

David Clements becomes the President of the London District Surveyors Association (LDSA)

This years LDSA President

David Clements, the City of London District Surveyor, became the President of the London District Surveyors Association (LDSA) at its AGM held in the City's Marketing Suite on 17 March.

From its inception in the middle of the 19th century the association has a long history of overseeing and promoting Building Control across London as well as influencing policy makers and ensuring uniformity of interpretation across the region.

A brief history

London has been subject to Building Control since the 12th Century, when the effects of continual fires in the city caused damage and disruption to the commercial well being of England. Whilst regulations were made, records show that there was no effective way of enforcing these until after the Great Fire of London when the comprehensive act for the Rebuilding the City of London was passed in 1667.

This Act provided for the City to appoint surveyors, or discreet men, responsible for ensuring safe construction with special emphasis being placed on the prevention of fire spreading from building to building, thus guarding against another great fire. Their task was to survey buildings ensuring that the Act was not infringed. They acted independently and financed themselves from fees imposed for their control. Before long the City was calling on these surveyors for weekly returns of irregular and defective buildings in their respective districts. This is the first reference to District Surveyors.

Within two hundred years the building legislation developed and consolidated many aspects of building practice when the new Building Act of 1844 required the statutory surveyors, now formally appointed on a regular basis, to look to their collective professional judgement in order to consider and address the implications of its provisions.

The first recorded meeting of the District Surveyors Association (DSA as it was then known) was on 20 January 1845 in the London Coffee House at Ludgate Hill, and was called by George Pownall to consider the 1844 Act and its implications. From 1884 the DSA has been headed by elected Presidents whose names appear on the chain of office to this day.

In 1986 with the abolition of the Greater London Council the national Building Regulations came into force in Inner London for the first time and building control was devolved to Local Authorities. With the wider influence over the whole of London the association changed its name to LDSA.

98th in a long line

David Clements becomes the association's 98th President and is proud to follow in the long line of City of London District Surveyors who have held the position; the last one being Peter Gilder OBE who was President for 1986-87.

Further information

Further information about the LDSA and their work can be found [here: LDSA](#)



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