

Top 100, 2008

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A milestone year for St James's

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St James's Place Group

Wealth management group

Funds under management: £18 billion

Operating profit: £244.7 million

New business: up 23 per cent to £428.6 million

Established: 1991 as a two person business

Partners: more than 1,250 advising more than 400,000 clients

It has been a milestone year for wealth management group St James's Place dominated by its move to the company's new prestigious headquarters in Cirencester.

More than 300 staff moved into the state-of-the-art 45,000sq ft building at 1, Tetbury Road earlier this year from six offices scattered around the town.

The wealth management company was founded in Cirencester as a two-person business in 1991.

Today, the company is a highly respected financial business with funds under management exceeding £18 billion.

Awards are nothing new to the company. This spring it won the Financial Times and Investors Chronicle Wealth Manager of the Year Award, to add to the Daily Telegraph Wealth Manager of the Year Award it received in September last year.

The company also featured in Management Today's 2007 list of the Top 50 Most Admired Companies in Britain.

In its annual report for the year ended December 31, 2007, the company reported a fourth consecutive year of substantial growth in new business, funds under management and profits for the group.

Operating profit rose 39 per cent to £244.7 million, with funds under management increasing 18 per cent to £18.2 billion. New business for the year was up 23 per cent to £428.6 million.

In its interim statement for the first three months of 2008, the company announced that new business was ahead of the same period last year, despite the challenging market conditions.

The company's foundation also had a notable year, with 2007 being the best fundraising year yet as £2.4 million was raised for almost 200 individual charities.

The St James's Place Foundation was established in 1992 and is one of the most successful company charities in the UK.

Since its formation, the foundation has raised more than £13 million, and distributed the majority of those funds to more than 700 charities, with grants ranging from a few hundred pounds to in excess of £200,000.

St James's Place also supports charitable work in local communities through its employee volunteering scheme which enables staff at all levels to give time, skills and experience to charities in their local communities.

The company recently linked up with Young Gloucestershire, a leading voluntary youth organisation, delivering programmes for vulnerable young people.

St James's Place has 20 offices throughout the UK and 1,250 partners advising more than 400,000 clients.

The board comprises Sir Mark Weinberg, president, and executive directors Mike Wilson, chairman, David Bellamy, group chief executive, Andrew Croft, group finance director, Ian Gascoigne, group sales director, and David Lamb, group business development director.



OFFICIAL OPENING: Sir Mark Weinberg, president, is cutting the tape with, left to right, David Bellamy, chief executive, Sonia Harris, operations director and Mike Wilson, chairman



HQ: St James's Place in Cirencester



CHEERS: left to right, Sonia Harris, operations director, David Bellamy, chief executive, Paul Cullen, executive chairman of Moss Construction, Robin Butler, MD of Moss, and Toby Baines, Citygrove



GRAND DESIGN: St James's Place in Cirencester