



## Message from the Worshipful the Mayor of Blackpool

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Association of Electoral Administrators back to Blackpool this year for their 21st Conference.

You have been coming to Blackpool to hold your seminar for many years, and on behalf of the Council and the citizens of Blackpool, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegates and exhibitors.

The management and staff of the Blackpool Hilton will do everything to ensure that arrangements will run smoothly and your stay will be an enjoyable one.

The Mayoress and I look forward to meeting you all at the Annual Dinner on 26th February.

Mayor of Blackpool



## Chief Executive's Foreword

The past 12 months have probably been the most challenging for electoral administrators in living memory. The commencement of the Electoral Administration Act and its consequential items of secondary legislation had a telling effect as did the introduction of postal vote identifiers, the severe problems at the May elections and the general election which never was being suggested to take place during a canvass period. The problems at the Scottish elections are likely to have a lasting impact on our work in the future and the unresolved issues relating to access to the electoral register and the approaches under the Freedom of Information Act

do little to inspire public confidence in the registration process or to encourage people to register. The interesting programme for our 21st Annual Conference will hopefully provide you with much food for thought as we confront yet more changes that lie immediately ahead. For that reason, the programme has been prepared on the basis of providing you with as much information as possible about the many changes that will be faced in the registration of electors and the conduct of elections over the next 12 months or so.

As usual, the Conference Working Party under the careful leadership of James Stevens has worked extremely hard behind the scenes in making the arrangements for this Conference. The members of the team know that they have much to live up to yet somehow manage to improve year on year. The record number of bookings pay testimony to their previous efforts and they are now facing the very real challenge of having to find venues to cope with our ever increasing numbers. I know that those not directly involved would probably be very surprised at how much detail goes into putting together the Conference programme and making the many and varied arrangements which represent the very professional way in which the Association's Conference is now presented.

The new approach to the Annual Conference and its new shape will now be tested. We have changed things significantly this year with social events taking place on different evenings, the Annual General Meeting moving to Wednesday morning, fewer plenary sessions and different ways of providing workshops which hopefully will allow for more participation despite the ever increasing numbers. Most of the above resulted directly from feedback from the last Seminar held at Brighton a year ago. This demonstrates the importance of completing the feedback



questionnaires and of the Working Party's resolve to take note of the feedback. Please make sure that you complete your questionnaire this year.

The Association has again had a challenging year but, I believe, we are stronger for it and are making a difference at a national level. There is still much to do as an organisation. Equally, the challenges facing the profession as a whole and our members individually are just as intense as they were a year ago. We will continue to work hard to ensure that electoral administration in this country is of the highest quality and that it provides a level of confidence that the public should expect and deserve.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy the 21st Annual Conference of the AEA and that you will take full opportunity of what it has to offer. I also hope that you will leave Blackpool feeling reinvigorated and refreshed and ready to face whatever lies ahead in terms of improving this cornerstone of the democratic process. One thing is certain – having got this far, the AEA is here to stay and here to support you in the important work that you do.

**John Turner**  
**Chief Executive**

February 2008



## Chairman's Welcome

I am delighted to be able to welcome you all to the Association's 21st Annual Conference. We have had several successful Seminars in Blackpool and I am sure that this one will prove to be no exception. Indeed the excellent facilities at the Hilton Hotel normally provide the perfect setting for our Conference. This year a record number of delegates will be in attendance and I'm sure many will leave here with a much better idea of the challenges and changes that lie ahead for the profession.

We are greatly indebted to all those who have been involved in making all of these arrangements for this Conference and for the skills and time which they have so freely contributed to ensure its

success. Special mention should be made of James Stevens, Sue Bedford and of course, Bill Crawford's team at Sunderland for their work behind the scenes in pulling together everything



that is needed to ensure the continued success of what has become our flagship event. On a wider note, I would also wish to place on record our thanks to all those who work long and hard for the Association throughout the year which benefits the wider membership.

Our thanks are also due to our commercial colleagues who once again have supported us by taking exhibition space and providing sponsorship of various events and activities. The exhibition provides an interesting focal point in parallel to the working sessions at Conference. It is a measure of the interest in our activities that we have sold a very high number of exhibition spaces this year. Please take time to support our exhibitors by visiting the many and varied stands within the exhibition.

Blackpool Council has been extremely helpful to the Association in persuading us to return to the town and our thanks are due to the Council and its staff for their help and efforts in making our arrangements for this year's event. Equally, the management and staff at the Hilton Hotel and also the Imperial Hotel where some delegates are staying have been as co-operative and supportive as ever in our planning for the event.

I really hope that you will enjoy this Conference and your visit to Blackpool. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible and would be delighted to hear any ideas from you as to how we can consolidate the Association's position at the top of the 'Electoral' Tree. I also hope that what you take away from this Conference will assist your work in the coming months and help you to face the future challenges for electoral administration in this country.

**Paul Morris**  
**Chairman**

February 2008



## Keynote Speaker

### **Bridget Prentice MP, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice**

Bridget Prentice MP was appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State on 9 May 2007. She was appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Constitutional Affairs on 9 May 2005.

She was rector's assessor at Glasgow University (1972-73), became a teacher at London Oratory School in 1974 and Head of Careers in 1984. In 1986 she became Head of Careers at John Archer School. She was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Trade between 1998-99 and then to the Lord Chancellor from 1999-2001. She was

also a member of the Home Affairs Select Committee between 2001-03 and a Government Whip until April 2005



## Conference Programme 2008

### Sunday 24 February 2008

- 3.30pm Registration – Lobby, Royal Foyer, Hilton Hotel
- 4.00pm Wine Reception in the Exhibition Halls (Queen's & Trafalgar Suites)
- 7.30pm Supper – Promenade Restaurant & Lancaster Suite

### Monday 25 February 2008

- 8.45am Visit Exhibition Stands – Queen's & Trafalgar Suites
- 9.30am Much ado about not very much: the impact of postal voting on turnout and election results – Royal Suite  
Session Leader: Martin John  
Speakers: Colin Rallings & Michael Thrasher
- 10.15am Election Review 2007, Northern Ireland, Scotland & Wales – Royal Suite Session Leader: Steve Taylor  
Speakers: June Butler, Billy Pollock & Bob Screen
- 10.45am Coffee – Exhibition areas
- 11.15am Workshops – Hilton & Imperial Hotels
- 12.45pm Lunch – Promenade Restaurant & Lounge area
- 1.45pm Standards and Beacons – Royal Suite – Session Leader: Amanda De Warr  
Speakers: Steve Miller, Sam Younger, Tom Hawthorn & Sharon Frazer
- 3.00pm Tea – Exhibition areas
- 3.30pm Workshops – Hilton & Imperial Hotels
- 5.00pm Close

### Tuesday 26 February 2008

- 8.45am Visit Exhibition Stands – Queen's & Trafalgar Suites
- 9.30am Review of Registration 2007 – Royal Suite – Session Leader: Brian Smith  
Speakers: John Walker & Mark Heath
- 10.15am MoJ update on electoral modernisation – Royal Suite – Session Leader: Paul Morris  
Speakers: Mark Sweeney & David Canning
- 10.45am Coffee – Exhibition areas
- 11.15am Workshops – Hilton and Imperial Hotels
- 12.45pm Lunch – Promenade Restaurant & Lounge area
- 1.45pm Keynote Speech – Royal Suite – Bridget Prentice MP, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice  
Session Leader: John Turner
- 2.15pm MoJ update on registration & franchise – Royal Suite – Session Leader: Paul Morris  
Speakers: Paul Docker & Rob Curtis
- 2.45pm Tea – Exhibition areas
- 3.15pm Workshops – Hilton & Imperial Hotels
- 4.45pm Close

### Wednesday 27 February 2008

- 8.45am Visit Exhibition Stands – Queen's & Trafalgar Suites
- 10.00am Annual General Meeting – Royal Suite
- 10.30am Coffee – Exhibition areas
- 11.00am Close





## Plenary Sessions

### 1. **Much ado about not very much: the impact of postal voting on turnout and election results**

Rallings and Thrasher (that well known double act) have appeared at the annual conference on many occasions to enlighten us on information collected by the LGC Elections Centre at the University of Plymouth.



