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Tees Valley Law Society proudly presented local trainee solicitors, Leah Duffield and Vanessa Smith, awards for excellence at the Annual General Meeting held at Archers Law in July 2011.

Leah Duffield, trainee at Archers Law LLP was awarded the R T Richardson Prize for demonstrating the best level of achievement in completing the Legal Practice Course in 2010. Leah completed her legal studies at the College of Law, York, after graduating with a degree in English with Writing and Performance.

Vanessa Smith was awarded the prestigious William Hutton Prize, which is limited to trainees within a firm located in Sunderland or Middlesbrough. Vanessa, a trainee at Askews based in Middlesbrough, won the award for obtaining a distinction in the Legal Practice Course at Northumbria University, after completing a Psychology degree at Newcastle University. Vanessa is currently completing a seat in the litigation department at Askews and will also qualify as a solicitor in September 2012. Vanessa says “I was really pleased to be awarded the William Hutton Prize. I’m extremely grateful to Tees Valley Law Society and my firm for nominating me.”

The awards were presented by Nicola Neilson, former past President of the Society and Partner at Latimer Hinks Solicitors. The AGM also welcomed the election of Joanne Lavery as their President for the coming year. Joanne is an Associate Solicitor at Dickinson Dees LLP, Tees Valley.

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