

London South East is also a website

Eric Chalker

A new investor, Googling a company share price, might well be drawn to the website www.lse.co.uk, believing it to be the London Stock Exchange. The similarity of initials might be no coincidence, because this 'London South East', unlike the UKSA region of that name, sets out to be the source of a cornucopia of information about share prices and much more of a financial nature. The London Stock Exchange now provides readily accessible company information too, so investors can choose which 'LSE' they prefer, but this article is about what can be found on www.lse.co.uk.



It is a feature-rich website, well worth exploring by all investors in company shares. In addition to providing the 'current' (15 minutes delayed) share price for all quoted companies, it provides price charts, share trades (interpreting them as buy or sell), company announcements, company 'fundamentals' (figures from the last five years' accounts), its financial diary, directors' dealings and broker recommendations. This is by no means all, but all this is provided free of charge.

Also free of charge is a facility to register as a member, with just an email address, password and a self-selected nickname. With that, one can set up portfolios and watch lists to be automatically updated, as well as – for those so inclined – chat online with other members on general or specific subjects. Some of the share chats attract hundreds of posts a day, but the quality is often very poor and occasionally abusive – especially when someone expresses a contrary opinion, which rather reduces the facility's value. The website also carries a lot of news and, weekly, a recorded interview.

Throughout the day, the home page displays the six top risers and fallers, but there is also a facility to look at shares by industry sector and by index (although not the AIM), with those top risers and fallers displayed too. Sector and index constituent companies are listed and anywhere a name is displayed, clicking on it takes the viewer to the display for that company, showing market cap, PE ratio, dividend and yield, plus more besides. Premium services are available, from £10 a month to £40 ('level 2 professional'). Buying and selling shares can be done from the website too.

A relationship with UKSA

Two years ago, then UKSA director Harry Braund found himself in conversation with the founders of the [lse.co.uk](http://www.lse.co.uk) website at a London investor show. One of the website's features is the provision of 'Expert Blogs'. Harry asked if UKSA could contribute one of these, the offer was accepted and its authorship fell to me. Having written many articles for this magazine, principally as policy co-ordinator and director, writing for the blog has given me greater freedom to write on subjects of my own choice. These can be found at: <http://www.lse.co.uk/blogs/expert/eric-chalkers-blog/>.

There are now 23 articles on my blog, covering a wide range of subjects. Some have drawn from what I learned and did when representing UKSA, but in the main they are expressions of personal opinion on matters that interest me and I hope are of interest to private investors generally. In the last six months, I have written about managing portfolios and measuring performance, the need for diversification, searching for dividend yield and how long shares should be held, have asked '*Whose interests do directors put first?*', criticised the Government's response to its Green Paper consultation earlier this year, drawn attention to the Takeover Panel's bid to become an arm of Government and posted twice disparaging Venture Capital Trusts. In '*An insistent drumbeat of increasing intensity*' followed by '*How bad might it be?*' I have written about the looming market setback. I blog as a past director of UKSA. It would be good to see other UKSA members adding their thoughts, in the comment boxes provided.

Eric Chalker served as UKSA's Policy Co-ordinator & Director from 2012 to 2016