

**“South Africa has taught me so much. It’s given me a belief that we can all make a difference however small and that with passion and conviction as powerful motivators we can help to realise a dream!”**

Leadership (KwaZulu Natal, South Africa)

7 Lion Yard, Tremadoc Road, London SW4 7NQ Tel: 020 7498 1101 Fax: 020 7720 5403 Email: [info@lect.org.uk](mailto:info@lect.org.uk) [www.lect.org.uk](http://www.lect.org.uk)



League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers

The League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers is a registered charity (No 1089920) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England (No 4294081)



PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH

**annual review** 2002-2003



League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers

# this year we...

Provided places for 500 teachers from 38 local education authorities with study visits under the Teachers International Professional Development Programme.

Provided places for 220 teachers from across the UK on Commonwealth study visits.

Provided 42 one year exchanges between Australia, Canada and New Zealand and the UK.

Provided 37 Commonwealth Travel Grants for teachers travelling throughout the Commonwealth for professional development visits.

Launched the first study visit programme for teachers from Scotland.

Launched the first study visit programme for teachers from Northern Ireland.

Advised teachers from Wales on international professional development opportunities in the Commonwealth.

Launched a programme of visits and exchanges linking the UK with Quebec.

Continued our association with and support for the DEIEP initiative in Scotland which provides international opportunities for teachers from 13 Scottish local authorities.

Jointly sponsored a one day conference on Educating about the Commonwealth, held at the Royal Commonwealth Society in London, at which Sir Edward George, Governor of the Bank of England was keynote speaker.

## contents

Our Mission 3

Chairman's Report 4

Director's Report 6

Working with LECT 8

Programmes 10

Governance & Staffing 12

Acknowledgements 13

Finance 14

## The Commonwealth Context

The Commonwealth is a family of 54 developed and developing nations around the world. It is a voluntary association of independent sovereign states on every continent. Its population of 1.7 billion represents 30% of the world's population. The member countries of the Commonwealth are a diverse group of nations sharing common values.

Today's Commonwealth has progressed from the handful of British dominions which were the first Commonwealth members. The modern Commonwealth helps to advance democracy, human rights and sustainable economic and social development within its member countries and beyond.

## our mission

Is to promote excellence in education throughout the Commonwealth, through developing, promoting and supporting:

- International educator exchanges and study visits
- International collaboration and linking
- Information sharing and support
- Sharing experience and good practice
- Enhancement of the professional status of teachers



Canada Malaysia  
United Kingdom India  
Barbados Cameroon Mozambique Barbados  
St Lucia Kenya  
Australia Pakistan Samoa

# chairman's report

**This has been another year of change and consolidation for LECT. More emphasis is being placed on providing a wider range of international professional development in line with the priorities of our funding departments and the needs of teachers and educators.**



This has allowed us to look at new ways of meeting our mandate as well as ways of improving some of our longstanding programmes. It has therefore been a year of firsts for LECT – these include:

- The first group themed study visits for teachers from Scotland
- The first group themed study visits for teachers from Northern Ireland
- Themed study visits bringing together teachers from all the nations of the United Kingdom
- The first bilateral visits between the UK and Quebec
- The first study visits to India, Trinidad and a number of other developing Commonwealth countries.

But while things have changed at LECT to meet current demands you can see from the variety of activities we have supported and arranged that the organisation is buoyant and confident of its future. Our support of 750 teachers on overseas visits is a new high for LECT.

The overwhelming majority of these have been short term programmes, but many have led to ongoing and valuable relationships between teachers and schools in the UK

and their counterparts throughout the Commonwealth. At the mundane level, this last year has been LECT's first full year as a charitable company limited by guarantee. Inevitably this has meant some concentration by the Board on business matters remote from LECT's continuing work to support and grow the international opportunities for teacher professional development.

We have developed a risk management policy and a reserves policy as required by the Charity Commission. We have also determined a turnover policy for Board members to ensure a steady influx of new members. Finally we have reviewed our overall strategy in the light of the changing world. The importance of these apparently bureaucratic issues was brought home to us all when the SARS crisis struck while we had groups visiting both Beijing and Toronto – and our staff responded magnificently to ensure that everyone was brought home safely.

In summary we concluded that LECT ought to try to diversify its activities and funding. We judge that we can best meet that objective by seeking to work with

others in the field of education to add value to their work. To that end we have supported teachers working alongside a number of other education NGOs. We are also looking forward to working more closely with the Commonwealth Institute which is setting up its new base in Cambridge with wide reaching plans to use its resources to make an impact on teacher education across the Commonwealth.