#### **Martin John**

Martin is Chairman of Southern branch, after variously being the secretary and vice-chairman, and has served for 4 years as the Southern branch representative on AEA Council. He has been involved in elections for nearly 22 years, his first election being as a poll clerk in May 1986. He is the Deputy RO/ERO at Oxford City Council and has been the Electoral Services Manager there since 1997.



#### **Colin Rallings & Michael Thrasher**

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher are Professors of Politics and Directors of the Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre at the University of Plymouth. They have been jointly researching and writing on all aspects of electoral politics for over a quarter of a century - and first appeared at an AEA seminar in Torquay in 1988!

Aside from their academic work, they are well known for their contributions to public policy and in the media. They have conducted applied research for government departments, the Electoral Commission and the Local Government Association, and acted as specialist advisers to House of Commons Select Committee enquiries. Thrasher is the elections analyst for Sky News, and Rallings performs a similar role for ITN. They also write regularly for the Sunday Times and Local Government Chronicle.

Their most recent books are Media Guide to the New Parliamentary Constituencies (produced in association with BBC, ITN, Press Association and Sky News) and Local Elections Handbook 2007 - both available from [www.plymouth.ac.uk/elections](http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/elections).

In 2007 they received the Political Studies Association of the UK's Communication award in recognition of their 'crucial work on elections over a sustained period of time'.



## 2. Election Review 2007, Northern Ireland, Scotland & Wales

England wasn't the only country to experience election difficulties last year. What worked (or didn't) in the rest of the UK? Is England next for PR?



### Steve Taylor

Steve's original involvement with the AEA was as Branch Secretary in 1989 followed by a spell of 15 years until this year as Branch Chairman. He has also served as the North East Branch representative on the Executive Committee, Management Board and Council for many years.

Steve entered Local Government in 1971 and has been involved in the organisation of elections for over 25 years. He is currently Senior Electoral Services Manager and Deputy Returning Officer at Sunderland City Council.



### June Butler

June Butler has worked for the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland since 1987. Prior to that she worked in various areas of the public sector – the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Training Executive and the Council for Educational Research attached to the Queen's University of Belfast.

The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland is the body responsible to the Chief Electoral Officer for conducting elections and referendums and for managing electoral registration throughout the Province. June's earlier posts within EONI involved her managing two different local Area Electoral Offices, including that covering the four Belfast constituencies.

In January 2001 June was appointed Assistant Chief Electoral Officer and in this capacity she currently has responsibility for the management of all elections and for the HR, finance, procurement, accommodation and IT functions within EONI. She played a key role in the implementation of individual registration in Northern Ireland from 2002. Currently she is a vice-chairman of the Scotland and Northern Ireland Branch of the AEA.



### Billy Pollock

William Pollock is Chair of the Scotland and Northern Ireland Branch and has been involved in the running of elections for over 25 years. He is Depute Returning Officer at South Ayrshire Council, based at its headquarters in Ayr, and has been a member of various government steering groups and working parties, including the steering group chaired by the Scottish Executive to organise the combined Scottish Parliament and Local Government election in 2007. The Scotland and Northern Ireland Branch is the second largest branch in the AEA and deals with matters that affect solely Scotland or Northern Ireland on behalf of the AEA. He is also a member of the Qualifications Board and the Examinations Board.





### **Bob Screen**

Bob is Chair of the Wales Branch and sits on various Welsh Assembly Working Groups and with the Electoral Commission Wales Office, dealing primarily with Welsh specific matters. He entered Local Government from the private sector in 1972 just prior to Local Government reorganisation when Poll Cards were hand written. Bob has been involved in Elections in various capacities since then and is currently Deputy Returning Officer for Caerphilly County Borough Council. Whilst the smallest of the AEA branches Wales has an active membership whose officers played a significant role in the election planning process for the May 2007 Assembly Elections with the Welsh Assembly Government, the Wales Office and the Electoral Commission.

## **3. Standards and Beacons**

What's the difference between Performance Standards and National Occupational Standards? Do we have to get involved - when? What can we learn from Beacon Authorities?



### **Amanda De Warr**

Amanda de Warr has worked at Wychavon District Council since 1983, albeit with a two year spell at Worcestershire County Council between 2000 and 2002.

Her background is in customer services but she has also been fully involved in electoral services since 1997 and has managed both services since 2002, when she rejoined Wychavon after managing a large team of social services support staff to 'gain new experiences'.

Having taken both her services through Charter Mark and recently led on gaining Charter Mark for the whole authority - only the third in the country to do so - quality standards and performance management have been high on the agenda for some time. She 'volunteered' her team to take part in the Electoral Commission's pilot of the electoral registration performance indicators last year.

Amanda is chair of the West Midlands Branch.

**Steve Miller**

Steve Miller has been involved in electoral administration in London since 1984. He joined Hammersmith & Fulham as Deputy Manager in 1992, becoming Manager in 1999. Over the years, he has taken a leading role in 16 full elections and numerous by elections and non-statutory ballots. He has worked on 17 annual registration canvasses at Hammersmith.

He is Deputy Chair of the London Branch, Association of Electoral Administrators, and is a regular trainer in London, as well as speaking at conferences and seminars.

Hammersmith & Fulham's delivery of electoral services is one of the most innovative and successful in the country. This was recognised by becoming a Beacon Authority in March 2007. The assessors found the council's "overall approach is both creative and visionary. It demonstrates good practice to which all Electoral Services teams should aspire."

**Sam Younger**

Sam Younger joined the Electoral Commission as its first Chairman after a career spanning twenty years at the BBC, most recently as Managing Director of BBC World Service from 1994-98. He was Chief Executive of the British Red Cross, responsible for its work both in the UK and around the world from 1999 - 2001. He is involved in a range of other activities including chairing the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

While having no personal history of party affiliation, politics runs in the family. His father was a Labour MP and Minister in the Labour Government of 1945-51, while more recently his cousin was a Cabinet Minister during Margaret Thatcher's Conservative administration.

**Tom Hawthorn**

Tom Hawthorn is the Head of Performance Standards at the Electoral Commission. Tom and his team are responsible for coordinating the Commission's new role in developing and monitoring performance standards for electoral registration officers and returning officers.

Tom has worked with the Electoral Commission since it was established in spring 2001, and returned to the Commission in July 2007 after a seven-month secondment at the Ministry of Justice. Prior to joining the Commission, he worked on boundary reviews at the Local Government Commission for England. He is proud to have been awarded the AEA's Certificate in Electoral Administration in 2002



**Sharon Frazer**

Sharon Frazer is an Occupational and Organisational Psychologist who has helped organisations develop and use national occupational standards for over 18 years. Her work extends across a variety of occupations including: Management, Administration, the Fire Service, Democratic Services, Social Work, Shipping, Hospitality and the Care Sector. Working with a range of employers and staff in each sector, she has helped transform education and training provision for these workforces across the UK. Sharon managed the recent project to develop national occupational standards for Electoral Services. Sharon is committed to improving organisational performance through the introduction of simple workplace systems and straightforward HR interventions. She has found that national occupational standards lend themselves to this in a variety of ways, proving to be a cost effective management tool as well as contributing to overall employee motivation and efficiency. Her friendly but professional approach extends from a long history in coaching, counselling and training, allowing her to readily identify with others' problems and work with them to develop practical solutions. Sharon currently works for Chase Consulting, a leading education and training consultancy based in North London which is now helping local government and other organisations to promote and use the Electoral Services standards.

