active and uninhibited and the 20 or so attending were prepared to devote a morning and an afternoon to professional matters.

The Scottish Branch has certainly been a successful forum and all credit is due to the five or six members who have maintained the drive behind all this activity.

(iii) North West

It seems that the seeds were sown for the formation of this Branch at a meeting in March 1978 attended by estates surveyors from Merseyside and Greater Manchester. Tony Ryden was appointed Chairman of this group and amongst matters to be considered was the formation of a North West Branch of the Association. Follow-up action was taken and a memorable inaugural meeting was held in Tameside in November 1979 attended by the President, Gordon Powell, Junior Vice-President John Higginson and Hon. Secretary Gordon Smith.

This was evidently quite a party but there was a kind of formal lunch at the Droylsden Town Hall presided over by Fred Hanks, who was the first Branch Chairman, and a number of local elected members were there as guests. The Branch was duly launched on a flood tide and it would appear that Gordon made a somewhat belated return to Oxford travelling by a complicated route with many changes of trains, but I am assured such changes were all intentional.

The majority of subsequent meetings took place in Haigh Hall, Wigan, a mid-nineteenth century stately home, once owned by the Earl of Crawford, now a Corporation property, not only set in 200 acres of beautiful country but also (surprise, surprise) close to a hostelry which predictably, and in Merseyside terms vitally, served fine ale! Meetings were also held from time to time in Blackpool, Ellesmere Port, Liverpool, Manchester, Stockport and Wallasey.

The opening membership was 27 and although there were many changes this figure was not exceeded, indeed in November 1986 it had fallen to 24 plus 7 honorary and 4 Past Members. Of this 24 only 7 had been in the original group but several had transferred to the other categories. The annual pattern was to hold three OGMs and an AGM, the average attendance was 15, only once exceeding 20, similar to the Scottish experience and with this number discussion was always lively. However, unlike the other Branches, North West opted to have an outside speaker at all their meetings, supplementing any professional matters raised by members. Such speakers came from a wide field, mainly locally, but there were recognisable names from further south, e.g. Tom Hoyes and George Touchard. Subjects often reflected items on the national agenda but there were contemporary regional topics - Ellesmere Port Boat Museum, Wigan Pier Development, International Garden Festival, Albert Dock. Alan Duchars made a presidential visit in May 1983, restarting the pattern but with a less hazardous return journey than Gordon had experienced.

The Branch was also very ambitious in arranging special events, as for example two Study Days, both autumn events held in Blackpool. The theme in 1983 was the economics of regeneration and in 1985 portfolio management and it is evident that both events were very successful. In September 1986 they organised a meeting based on Kendal and the Lake District with a varied and interesting programme which was greatly enjoyed by the members and ladies who attended. However those responsible must have been rather disappointed that there were only 10 North West representatives with 5 paying guests from ALAVES membership outside the Branch area. It seems that further such events are contemplated but this may tend to complicate the full diaries of working members.

Finally a brief mention of the Branch activity in CPD, apparently the only evidence of positive interest by the Association in this important field. This activity seems to have started in 1982 and there is a note that there was an attendance of over 100 at a session in November 1985. I should have liked to have said more about these

commendable ventures by this Branch but have had to rely on the minutes which naturally can only provide bare details. Unfortunately my enquiries were unproductive and so I have had to settle for this rather brief record.

Each of the three established branches had its own identity which was developed successfully during this period. Future numbers are unlikely to increase in terms of Ordinary Membership and so the pattern may not change significantly, although with the prospect of more branches there could be some adjustment in the relationship with LAVA itself, particularly with regard to the calendar of meetings and social functions.

3. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

There's nobody like a relation to do the business.

Thackeray

In this section I shall record the Association's links with other societies and organisations, the RICS, VO, DofE, the local authority associations and the press.

(i) RICS

The relationship with the Institution seems to present two contrasting pictures - what is said and what is done. Over the years there have been statements of concern and support for the public sector chartered surveyor emanating from Great George Street and this has been demonstrated by the two most recent Presidents, Paul Orchard-Lyle and Donald Troup. Each in his own way has shown sincere interest in the problems and difficulties which local authority members have to face and were clearly anxious to encourage greater involvement by these members in institution affairs. Appendix B (ii) lists what this involvement has been during the period under review and it does, I suggest, make quite impressive reading. (My apologies for any omissions: I have had to rely on the minutes supplemented by personal knowledge and I realise that some details will have escaped attention). One surprising gap, unless I have missed something, is that there appears to have been no local authority member serving on the LAA Divisional Council in recent years, surprising in view of CLAVA's past concentration on agricultural matters. Whether past involvement is accepted as impressive, sadly the future does not seem to be too promising apart from a probable GP Divisional President (ex CLAVA) in 18 months time. The present General Council make-up cannot really be considered as satisfactory in terms of public officer representation. In 1977 this included 4 local authority officers (2 GP, 1 PD, 1 LAA). Currently there is one, in the public officers' group, but none from the divisional or branch nomination. This reduction presumably stems from the change in the constitution approved some six years ago. Moreover there must surely be concern that the public sector representation did not include the Chief Valuer - the first time this has happened, according to my recollection, since 1950 or even earlier. However, as a stop press item, I understand that Albert Fallows has now joined the Council as a result of a "casual" vacancy.

The Association has welcomed the President and the Secretary-General at almost all the annual lunches although on two occasions Divisional Presidents and Secretaries (GP and PD) attended because of other calls and our own President has been a guest at the GP Dinner. However the high spot has to be Dick Luff's Presidency, which was a major event for our membership. It has been fully recorded as a memorable year and it will perhaps suffice for this story to recall one or two "domestic" aspects. The Hilton Dinner was one, with two enthusiastic tables of local authority valuers in pride of place, the Jersey Conference, again with good ALAVES support, and the Executive Committee's dinner in his honour at Luigi's Restaurant in Covent Garden. Dick has continued to play a major role in institution affairs, chairing the Scale 5 Committee and also more recently the all-important committee on the future structure of the institution and the use of chartered designation. The debate on this will go on for some time but there is reflected credit on the Association that an Honorary

Member was asked to perform a task of such vital significance to the whole profession.

Quite apart from Council and Committee involvement, members have been closely concerned in other Institution activities, e.g. the Annual Conference. Gordon Smith (Jersey 1979) and George Touchard (Cardiff 1986) have read major papers, David George has chaired working sessions and I was Conference Chairman at Harrogate in 1978 when 30 local authority valuers attended. Alan Duchars chaired the recent committee on the promotion of members in the public service, Alan Strachan and I were members of Bernard Collins' working party on the planning and development system back in 1978 and there was a strong Association presence on the two land policy committees which produced important reports - Dick Luff, Alan Strachan and I were on both exercises and Messrs Austin-Crowe, O'Brien, Potter and Ryden on one or the other. Another working party in which Association members played a major part was Idris Pearce's group set up to consider the White Paper and subsequent Local Government Bill dealing with the abolition of the GLC and Metropolitan Counties. Dick Miller, Geoff Perkins, Geoff Reed and I were continuously involved over a period of two years and undoubtedly had considerable influence on the Memoranda which were eventually produced. These were, I think, very different from what the RICS had originally intended and although they had no real effect on Government plans (nothing did) they were well received. Indeed the Association paid the compliment of lifting substantial sections for inclusion in its own presentation. There were other members who were closely involved: Arthur Tindall was a Branch Secretary for some years and served on a number of special committees, as Brian Coales did on the latest Review of Finances; Peter Leigh was a member of Dick Luff's 1986 committee and Scottish members took part in many Branch activities. There were constant requests for observations on RICS discussion papers over these years and ALAVES set up working parties to prepare responses such as that chaired by John Higginson on compensation for compulsory purchase. And no doubt there were many others but the records are either silent or rather vague on the details.

There is often a criticism that public officers do not contribute enough to RICS affairs - "what you put in etc." but these notes do, I think, present rather a different picture. As I mentioned earlier, it is to be hoped that members of the new Association will maintain this record but there are of course problems. Involvement makes demands on time, can be costly, often causes domestic difficulties, requires support from colleagues and, what is now probably the most serious factor, may need approval from an unenthusiastic employing authority.

(ii) Valuation Office and Valuation Liaison Group

One of the most important and indeed pleasant items to be recalled in this period was the strengthening of the friendly links between local authority valuers and the Valuation Office and it is I think worth going back to trace how this relationship has developed, because it was not always like this. In the 1950s we had to operate under the regulations imposed by the Manpower Reports (no connection with the subsequent Commission) by which virtually every local authority land transaction had to have a supporting certificate from the DV. The only exception, apart from those below a derisory level, were LCC purchases under its own annual General Powers Act and transactions by authorities financed by "City cash" or out of revenue. It can truthfully be said that all too often it took longer to reach agreement with the DV than it did with the surveyor representing the owner of the property being acquired. This was a frustrating and time-consuming process justified in official eyes by the amount of government money involved, e.g. in highway cases 75%. It was certainly resented by many ALAVES members and critical papers were read at OGMs calling for relaxation of control.

Representations were frequently made by delegation to the Ministry and eventually the Borner Committee was set up in the early 1970s chaired by a former Secretary of the CAEAI, with two professional

assessors, one from the VO and one from ALAVES who did not have voting rights. We were however very fortunate in that the VO representative, John Hine, was a friend with a realistic attitude. The Committee eventually reported in about 1975 recommending a qualified relaxation of the need for the DV's report, although Borner himself produced a dissenting report which favoured continuing with the old system. Further delegations made many calls at the Ministry to get action on the proposals but this was a lengthy process with little enthusiasm at their end supported, it has to be said, by an influential group in the VO backed by DVs who feared a significant loss of work.

The gradual evolution of a more friendly relationship goes back some way and I believe it really started with informal lunches between Douglas Iggulden and myself. His predecessor, who held office from 1951-1966 (a long period in contrast with his successors) had been noticeably unfriendly to local authorities, evidenced by many disagreements between us in RICS Committees during his term. These lunches were extended by Bill Hobbs to include senior officers from the VO and from the GLC, becoming a bi-annual event alternating between Carey Street and County Hall. Such meetings were basically social and any business topics were kept to a minimum. Bill Plunkett took the lead in developing this informality and in the previous story I mentioned that a series of meetings had been set up between Ivan Prevett, the Chief Valuer, backed by a few of his senior colleagues and a selected number from the Association.

The local authority representative in October 1977 are listed as Messrs W J Plunkett, Duchars, George, Higginson, Humphries and Luff and they remained until 1981. It is evident that Bill, Dick, David and Alan were the driving force in their respective fields with similar enthusiasm on the VO side and the group steadily grew in its scope and reputation. The earlier meetings were inevitably concentrated on the selective checking process introduced as a result of Borner and there is a note in late 1977 that 7,000 cases had by then been reported to the Inland Revenue and of the 20% checked only two settlements were queried. A year later cases were still running at a rate of 3,000 per quarter, with only a handful where justifiable criticism of the local authority valuer's action had been expressed.

The next really important development was the publication of Ministry Circular 18/80 which formally created the Valuation Liaison Group and I have referred to this in an earlier section in commenting on Bill Plunkett's presidential address. The constitution and proceedings of the Group were set out in detail, providing for three VO representatives and six from ALAVES and CLAVA combined. The VO would provide a secretary and back-up services and the post of chairman would alternate annually between the two sides. The 1977 local authority team was still there and in subsequent years there have inevitably been changes, with Messrs Leigh, Smith, Touchard, Bennett, Verrico and Ainslie taking over from time to time. It is also interesting to note that the names of three future Chief Valuers appeared amongst the VO trio - Ron Garner, Tony Christopher and Albert Fallows, a very useful early introduction on a friendly informal basis although, unfortunately, their term of office seems always to be so short.