Finally I pay tribute to the staff of LECT who have worked tirelessly this last year to implement all the changes.

I pay tribute too to the work and commitment of my fellow Board members and in particular to the four long standing members who retired from the Board at the AGM. They are Ernie Brown, Roy Durrant, Cynthia Watmore and Nick Griffin. Together they have served on the Council and then the Board of LECT for 50 combined years. We wish them all a long and happy retirement.

**Mike Nichol OBE**  
Chairman



**“What a wonderful way to motivate staff to explore new horizons, reflect on good practice and work together to enhance the curriculum in order to prepare our pupils for a global and increasingly technological future!”**

School Leadership (Perth, Australia)



Canada Malaysia  
United Kingdom India  
Barbados Cameroon Mozambique Barbados Kenya  
St Lucia Australia Pakistan Samoa

# director's report

**Innovative programmes, new partnerships, and a real Commonwealth focus have marked this year. We have continued to encourage excellence in education throughout the Commonwealth by offering educators the best in international professional development opportunities.**



We have created new programmes and broadened our reach in the UK and overseas. Participation in our programmes has reached new levels and we continue to develop programmes which meet the identified needs of teachers, education authorities and our funders.

In England we continue our participation in the Teachers International Professional Development (TIPD) programme and in the 2002-4 programme have been contracted to provide 500 places per year – an increase of over 40% on our previous contract.

Across the UK we have responded to devolution and new relationships between the nations of the UK by appointing our first full time member of staff with responsibility for working with the devolved administrations. We have for the first time been able to offer teachers from Scotland and Northern Ireland the opportunity to participate in themed group study visits alongside our longstanding exchange and grant programmes.

The response to this innovation has been overwhelming and positive, with participants appreciating not only the visits themselves but the opportunity they give teachers from the constituent nations of the United Kingdom to meet and share their professional experiences.

Our ongoing evaluation of all our programmes has shown us that participants have appreciated what several referred to as 'the opportunity of a lifetime', and that the visits run last year have met recognised and genuine needs amongst teachers. Importantly they have also led to valuable ongoing relationships between schools across the Commonwealth.

The successes of this past year have been built on our ability as an organisation to be flexible and to respond quickly to the needs of all our stakeholders. We are now able to offer teachers across the UK the widest choice of international professional development opportunities which has ever been available to UK teachers.

Next year, the last in our current three year work programme, will be crucial to LECTs development. We will be consolidating the changes in our programmes, working closely with new and longstanding Commonwealth partners in offering international professional development opportunities to teachers in overseas Commonwealth countries. The accession of two Commonwealth countries, Cyprus and Malta, to the European Union offers us exciting new opportunities for further developments to our programmes.

There have been unexpected challenges this year. The ongoing aftermath of September 11th, the war in Iraq and at the very end of the year the emergence of SARS have all affected our work to a some degree. Thanks to the skill and dedication of our staff team, we have been able to overcome all the difficulties.

**Anna Tomlinson**  
Director



**“The philosophy of ‘I can do’ and ‘I respect others and property’ and a positive attitude to learning and education is instrumental to developing life skills and as such needs to be firmly embedded in our way of teaching and our level of expectancy.”**

Citizenship & Heritage (South Africa)



Canada Malaysia  
United Kingdom India  
Barbados Cameroon Mozambique Barbados Kenya  
St Lucia Australia Pakistan Samoa

# working with lect

**LECT gave me the opportunity of visiting schools in Toronto as part of a pilot study for an exchange scheme between Jewish schools in the UK and Canada. As part of the visit, we toured the Jewish Community Centre in Toronto, a large facility with learning and cultural opportunities from very young to very old.**



It was truly an eye-opening experience. All of us who visited felt that this was a wonderful opportunity for the future, but probably could never happen in Britain. It was only some three months later that a combination of circumstances occurred whereby an opportunity arose to consider redeveloping and expanding two schools. Changes in government legislation which had just come into effect allowed me to think of wider opportunities for expanding education into life long learning and I was able to reflect on the work being carried out in Toronto. This has become my model for plans for the future and has been received enthusiastically by schools, governors, parents, local authorities and central government.

I would never have been able to have produced this vision for the future if I had not been given the opportunity by LECT to visit other communities in the Commonwealth to see how they tackle similar problems. Whatever the outcome of the proposals, I will always be grateful to LECT for having given me the opportunity to expand my horizons to allow me to open my eyes and develop a vision for life long learning in the UK.