**4. Review of Registration 2007**

How was it for you? An opportunity to look back at how we coped with the annual canvass, the introduction of anonymous registration, objection procedures and the polling district review. You're bound to pick up some good practice for 2008!



**Brian Smith**

Brian is a founder member of the AEA and has been Treasurer for about 10 years. He was the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer at Vale of White Horse District Council for 10 years, a position from which he retired more than 2 years ago. He is, as he puts it, "loving it". His hobbies include cricket (watching, not playing, these days), kite flying, gardening, his grandchildren and the occasional pint or two with friends and colleagues, but only to be sociable, you understand!



### **John Walker**

John Walker has worked in local government since 1967 joining the West Riding County Council's Education Department straight from school. Following local government reorganisation in 1974 he joined South Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council soon to be known locally as the People's Republic. John spent the next twelve years working in committee services and several of those years working alongside the Labour Group secretary.

The metropolitan county councils were abolished in 1986 and John took up a post with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council as Chief Elections and Electoral Registration Officer. His introduction to electoral services was intense taking up the post in September at the beginning of the annual canvass. The following May he faced combined borough and parish council elections swiftly followed with a Parliamentary general election in June. It was also a period of legislative change but at least there followed a period of relative calm in which to learn and make use of the emerging technology of desktop computing. Migrating from mainframe to desktop computers was at that time a major step forward. What would we give now for a period of calm!



### **Mark Heath**

Mark is a solicitor and has worked in local government his entire career (out of choice).

Mark joined Southampton City Council in 1990 from Hampshire County Council, and has been Solicitor to the Council at Southampton since 1997. He is the Monitoring Officer, Returning Officer and a member of the Chief Officer Management Team.

Southampton forms part of the largest urban area in the South East of England with a population of approximately 1 million. As the largest city within this Central South East region, Southampton's population of 236,000 is enhanced each day by commuters and visitors who are drawn to the city as the major economic, commercial and leisure centre in the area.

Southampton is a dynamic member led authority and local elections are held in 3 out of every 4 years. Since May 2000 no political party has had an overall majority in the Council and a number of minority administrations have been formed, firstly by the Labour group, then the Liberal Democrat group and since May 2007, the Conservative group.

Mark was Deputy Returning Officer to the Chief Executive at Southampton until 1996 when he became the Returning Officer. His first job as a trainee lawyer in 1984 was dealing with an election petition!

In his spare time, Mark splits his energies between worshipping Shrewsbury Town FC and steam engines.



## 5. **Moj update on electoral modernisation**

What's happening on remote e-voting and e-counting?



### **Paul Morris**

Amongst other things Paul is currently the 'hands on' Electoral Registration & Returning Officer at Poole Unitary Authority, a position he has held since 1993. He was the Regional Returning Officer for the South West Region (including, somewhat surprisingly Gibraltar) at the 2004 European Elections and was a R.E.S.C. for the same Region during the 2006 Elections.

Paul has always been involved with the Electoral Registration and Election processes and commenced his Local Government career with Wiltshire County Council in 1973 in the 'good old days' when the County was the Electoral Registration Authority and ran multiple Parliamentary Constituencies, without the aid of any scanners or indeed computer systems! Paul is currently National Chairman of the AEA and prior to his Election was the Chair of the Southern Branch for 3 years and also Branch Secretary for 10 years.



### **Mark Sweeney**

Mark joined the Cabinet Office in 1995, holding a range of posts, concluding with a spell in the European Secretariat to the Cabinet dealing with EU social affairs and internal market issues. Between 2002 and 2007 he worked in the Political Directorate in the Northern Ireland Office, supporting the political process and from 2004 as head of the Division dealing with the legacy of the Troubles, extradition, human rights, equality and electoral policy in Northern Ireland. Mark was appointed Head of Electoral Policy Division in the Ministry of Justice in November 2007. The Division is responsible for policy and legislation on the conduct of elections, including registration; the framework for registration and financing of political parties; and promoting new forms of engagement with citizens across Government.



### **David Canning**

David is currently Head of Electoral Modernisation in the Ministry of Justice, which includes responsibility for e-voting, e-counting and CORE. He is also leading on plans to consult on voting at weekends. Prior to joining Electoral Policy Division, David worked in Her Majesty's Courts Service where he was responsible for improving the take up of online services in the civil courts and led a project to create a national register of civil judgments and unpaid criminal fines.



## 6. MoJ update on registration & franchise

What's happening on prisoners' voting rights, voting age and CORE?



### **Paul Docker**

Paul Docker has worked within the legislative, courts and policy areas of central Government for over 15 years. He has worked directly on electronic innovations for issue of court proceedings and legislative information portals before moving to the Electoral Policy Division in August 2003. Paul led the work on the June 2004 all-postal pilots before taking on the overall Electoral Modernisation Programme in April 2005. Paul is currently Head of Electoral Strategy at the Ministry of Justice.



### **Rob Curtis**

Rob Curtis specialises in IT project management and business change in a government policy environment and worked for the Australian Government and non-government organisations before starting at the then DCA in 2006. He has previously overseen the development and implementation of the Employability Skills Profiler, a recruitment tool which was jointly developed by the Australian Government and private industry. Since his arrival in the UK, Rob has been Project Manager for the Coordinated Online Record of Electors (CORE) project. Rob is a PRINCE2 Practitioner and his current focus is on developing electoral registration data standards for implementation across the country.





## Workshops

### 1. AV Personal Identifiers – What lessons have we learnt?

**Venue:** Louis & Churchill Rooms, **Imperial Hotel**

Use this workshop to share your thoughts from the PI exercise, namely:

- Did we all do it the same?
- How much control did you have?
- Could you do it again?
- What about cross boundary issues at a parliamentary election?
- Does the waiver system work?
- Would you accept an incorrect DOB if the signature is good?
- How would you deal with an anonymous PV?



Rob Curtis



Kath Richards



Debbie Frost



Roger Titterton

### 2. The Law – we seek it here we seek it there; we just can't find it anywhere!

**Venue:** Imperial 1 & Imperial 3, **Imperial Hotel**

Confused and slightly daunted? Participate in the workshop that will guide you through the legislative maze and begin to make sense of where important bits really are!

- Where and how do you look for changes?
- How do you interpret it?
- What is the difference between primary and secondary legislation?
- What is the significance of case law?
- How do you use legal tables?
- What other forms of guidance can be used to help?



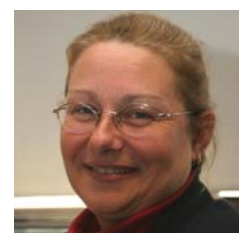
Melvin Humphreys



Maggie Hill



Peter Stanyon



Melanie Dark-Gale



### 3. Nominations made easy

**Venue:** Neville & Beaufort Rooms, **Hilton Hotel**

Dispel the myths.

- Do you fully understand the basic process?
- How would you address the logistical problems?
- How do you deal with problems arising from nomination papers, consents, certificates, emblems, appointment of agents and deposits?
- Discover tips to reduce errors, stress and how to stay out of court, by identifying the common faults and how to deal with them.



