

MY LORD MAYOR
MY LORDS
YOUR HONOURS
MR PRESIDENT of The Law Society
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

As you all know I am now nearing the end of my term of office and I have to say that making speeches doesn't get any easier. Mind you I am not like the man making a speech who said that he wasn't crazy about making speeches but he had been married for 35 years and this was his one opportunity to see if his mouth still worked. My family would tell you that there is no danger of that in my case. I am more like Oscar Wilde who said "I like to do all the talking. It saves time and prevents arguments." However faced with the prospect of making this speech I decided that I should do something to celebrate the capital of Culture. So with thanks to Sir Christopher Hewitson who gave me the idea and with very many apologies to Keats, Byron and all proper poets this is my contribution to the Capital of Culture

Liverpool, capital of Culture 08
Congratulations Phil, it's been great
The shows, the music, the sport, the art,
All types of culture have played their part.

Simon Rattle, Ringo, Paul
Megastars – we've had them all
Gustav Klimt and old King Lear
MTV – they've all been here

The superlambanana quest
People rushing around with zest
To tick their lambanana list
Terrified that one's been missed.

And then there was that giant spider
Disaster averted, no babies inside her.
Arachnamania with La machine
What a fabulous time it has been.
So Liverpool capital of culture 08
Congratulations Phil, well done mate.
Your big scouse wedding will be over soon
Can we all come on the honeymoon?

But what of us lawyers here about?
"We've done our bit "I hear you shout.
Hill Dickinson provided the legal team
For the culture company and its dream
And then they moved to St Paul's Square
New offices with room to spare.
Supergrassbanana outside their door
But after the auction it was no more. Aah!

Halliwells the first on Old Hall Street
Now have legal friends to greet.
The Big tick award was well deserved
For charities that they have served

Then DLA showed us the way
with the schools reading programme, now here to stay.
Lots of firms have followed your lead
Helping kids who want to read.

And Weightmans, shouldn't be under rated
In the firefighters games they participated.
At the Echo arena they were meeting and greeting
And showing people to their seating.

It's dangerous work at Brabners Chaffe Street
Their charity fundraising's hard to beat
Sky diving, rafting or swimming with sharks
A Children's hospital gained from these larks.

Now Sean and the gang from MSB
Are great supporters of EFC
So on them I rely to cheer for the blues
Whenever I mention the team in this muse.

If you look at the website of any firm
It's quite amazing what you learn
Carpenters for instance seem to like wine
So do I and so that is just fine.
John dislikes an empty glass
So on their table to him the wine pass!

Now Forster Dean are here in droves
No cooking tonight on your home stoves
I know you are here to have a good night
I hope you enjoy it, I think you might!

Red is the colour, football is the game
Skem Dynamo Rangers is the name.
Scott Rees have bought the team a new kit
But can you make it blue next time you change it?
When deciding on colours I find a useful rule of thumb
Is "Nil satis nisi optimum"

Jackson and Canter have Andrew back
Managing the firm and keeping them on track
Though he's a hard act to follow – Paul you're doing just fine
But please keep the SRA in line.

EAD have a river view
John Leith has joined them, a partner new
Good luck to you all, you'll do great guns
John have you joined Cathy yet on one of her runs?

There's an exciting new firm in the town
The name I can tell you is Hogan Brown
Their website says they do Cyber Crime
I tried to hack in but I hadn't the time

Silverbeck Rymer – the name gives a clue
They must have a poet partner or two
Advice on this ditty would have been great
But I couldn't afford their hourly rate

Now Bremners reside in Silkhouse Court
Next door to me, so to them I resort
To swear an oath and of course have a chat
To pass the time of day and that.

Lees Lloyd Whitley to Bromborough have gone
To brand new offices second to none
They are all decked out in black and white
All very smart and new and bright.

Others have come from further away
From a place where squirrels are red not gray
Coyne Learmonth and Whitfields have made the trip
Though not exactly joined at the hip.
I understand it's their natural proclivity
To come and enjoy this bibulous activity
Don't ask the meaning I really don't know
But I heard it mentioned on the Russell Brand show

And as for the gang on table 26
The ex-Cuffs crew are quite a mix
We've all now scattered but we keep in touch
And for being here tonight, I thank you very much.

There's also a table for Presidents past
A riotous lot - they're having a blast
I thank them for supporting me in everything
Especially for allowing me to wear the bling
An irreverent way to speak of this jewel
Do I have to give it back? how cruel!