The circular also heralded the end of selective checking apart from slum clearance transactions and Bill Plunkett had stressed the vital significance of this freedom in his 1980 address. It is interesting to note the comments of Sir George Young, then PUS at the DoF, at the annual lunch in October 1982. Speaking from a departmental brief he praised the setting up of the Group which had strengthened the formal link between valuers in central and local government. The Group was by then well established and Sir George mentioned the final phase of the post-Borner programme, the end of selective checking of slum clearance transactions. The preparation of amending regulations had proved difficult but he hoped they would not be long delayed. He was a little optimistic since it looks as though the final freedom did not come until 1984 but the records are strangely silent - the item just disappears.

The VLG has since met regularly on a quarterly basis with a formal agenda prepared by the VO and understandably most of the items

originate from that side. Topics such as the right to buy, small claims courts, enterprise zones, Scale 5 and new legislation feature regularly in the minutes and two professional guidance notes have been issued, the first on the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 and then the disposal of land: this was subsequently amended. Finally, under this heading, I shall briefly mention two Inland Revenue committees headed by Freddy Dalton, then Deputy Chairman of the Board. The first comprised two rather hawkish civil servants, Ron Garner, with myself as the external voice. The exercise was a review of the Valuation Office; it lasted 18 months and its concentrated efforts produced a report in 1981. The main recommendations were on the restructuring of the VO but we also touched on the pricing of DV's services. Other government services were not really in our brief but we did make certain suggestions. The restructuring ideas, no doubt amended, are I believe just being implemented. The second committee was concerned with a review of Government valuation services and I was replaced by Geoffrey Powell. It differed in its approach in that it was not restricted to "in house" and invited comments from outside. The Association submitted a memorandum and Alan Duchars, David George and Gordon Smith presented this at a meeting of the Committee. Its 1984 report included a recommendation that valuers and estate surveyors in central government should be formed into a professional group and, so far as I am aware, this is still under consideration in the Treasury. There could, I suppose, be a suspicion that privatisation is a complicating factor.

This is a success story achieved through the efforts of a few people on either side some ten years ago. This link has since been maintained and strengthened and no doubt the new Association will wish to build on this foundation. Even though the VO will continue to bear the brunt of the work it will still mean a considerable involvement by the local authority representatives hopefully backed by the membership as a whole with their queries and points for discussion. Surely the end product will be a certain justification and reward.

(iii) The D of E

Some of the honorary and Past Members may remember the rather strained relationship the Association "enjoyed" with the then Estates Surveyor at the Ministry who did however from time to time attend the annual lunch and, as a paying guest, the summer meeting, the last occasion Sheffield in 1957. His successor, Phillip Burnett, had a very different approach and was always a welcome face, but after he left government service others came and went without, so far as I can recall, creating a lasting impression. It is very pleasant, therefore, to note the closer relationship in recent years leading to the formation of a liaison group between the two sides. This is a much less formal arrangement than the VLG but it has undoubtedly provided a very useful forum for an exchange of views and for the clarification of points of doubt or potential conflict. The credit for this satisfactory situation must principally go to Chris Howes, whose personal motivation has been the major factor. Again it is to be hoped that even with inevitable changes in personalities this arrangement will continue to flourish.

(iv) Local Authority Associations

The minutes and papers for this period have virtually nothing to say on any advisory role played by members in relation to these associations with the exception of the London Branch and that was, as already mentioned, a very complex relationship. Presumably CLAVA provided appropriate advice to the ACC (which will be continued by the proposed County Branch of LAVA) but whether there was any direct contact with the AMA or ADC is not disclosed.

(v) The Press, The Media, CSW.

The Hon. Press Officer regularly put out copy for the "trade" papers - Estates Gazette, Estates Times, Municipal Journal, Municipal Review, Local Government Chronicle and, of course CSW. There were no items of news which, it seems, warranted any approach to the nationals.

Limited reports did appear from time to time in some of these publications but the reaction of CSW left much to be desired. There might be a mention of appointments in Stan Clements' RICS section but rarely, if ever, anything on the business meetings. Admittedly during the past year there were whole page interviews with two members (plus photographs) but these were not primarily linked to the Association, perhaps more on the lines of personalities in property.

There was one really unfortunate example, to me anyway, of the unacceptable attitude of the then Editor and this was a letter from a Mr Natrass, a Birmingham estate agent I believe, which appeared in the July 1982 issue of CSW. This was highly critical of the professional ability and integrity of local authority valuers and maybe it was no coincidence that it appeared precisely at the time when Dick Luff was elected President, the first local authority valuer to achieve that distinction for 35 years. I found the letter most offensive and I raised the matter at the October AGM. It seemed that one other member had, like me, written a letter of complaint to the Editor but this had not been published or even acknowledged. A few other members had read the Natrass effort and felt concerned but the majority expressed no great interest. However, the meeting did approve a proposal which I had moved that the matter should be taken up with the Chairman of the Members' Affairs Committee. I did eventually receive a form of apology from David Marsh, regretting that my letter had not been published but that Dick Miller's reply had not been printed due to "lack of space". The Editor remained silent and so this blatant and misguided attack on a significant group of chartered surveyors was never challenged or withdrawn.

When a new Editor was appointed I am sure that I was not alone in hoping that CSW interest in the public sector and particularly in ALAVES would improve but this does not seem to be the case. Clive Branson was invited to the inaugural lunch of LAVA, as were the President and Secretary-General of the RICS but, unlike them, it seems he was unable to attend. Barry Searle, as Press Officer, wrote to Branson personally a few days after the lunch, as he did to other absentee journalists, sending some background information on the new Association with names of the first officers appointed, but nothing was printed in CSW. Since I was proposing to comment on press relations in this story, I sent a polite personal note to the Editor enquiring whether there was any policy reason why he felt that the launching of this new organisation was not newsworthy - he could hardly plead "lack of space" having regard to the column after column of who sold or let what to whom, which can be of interest to only a handful of subscribers. He has replied to the effect that he has no record of "any dialogue concerning the Association", presumably implying that he did not receive any papers, which seems strange. He does say however that he is "currently discussing the sort of coverage that CSW should give to the public sector" and it will be interesting to see whether there is any approach to anyone in LAVA. I hasten to add that, even in its latest tabloid form, CSW at £3 per annum to members on the free list is still remarkably good value - you can at least keep up with who has died.

There is no mention in the papers for this period of any radio or TV appearances by members so I shall drag in my own spot on Radio Eireann in September 1977 when I was reading a paper at Trinity College, Dublin on inner city problems. They kindly sent me a tape of the whole Wogan-like programme including a voice I failed to recognise as my own. But the high spot to anyone I trap into listening to it is the previous item dealing with one Sean O'Connor who had apparently lost his special flute, which was of great personal and historical value, at a shebeen the previous night. It reminds me of Peter Sellers in his Goon days. Anybody remember the Ying Tong song?

4. CLAVA

Whose elements dissolve and merge afresh. Thomson

The relationship with CLAVA warrants a separate section as the circumstances are obviously different from those just described. Indeed this "relationship" goes back a long way and a brief historical note is, I think, justified.

The County Land Agents Association was founded in 1908 and membership was restricted to all land agents appointed by smallholdings and allotment committees of counties and county boroughs and this seems to have remained the principal qualification for membership for 50 or more years as evidenced by the fact that Middlesex (one of the largest counties in property terms) was represented by its smallholdings officer to the exclusion of the County Valuer, who had responsibility as land agent for the management of 6,000 acres of established farmland. However in 1966 the title was changed to the County Land Agents and Valuers Association (CLAVA.), no doubt reflecting the comparative decline in the land agency activity of its members.

There is a tendency to ignore the strong county element in the origins of ALAVES which was formed in 1949 to replace two previous associations which had a mainly rating background, a function which had been lost as a result of the Local Government Act 1948. The records show that 10 of the 22 founder members were county officers, although at the first AGM in 1950 it was considered that all the county possibilities had by then joined. Nevertheless by June 1977 there were 25 county representatives (excluding the metropolitan authorities) and no doubt several of these officers were also members of CLAVA so that by that time there was already a considerable element of overlapping or dual membership. ALAVES had been recognised by the CCA in 1951 and indeed as County Valuer of Middlesex (and not a CLAVA member) I was one of the advisers to that Association, continuing in that capacity until 1965.

Almost from its foundation, ALAVES was seeking to move towards some form of merger with the CLA but at its second AGM in 1951, the President reported that discussions had not taken the matter much further. Attempts were made from time to time in subsequent years to close the gap, always initiated by ALAVES, and reports to the Executive Committee would record that "CLAVA was unable to accept our view" or "this approach was rejected". Around 1970 there was a formal resolution by ALAVES that unification would be in the best interests of both societies but nothing came of that. In 1975, Dick Luff as Assistant Hon. Secretary put forward a possible joint solution for consideration but a year later this was formally rejected by CLAVA and there seemed little prospect of ever achieving any agreement, so much so that at an OGM in 1976, ALAVES decided that no useful purpose would be achieved by continuing discussions.

Links were however maintained. Presidents attended as guests at annual luncheons and several members with dual allegiance continued their efforts, notably Alan Duchars, who was for a number of years Hon. Secretary of CLAVA as well as holding office in ALAVES. One early result of these efforts was the agreement to have one joint business meeting each year with alternative responsibility for the organisation. The first of these was held in January 1978 and they continued until 1986 with only one year missed due to a rail strike. There was also friendly joint representation on the liaison groups. From this co-operation there emerged in 1985 a working party of three or four members from each side which for the first time looked at the prospects of some form of unification without being inhibited by traditional attitudes. Such was their progress that they were able to bring forward to meetings of both associations in the summer of 1986 a full draft constitution and rules for a new association, the ALAVES meeting being at Leicester in July, and as has already been recorded, complete approval was given despite certain misgivings over some of the details.

However, as Remo Verrico, the first President of LAVA., said in his inaugural address, this result is a great achievement and he deservedly paid tribute to all those who had worked so hard over the years to bring it about.

5. MEMBERSHIP

They are no members of the common throng. Gilbert

This section is linked very closely with a number of the Appendices : there will be quite a lot of statistics and I have to admit that, tedious as the compilation of the information proved to be, the end product did reveal - in my view anyway - some rather interesting facts. I have relied on the minutes and records and cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

The first statistic covers the whole 37 years and this is the total number of members who have joined, stayed or gone: it is 359 - 251 up to 1977 and an additional 108 since then and inevitably a good number can only be names with the passage of time and failing memory. However, it is pleasant to record that three of the original founders still appeared in the lists when the books were closed, albeit in an honorary capacity - Fred Dawson, Fred Ridge and Dick Shepherd. One of the main features of the period since 1977 is the rapid turnover in the membership as the following details reveal.

In October 1977, the total was 173, 125 ordinary and 48 honorary (which then included the past classification) members. The November 1986 lists show that of the 125 only 40 were still in local authority service, 9 were honorary, 29 Past Members, 42 had resigned (although 8 were still Honorary Members of CLAVA) and 4 had died. 10 of the 48 were still honorary, 9 past, 21 resigned and 8 deceased. Over the next 8 years there were only minor fluctuations although the total did fall to 160 in 1982. There was however quite a significant increase in the last year, mainly in the Past Membership, the details being: total 195; ordinary 129; honorary 19; and past 47. Analysing the 1986 lists shows that there were 89 post-1977 Ordinary Members, 9 of the Past Members had joined since 1977 and transferred in classification and a further 10 had joined and resigned in the period under review, making up the 108 new names mentioned above.

I have already commented on the average attendances at meetings but one recurring item on the annual schedules was the number of non-attenders amongst the Ordinary Members, usually about a third but in 1982 nearly half, 53 out of 113.

Despite all these comings and goings, in one respect the Association did not change and this is surprising in view of the evident increase in the pride of lionesses and having regard to the explicit working these days of so many advertisements for senior posts. For a brief period, 1966-68, there was a lady member but since then ALAVES remained a man-only society. No criticism is or indeed can be implied and no doubt LAVA will be very willing to welcome suitable applicants if and when they come forward.