Liz Read



David Plumb



Judith Witts



Helen Chapman

### 4. Election disasters and how to avoid them

**Venue:** Mortimer Room **Hilton Hotel** and Imperial 2, **Imperial Hotel**

Did your last election run like clockwork? Share your ideas:

- How did you reduce the risks?
- Do you really understand the importance of pre-planning?
- What can be done in advance?
- Do you rely on others and if so, to what extent?
- Are there any proven methods?



Louise Cooke



Chris Solich



Chris Cockell



Christine Mason



## Sponsors

### Stand No

2	DRS Data Services Ltd	Delegate Bags
5-6	Smith & Ouzman Limited	Social Night/Annual Dinner prizes
7	Aero Vote	Seminar Brochure
22	Print Image Network	Delegate Pens & Note Pads
23-24	Pakflatt	Delegate Badges
39 - 40	Electoral Reform Services	Annual Dinner Place Cards and Menu

## Social Programme 2008

### Sunday 24 February 2008

4.00pm	Wine Reception in the Exhibition Halls (Queen's & Trafalgar Suites)
7.30pm	Supper – Promenade Restaurant & Lancaster Suite
9.00pm	Disco – Springs Nightclub (until Midnight)
10.00pm	Happy Hour – Springs Nightclub

### Monday 25 February 2008

7.00pm	Quiz Night (Stags & Hens theme evening) – Royal Suite (Registration from 6.30pm)
7.00pm	Happy Hour – Royal Lobby
10.00pm	Disco – Springs Nightclub (until 2.00am)
10.30pm	Happy Hour – Springs Nightclub

### Tuesday 26 February 2008

7.15pm	Wine Reception – Royal Lobby
7.45pm	Annual Dinner & Speaker – Royal Suite
10.00pm	Disco – Springs Nightclub (until 2.00am)
11.00pm	Happy Hour – Springs Nightclub

## Dates for the diary

National Seminar Tuesday 2 September 2008 – Hinkley, Leicestershire.

**Watch out for more information on the AEA's website**

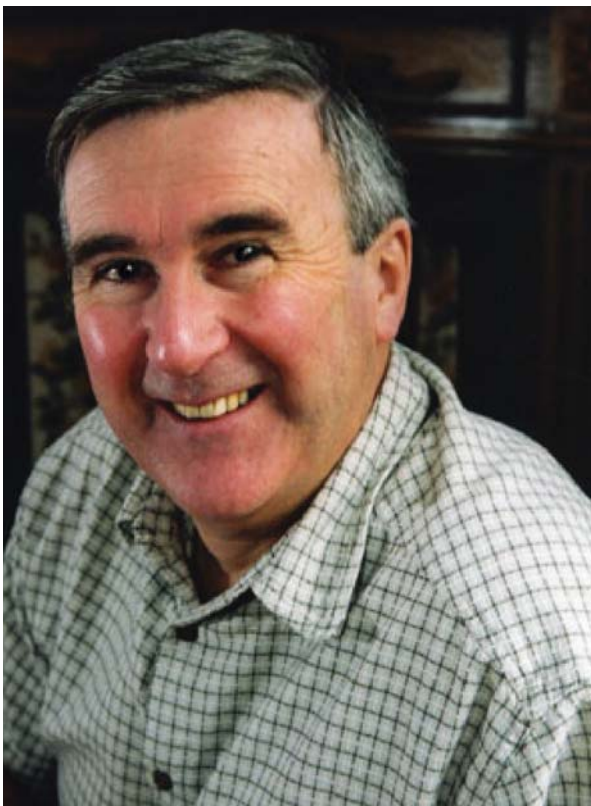


# After Dinner Speaker

## Professor Gervase Phinn

Professor Gervase Phinn taught in a range of schools for fourteen years before becoming an education adviser and school inspector. He is now a freelance lecturer, broadcaster and writer, a consultant for the Open University, Honorary Fellow of St. John's College, York and the Fellow and Visiting Professor of Education at The University of Teesside. He has published many articles, chapters and books and edited a wide range of poetry and short story collections.

In 2004 Gervase Phinn was honoured to receive 'The Speaker of the Year Award' from the Association of Speakers' Clubs and his most recent book, *Up and Down in the Dales*, won the Customer Choice Award at the Spoken Book Awards. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Honorary Fellow of the English Speaking Board, he has a particular interest in children's reading and is widely known as a lively and entertaining speaker. He is married with four grown-up children.





# Exhibitor Details

## Stand No: Exhibition Details

### 1 Postal Vote Solutions Ltd

Postal Vote Solutions are specialists in providing a dedicated service to organisations requiring time critical ballot solutions, individually planned, whilst adhering to stringent legislation. From the initial design through to print production you can be assured that we will provide a secure and comprehensive service with everything being handled in-house.

Visit our stand to arrange a free consultation on how your organisation can benefit from our experience, plus find out about our new Integra Electoral Software Solution.

For more information please contact Ian Cooper or Murray Warner on

T:0870 444 5501

E:[info@postalvotesolutions.com](mailto:info@postalvotesolutions.com)

W:[www.postalvotesolutions.com](http://www.postalvotesolutions.com)

### 2 DRS Data Services Ltd

As world leaders in the automation and modernisation of elections, DRS offers tried and tested technologies proven to deliver accurate and secure results. DRS, in partnership with Mi-Voice, bring the experience, skills and know-how to provide an extensive range of multi channel e-Election solutions encompassing both electronic counting and remote electronic voting.

For more information visit stands 2 and 3 or contact Samantha Jones on 01908 666088.



### 3 **Mi-Voice (iMeta Technologies Ltd)**

Specialising in the delivery of secure, multi-channel electronic voting solutions, Mi-Voice has developed a range of secure remote electronic voting for statutory and non-statutory elections. In partnership with DRS, Mi-Voice bring the experience, skills and know-how to provide an extensive range of multi channel e-Election solutions encompassing both electronic counting and remote electronic voting.

These products have been designed to provide a means for Local Authorities to run secure, cost effective elections quickly and efficiently, whilst providing convenient and accessible voting channels (Internet, Mobile and Telephone) to the voter.

For more information please visit stands 2 and 3 or contact Ben Thomas on (0) 2380 76 3958

### 4 **Royal Mail**

Every single person in the UK, at home and at work, is a Royal Mail customer - making the company unique. The reach of Royal Mail's network makes it a brand that touches everyone. Royal Mail covers 99.9% on the UK's population, with regular, reliable services. That's greater penetration than any other media channel, including TV, radio, mobile and landline phones. Not even the combined coverage of all the mobile phone operators can match the reach of Royal Mail. We look forward to seeing you at the 2008 AEA event in Blackpool.





## 5 & 6 **Smith & Ouzman Limited**

Smith & Ouzman Limited is a private company based in Eastbourne.

Our handling of many elections projects for many UK and International clients includes major elections within Africa and Eastern Europe.

Our services include a design studio, warehousing and stock maintenance, fulfilment, distribution, mailing, and an automated response handling system.

Notably, all production takes place and is managed within our own secure premises.

Poll Cards, Ballot papers, Postal Voting packs, Printed booklets & inserts, Electoral Registrations, Internet & Telephone Registration Service.

Select Smith & Ouzman to handle your printed elections materials and electronic voter registrations.

+44 (0) 1323 524000    [www.smith-ouzman.com](http://www.smith-ouzman.com)

## 7 **Aero Vote**

Aero Vote is one of the leading suppliers of election and registration solutions, providing bespoke and professional services to support secure voting and successful registration events.