**Simon Goulden**  
**Director**  
**Agency for Jewish Education**

**The collaboration between Kent County Council and LECT has been particularly valuable and beneficial to Kent teachers over the past twelve months.**

In facilitating a wide range of professional development activities including TIPD and study visits, LECT has enabled Kent teachers to broaden their horizons and develop real awareness of the importance of the international dimension in education.

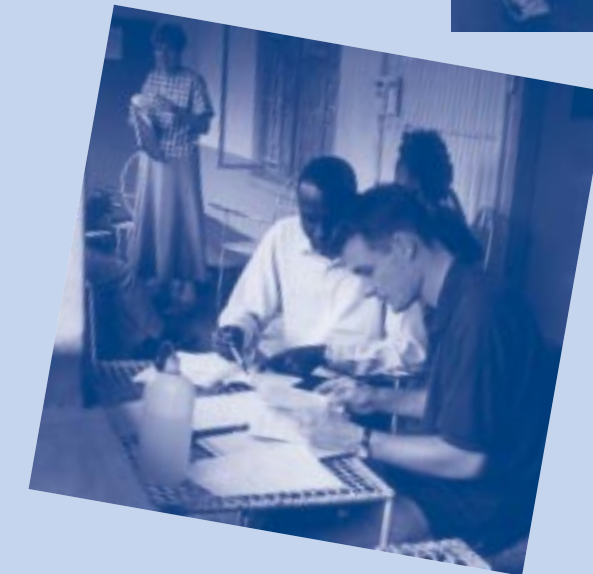
The diverse range of themes and destinations has been particularly impressive with visits including South Africa, Mauritius, India and Canada.

Kent has greatly benefited from the close working relationship which LECT has established with the LEA's International Initiatives Unit. This has enabled study visit opportunities to be fully informed by local interests and needs. We have been particularly impressed with the professionalism and flexibility with which LECT has approached its work, always placing the needs of teachers first.

Apart from the value of the study visits themselves, the opportunities realised by LECT have enabled Kent to develop strong vibrant links with host countries which have lead to a range of other activities supporting education in Kent and abroad.

The partnership with LECT has generated tremendous potentially life changing opportunities for educationalists in Kent and has enriched the career development pathways of many Kent teachers.

**Rachèle Verrier**  
**Head of International Initiatives**  
**Kent County Council**  
**Education & Libraries**



# programmes

The range of programmes we offer allows teachers to choose from a range of international professional development programmes.

These include:

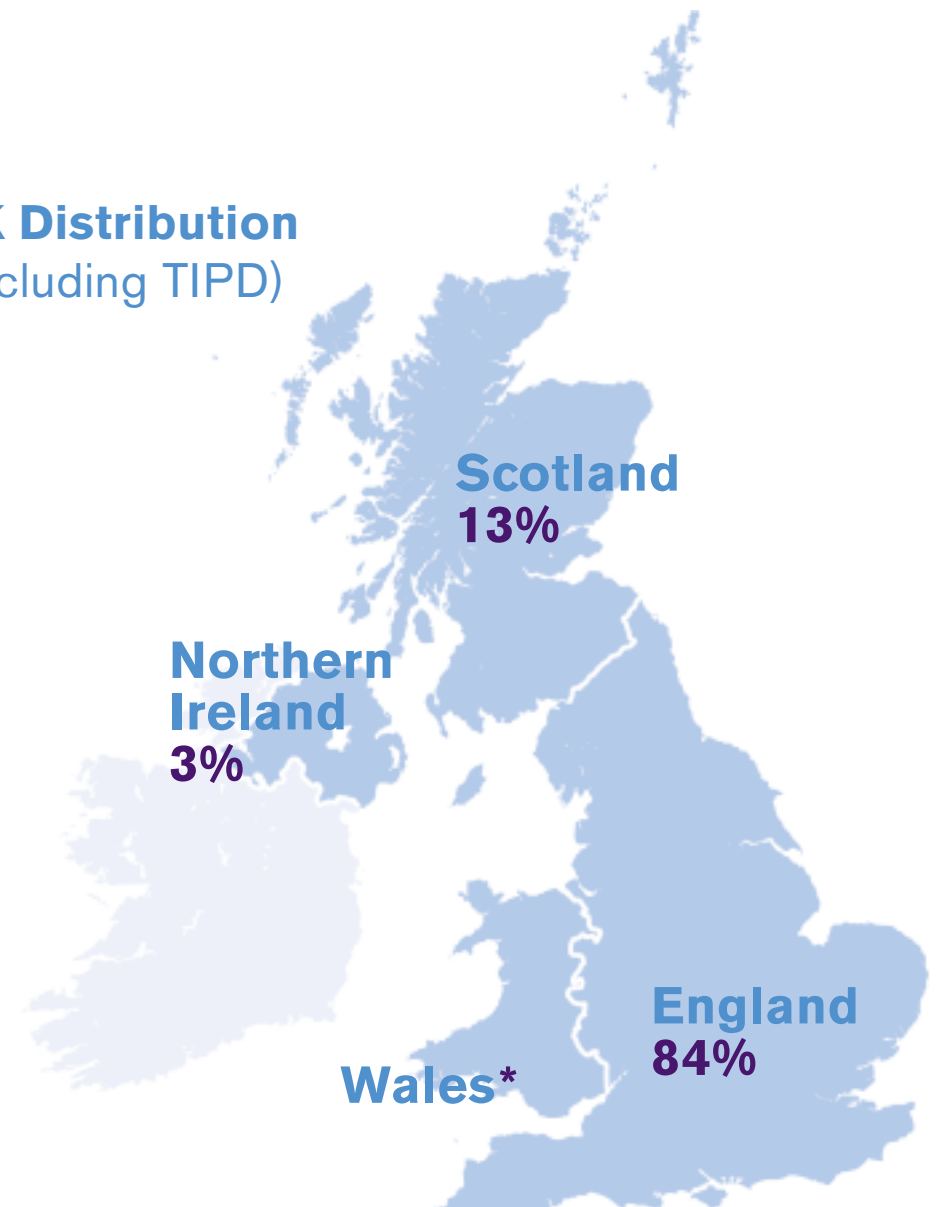
- Long term exchanges
- Study visits
- Individual travel grants
- Teachers International Professional Development programme study visits
- Job shadowing programmes