Many members who had been active in the Association left local government service, mostly on retirement, but also some to make a career elsewhere. In 1980 Austin-Crowe, 1981 Bill Plunkett, 1982 Ryden and White, 1983 Peter Plunkett, 1984 Dutton, George and Luff, 1986 Brigham, but they continued to support the Association, particularly the social events. Other regular attenders in the past found for various reasons that travelling distances was no longer a pleasure so one notes last attendance by Fred Dawson, House of Commons 1981, Bunny Moore, Southampton 1982 and George Gurney, Annual Lunch 1985.

Appendix A (v) records the sad list of members who died between 1977 and 1986 and it is only a year ago that we had the double shock of the deaths of Len Humphries and Cyril Dutton, each in his own way an outstanding contributor to Association activities. Len had joined in 1972, became a member of the Executive Committee in 1976 and President in 1983/84. He participated in a very positive way at OGMs, Study Days, the VLG and the ambitious programme at the Newcastle July meeting was undoubtedly a high spot in his career. He was still very much in control of his department at the time of his death. Cyril went back a long way: one of Bill Rothwell's Sheffield team, he became a member in 1957 when he was appointed at Brighton, was Hon. Secretary from 1965-1969, a member of the Executive Committee

1963-1975 and President 1969-1970. He hosted a very successful summer meeting in 1970 and again in the spring of 1979. He retired at the end of 1984 having been a key active figure for so long, but the last few months were overshadowed by ill health. He seemed to have made a full recovery and had just completed 18 holes on his favoured golf course when he collapsed and died. Many members and wives attended the funerals and our sympathies went to Eira and Marjorie who had graced so many of our meetings. They will all be missed.

The changes in membership through retirement, voluntary redundancy or a move out of local government affected about 130 members since 1977. A rough check of their subsequent involvement reveals that about 55% either retired completely or probably did a modest amount of professional work based on their homes. 15% were still in local government but not members, 15% in some other form of public sector employ and only 15% in private practice or commerce, which rather contradicts the theory about greener grass.

In 1980 the constitution was changed by the creation of three classes of membership - Ordinary, Past and Honorary. Honorary status was to be accorded by the Executive Committee to any member who in their opinion had either given extraordinary service to the Association or because of his professional standing (or a combination of both). Honorary Members could attend all meetings, propose motions, take part in discussions but not vote. Past Members were elected either on retirement or when they had ceased to qualify as an Ordinary Member. They could receive the papers for and attend the AGM and also the non-business part of the Summer Meeting. No doubt these restrictions were imposed because of possible conflicts of interest. Theoretically these could occur but, if at all, they were very rare occurrences and surely the same objective could have been achieved by the officers deciding on a two-part agenda (as the London Branch did). Anomalies, some embarrassment and even resentment did arise and the rules were quite often bent, particularly in relation to attendance by Past Members at Provincial Meetings. Nevertheless numbers probably declined unnecessarily because of the embargo. The non-voting restriction was unfortunate: votes at meetings were another rare event but surely it was absurd that the Honorary Members, many of whom had virtually created the Association and certainly made a major contribution to its development, were banned from indicating their view on the dissolution proposals at the Leicester meeting? Those present would certainly have supported the idea in principle, as indeed would Past Members who were similarly embargoed. It seems that LAVA is to follow the same line but common sense ought to be able to devise something more realistic, especially with the benefit of experience.

The final section of the pre-1977 story included a hope that there might be some degree of uniformity in the titles of posts in the Association's field of activity but a scrutiny of the list of Ordinary Members at November 1986 shows no movement in this direction. This reveals that the 129 posts included about 100 variations which can be broadly summarised under three headings:

- **Authorities:** County, Region, City, Borough, District;
- **Post:** Director, Chief, Head, Principal, Deputy Director, Assistant Director, Deputy Controller, Assistant Controller, Senior Principal, Principal Assistant, Assistant Manager;
- **Function:** Valuer/Valuation, Surveyor/Surveying, Land Agent, Property Services, Estates Management, Development, Industrial Development, Economic Development, Planning Education,

Obviously there have to be variations in the authority element even though this may now have only historical significance and the post description has to accord with the departmental structure of each authority. It does seem unfortunate, however, that the function has so many variables, although valuer/valuation appears in about 80 cases, equalled by estates surveyor/surveying, and indeed valuer and estates surveyor (or something like it) is favoured by 40 authorities. All of which does perhaps explain the surprise and disappointment of so many members that the estates surveyors part of the Association's title has not been retained by the new society. Valuation is surely

no longer the main purpose and function of members' activities and since about half of the County members include some variation on estates surveying in their titles it could be of interest to test the whole of the membership by a confidential referendum.

Provided traditional barriers can be demolished, surely there would be some benefit in terms of public recognition and RICS comprehension if a common approach could be agreed on a long-term basis. Perhaps Dick Luff could say something about his experiences of variables in designations.

A word on finance. Subscriptions were £7pa in 1977, £12 in 1981, £18 in 1986, increases no doubt justified by inflation. On the other hand an alarming balance of £56 in 1977 had increased to £5,122 in 1985 and the new Association received a launching dowry of £4,164, which was pretty good. This satisfactory state of affairs was due to profits on the two Study Days plus several summer meeting windfalls - £750 in 1979, £384 in 1984 and £670 from spring and Summer Meetings in 1983. Would it be unreasonable to conclude that members attending these functions indirectly subsidised absent members' subscriptions by about £10 per head in these years? An interesting thought.

Another revealing exercise in analysis emerges from professional qualifications. Of the 195 members in November 1986, 178 were chartered surveyors; other societies represented were RVA with 27 and ISVA 15, several members of course with dual qualification. Broken down not by sex but by division produces GP 153, P&D 27, LA&A 3 and BS 1. All of these will be LAVA members and will be joined by 63 former CLAVA members; 54 of these are chartered surveyors. Their divisional make-up is GP 17, P&D 2, LA&A 32, BS 1, and QS 1. However it is, I suggest, significant that 26 of the Land Agency group were Honorary Members of CLAVA, presumably now retired, and this may have been a major factor in the historical resistance to any idea of an amalgamation.

Appendix F lists the employing authorities as at November 1986 but probably the greater interest is in the councils not included. Understandably some counties are missing, but when the CLAVA membership is added only Cleveland and Hereford/Worcester in England and the Glamorgans in Wales will be without representation. More disturbing is the absence of many of the major cities - Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Coventry and Newcastle in the metropolitan districts, Stoke and Southampton in the non-mets. All of these authorities had an entry in June 1977 lists and it may well be that the absence is only temporary with a new appointment pending, but LAVA will be the weaker without a voice from these places since it seems certain that future political thought, regardless of party, will be concentrating to an even greater extent on the problem of the obsolescent areas of such cities.

There were 22 London borough members at the close, as compared with 24 in 1977 out of a possible maximum of 33 but such have been the changes in the years since 1965 that, according to the records, only Ealing and Richmond have never provided an Association member. Within this varying pattern it is pleasant to acknowledge the length of membership of Jack Young (the only surviving original London borough appointment), George Touchard and John Ewart-Smith, all of whom surely deserve a medal for long service under fire. But they cannot match Remo Verrico's record with a silver jubilee to celebrate next year.

Metropolitan London disappeared in ALAVES terms (with no disrespect to ILEA) as a result of the 1985 Act which was, politics apart, rather sad since officers from the LCC, from Middlesex and from the GLC had provided much of the strength of the Association since its foundation. Many of the past presidents had spent some part of their careers with the estates departments of these authorities or with Sheffield, three centres of excellence for training purposes which provided the profession as a whole with many outstanding chartered surveyors. It is difficult to see where such a contribution by the local authority sector will be forthcoming in the future.

The abolition of the GLC and the met. counties meant the loss of seven Ordinary Members, all of whom transferred to past status, and another disappearance was the last of the New Town representatives, seven in 1977 but at one time or another eighteen such towns provided a member including, of course, two Presidents. There is however the surprising survival as an Ordinary Member of the Chief Estates Officer of the New Towns Commission - surely not a local authority officer?

Finally an administrative point. ALAVES was indeed fortunate in having the free use of County Hall almost throughout its existence and to a lesser extent in later years the facilities at Caxton Hall (Westminster). Rooms for meetings and catering, especially for the annual lunches, were provided to a high standard although lunches at OGMs deteriorated in quality and service in the 1970s leading to a decision that members would make their own arrangements. Where future meetings of LAVA will be held is still uncertain - the RICS is clearly too small for the AGM combined with annual lunch. No doubt satisfactory arrangements will be made but probably at far greater cost to the Association.

6. THE CRYSTAL BALL

You can never plan the future by the past. Burke

The quotation is, I think, apt particularly having in mind what has happened since 1977, little of which was foreseen in the conclusion to the first story. This later account is being written in the run-up to a General Election and although manifestoes have not yet appeared, party spokesmen have already indicated what they have in mind for local government. One thing is certain: whoever is in power won't leave it alone - the ministerial departments will see to that. 1965, 1974, 1986 all produced major upheavals, so what will the 90s reveal? The end of the shire counties, the City of London no longer an administrative unit, regional authorities on the lines of the Saxon kingdoms, all-purpose district councils, more urban development corporations (the London Docklands will be constantly quoted as a magnificent achievement although some of us might raise an eyebrow), the complete transfer of Education responsibility to Whitehall. And these are just a few of the ideas which allow me to bring in (yet again!) a favourite quotation: "Alas regardless of their doom the little victims play". In recent years the image of local government has become tarnished, with the critical comment - especially by politicians and the media - bearing no sense of proportion or perspective. The actions in terms of policies and finance by a few authorities have almost totally obscured the achievements of the majority with an inevitable effect on public opinion. Moreover the profession has come under attack and in too many cases it is the administrator who has the final word.

In comparison with previous decades, new legislation in property terms has, since 1977, been limited possibly due to the policies of the government in power for most of the time. A cynical Chartered Surveyor commented recently that a Labour government was good news for the private practitioner but usually bad news for his clients. Appendix D lists the papers read and discussed at meetings in this period and certain main topics can be picked out - value for money, portfolio management, right to buy, housing policy, disposal of surplus land, computers; compulsory purchase and compensation were rarely considered, the days of site assembly and acquisition in advance of requirements were gone. Unless a major change of policy occurs under a different government it seems unlikely that this situation will change in the foreseeable future.

Membership will also remain static, in numbers that is. There may be a few appointments to fill vacancies in the big cities and in some London boroughs as indicated in the previous section together with some thinning out of the duplicate representation among former CLAVA members, several of whom apparently would not be eligible for Ordinary Membership of LAVA since their qualifications would not satisfy Rule 5(1).

One problem may be the number of meetings in which members could be involved. Attendance is costly (and difficult) in terms of

time, travel and money and there is the problem of the attitude of the employing authority. It seems likely that the branches will increase in activity and number and the agenda of the OGMs could be filled with their reports in addition to the Executive, RICS, groups including VLG and standing committees possibly producing some of the problems faced by RICS Divisional Councils. London will lose most of its past dominance and branch events could affect the pattern of provincial meetings quite apart from the difficulty in finding a suitable location. Then there is possible competition from the growth of the informal "fringe" meetings arranged by Honorary and Past Members which I understand were also a feature of CLAVA activities. With diminishing interest in the business content of formal meetings, social contact would be maintained by these locally based gatherings. No doubt the Executive Committee of LAVA will have all these points very much in mind.

LAVA will also be interested in what results from the work of Dick Luff's Committee on the future structure of the RICS as for example the idea of practice groups which could have particular implications for public sector members with a number of possible permutations. Training, CPD, recruitment - even salaries - are topics which could be discussed to a greater extent than seems to have been the case between 1977 and 1986.

This period has not been a very happy time to work in local government and many of the old attractions seem to have disappeared or to have been eroded, especially any sense of vocation. It would be good to think that the coming decade will see an improvement but the crystal ball is somewhat overcast.