- In-House Security Printers
- Postal Mailers & Envelopes
- Form A – OMR/OCR
- Ballot Papers
- Poll Cards
- Election Equipment

Our large production capacity with secure on-site warehousing and existing logistical network makes us one of the premier dedicated manufacturers and supplier to numerous councils and local authorities.

Aero Vote operates with accurate planning and information, combined with our attention to detail on every project, making us a valuable partner in organising and running an election.

C. Bradbury Limited is one of the leading suppliers both at home and overseas of electoral products and services to electoral authorities.

For more information please come and see us at stand no.7 or send all your enquiries to [bpatel@aero-vote.co.uk](mailto:bpatel@aero-vote.co.uk)



## 8 & 9

### Northgate Information Solutions

As the leading supplier of Elections management software, Northgate works in partnership with councils, with between a few thousand to over half a million electorates. 17 million electors are registered via our Pickwick system - about 40% of the total UK electorate.

The Northgate Elector and Elections Management Solution is the most modern electoral management system in the market, designed to meet both existing and new challenges facing electoral services teams. We aim to help electoral administrators by giving them a 21st century solution to election management which puts the elector at the heart of the process.

The Northgate PI Module complements our elections services and assists Authorities in the prevention of fraud in postal voting.

Please come and see us on the stand and look at our solutions, or just drop by for a chat.

Contact: [marketing@northgate-is.com](mailto:marketing@northgate-is.com) Tel: 0870 808 1234

Web: [www.northgate-is.com/publicservices](http://www.northgate-is.com/publicservices)

## 10

### Financial Data Management Ltd

FDM is a leading print, data management and mailing company with a proven track record in delivering quality products. We provide over 100 councils with a complete data printing and mailing service using the latest technology and specialist equipment. Operating from a Central London location, we manage all our operations from one site.

Our services include:

- 1-piece mailer for postal voting
- Bar-coded and security-coded ballot papers
- Polling cards of all sizes and descriptions
- A-Forms, Reminders, etc.
- Confirmation letters and similar mailshots
- Quality leaflets and brochures

Please visit us on Stand 10 at Blackpool 2008 to discuss your requirements ... or just to say Hello! Alternatively, please call Jim Fletcher or Iain Bloomfield on 020 7265 0686, or email us at [info@fdmlgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@fdmlgroup.co.uk).



## 11 & 12 **Opt2Vote**

OPT2VOTE is one of the premier election service providers in the UK, providing outstanding expertise and knowledge across all areas of election management.

OPT2VOTE specialises in designing and delivering a range of solutions to address the changing needs of the UK electoral services market.

The OPT2VOTE portfolio includes the following products:

- Print
- Postal Vote Management Solution
- Personal Identifier Matching Solution
- E-Counting
- Internet & Telephone Voting
- Early Voting

For further information please contact OPT2VOTE:

Phone: + 44(0)28 7137 1111

Email: [info@opt2vote.com](mailto:info@opt2vote.com)

Web: [www.opt2vote.com](http://www.opt2vote.com)

## 13 **Experian**

Experian's information helps most consumers obtain credit quickly and easily when they want it. Under our consumer education programme, set up to promote greater awareness of consumers' rights, we produce the popular Credit Crossroads leaflets, available at many CABx and other advice centres. Our Consumer Help Service assists more than 1,000,000 people each year with credit reference enquiries. Please visit our stand for copies of all of our free guides.



## 14

### **Print UK**

Print.UK.Com is a highly successful UK company, with a Head Office based on Slough Trading Estate and a satellite office in Basingstoke. Established 16 years ago with over 10 years experience in the Electoral Market. Members of the MOJ Electoral Delivery Group, DMA, BPIF, and ISO 9001 registered.

Data Processing and Personalisation, are two of our key expertise areas, with full in-house production and studio facilities we provide the design and production for all your electoral documentation: Poll Cards, Ballot Papers, Postal Voting Packs, OPM's, Printed Booklets, Inserts, PI Forms and Electoral Registration forms. The integrated approach print.uk.com adopts stands alone in its ability to give you the security of knowing that the process will be smooth, co-ordinated and hassle-free.

Building a partnership with strong integration to help you achieve your goals, we partner you proactively, support your most specific needs and provide you with customised solutions.

Telephone : +44 (0) 1753 567 100

Fax: +44 (0) 1753 567 200

[electoral.Services@print.uk.com](mailto:electoral.Services@print.uk.com)

## 15

### **Jetmarine Ltd**

Specialists in the design and manufacture of lightweight portable access ramps. Jetmarine are Home Office approved and have supplied ramps to the election offices for over a decade. With the introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act it is now more relevant than ever that wheelchair access to polling station is considered.

Please visit our exhibition stand 15 where we would be pleased to discuss any requirements that you may have.



## 16 & 17 **K2 Group Ltd**

K2 Group would like to welcome clients, old and new, to talk to us about our ever increasing range of services.

Our approach ensures we understand all aspects of the democratic process, and more importantly recognise the areas of risk. Our approach is to bring choice and innovation without compromising on quality, service or security.

Come and talk to us about:

- Secure Printing Services
- Engage, Electoral Management and Registration System
- ElectorScan, patented Postal Vote verification solution
- Secure My Vote, Internet, SMS and Telephone Registration System
- Assist, caseload management system for Councillors
- Consult, multi-channel consultation tool.

## 18 & 19 **Xpress Software Solutions Ltd**

eXpress software is a complete electoral services package enabled through Microsoft Technology. eXpress provides an integrated solution which effortlessly compiles the electoral register and runs all types of elections and referendums.

eXpress also boasts superb functionality including postal vote verification, comprehensive accounting and reporting features. Visit our stand and see for yourself or contact us via;

Email [sales@xssl.co.uk](mailto:sales@xssl.co.uk)

Phone 01453 767107

Browse [www.xssl.co.uk](http://www.xssl.co.uk)

eXpress, Software you can Count on...



## 20 Election Systems & Software

Election Systems & Software (ES&S) is the world's largest supplier of electronic electoral technology, with over 35 years of experience in the development and deployment of secure and innovative election solutions.

These solutions include:

- PollPal™ - Polling station electoral registration and CNL management tool
- Remote Voting Solutions: Internet/IVR voting platforms.
- Electronic Counting Systems: for the polling station or a central count environment.
- Electronic Polling Stations (EPS): touch-screen/kiosk systems, electronic registration systems, "vote anywhere" solutions.

As a Ministry of Justice approved framework supplier of electronic electoral services to local government, ES&S continues to offer UK authorities unrivalled experience and expertise, with a choice of secure, proven and dependable election innovations.

## 21 Scytl Electronic Voting

Scytl Secure Electronic Voting is a worldwide leader in the development of multi-channel e-voting solutions, provided with the highest security standards, for the public and private sectors.

With over 14 years of experience in R&D in the field of electronic voting, Scytl – that holds the first two European PhD theses on e-voting security, has become one of the most innovative e-voting companies at international level, with leading e-voting reference customers worldwide.

Scytl's technology has received numerous international awards, including the 2007 European Venture Contest Prize and the 2005 ICT Prize, granted by the European Commission.

Contact Information:

[scytl@scytl.com](mailto:scytl@scytl.com)

Telephone: +34 934 230 324

[www.scytl.com](http://www.scytl.com)





## 22 **Print Image Network Ltd**

Print Image Network - The award winning supplier of postal vote packs.

Proud to be members of the AEA and the MoJ printing sub-group committee.

Postal vote methods - proven to provide an 80%+ response and ideally suited to local and combined Elections. In independent audit tests, our packs were found to be the easiest for the Electorate to understand and use and can be supplied either with or without the ballot paper. All orders are carefully planned, prior to commitment, leaving plenty of spare capacity for peace of mind.