I see there's a table from Industry and Commerce
It has to be that way because of the verse
Helen, the chief couldn't come he's not on top table
So can you get me a lift from a cop car if you're able?

Many of our members are high street practitioners
One such firm is James Murray solicitors
I hope that they manage to make the night through
Without getting calls from a cell or two.

And as for Morecrofts well what can I say
You've supported this Presie all the way
So thanks for letting me take this post
I'll be back to full time in a month at most
In the meantime (this part is not in jest) -
In Tina's words - you're simply the best!

If other firms here I've omitted to mention
I have to say that was not my intention
Forgive me if I have left someone out
It wasn't deliberate of that there's no doubt.

So Liverpool Capital of Culture 08
Well done lawyers – you've all been great

The Society too has been really busy
So much happening it would make you dizzy
We started with public speaking for schools
David Tournafond constructed the rules
The final was held at the Town Hall
The standard was high and surprised us all
Archbishop Blanch school won the day
But all were excellent I have to say.

We then had the fabulous Charity ball
Where lots of fun was had by all.
We raised £22k for the Safe Place Appeal
A very good cause I know you feel
So thanks to all who participated
Or time or money or effort donated.

For the tripartite meeting to Belfast we went
Where a fabulous weekend by all was spent
While Andrew and Charlie dug up Royal Down
The rest of us travelled to Downpatrick town
The opera we saw was a bit of class
Though I don't know my Cosi Fanni Tutti from my...
Now Belfast have made me an honorary member
A very great honour I'll always remember.

We then held the Judges Question time
With queries on Civil, Family and Crime.
Mr Justice Ryder made the Conkerton speech
Students and lawyers he managed to teach
On “Autonomy of the Person and the State”
We’re all the wiser since that date. (well some of us!)

The start of the legal year reception
Involved a teeny bit of deception
As the year had started long before
But we still managed to have a glass or four

LLS provides excellent training
For those CPD points you should be gaining
And all the committees have lots to do
Responding to consultations on cue.
And a multitude of other things
Which help to the profession brings.
The Society’s website is now on line
It’s easy to follow so give it some time.

Now we plan with Mombasa in Kenya to twin
So to get an idea of how to begin
We set out to visit that African town
With a maritime heritage much like our own
Their, sun, sea and scenery – it was wondrous to view it
Hard work I know – but someone’s got to do it!

So now we’re familiar with all that they do
It’s marvellous to welcome our friends, Caribu
Jambo to you- we greet you and say
We’re so glad that you are here with us today.
We hope to work with you for many a year
Just remember your thermals, you’ll need them here!

Though I’ve nearly come to the end of my rhyme
Thank goodness you say, and not before time
There are just a few other things I have to say
And grateful thanks I need to pay

To Sarah and all at the Cotton Exchange
For advice and help on a whole range
Of things that I have asked them to do
Without a complaint they’ve all buckled to.

To Ronnie and all of our sponsors dear
Who’ve generously supported us throughout the year
Charlie will mention them in a short time
I tried to do it but I can’t get it to rhyme
But thank you all your support has been great
And especially from Bobby my Irish mate.

And as for all the general committee
You have to be part of this little ditty
To say a big thank you - each and every one
Without you the job just couldn't be done
Especially the officers David, Norman and Jean
Who do so much work that never is seen.

And Cathy and all of the social committee
Event management gurus renowned in this city
So thank you Cathy for the work you do
Good luck with the babe, hope it's not two!

And Charlie the Vice well what can I say
I've relied on him in every which way
So thanks to you my old chum from Belfast
You've been right here for me from start to last.

My family too I must not neglect
You've supported me with great effect
I know that the laundry turnround wasn't the quickest
And the chippy offered you season tickets.
Andrew has faithfully fetched and carried
It is a wonder that we're still married.
Katie has been my personal dresser
Sourcing frocks and shoes and bags etcetera
Emma and Chris have walked the dog
Through wind and rain and sleet and fog
I know that sounds a bit excessive
Put in to make the rhyme impressive
Surely the weather is better by far
On the tropical Wirral Peninsula.
So thank you all my family dear
Especially tonight for being here.

But now it is really the end of my verse
I assure you all it could have been worse
I could have gone on for an hour or more
Just to play havoc with the sweepstake score
So it only remains for me now to say
I've loved every minute I've loved every day
This lady's so proud of the office bestowed upon her
It's been a great privilege. It's been a great honour

Though I hope that this poem has given some fun
You'll be no doubt delighted to learn that I'm done.

Mrs Anne Heseltine
President
Liverpool Law Society 2007-2008