7. CONCLUSION

O most lame and impotent conclusion. Shakespeare

And that's it. Most of it rather boring I'm afraid but there may be the odd comment which will stir up a few memories. The Appendices could provide a useful ready reference if only to find out who did what, where and when, rather on the lines of Noel Coward's song:

*"Whatever became of old so-and-so
I wonder what happened to him"*

Nothing much will change with LAVA. It will be very much the mixture as before. Déjà vu as the French so concisely put it. Some things will be missed, as for example the names on the back of the card for the annual lunch, looking round to see how many of the old faces are there, realising that the yuppies of yesterday are now today's Wrinklies, or even current Crumbliques.

The credit titles now flash by and there must in general terms first be a word of appreciation to all the honorary officers (and their secretaries) who contributed so much to the successful development of ALAVES. Members owe a debt of gratitude to this dedicated few who more often than not received something less pleasant. Then my personal thanks to those who bothered to reply to my letters, thanks (hopefully) to Barry Searle's copying, binding and distributing organisation and finally a very special thanks to Betty Clayden who has clearly lost none of her cunning and who can still interpret the spider tracks which have crawled over my 100 pages of manuscript.

I end as I did at the final AGM - "I'm sure I'm not alone in a sense of sadness which I personally feel but I shall always have the happiest memories of this Association which has provided me - and Gwen - with so many lasting friendships."

"But that's all one, our play is done."

**Kenneth Blessley
Chichester, April 1987**

APPENDIX A

MEMBERSHIP

(i) Ordinary Members - November 1986

Name	Title and Authority (+ previous)	Joined
Adams P N	Head of Estate Surveying, Lancashire (Merseyside)	1983
Ainslie M J	Borough Valuer, Hammersmith & Fulham (Wandsworth)	1977
Ashton E R	Valuation and Industrial Development Officer, Wakefield	1976
Baker R	Chief Estates & Industrial Development Officer, Tameside	1981
Barnes C T	Property and Valuation Officer, Horsham	1980
Barrett M F X	Estates Surveyor, Torbay	1975
Bartlett J E	Borough Estates Surveyor, Brighton	1984
Booth D R	Estates and Valuation Officer, Calderdale	1974
Britton W	County Valuer and Estates Surveyor, Surrey	1974
Brown E J D	District Estates Surveyor and Valuer, Lewes	1981
Brown K A D	County Valuer, Cheshire	1975
Burnett-Hurst S A	Borough Surveyor, Blackburn	1984
Cannon N	Chief Estates and Valuation Officer, Knowsley	1982
Clarke D M	City Valuer, Bristol	1986
Coales B J	County Estates Officer, Hampshire (Hounslow; Wash'gton)	1965
Collins I W	City Estates Officer, Canterbury	1980
Cook J F	County Land Agent and Valuer, Durham	1976
Cornish J W	Head of Valuation, Hackney	1986
Cox H F	County Valuer and Estates Officer, Somerset	1973
Cox W D	City Valuer and Estates Officer, Cardiff (Havering)	1972
Creasey G	Chief Estates and Valuation Officer, Bury	1984
Darg A G	Director of Estates Services, Avon (Lothian)	1977
Davies J G	Assistant Controller (Property Services), Barnet	1986
Davis D	County Estates Officer, Nottinghamshire	1982
Davis H	Valuer, Milton Keynes	1981
Disley P	Chief Estates Surveyor, Bolton	1984
Doolan I D M	Valuer, Kensington & Chelsea	1978
Drawwater T S	Chief Valuer, Slough	1983
Duchars A	County Estate Officer and Valuer, Essex (Norwich)	1961
(Break 1966-1973)		
Earl J	Assistant Director (Estates), Stockport	1982
Easton G M	Chief Property Services Officer, Waltham Forest	1986
Edwards M W	Principal Valuer, Wrexham Maelor	1981
Edwards G	Estates Surveyor and Valuer, Aylesbury Vale	1986
Enthistle R H	Director of Development and Estates, Wellingborough	1986
Ewart-Smith J	Borough Valuer, Sutton	1971
Foster T	County Estates Officer, Derbyshire (Bury)	1979
Goodall R G	Chief Estates Officer and Valuer, Cambridgeshire	1983
Gregory R S	Chief Estates Surveyor and Valuer, Redbridge	1981
Grindley G T	Chief Estates Surveyor, Sefton	1981
Gunson D	Chief Estates and Valuation Officer, Blackpool(Bury)	1974
Gunton H	Director of Property Services, Southend (Bath)	1970
(Break 1980-1986)		
Halford P N P	Chief Valuer, Reading	1985
Hancock J C	Borough Valuer, Cheltenham	1978
Handley P M	Chief Estates Officer, Barnsley	1984
Hanel P J	City Estates and Valuation Officer, Derby	1982
Hanes T G	Borough Valuer and Estates Surveyor, Southwark	1984
Hartill E T	City Surveyor, City of London	1985
Henderson I W	Valuer and Estates Officer, Wyre	1981
Higginson J A	Chief Land and Property Officer, Hull (Hounslow)	1968
Hookey K J	Senior Principal Estates Surveyor, East Sussex	1984
Hopkins T M	Director of Property Services, Lincolnshire	1983
Hudson E	Chief Valuation Officer, Doncaster	1977
Hunt T G	Valuer and Estates Officer, Northavon	1974
Jenkins D	Director of Estates, Lliw Valley	1977
Jinks A G	Principal Valuation Officer, Redditch	1982
Johnson T N	Principal Estates Officer, Epping Forest	1985
Jones G	City Estates Surveyor, Plymouth	1974
Leeming G	Principal Assistant Director of Property Services, Northumberland	1985
Leigh P W J	Director of Property Services, Berkshire (G.L.C.)	1981
Levinson M W	Estates and Valuation Officer, North Tyneside	1977
Lodge J	Principal Estates surveyor, Chester	1981
Luck R D	Borough Valuer and Estates Surveyor, Harrow (Wandsworth)	1982
Luck R W	Deputy Director of Estates, Oxford	1985
MacColl A J	Director of Estates, Aberdeen	1983
Macfarlane N G	Head of Estates, Strathclyde	1975
Manns A R	Estate and Property Manager, Kirklees	1982
Marcroft C W	Education Valuer, I.L.E.A.	1986
Mason J W	Borough Valuer, Enfield (Letchworth)	1971
Mason P J	Deputy Director of Technical Services, Nottingham	1976
McConnell J I	Regional Estates Officer, Fife	1984
McLoone G M	Chief Valuer, Dublin	1984
McNab J R	Regional Estates Officer, Tayside	1983
Miller R J	Head of Property Services, Norfolk (Greenwich)	1979
Mimmack R F S	Director of Estate Management, Bath	1980
Mitchell S A	Chief Valuer, Burnley	1980
Michelson G T	Assistant Director of Development, Tower Hamlets	1985
Murant A R	Borough Valuer, Lambeth	1982
Murray W W	Director of Estates, Grampian	1976
North P T	Chief Valuer and Estates Officer, Dacorum	1982
Oram D	Estates Surveyor and Valuer, Windsor & Maidenhead	1986
Orton S J	Principal Estates Surveyor, Ellesmere Port	1980
Parkington W N	Estates Manager, St Helens	1985
Pearson J	Borough Valuer, Luton	1974
Porter J E	Estates and Valuation Officer, Swale	1980
Powell A G W	Head of Land and Property Services, Havering	1985
Powell C V	City Estates Officer, Portsmouth	1985
Preston K M	Valuer, Sedgemoor	1976
Rampton N R	County Prpty Svcs M'ger, Gloucestershire (Northamptonshire)	1978
Randall K	Estate Surveyor and Valuer, Croydon	1973
Rees J L	County Valuer and Land Agent, Shropshire	1973
Rimmer F	Assistant Director of Development, Wirral	1974
Ripley J F	County Valuer and Estate Officer, Dorset	1974
Roberts G	City Estates Surveyor, Liverpool	1983
Robinson J M	Chief Valuer and Estates Surveyor, Oldham	1986
Ross D J	Estates Officer, Falkirk	1984
Ross W	Director of Economic Development and Estates, Edinburgh	1986
Rowley J C	County Land Agent and Valuer, Cumbria	1981
Roxburgh D A	Assistant Director of Property Services, North Yorkshire	1986
Samuels M	Head of Valuation and Estates, Newham	1986
Sawyer M J	Chief Valuation and Estates Officer, Bexley	1982
Schofield M J	Estates Officer, Border	1986
Schrier A J	Head of Estates Services, Northamptonshire	1982
Searle B S	Estates and Valuation Officer, Hillingdon (Newham)	1974
Seddon J P	Chief Valuer, Oxfordshire	1982
Semple P M	Principal Valuation and Estates Officer, Wrekin	1984
Senior J A	Estates and Valuation Officer, Sheffield	1984
Shaw J I	Estates Manager, Central	1985
Simpson J D C	Regional Estates Surveyor, Lothian	1978
Smith G K	City Estates Surveyor, Leicester	1973

Smith J M	Chief Estates and Valuation Officer, Wigan	1983	Daisley M	Southampton	1977	1986
Smith P E	Estates and Economic Development Officer, Preston	1985	Davy A S	West Yorkshire	1981	1986
Smy A F	County Estates Surveyor, Devon	1974	Dixon D W	Leeds	1971	1981
Staniland R	Principal Valuation Officer, Bradford	1981	Eaton J B	Manchester	1974	1984
Stanyer D J	Borough Valuer, Lewisham	1983	Ellis J H	Portsmouth	1972	1985
Taylor R	Chief Valuation and Estates Assistant, Easington	1985	Feeley G R	Kensington-Chelsea	1973	1978
Thomas H J M	Chief Estates Officer, New Towns (Southwark)	1973	Fooks I	Barnet	1964	1972
Tindall A J	Director of Planning and Property, Lincoln (Reading)	1967	Forbes I D	Hereford; Worcestershire	1960	1981
Touchard G E	Director of Property Svcs, Westminster(Hackney Wandsworth)	1966	Foxon T E	Durham	1971	1974
Turner E	Estates and Valuation Officer, Trafford	1975	Frudd S J	Derby; Stoke-on-Trent	1975	1986
Verrico R	City Estates Surveyor, Glasgow	1963	Gavin D	Central	1983	1984
Wallace W I	Estates Officer, Vale Royal	1980	Harrison P J	North Yorkshire	1974	1986
Williams J C	Borough Estates Officer and Valuer, Maidstone	1985	Hearn RAH	East Riding; East Sussex	1974	1980
Williamson M E	Borough Valuer, Hounslow	1973	Henegham B E	St Helens	1968	1985
Wilson IDG	Estates Manager and Valuer, Peterborough	1975	Higginbottom L	Bolton	1975	1981
Woodcock J E	Estates Surveyor and Manager, Great Yarmouth	1980	Jones R M	Bromley	1983	1985
Woods M J	Development Officer and Valuer, Woodspring	1983	Levitt B	South Yorkshire	1974	1986
Worth A J	Estates and Valuation Officer, Huntingdon	1981	Matthews S D F	Ipswich	1971	1980
Young J A	Borough Valuer and Estate Surveyor, Haringey	1967	Matthews M C	Reading	1971	1984
			Moakes P C	Rochdale	1979	1981
			More N	Redditch	1966	1979
			Passmore M A	Newham	1978	1984
			Perkins G	G L C	1982	1986
			Reed G	Greater Manchester	1977	1986
			Reynolds R C	G L C	1975	1981
			Roberts J A	Merseyside	1974	1983
			Rose D B	Buckinghamshire	1968	1973
			Ross R F H	Birmingham	1962	1980
			Saunders P	Norwich	1972	1982
			Shepherd W J H	Waltham Forest; Tower Hamlets	1973	1983
			Simcock W G	Salford	1971	1983
			Snell S H	P L A	1965	1974
			Thompson E G	Birmingham	1962	1986
			Vessey E	Norfolk	1974	1985
			Wood J H	Cumbria	1969	1982
			Wratten B J	Basingstoke; Oxford	1962	1974