This year we have again been able to offer almost 800 international opportunities to UK teachers. We have worked with a growing range of international and UK partners to provide an increasingly varied group of themes and destinations for visits and exchanges.

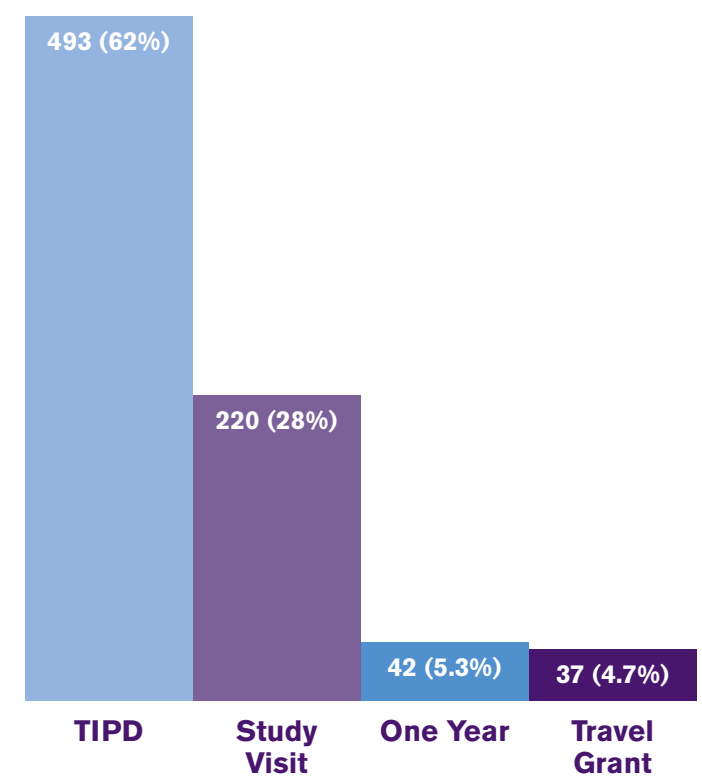
## Destination of Programmes (excluding TIPD)



## UK Distribution (excluding TIPD)



## Breakdown



\* International professional development programmes for teachers in Wales are now funded through the General Teaching Council for Wales



Canada Malaysia  
 United Kingdom India  
 Barbados Mozambique Barbados Kenya  
 Cameroon St Lucia Australia Pakistan Samoa

# governance & staffing

## Board of Governors

**Dorothy Birchall** OBE  
Hon President  
**Mike Nichol** OBE  
Chairman  
**Martin Hesketh**  
Hon Treasurer

**Trustees**  
**Steve Brace**  
**Ernie Brown**  
**Stuart Cassie**  
**Roy Durrant**  
**Ruth Gregory**  
**Nick Griffin**  
**Penny Krucker**  
**Edna Paterson**  
**Nick Paul**  
**Kabir Shaikh** CBE  
**Cynthia Watmore**

**Co-opted members**  
**Michael Carding**  
**Liz Gilmartin**  
**Ian Lamont** OBE  
**Graham McKenzie**  
**Nick Peters**  
**Steve Sinnott**

## Observers

Department for Education and Skills  
Scottish Executive Education Department  
Department for Education (Northern Ireland)  
National Assembly for Wales  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
Home Office

Members of the Board are individuals with an association with or interest in international education. They serve voluntarily and do not receive any remuneration. The Board meets approximately three times a year, deciding policy and providing advice from their experience in their respective fields. Board members serve three year terms, to a maximum of three consecutive three year terms.