Ballot papers incorporating no cost security marks, (we also supply large print & Braille) Poll cards (with or without maps). Canvass forms. Ad-hoc mailings.

Print Image Network - Efficiency, reliability and professionalism. Caring for the customer.

Contact:- John Foster & Stephen Power

Tel: 0161 975 6040

Email: [sales@printimagenetwork.com](mailto:sales@printimagenetwork.com)

[www.nationalcouncilsupplies.co.uk](http://www.nationalcouncilsupplies.co.uk)

## 23 & 24 **Pakflatt Group**

Our exhibition stand this year is about creativity and innovation. At this 21st AEA Conference, we are showcasing the new polling booth range with accessories and a new range of ballot boxes.

We are also showing a new Patented "Point of Contact" display which will be used for the first time this year in all of London's 4,000 polling stations and three count centres.

Additionally, other new products will be on display, like the new range of Transfer Cases.

World Class products with an emphasis on Health & Safety, Recycling and convenience.

Come see us on Stands 23 & 24



## 25 & 26 Halarose Limited

Are you interested in taking your elections office to new heights of efficiency and customer care?

- Whether you are looking for a new Windows-based electoral registration and elections management system with the most experienced, efficient and friendly support team only a phone call away, or
- Perhaps you are browsing for an innovative standalone postal vote checking solution which has already proven itself in the live election environment, or
- Maybe you are interested in seeing the latest election results presentation system, or
- You simply want to learn about the most recent advancements in electoral registration technology, or
- You really only want to enter a competition to win a Satellite Navigation System and a number of other prizes...

... then Halarose are worth a visit at stands 25 - 26

## 27 & 28 Shaw & Sons

Shaw & Sons provide the widest and most comprehensive range of material for use by Returning Officers and their staff in connection with electoral registration and the conduct of elections, including forms and posters, booklets for the guidance of both candidates and administrators, envelopes, voting screens, ballot boxes and general items of stationery. Shaw's Editorial Department maintains close links with relevant organisations to ensure our forms are always up-to-date with current legislation.



## 29 & 30 **Strand Business Systems Ltd**

Strand is the leading suppliers of Windows based election systems in the UK, with around 120 authorities using our software. Built on 20 years of experience, Strand offers the complete Electoral solution with integrated software packages for:

- Electoral Registration,
- Document Imaging,
- Election Management,
- Results Presentation, and
- SelCheck - the market leading package which automatically scans, stores and checks signatures and dates of birth on postal vote PI's. Used successfully by 93 Authorities to check 100% of postal votes at the 2007 elections.

Strand is the only UK based Registration System supplier in the Government e-pilot framework.

All the packages can be seen on the stand.

## 32 **Everyone Counts.com**

Everyone Counts ensures accessibility and integrity in your elections – for electors anywhere. With local elections expertise on six continents, Everyone Counts provides the only fully transparent Internet voting solution in the world. Your elections can now be accessible, accurate, secure and auditable. Leading the elections industry for over a decade, Everyone Counts provided the World's First:

- STV election online; voters in six countries, 1997
- established online channel for party elections, 2002
- government end-to-end PKI-secured election, 2003
- fully networked Vote-Anywhere Multi-Channel government election, 2007
- Online Channel for Overseas Military in a National Election, 2007



## 33 **DSI Government Services**

For many years dsi government services has been a key supplier of document production and mailing services to Local Government. From our established operations in Rainham and Jarrow, and new 175,000 sq ft premises in Dagenham, we are able to provide a 'one stop' solution for the supply of electoral registration forms, poll cards, secure ballot papers and critical postal voting packs.

You are very welcome to visit Jon or Martin on stand 33 to discuss your requirements, and have an opportunity to enter our fabulous, daily 'Prize Draw'.

## 34 **New Century Design**

At New Century, we have been successfully designing and printing ballot papers and poll cards – for all types of election - since the early 90s and are proud of our record, working hand-in-hand with a large number of councils across Southern England. Given this success, we are keen to expand into other areas of the country.

We are able to respond quickly to your requirements and are always conscious of maintaining realistic order levels, never overstretching ourselves and jeopardising your deadlines. We also keep up-to-date with electoral procedures and the regulations for layout, style and security.

With the introduction of postal voting, we expanded into the production of complete postal voting packs, where the authority has the choice of utilizing their own statement or choosing our own simple-to-use design.

Tel 01460 259373

Email [info@newcenturydesign.co.uk](mailto:info@newcenturydesign.co.uk)

[www.newcenturydesign.co.uk/ballotpapers](http://www.newcenturydesign.co.uk/ballotpapers)



## 35 **Inclusion Solutions LLC**

Inclusion Solutions provides over 250 solutions to ensure that polling places and elections are accessible to disabled voters. Products include temporary and permanent ramps of all sizes, Ballot Call alert system (for heavy doors, inaccessible door hardware, locked accessible entrances, and curbside voting); custom signage (for parking lots, access routes, and more); portable ramps of all sizes; matting for unpaved parking lots; magnifiers, disability-compliant voting booths, and more. All of our products are portable and owned by you, the election administrator.

Inclusion Solutions has provided solutions throughout the United States, the Caribbean, Canada and Australia. Solutions are particularly timely for the U.K. with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and The Electoral Administration Act.

## 36 & 37 **Ministry of Justice**

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for policy on the overall criminal, civil, family and administrative justice system, including sentencing policy, as well as the courts, prisons, tribunals, legal aid and constitutional reform.

The Ministry of Justice helps to bring together management of the criminal justice system from end to end, meaning that once a suspect has been charged their journey through the courts - and if necessary prison and probation - can be managed seamlessly.

Electoral Policy Division is responsible for the legislative framework for UK Parliamentary elections, European Parliamentary elections, and national referendums, including electoral registration, franchise arrangements, their conduct and funding. We are also responsible for the conduct of local elections in England and Wales, electoral modernisation and e-democracy, and the regulation of political parties, including rules on party finance and expenditure.

We lead within Government on democratic engagement on a national level. Our programme covers: development of engagement tools and sharing good practice across government; projects that provide young people with practical experiences of democracy; and funding research into enhancing the involvement of the public in democratic processes.



## 38 **CFH Total Document Management**

In 2007 CFH celebrated our 30th year of providing clients with innovative, time & cost saving print related solutions.

After the successful launch of the DocVote range at last years AEA Conference in Brighton and with many satisfied clients, we would be delighted to meet you in Blackpool and introduce you to DocVote which covers the full range of electoral packs and offers discounts for multi-pack ordering.

We use the latest matching and enclosing technology allowing you to send out a proven, easy to use pack.

There are additional document management solutions available from CFH, including Document Dynamics, Down Stream Access postal service and our environmental scheme; Tootree.

See us at stand 38 for more information or contact Paul Clarke on 01761 416311, email: [info@docvote.com](mailto:info@docvote.com)

## 39 & 40 **Electoral Reform Services**

Electoral Reform Services is the UK's leading provider of automated voter registration services, postal voting packs, canvass materials, election stationery and personal identifier collection services. We also offer local authorities full service managed ballot solutions for local referendums, BID ballots, housing ballots and other community elections. Local authorities can also use our specialist Research Division to discover more about the needs of voters. Our reputation, dedication and specialist facilities ensure that we remain the number 1 choice of local authorities throughout the UK.



41

## Indra Sistemas

Indra is the premier IT company in Spain and a leading IT multinational in Europe with over 20,000 professionals and offices in 30 countries across the world. We are experts in integrating technology for vote counting and consolidation and reporting of election results.