(ii) Honorary Members - November 1986

Name	Authority	Joined	Elected ⁽¹⁾
Bailey F D	Berkshire	1959	1975/1980
Blessley K H	Middlesex and G.L.C.	1955	1977/1980
Brigham G D	Leicester; City and County	1959	1986
Dawson F W	Gloucestershire and Cheltenham	Founder	1974/1980
George D J B	Salford and Sheffield	1960	1984
Gurney G W A	Croydon	1953	1973/1984
Longdon F	Manchester	1957	1974/1985
Luff R W P L	GLC and City of London	1969	1984
Moore H H	Bristol	1955	1974/1980
Plunkett W J	Middlesex and G.L.C.	1963	1981
Plunkett P J	Bromley	1964	1983
Powell G J	Oxford	1968	1985
Ridge F	Coventry and Southampton	Founder	1977/1980
Ryden J A	Liverpool	1974	1982
Shepherd W K	Plymouth	Founder	1972/1980
Susman P	Great Yarmouth and Luton	1952	1974/1983
Thould S L	Somerset	1957	1974/1980
Walker R S	City of London	1955	1975/1980
White B F L	Lewisham	1965	1982

(iii) Past Members - November 1986

Name	Authority	Joined	Elected
Abram M R	Oldham	1980	1984
Amies C E	G L C	1977	1980
Austin-Crowe L	Northampton Development Corporation	1971	1980
Bacon G	Kingston	1976	1980
Barratt M	Dover	1953	1974
Becker A W	Nottingham	1970	1974
Birt C G	Warwickshire	1970	1985
Bookman D	Lambeth	1968	1982
Bradford C	Tyne and Wear	1984	1986
Brent J H	Bristol	1974	1979
Cesar K J	Newham	1973	1974
Cumming R	Craigavon	1971	1974

¹ Prior to 1980 all Past Members were classified as Honorary. A new Honorary class of membership was introduced in that year.

(iv) Former Members

Alford K J	Manchester	1962-64
Anderson A	Bexley	1979-81
Anderson H	Wiltshire	1969-81
Anderson W J	Grimsby	1950-?
Appleyard J S	East Kilbride	1970-71
Atkinson J W D	Bedfordshire	1974-85
Bamber E V	Blackburn	1981-82
Barrass J C	Worthing	1968-74
Barron A	Chesterfield	1975-78
Baum D E	Leicestershire	1986
Bonsey C C	Hampshire	1961-74
Bradley J T	Northamptonshire	1962-81
Brook W M	Cardiff	1952-74
Brown E E	West Sussex	1974-78
Bryant D H	Brent	1976-78
Chambers N E	New Towns Commission	1968-80
Clegg W T	Hemel Hempstead	1959-73
Collyer D D	Norfolk	1955-74
Cresswell D A	Montgomery	1958-74

Crozier H J	Avon	1974-81	Perry D N	Gloucestershire	1958-60
Davy F G	Cambridgeshire	1965-81*	Phipps D J	North Bedford	1974-83
Drummy S	Hammersmith	1968-81*	Provis I P	Dorset	1967-74
Duff A J	Milton Keynes	1979-82	Rice F A	Lea Valley	1969-81*
Edwards R I	Redbridge	1976-81	Rowley K	North Riding	1950-74
Fifield G F	Portsmouth	1956-72	Sansom A F	Oxfordshire	1961-81
Finch H	Hampshire, Berkshire	1973-81*	Saunders D Ivor	Swansea	Founder-1953
Foster J H	Barnet	1966-85	Savage J E	Coventry	1976-86
Frizell J H	Merseyside	1984-86	Searle M R	Camden	1974-78
Gallacher I J	Oldham	1973	Seeley G G	Essex	1960-72
Gardner K S	Waltham Forest	1980-85	Sharpe G A	Nottinghamshire	1956-79
Gourlay D D	Cleveland	1977-82*	Shepherd D J D	West Suffolk	1966-74
Gower R F	Stevenage	1975-81	Stallabross V	Stevenage	1962-81
Hall D A	East Kilbride	1965-72	Standivan B	Warrington	1974-78
Harney D	Stoke-on-Trent	1958-81	Stiles P L	Chester	1965-81
Hankes F	Tameside	1975-81	Strachan A L	Basildon & New Towns	1955-81
Harris A E	Oldham	1976-78	Sturgeon B H B	Aberdeen, Grampian	1972-83*
Hart P H	York	Founder-1950*	Taberner F T	Wyre Forest, Scunthorpe	1974-82*
Hay RT	Corby	1960-63	Tatham L A	West Sussex	1962-82
Haynes R C	Dover	Founder-1950	Taylor M L	Suffolk	1968-82*
Hayward R S	Taunton Deane	1975-82*	Thomas A C	Paddington, Westminster	1955-71
Heard D J	Basildon	1977-81	Thomas G J B	Fareham	1973-81
Heron RT	Great Yarmouth	1960-75	Thomas G M	Carmarthen . Dyfed	1962-81*
Hill J W	Welwyn Garden City	1980-86	Thompson D S	Warrington	1978-82*
Hough S	Bradford	1971-80	Tibbs C J	Newham, Hampshire	1968-81
Hoyle J R	Kent	1972-83	Tinsley C H	North Riding	1981-83
Humphreys J B	Devon	1950-64	Trickett R E	Islington	1967-83
Irwin R H	Liverpool	1964-70	Tucker E T	Bexley	1967-80
Jamieson A	Devon	1951-72	Turner E C	Leicestershire	1955-80
Janes H C	Edinburgh	1964-65	Tyerman M H	Kensington	1950
Jenkin K R C	Corby	1972-76*	Vincent G F	Barking	1979
Jenkins T L	Dover	1952-53*	Wallis A S	Marylebone	Founder-1950
Jolly R W	Worcester	1956-74	Waring A R	Barnsley	1977-80
Jones E R Pulestone	Montgomery	Founder-1958	Waters R M	Clwyd	1970-80
Kaye C J	Havant	1971-74	Watkins A H B	Southwark	1980-84
Kirby R A	Grimsby	1973-74	Watson I J	Huntingdon	1975-80
Kohn E W	Hillingdon	1964-81	Wheeler R J	East Sussex	1970-74
Lakin S P	Welwyn Garden City	1963-73	Whipp R	Derbyshire	Founder-1952
Ledger H H	Leicester	1951-59	William W E	Nottingham	1950-55
Lidster K	Bexhill	1950-55	Wingfield E A M	Mid-Glamorgan	1968-81
Lord J H	Dorset, Cheshire	1957-81	Woolcott H T	London County Council, Lea Valley	1970-74
Lowe F W	Staffordshire	1967-74			
Lucey M	Dublin	1965-82			
Macleod A T	Kent	1959-82			
McCarthy P D	Kensington	1954-59			
McCombie J A F	Glenrothes	1971-77*			
Merriott D G	Hertfordshire	1956-81*			
Minceldorf W L	Enfield	1971-73			
Moore C H	Gloucestershire	1969-80			
Morgan R G	Gwynedd	1955-81			
Mortlock ADC	Merton	1975-78			
Moyle J R	Derby	Founder-1953			
Naish Joan	Enfield	1965-68			
Needham W W	Exeter	1950-53			
Newton D	Harrow	1968-71			
Oakes R L	Rotherham	1977-82*			
O'Brien J O	Southwark	1967-82*			
Oliver F T	Thanet	1976-78			
Pace T H B	Exeter	1974-85			
Patterson A S	Barking	1980-85			
Pengelly R E	Devon	1972-79			

(v) Members Deceased (where known)

<i>Name Died</i>	<i>Authority</i>	<i>Ordinary Membership</i>	
Alexander-Webber	Greenwich	1970	1970
Allport W G	Lancashire, Dorset, Durham	1960-77	1982
Ashton A G	Milton Keynes	1973-77	1977
Atack G A Severne	Nottinghamshire	Founder-1956	1965
Auffleck A	Northamptonshire	Founder-1961	1961
Barrows F T	Stoke	1954-58	1964
Bartlett R	Exeter	1962-74	1986
Carter G R	Hampshire	Founder-1964	1970
Colledge N E	West Sussex	1951-63	1969
Cook R A	Stevenage	1954-55	1955
Daniels T G	Croydon	Founder-1953	1958
Dutton C D	Brighton	1957-84	1986
Ellis H W	Port of London Authority	1956-65	1965

* denotes Executive Committee terminated membership

Featherstone R W	Derby	1961-66	1966
Fellows J P	Wrexham	1972-74	1985
Gamble R W	Surrey	1951-72	1986
Goss G H J	Exeter	1954-60	1979
Hand W	Newcastle	1951-71	1981
Hill V F	Coventry	Founder-1964	1964
Hubbard F F	East Suffolk	Founder-1965	1974
Humphries L	Newcastle	1972-86	1986
James W A	Bristol	Founder-1955	1976
Laurence M C	Wakefield, Harlow	1975-76	1976
Martin E W S	Nottingham	1955-70	1975
McIntosh R	Edinburgh	1972-84	1984
Nethery W	Glasgow	1970-71	1971
Normington R	Leeds, W.Yorkshire	1968-75	1975
Paine M S	Paddington, Crawley, Bracknell	1950-69	1984
Palmer G E	Westminster	1965-76	1976
Piper P J	Berkshire	Founder-1957	1980
Potter A J	East Suffolk	1961-64	1985
Rothwell W H	Sheffield	Founder-1968	1968
Soloman J	Essex	1950-59	1959
Stewart-Logsdon H	Somerset	Founder-1957	1986
Toole J E J	London County Council	Founder-1960	1960
Trollope D F	Corby	1964-69	1974
Vickers A J	St Marylebone, Coventry	1955-74	1978
Walker C H	London County Council	Founder-1954	1970
Webb W G	London County Council	1955-62	1962
Widdrington G A	Greenwich	1970-79	1979

(vi) Long-Serving Members

Name	Authority	Elected
Duchars A	Norwich; Essex	1961
	(Break in membership 1966-1973)	
Verrico R	Glasgow	1963
Coales B J	Hounslow; Washington; Hampshire	1965
Touchard G E	Hackney, Wandsworth, Westminster	1966
Young J A	Haringey	1967
Tindall A J	Reading; Lincoln	1967
Higginson J A	Hounslow; Kingston-upon-Hull	1968
Gunton H	Bath; Southend	1970
	(Break in membership 1980-1986)	
Ewart-Smith J	Sutton	1971
Mason J W	Letchworth; Enfield	1971
Cox W D	Havering; Cardiff	1972
Cox H F	Somerset	1973
Randall K	Croydon	1973
Rees J L	Shropshire	1973

(vii) Honours & Appointments

Awards

CBE	C H Walker, K H Blessley
OBE	W K Shepherd, A Jamieson, R F H Ross

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

President	R W P Luff
General Council	L Austin-Crowe, K H Blessley, D J B George, P W J Leigh, F Longdon, R W P Luff, W J Plunkett, W H Rothwell, A F Samson, G K Smith, C H Walker, R S Walker

RICS General Practice Division

President	K H Blessley
Divisional Council	J O'Brien, R W P Luff

RICS Planning & Development Division

President	D J B George, W J Plunkett
Hon. Secretary	D J B George
Divisional Council	L Austin-Crowe, B J Coales, R J Miller, G A Perkins, C J Tibbs

RICS Public Affairs Committee

Chairman	L Austin-Crowe
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RICS Branches

Branch Chairman	M J Ainslie, W G Allport, R Bartlett, G D Brigham, A Duchars, R E Duffield, J B Eaton, G H J Goss, D Harney, R A H Hearn N More, H H Moore, W J Plunkett, J L Rees, G K Smith, E C Turner, R Waters, H T Woolcott
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Company of Chartered Surveyors