This year four long standing Board members retired. Cynthia Watmore, Ernie Brown, Nick Griffin and Roy Durrant have given exemplary service to LECT over the years and we wish them well for the future with gratitude for their contribution to our work.

## LECT Staff

**Director**  
**Anna Tomlinson**

**Head of Programmes & Deputy Director**  
**Christine Miller**

**Programme Officer**  
**Joan St Croix**

**Programme Officer**  
**June Hutson** (to June 2002)

**Programme Officer**  
**Gillian Tallach**

**Professional Support Co-ordinator**  
**Ann Powell**

**Administrator**  
**Serena Prince**

**Administrator**  
**Michael Spence**

**Assistant to Director**  
**Claire Howarth** (to August 2002)  
**Emily Brown** (from September 2002)



**LECT Chairman, Mike Nichol** (2nd right)  
**with retiring Board Members**  
**Roy Durrant, Cynthia Watmore,**  
**Nick Griffin and Ernie Brown**

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the continued support of:

The Department for Education and Skills  
The Department for Education (Northern Ireland)  
The National Assembly for Wales  
Scottish Executive Education Department

We would also like to thank the many members, friends and supporters who have volunteered their time and expertise to us over the last year and to acknowledge the work of the network of exchange clubs in the UK and overseas.

## Auditors

Kingston Smith  
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors  
Devonshire House  
60 Goswell Road  
London EC1M 7AD

## Solicitors

Sinclair Taylor & Martin  
The Charity Team  
Russell-Cooke, Solicitors  
2 Putney Hill  
London SW15 6AB



Canada Malaysia  
United Kingdom India  
Barbados Cameroon Mozambique Barbados  
St Lucia Kenya  
Australia Pakistan Samoa

# finance

## Balance Sheet at 31 March 2003

	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible fixed assets		21,101
Investments		575,000
		<u>596,101</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	228,395	
Cash at bank and in hand	227,593	
		<u>455,988</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(285,512)	
Net Current Assets		<u>170,476</u>
Net Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>766,577</u>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Unrestricted funds	737,459	
Restricted funds	29,118	
		<u>766,577</u>

## Statement of Financial Activities Year Ended 31 March 2003

Incoming Resources	£
Grants	1,126,309
Commissions	22,650
Registration fees	3,330
Subscriptions and donations	2,543
Rent received	40,000
Investment income	3,694
Other income	15,537
	<u>1,214,063</u>
<b>Resources Expended</b>	
Costs of generating funds	25,733
Grants	786,421
Other direct costs	308,201
Management and administration of the charity	54,711
	<u>1,175,066</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	38,997
Balances transferred at 1st April 2002	727,580
<b>Balances carried forward at 31st March 2003</b>	<u>766,577</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are not the full accounts but a summary of the information that appears in the full accounts which have been audited and given an unqualified opinion. The full accounts were approved on 21st July 2003. Copies of the full accounts have been submitted to the Charity Commission and Registrar of Companies.

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Company. For further information the full annual accounts, including the auditor's report, which can be obtained from the Company's offices, should be consulted.

**Martin Hesketh** Hon Treasurer  
**Mike Nichol OBE** Chairman

### Auditor's Statement to the Trustees of League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers

We have examined the summarised financial statements of League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the charities SORP. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees' Annual

Report. We also read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

### Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 The auditors' statement on the summary financial statements issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

### Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers for the year ended 31st March 2003.

### Kingston Smith

Chartered Accountants  
and Registered Auditors  
Devonshire House  
60 Goswell Road  
London EC1M 7AD



**“One thing is sure I have been touched in a way I never thought possible. My senses are alive as never before. I have to find a way to do this for others. I will not forget. I owe too much.”**  
School Leadership  
(KwaZulu Natal, South Africa)



Canada Malaysia  
United Kingdom India  
Barbados Cameroon Mozambique Barbados Kenya  
St Lucia Australia Pakistan Samoa