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**STATIONERS'**  
C O M P A N Y

## Simon Fox, CEO of Reach Plc delivers the Stationers' Annual Lecture 2019

On Monday, 25 March the Stationers Company welcomed Simon Fox, CEO of Reach PLC to Stationers Hall where he delivered the Stationers' Annual Lecture. He took as his theme *The Power of Print* and developed the argument that, although print-based businesses faced continuing challenges in the face of the digital onslaught, there was room for both print and online services especially where the delivery of news was concerned.

He described how the Reach transition to digital and online offerings was essential to its continued success BUT also noted that the delivery of news stories through the printed medium was still important; major stories, images, and opinion pieces all continue to have their initial impact in printed form. He contrasted the fact that print still thrives albeit as a reduced but still profitable business with the demise of business such as Freeserve, Myspace, Friends Reunited, "and plenty of other websites that were supposed to be banging the nails into its coffin."

With a broad business background which includes music, books, office products and now newspapers Simon was able to draw on examples to illustrate his thinking from a wide range of the sectors which the Stationers' Company covers.

Simon concluded that Print may not have the power it had in the 18th Century, but we shouldn't write it off just yet.

Liveryman Peter Day, former BBC Business correspondent, introduced the evening and moderated the subsequent discussion.

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**About The Stationers' Company**

**The Stationers' Company is the City of London Livery Company for the Communications and Content industries.** The Company's mission is to be the most effective independent forum in the UK Communications and Content industries, actively contributing to the strategic development, success and education of these industries. The majority of our members work in or supply the paper, print, publishing, packaging, office products, newspaper, broadcasting and online media industries.