R W P Luff - Master

College of Estate Management

F Longdon - Honorary Fellow

Development Corporations

L Austin-Crowe, General Manager, Northampton
N More, General Manager, Redditch

British Telecom R W P Luff, Director of Property

Property Advisory Group

D J B George, P W J Leigh

APPENDIX B

OFFICERS

(i) Presidents - 1950-1986

1950	*W H Rothwell	Sheffield
1951	*W H Rothwell	Sheffield
1952	*C H Walker	London
1953	*w A James	Bristol
1954	*H Stewart Logsdon	Somerset
1955	*J E J Toole	London
1956	*J Soloman	Essex
1957	*W H Rothwell	Sheffield
1958	F W Dawson	Gloucestershire
1959	W K Shepherd	Plymouth
1960	*R W Gamble	Surrey
1961	*A Auffleck	Northamptonshire
1962	*N A Colledge	West Sussex
1963	K H Blessley	Middlesex
1964	*M S Paine	Bracknell
1965	S L Thould	Somerset
1966	G W A Gurney	Croydon
1967	R S Walker	Corporation of London
1968	P C Susman	Luton
1969	H H Moore	Bristol
1970	*C D Dutton	Brighton
1971	F Longdon	Manchester
1972	F W Dawson	Cheltenham
1973	K H Blessley	Greater London
1974	F D Bailey	Berkshire *
1975	G D Brigham	Leicestershire

1976	B J Coales
1977	D J B George
1978	B F L White
1979	R W P Luff
1980	G J Powell
1981	W J Plunkett
1982	J A Higginson
1983	A Duchars
1984	*L Humphries
1985	A J Tindall
1986	G K Smith
1986	Senior Vice President - R Verrico Junior Vice President - R J Miller

Washington
Sheffield
Lewisham
Corporation of London
Oxford
Greater London
Kingston upon Hull
Essex
Newcastle
Lincoln
Leicester
Glasgow
Norfolk

1960/61
1961/62
1962/63
1963/64
1964/65
1965/66
1966/67
1967/68
1968/69
1969/70
1970/71
1971/72
1972/73
1973/74
1974/75
1975/76
1976/77
1977/78
1978/99
1979/80
1980/81
1981/82
1982/83
1983/84
1984/85
1985/86

Blessley, Goss, Paine
Gamble, Paine, Susman, Thould, Webb
Dutton, Gurney, Moore, Susman, Thould (Webb)
Dutton, Gurney, Moore, Susman, R S Walker
Blessley, Dutton, Moore, Paine, Susman, R S Walker
Blessley, Longdon, Moore, Potter, Susman
Blessley, Longdon, Moore, Potter, Thould
Blessley, Gray, Gurney, Longdon, Merriott
Blessley, Brigham, Gray, Jamieson, Longdon
Blessley, Gray, Palmer, Susman, Tatham
Allport, Bailey, Blessley, George, Palmer, Tatham
Allport, Dutton, George, Palmer, Tatham
Allport, Brigham, Coales, Dutton, Palmer, Tatham
Coales, Dutton, Hearn (Normington) Taylor, Tindall
Blessley, Dutton, Hearn, Powell, Taylor, Tindall
Blessley, Duchars, Hearn, Humphries, Luff, Powell, Taylor, Tindall
Austin-Crowe, (Blessley), Duchars, Hearn, Humphries, (W J Plunkett) Powell, Taylor, Tindall
Austin-Crowe, Duchars, Hearn, Humphries, W J Plunkett, G K Smith, Waters
Austin-Crowe, H F Cox, Duchars, George, Humphries, G K Smith, Waters
Austin-Crowe H F Cox, Duchars, George, Humphries, Ryden, Touchard
H F Cox, George, Humphries, Luff, Phipps, Ryden, Touchard
H F Cox, George, Leigh, M C Mathews, Phipps, Ryden, Verrico
K A D Brown, H F Cox, George, Leigh, Luff, M C Mathews, Powell, Verrico
K A D Brown, Leigh, Luff, M C Mathews, Miller, Reed, Verrico
Ashton, Daisley, Duchars, Leigh, P J Mason, Miller, Reed
Ashton, Daisley, Darg, Humphries, Leigh, Macfarlane, P J Mason, Miller, Reed.

* = Deceased

(ii) Officers 1950-1986

Honorary Secretary

1950-1953	J E J Toole
1954-1960	A Auffleck
1960-1961	S L Thould
1961-1965	F Ridge
1965-1969	C D Dutton
1969-1972	G D Brigham
1972-1975	D J B George
1975-1979	J A Higginson
1979-1983	G K Smith
1983-1986	T Foster

Honorary Treasurer

1950-1960	A Auffleck
1960-1971	F W Dawson
1971-1973	F D Bailey
1973-1977	B F L White
1977-1984	A J Tindall
1984-1986	H F Cox

Press Officer:

1965-1967	P C Susman
1968-1976	E W Kohn

Honorary Assistant Secretary:

1972- 1973	W J Plunkett
1973- 1975	R W P Luff
1975-1977	P J Plunkett

Honorary Assistant Secretary and Press Officer:

1977-1982	P J Plunkett
1982- 1983	D J Phipps
1983- 1984	P J Plunkett
1984- 1986	B S Searle

(iii) Executive Committee ^[1]

1950/51	Daniels, Logsdon, Piper, C H Walker
1951/52	Daniels, Logsdon, Piper
1952/5*3	Piper, Rothwell, W Shepherd
1953/54	Dawson, James, Rothwell, Toole
1954/55	Dawson, James, Paine, Rothwell
1955/56	Dawson, Gamble, Paine, W Shepherd
1956/57	Blessley, Gamble, W Shepherd, Toole
1957/58	Blessley, Colledge, Solomon, Toole
1958/59	Blessley, Colledge, Ridge, Toole
1959/60	Blessley, Colledge, Dawson, Toole

1 Branch Chairmen co-opted members

(iv) Branch Officers

(a) London Branch

	Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Hon. Secretary	Hon. Treasurer
1968/69	R E Trickett		J A Higginson	J O'Brien
1969/70	E W Kohn		"	"
1970/71	"		"	"
1971/72	B F L White		"	"
1971/73	"		J A Young	J Ewart-Smith
1973/74	G E Palmer		"	"
1974/75	"		"	"
1975/76	J A Young		K Randall	"
1976/77	"		"	"
1977/78	D Bookman		"	"
1978/79	K Randall		B S Searle	"
1979/80	W J H Shepherd		"	"
1980/81	"		"	"
1981/82	G E Touchard		"	"
1982/83	"	B S Searle	R J Miller	"
1983/84	B S Searle	R J Miller	W D Cox	"
1984/85	"	R J Miller	"	"
1985/86	M J Ainslie	I D M Doolan	R S Gregory	"

(b) Scottish Branch

	Chairman	Hon. Secretary	Hon. Treasurer
1979/83	R Verrico	W W Murray	W W Murray
1983/85	N G Macfarlane	"	J D C Simpson
1985/86	J D C Simpson	"	J McConnell

(c) North West Branch

	Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Hon. Secretary	Hon. Treasurer
1979/80	F Hanks	J A Roberts	E Turner	W G Simcock
1980/81	B E Heneghan	K A D Brown	"	"
1981/82	K A D Brown	G Reed	"	"
1982/83	G Reed	D Gunson	T Foster	F Rimmer
1983/84	D Gunson	E Turner	R Baker	"
1984/85	E Turner	F Rimmer	"	"
1985/86	F Rimmer	W I Wallace	"	J C Rowley

(d) South West Branch

	Chairman	Hon. Secretary	Hon. Treasurer
1986	A G Darg	M J Woods	H F Cox

Jun	1973	SP	Cuckney J G	Chief Executive Property Services Agency Senior Crown Agent
Nov	1958	AL+	Dacey W L	Secretary CCA
Oct	1969	AL+	Dawtry Sir Alan	Chief Executive Westminster Secretary LBA
Oct	1975	AL	Denington Dame Evelyn	Chairman GLC Chairman Stevenage Development Corp.
May	1967	SM	Ebbisham Lord	Chief Commoner Corporation of London 1967/68
Oct	1975	SP	Evans R Warren	Ind. Adviser on Construction DoE
Nov	1979	AL+	Garner R	Chief Valuer
Nov	1984	AL+	Fallows A	Chief Valuer
Oct	1975	AL	Frank D G H	President Lands Tribunal
Nov	1979	AL+	Garner R	Chief Valuer
Nov	1980	AL	Glidewell Sir Iain	Queens Bench Division
May	1973	SM	Goodwin Sir Reg	Leader GLC
Nov	1984	AL	Gow I	MP Minister for Housing & Construction
Mar	1977	SP	Graves F C	Project Controller, National Exhibition Centre
May	1973	SM	Greenwood Anthony	Minister of Housing & Local Government (Baron Greenwood of Rossendale) Chrm Loc Govt Staff Commission
Jan	1981	SP	Harrison D B	Local Ombudsman
Nov	1956	AL+	Hart Sir William	Clerk LCC, Director-General GLC Chairman Northampton Development Corp.
Oct	1952	AL+	Hawkes F C	Secretary CAEAI
Mar	1959	Guest	Hearsum J F	Surveyor, Thames Water Authority
Mar	1984	SP	Hepworth N	Director CIPFA
Oct	1971	AL	Heseltine Michael	MP Parliament Under-Secretary DOE
Oct	1970	SP	Hookway R J S	Deputy Chief Planner MHLG
Jan	1983	SP	Howes C	Director Land Economics DoE
Nov	1984	AL	Hoyes Professor T	University of Reading
Jan	1974	SP	Janes J D W	Chief Exec. Maplin Development Authority
Mar	1972	SP	Jenkins H	Property Controller Coal Industry
Feb	1956	SP+	Karslake H H	President RVA
Oct	1952	AL+	Killick Sir Alexander	Secretary RICS
Jan	1972	SP	Knowles F C	Town and City Properties
Oct	1977	AL/SP	Knowles F	President RICS
Mar	1963	SP	Lane Leslie	Chief Technical Officer Civic Trust
Jan	1979	SP	Laverack Mrs	Asst. Director Countryside Commission
Mar	1970	SP	Longland Jack	Director of Education Derbyshire
Mar	1983	SP	Luff R W P	President RICS
Nov	1983	AL	Marler D R G	Capital and Counties
Oct	1971	AL	Marshall Sir Frank	AMC
Oct	1974	AL+	McCall R	Secretary AMC
May	1967	SM	Miller Sir James	Lord Mayor of London 1964/65
Oct	1954	AL	Mishcon Victor	Chairman London County Council
Jun	1978	SM	Moyle R	MP Minister of Health
Jun+Oct	1985	SP/AL	Northern I	Capital and Counties President P & D Division RICS
Oct	1953	AL/SP+	Othick Frank	Secretary RVA
Oct	1972	AL	Page Graham	MP Minister for Local Govern. & Develop
Apr	1970	SP	Page Sir Harry	City Treasurer Manchester
Oct	1969	AL+	Peterson Sir Arthur	Director-General GLC Permanent Under Secretary, Home Office
Oct	1976	SP	Pilcher Sir Dennis	President RICS
			Chmn Bracknell Corp'n / Chmn Cttee on Commercial Property	
Oct	1974	AL	Pitt of Hampstead Lord	Chairman GLC
Jan	1973	Guest	Plummer Sir Desmond	Leader GLC
Oct	1976	AL	Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede	Chairman GLC

APPENDIX C

GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

Meeting	Role^[1]	Name^[2]	Past and/or Present Appointment^[3]
Jul 1984	SM	Abel J	Capital and Counties
Jan 1973	SP	Argles Martin	President RICS
Oct 1977	AL	Armstrong E	MP Parliamentary Under Secretary DoE
Mar 1984	SP	Banham J	Controller Audit Commission
Oct 1985	SP/AL	"	"
Oct 1985	AL	Banks A	MP Last Chairman GLC
Nov 1956	AL+	Banwell Sir Harold	Secretary AMC
Oct 1963	SP	Barnes W S	Managing Director Railway Sites Ltd
Oct 1978	AL	Barnett G	MP Parliamentary Under Secretary DoE
May 1967	SM	Bellinger Sir Robert	Lord Mayor of London 1966/67
Nov 1979	AL	Bellwin Lord	Parliamentary Under Secretary DoE
Oct 1965	AL	Bennion FAR	Secretary RICS
Jun 1971	SM	Lord Bernstein of Leigh	Chairman Granada Group Ltd
Jun 1960	SM	Black Sir Cyril	MP
Nov 1958	AL+	Borner R S	Secretary CAEAI Chairman Committee on Use of Valuers
Jan 1986	SP	Bowles M	Supt. Estates Surveyor PSA
Feb 1984	SP	Boynton Sir John	Former Chief Executive Cheshire CC
Oct 1954	AL	Bull Sir Walter	President RICS
Nov 1959	AL	Burnett Rear Admiral PW	Secretary RICS
Jun 1958	SM+	Burnett P G	Chief Estates Officer DoE
May 1977	SP	Byrne Stephen	County Planning Officer, Nottinghamshire
Oct 1982	AL+	Christopher J A	Chief Valuer
May 1961	SP+	Collins B J	President RICS, President RTPI, C'ty Plng Off'er Middx, Controller Planning & Transportation, GLC
Sep 1979	SM	Cork, Sir Kenneth	Lord Mayor of London
Oct 1953	SP	Costain R	Chairman Harlow Coporation

- 1 AL = Annual Lunch after AGM
SP = Speaker
SM = Summer Meeting
+ = More than one attendance
- 2 A full list of speakers is set out in Appendix D
- 3 Mayors, Chairmen, leaders and Chief Officers of host authorities have been excluded unless they had some special status or significance for the Association. The same applies to the presidents of professional societies and members of local authority associations.