We are committed to remaining an innovative, knowledge-based company this being the cornerstone of our strategy for growth and competitiveness.

The results of Indra's business model - producing efficient, innovative solutions - can be seen at the 2008 AEA Conference where we are proud to present the electronic counting system developed for the coming 2008 GLA Elections.

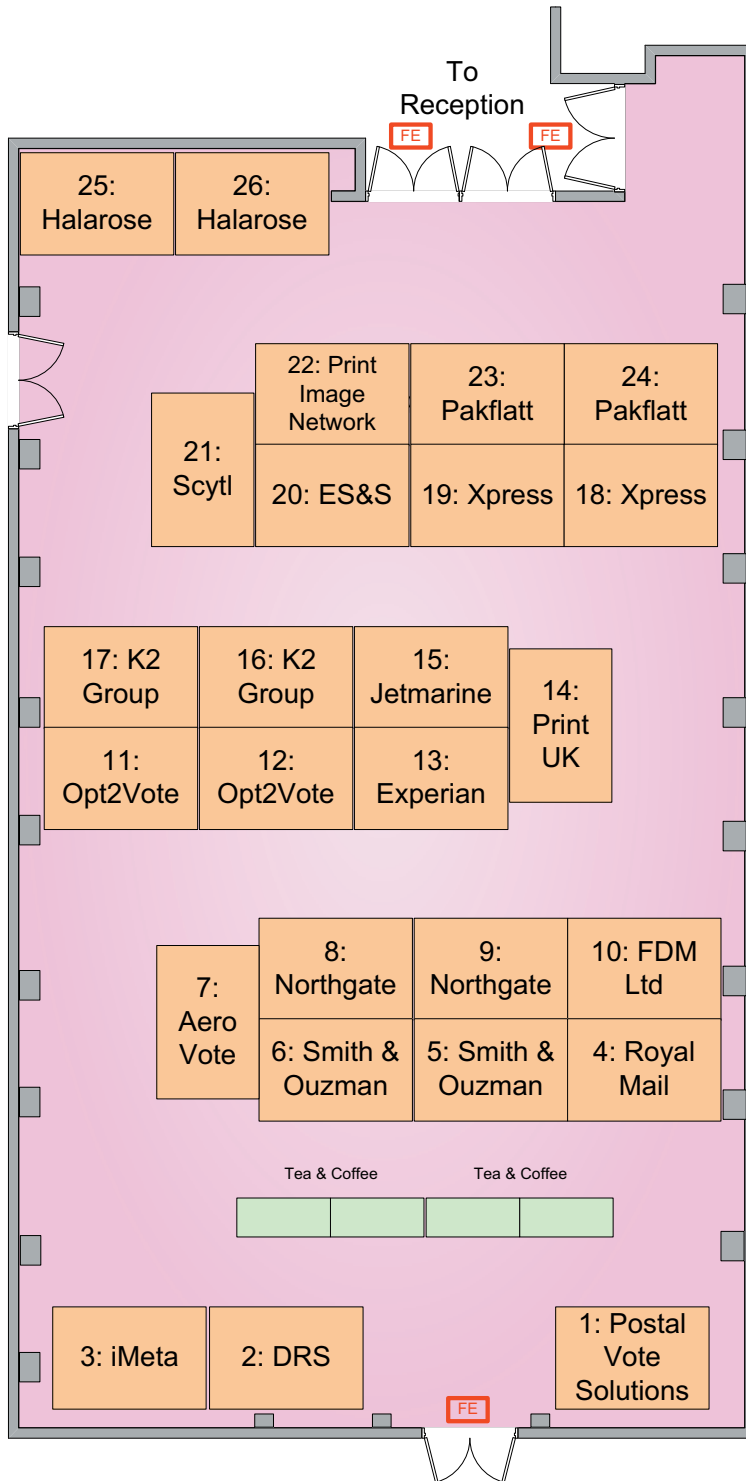
Do not take our word for it, come and see the system in operation at the Indra stand.





# AEA Seminar – Blackpool 2008

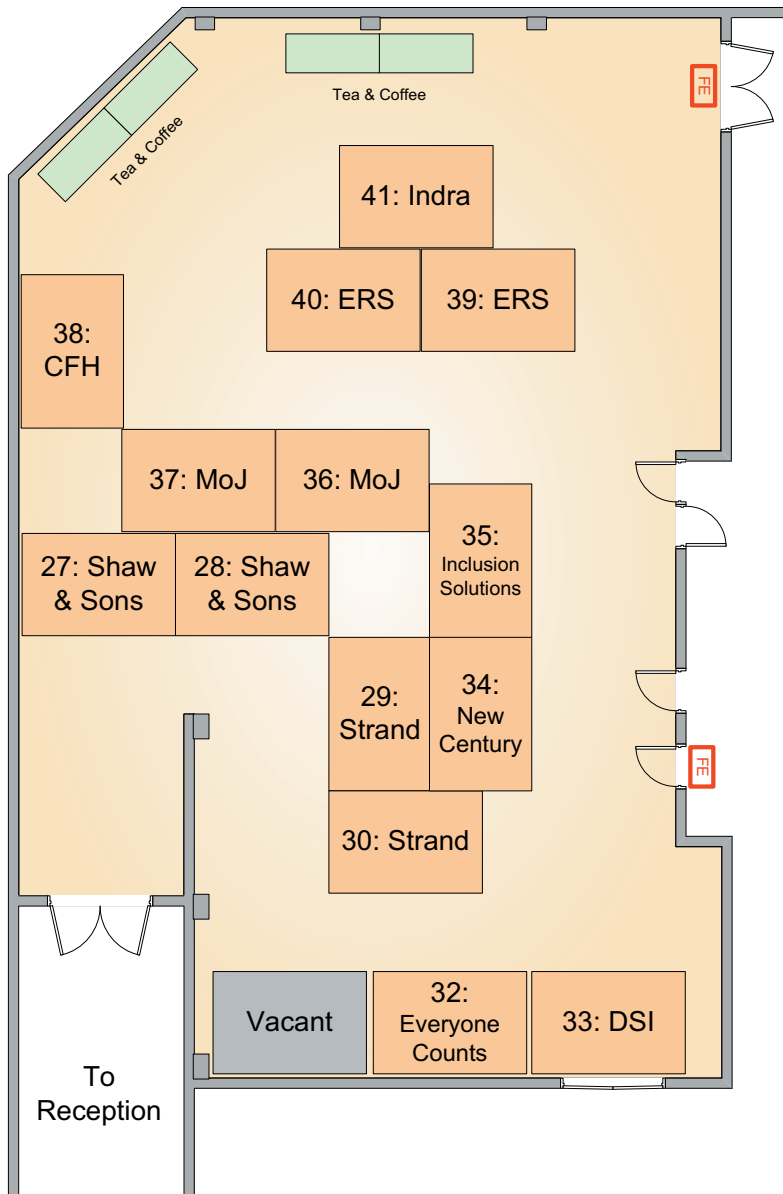
Exhibitor Floor plan – Queens Suite – Hilton Hotel