Nov	1960	AL	Post Colonel F G	Director of Civic Trust	7th AGM	Nov 1956	FW Dawson *	Rating of Water Undertakings
Nov	1983	SP	Powell J G	Gerald Eve. Chairman PAG	32nd	Jan 1957	W Shepherd *	Problems arising from Reconstruction
Mar	1984	"	"	"	34th	May 1957	P Baker, Assistant to R E Megarry QC	Rent Bill 1957
Oct	1952	AL+	Roberts Sir Howard	Clerk London County Council	35th	Jun 1957	W Shepherd	Industrial Development in Plymouth
Oct	1977	AL	Roberts Shelagh	Euro MP	38th	May 1958	N A Colledge *	Agricultural Compensation
Jun	1972	SM/SP	Rogers D G	Chief Executive Gloucestershire		May 1958	K H Blessley * & W Webb *	Use of the District Valuer
Oct	1951	AL/SP+	Rowe Sir Michael	President Lands Tribunal	39th	Jun 1958	A L Strachan *	Estates Officer in the New Towns
Jun	1975	SM	Rutland Duke of	Chairman Leicestershire County Council	40th	Nov 1958	K H Blessley * & W Webb *	Town and Country Planning Bill 1958
Jun	1975		Rutland Duchess of		42nd	Mar 1959	K H Blessley *	Town and Country Planning Bill 1958
Oct	1971	AL	Sherman Sir Lou	Chairman LBA Chairman Housing Corp.	43nd	May 19 59	K H Blessley *	Town and Country Planning Bill 1958
Oct	1974	AL	Silkin John	MP Minister of Planning & Local Govt.	44th	Jun 1959	W Shepherd *	Post-war Reconstruction of Plymouth
Jan	1977	AP	Stonefrost Maurice	Comptroller of Financial Services GLC	45th	Nov 1959	K H Blessley *	Town and Country Planning Bill 1958
Nov	1984	AL+	Stonefrost M F	Director-General GLC	47th	Mar 1960	W G Webb *	Redevelopment of Central Areas
May	1975	SP	Stott P F	Director-General National Water Council	50th	Nov 1960	A J Vickers *	Coventry City Centre
Oct	1963	AL+	Swaffield Sir James	Secretary AMC. Director-General GLC	51st	Jan 1961	F L Othick, Secretary RVA	Rating and Valuation Bill
Nov	1979	AL+	"	"	52nd	Mar 1961	C H Walker *	Redevelopment of Central Areas
Jun	1963	SM	Thatcher Margaret MP	Parliamentary Under-Secretary Ministry of National Insurance	53rd	May 1961	B J Collins, County Planning Officer, Middlesex CC	Green Belts
Jun	1971	SM	Thomas Sir Robert	Leader of Manchester Council	56th	Jan 1962	J G Jefferson, Cnty Pln'g Off'r, W Sussex CC	Planning in America
Jul	1981	SM	Thorne N MP		57th	Mar 1962	E J Turner, CEBG	Land Requirements of Electricity Production
Sep	1979	SM	Waley-Cohen Sir Bernard	Former Lord Mayor of London	58th	May 1962	K H Blessley*	Status and Functions of the Local Authority Valuer
Oct	1969	AL	Wells Sir Henry	President RICS	59th	Jun 1962	L A Tatham, Dep. County Valuer, West Sussex CC	Shoreham CDA
			Chairman New Towns Commission / Chairman Land Commission		61st	Jan 1963	A J H Clayton, Divisional Engineer, LCC	Traffic Engineering
Jun	1957	SM	Wheeldon G S	Chief Estates Officer MHLG	62nd	Mar 1963	L W Lane, Chief Technical, Officer, Civic Trust	The Civic Trust
Oct	1963	AL+	Wicks A E	Chairman London County Council Chairman GLC		Mar 1963	K H Blessley *	Compensation Acts
Nov	1979	AL	Young Baroness	Minister of State, Education	64th	Jun 1963	K H Blessley *	Feltham Centre Scheme
Oct	1982	AL	Young Sir George MP	Parliamentary Under Secretary Environment	65th	Oct 1963	W S Barnes, MD, Railway Sites Ltd	Dev't of Railway Land

APPENDIX D

PAPERS READ AT ORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS: 1950-1986

Meeting	Date	Speaker ⁽¹⁾	Subject
3rd	Feb 1950	J E J Toole *	Development Charges
4th	May 1950	W A James *	Local Government Act 1948
6th	Nov 1950	T G Daniels *	An Estates Department
8th	Apr 1951	W Shepherd *	Reconstruction of Plymouth
2nd AGM	Oct 1951	Michael Rowe, KC	Land Tribunal and Procedures
13th	Jun 1952	W H Rothwell *	Swedish Housing
4th AGM	Oct 1953	Richard Costain, Chairman - Harlow Corporation	New Towns
19th	Jan 1954	J E J Toole *	Compensation and Future Trends
20th	Apr 1954	M S Paine *	Housing Repairs and Rents Bill
21st	Jun 1954	FW Dawson *	Leasehold Bill
Special	Oct 1954	J E J Toole *	Town and Country Planning Bill 1954
23rd	Jan 1955	J E J Toole *	Town and Country Planning Bill 1954
24th	Apr 1955	G A Carter *	Rating of Local Authority Properties
	Apr 1955	Stewart Logsdon *	Rating of Schools
26th	Nov 1955	H Ledger *	Ex Gratia Payments
27th	Dec 1955	N Colledge *	New Towns and Local Authorities
28th	Feb 1956	H H Karslake, Assistant Valuer LCC	Rental Evidence for New Lists
29th	Apr 1956	J Solomon *	Compulsory Acquisition under 1954 Act
7th AGM	Nov 1956	FW Dawson *	Rating of Water Undertakings
32nd	Jan 1957	W Shepherd *	Problems arising from Reconstruction
34th	May 1957	P Baker, Assistant to R E Megarry QC	Rent Bill 1957
35th	Jun 1957	W Shepherd	Industrial Development in Plymouth
38th	May 1958	N A Colledge *	Agricultural Compensation
	May 1958	K H Blessley * & W Webb *	Use of the District Valuer
39th	Jun 1958	A L Strachan *	Estates Officer in the New Towns
40th	Nov 1958	K H Blessley * & W Webb *	Town and Country Planning Bill 1958
42nd	Mar 1959	K H Blessley *	Town and Country Planning Bill 1958
43nd	May 19 59	K H Blessley *	Town and Country Planning Bill 1958
44th	Jun 1959	W Shepherd *	Post-war Reconstruction of Plymouth
45th	Nov 1959	K H Blessley *	Town and Country Planning Bill 1958
47th	Mar 1960	W G Webb *	Redevelopment of Central Areas
50th	Nov 1960	A J Vickers *	Coventry City Centre
51st	Jan 1961	F L Othick, Secretary RVA	Rating and Valuation Bill
52nd	Mar 1961	C H Walker *	Redevelopment of Central Areas
53rd	May 1961	B J Collins, County Planning Officer, Middlesex CC	Green Belts
56th	Jan 1962	J G Jefferson, Cnty Pln'g Off'r, W Sussex CC	Planning in America
57th	Mar 1962	E J Turner, CEBG	Land Requirements of Electricity Production
58th	May 1962	K H Blessley*	Status and Functions of the Local Authority Valuer
59th	Jun 1962	L A Tatham, Dep. County Valuer, West Sussex CC	Shoreham CDA
61st	Jan 1963	A J H Clayton, Divisional Engineer, LCC	Traffic Engineering
62nd	Mar 1963	L W Lane, Chief Technical, Officer, Civic Trust	The Civic Trust
	Mar 1963	K H Blessley *	Compensation Acts
64th	Jun 1963	K H Blessley *	Feltham Centre Scheme
65th	Oct 1963	W S Barnes, MD, Railway Sites Ltd	Dev't of Railway Land
66th	Jan 1964	H T Woolcott *	Signpost for the Sixties
67th	Mar 1964	S L Thould *	Rating System and its Future
68th	May 1964	R E Duffield *	Expanding Towns and Industria Relocation
69th	Jun 1964	E A Ferriby, Chief Architect	Planning of Bracknell
		G Rhys, Architect Planner, Bracknell Corporation	
70th	Oct 1964	W J N Oswald	Out Town Centres in America
		formerly Deputy, Estates Officer, MHLG	
71st	Jan 1965	W N D Lang, Jones, Lang, Wootton	Management of Commercial
72nd	Mar 1965	K H Blessley *	Compensation and Betterment
	Mar 1965	G W A Gurney *	Rent Bill
73rd	May 1965	R Ross *	City Centre Development
74th	Jun 1965	R W Dale, County Planning, Officer, Somerset CC	Nailsea CDA.
75th	Oct 1965	F Longdon *	Land Commission White Paper
77th	Mar 1966	FW Dawson *	Purchase Notices
	Mar 1966	P Susman *	Ground Rent Reviews
	Mar 1966	H H Moore *	Car Parks and Petrol Filling Stations
78th	May 1966	A F Holt, Borough Engineer	Redevelopment of Central Croydon
79th	Jun 1966	K H Blessley *	Hardships and Anomalies in Compensation
80th	Oct 1966	G W A Gurney *	Electricity Sub-Stations
81st	Jan 1967	F Longdon *	Land Commission Bill
82nd	Mar 1967	K H Blessley *	Leasehold Enfranchisement
	Mar 1967	H H Moore *	Use of the District Valuer
83rd	May 1967	E G Chandler, City Architect	Planning in the City
84th	Jun 1967	W J Plunkett *	Ex Gratia Payments
	Jun 1967	E W Kohn *	Unification of Professional Societies
85th	Oct 1967	A L Strachan	Redevelopment of Town Centres
		Chief Estates Officer, MHLG	
86th	Jan 1968	R E Gray *	Civic Amenities Act
	Jan 1968	A C Thomas *	Leasehold Reform Act
87th	Mar 1968	W J Plunkett *	Town and Country Planning Bill