# AEA Seminar – Blackpool 2008

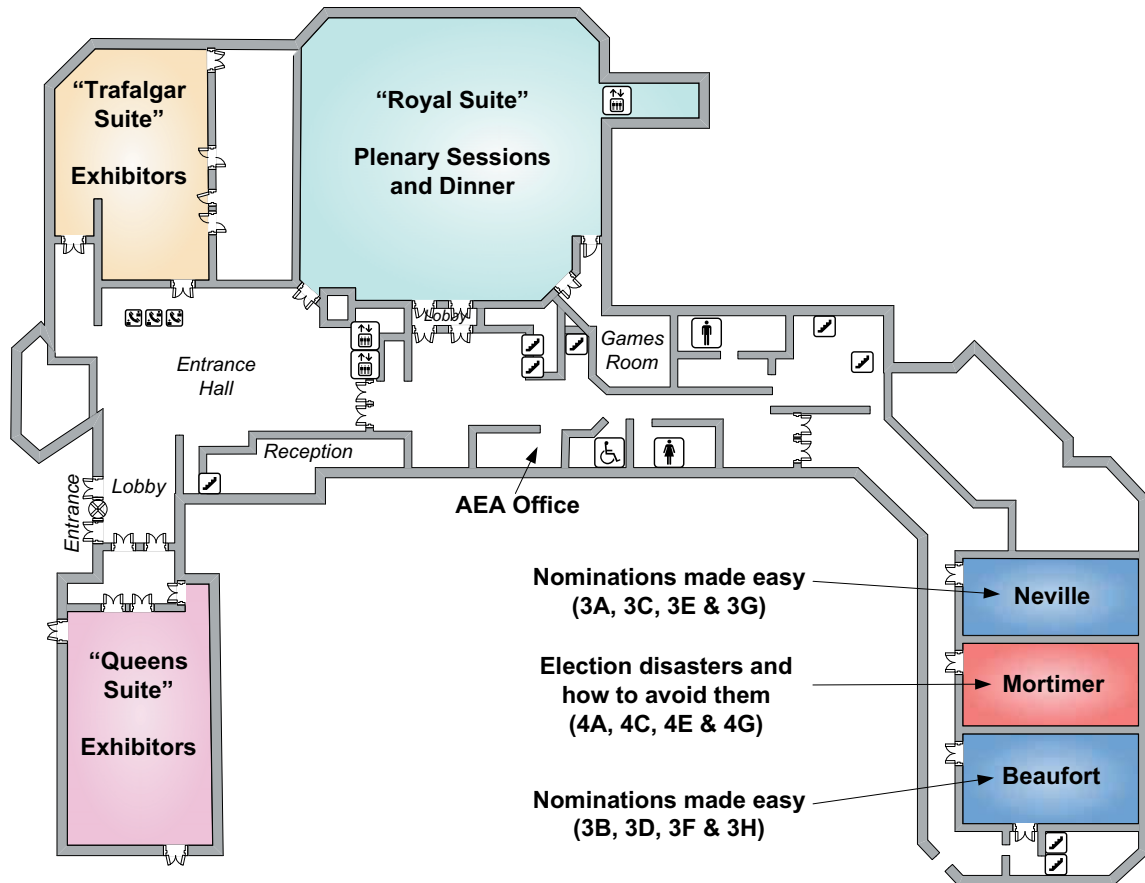
Exhibitor Floor plan – Trafalgar Suite – Hilton Hotel





# AEA Seminar – Blackpool 2008

Floor plan – Hilton Hotel

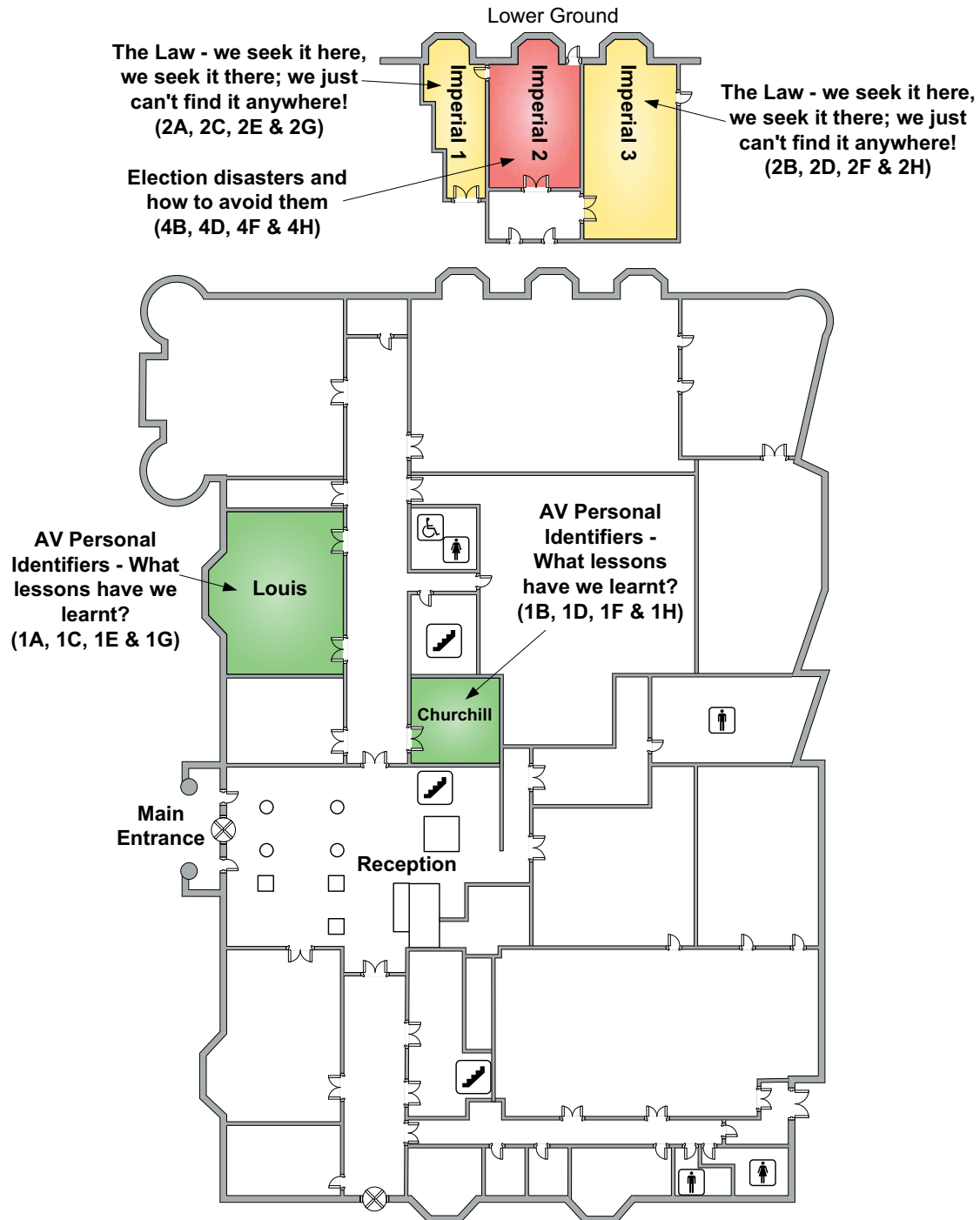


Workshop Name	Location 1	Location 2
AV Personal Identifiers - What lessons have we learnt?	Louis (1A, 1C, 1E & 1G)	Churchill (1B, 1D, 1F & 1H)
The Law - we seek it here, we seek it there; we just can't find it anywhere!	Imperial 1 (2A, 2C, 2E & 2G)	Imperial 3 (2B, 2D, 2F & 2H)
Nominations made easy	Neville (3A, 3C, 3E & 3G)	Beaufort (3B, 3D, 3F & 3H)
Election disasters and how to avoid them	Mortimer (4A, 4C, 4E & 4G)	Imperial 2 (4B, 4D, 4F & 4H)



# AEA Seminar – Blackpool 2008

Floor plan – Imperial Hotel





### Hilton Blackpool Royal Suite – Dinner Table Layout