1 Member of Association

	Mar 1968	K H Blessley *	Recruitment and Training	127th	Mar 1976	L Austin-Crowe *	Commercial Development in Northampton
88th	May 1968	K Seymour, Borough Engineer	Luton C.D.A.	128th	May 1976	M Boleat, Building Societies Association	Mortgages
90th	Oct 1968	K H Blessley *	Urban Renewal - The Profit and Loss Account			R Westlake	Building for Sale - Equity Sharing
91st	Jan 1969	G D Brigham *, D J B George*, G E Palmer *	Modern Methods of Leasing			City Housing Officer, Birmingham	
93rd	May 1969	J B Brent, Deputy City Estates Officer	Valuation Bristol Fashion			J Seabourne, Director of Finance, Hackney	Housing Subsidies
94th	Jun 1969	A J Potter, Ch Estates Off'r, Land Commission	Land Commission	129th	Jun 1976	W S Holley	Initiating Development
	Jun 1969	J O'Brien*	Housing Bill 1969			General Manager, Washington Development Corporation	
95th	Oct 1969	Sir Michael Rowe, OBE, QC	The Land Tribunal	130th	Oct 1976	Sir Dennis Pilcher	Commercial Property Management
		President, Lands Tribunal		131st	Jan 1977	M F Stonefrost, GLC	Layfield Report
96th	Jan 1970	Mr Lovelock, Intern'l Computers Ltd	Introduction to Computers	132nd	Mar 1977	F C Graves, Project Controller	The National Exhibition Centre
		Professor Parry Lewis, Manchester University	Estates Departments and Computers			G Brace, General Manager	Planning and Management
97th	Mar 1970	J Longland	Royal Commission on Local Government	133rd	May 1977	S Byrne, Cnty Planning Offr, Nott'shire	Inner Urban Problems
		Director of Education, Derbyshire				J A Ryden *	
	Mar 1970	C Dutton*, D Shepherd *	Amalgamation of ALAVES and CLAVA	A.G.M.	1977	F Knowles, President RICS	Public Officers and the RICS
98th	Apr 1970	K H Blessley *	Professional Training	135 th	Jan 1978	E C Turner *	Problems of Farming on the Urban Fringe
	Apr 1970	Sir Harry Page	Local Government Finance			C J Tibbs *	Land Directorate, D of E
		City Treasurer, Manchester		136th	Mar 1978	W Morgan, C'nty Industrial Off'r, Clwyd	Industrial Development
99th	Jun 1970	C D Dutton *	The Brighton Marina			G Tomlinson, County Architect	Theatre Clwyd
100th	Oct 1970	R J S Hookway	Planning for Countryside Recreation	137th	May 1978	N J Edwards,	Pension Funds and Industrial Development
		Deputy Chief Planner, MHLG				Bernard Thorpe	
101st	Jan 1971	G W A Gurney *	Revaluation			A A Pelling, DoE	Industrial Development in Inner Cities
103rd	Apr 1971	V Mansell, LAMSAC	Management Techniques	138th	Jun 1978	N Taylor	Conservation of Communities
	Apr 1971	W J Plunkett *	Blight			Chairman Planning Committee	
104th	Jun 1971	F Longdon *	Redevelopment of Manchester	139th	Jan 1979	Mrs Laverack	Urban Fringe Development
105th	Oct 1971	J B Cadigan, C'nty Treasurer, Durham	Local Government Finance			Assistant Director, Countryside Commission	
106th	Jan 1972	F C Knowles, Town & City Properties	Current Trends in Shopping	140th	Mar 1979	A A Pelling, Assistant Secretary, D of E	Inner City Policies
	Jan 1972	E W Kohn *	Fair Rents	141st	Apr 1979	C D Dutton *	Construction and Operation of Brighton Marina
107th	Mar 1972	H Jenkins	Central Area Redevelopment	144th	Jan 1980	S C Rand, Technical Director, Hoveringham	Sand and Gravel
		Property Controller, Coal Board Pension Fund				M G Tassell	Waste Disposal
	Mar 1972	F Durant *	Local Authority Participation in Development	146th	Apr 1980	Assistant County Surveyor, Cambridgeshire	
108th	Jun 1972	D G Rogers, Ch Exec, Gloucestershire	Co-operative Planning			P Cooper	Conservation of Norwich
		J Miller, County Treasurer	Organisation in New Local Authorities			Director of Planning, Norwich	
109th	Oct 1972	F Ridge *	Future of the Association			J H Pogson, City Architect	Heritage over the Wensum
110th	Dec 1972	K H Blessley *	White Paper - Development and Compensation	147th	Jul 1980	Rowan Hare, Sheriff	Preservation of churches
111th	Jan 1973	P F Patrick	Refuse Disposal	148th	Jan 1981	J H Ashdown, Conservation Officer	Conservation in Oxford
		General Manager, GLC Refuse Disposal Branch		149th	Apr 1981	D B Harrison, Local Ombudsman	Role of the Ombudsman
112th	Mar 1973	D B Rose *	Buckingham Partnership Scheme	150th	May 1981	R J Williams, County Engineer, Merseyside CC	Mersey Tunnels
113th	May 1973	C E Amies, Senior Divisional Valuer, GLC	South Bank Story			G E Touchard *	Local Government Act 1981
		N Engleback, Group Architect, GLC				E J Patrick, Chief Executive, Oxford	Direct Labour Organisation
114th	Jun 1973	J G Cuckney, Chief Executive PSA	Work of the Agency	151st	Jul 1981	M A Passmore *	Land Registers
	Jun 1973	B J Coales *	One New Town			R Horner, Chief Engineer	Thames Barrier
115th	Oct 1973	F A Rice *	Development of the Lee Valley Regional Park			G Carr Rendell, Palmer, Tritton	
116th	Jan 1974	K H Blessley *	The Borner Report			G Holland, T Wacher	Central Market Rehabilitation
	Jan 1974	J D W Janes	Maplin Development	Study Day	Feb 1982	Covent Garden Team GLC	
		Chief Executive, Maplin Development Authority		153rd	Mar 1982	3 Members *	Estate Surveyor in Local Government
117th	Mar 1974	B J Wratten *	Basingstoke Town Development	154th	Apr 1982	C J Bray British Rail Property	Railway Property Management
119th	Jun 1974	E H Wakefield	Roads in Berkshire			J A Higginson *	Regeneration of Old Town Humber Bridge
		Assistant County Surveyor, Berkshire				M L Stockwell, Bridgemaster	
120th	Oct 1974	H B Sturgeon *	North Sea Oil - Effect on Property	155th	Jul 1982	J Wallace,	Glasgow East Area Development Scheme
121st	Jan 1975	J R Hoyle & G E Touchard *	White Paper: Land			Scottish Development Agency	
122nd	Mar 1975	H Gunton *	Conservation in Bath	156th	Jan. 1983	C Howes Director Land Economics D of E	Your Obedient Servant
123rd	May 1975	P F Stott, Director-General	Work of the National Water Council	157th	Mar 1983	R W P Luff* President RICS	RICS Matters
	May 1975	C D Dutton *	Layfield Report			D J B George *	Public Property Portfolio
124th	Jun 1975	R W P Luff *	Period Furniture	158th	Apr 1983	M J Daisley *	Southampton Western Esplanade Scheme
125th	Oct 1975	R Warren Evans, Adviser on Construction, DoE	New Construction			D Pitt, Asst. City Treasurer Southampton	Geothermal Energy
126th	Jan 1976	M Francis	Industrial Development in Sheffield			K Robins M/D Montagu Ventures Ltd	Tourism and Leisure

159th	Jul 1983	A Duchars * D J Copeland, Asst. County Valuer	South Woodham Ferrers New Town
161st	Feb. 1984	Sir John Boynton Former Chief Executive Cheshire	Local Government: What the Future Holds
Study Day	Mar 1984	J Banham, Audit Commission N Hepworth, Director CIPFA J G Powell, Gerald Eve, Chairman PAG D Mellor, Chief Executive, Leicester City	Public Property an Asset
162nd	Apr 1984	P J Mason *	Nottingham Royal Centre
163rd	Jul 1984	J Abel, Capital and Counties	Eldon Square Development
164th	Feb. 1985	J Turner I.B.M. R M Aldridge, CIPFA C R Middlewood, Durham City, R Verrico *	Computers in Estate Departments
165th	Apr 1985	R Baker * J E Bartlett * E J D Brown * N G Macfarlane *	Management of Markets Seasonal Lettings Valuation of Council Houses and Flats Pension Fund Management
Study Day	May 1985	B S Searle *, G K Smith*, A Darg *	Value for Money
166th	Jun 1985	P D Spawforth, Chief Planning Officer, Wakefield E R Ashton * & I Northern, Capital and Counties	Ridings Shopping Centre
167th	Jan. 1986	M Bowles, Supt. Estates Surveyor PSA	Property Repayment Schemes
169th	Jul 1986		St Martin's Square Development

1981	London
1982	Hull
1983	Chelmsford
1984	Newcastle
1985	Lincoln
1986	Leicester

(ii) Provincial Meetings Location (1963-1986)

1963	Coventry
1965	Birmingham
1972	Derby
1973	Oxford
1974	Basingstoke
1975	Bath
1976	Northampton
1977	Solihull
1978	Mold
1979	Brighton
1980	Norwich
1981	Liverpool
1982	Glasgow
1983	Southampton
1984	Nottingham
1985	Wakefield
1986	Weston-super-Mare

APPENDIX E

(i) Summer Meetings Location (1953-1986)

1953	Bristol
1954	Taunton
1955	London
1956	London
1957	Sheffield
1958	Cheltenham
1959	Plymouth
1960	Kingston
1961	Coventry (Cancelled)
1962	Chichester
1963	Hendon/Feltham
1964	Windsor/Bracknell
1965	Taunton
1966	Croydon
1967	City of London
1968	Luton
1969	Bristol
1970	Brighton
1971	Manchester
1972	Cheltenham
1973	London
1974	Ascot
1975	Leicester
1976	Durham/Washington
1977	Sheffield
1978	Lewisham
1979	City of London
1980	Oxford

APPENDIX F

Authorities Represented - November 1986

ENGLAND

(i) Counties

Avon
Berkshire
Cambridge
Cheshire
Cumbria
Derby
Devon
Dorset
Durham
East Sussex
Essex
Gloucester
Hampshire
Lancashire
Lincoln
Norfolk
Northampton
Northumberland
North Yorkshire
Nottingham
Oxford
Shropshire
Somerset
Surrey

(ii) Metropolitan Districts

Barnsley
Bolton
Bradford
Bury
Calderdale
Doncaster
Kirklees
Knowsley
Liverpool
North Tyneside
Oldham
St. Helens
Sefton
Sheffield
Stockport
Tameside
Trafford
Wakefield
Wigan
Wirral

(iii) London Boroughs

Barnet
Bexley
City of London
Croydon
Enfield
Hackney
Hammersmith & Fulham
Haringey
Harrow
Havering
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Kensington & Chelsea
Lambeth
Lewisham
Newham
Redbridge
Southwark
Sutton
Tower Hamlets
Waltham Forest
Westminster

(iv) Non-Metropolitan Districts

Aylesbury Vale
Bath
Blackburn
Blackpool
Brighton
Bristol
Burnley
Canterbury
Cheltenham
Chester
Dacorum
Derby
Easington

Ellesmere Port and Neston
Epping Forest
Great Yarmouth
Horsham
Hull
Huntingdon
Leicester
Lewes
Lincoln
Luton
Maidstone
Milton Keynes
Northavon
Nottingham
Oxford
Peterborough
Plymouth
Portsmouth
Preston
Reading
Redditch
Sedgemoor
Slough
Southend
Swale
Torbay
Vale Royal
Wellingborough
Windsor and Maidenhead
Woodspring
Wrekin
Wyre
Wyre Forest

WALES

(i) Non-Metropolitan Districts

Cardiff
Lliw Valley
Wrexham Maelor

SCOTLAND

(i) Regional

Border
Fife
Strathclyde
Central
Grampian
Tayside

(ii) Districts

Aberdeen
Edinburgh
Glasgow
Falkirk

OTHERS

Dublin
ILEA
Commission for the New Towns