

NUMBER 46 SPRING 2026

# GRAYA



# NEWS

THE MAGAZINE FOR AND ABOUT GRAY'S INN AND ITS MEMBERS



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Front Cover: Portrait of Francis Bacon, artist unknown. Reproduced with the permission of the Francis Bacon Society

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Most Societies that survive across centuries are blessed by having the support of a small cadre of those who dedicate themselves to the institution they serve over long periods. It is that devotion by a limited number that contributes so much to the continued success and longevity of our own Inn and perhaps at times even to its survival too. To that cohort Master Keith Lawrey undoubtedly belongs and because it is well deserved it is only right that such a sentiment is expressed here on his retirement in May 2026 from the Graya Board after 50 years' service.

Master Lawrey was called at Gray's in 1972 and over many decades he served as Secretary to the Graya Board where his minutes were meticulously prepared with the help of his wife Jane. In meetings of the Board he rarely intervened except to remind the Chairman gently that a salient point had been overlooked thus bringing deliberations back to the matter at issue and often to a speedy conclusion.

A man of custom and convention in an era when tradition is jettisoned at our peril, he was made an Hon. Bencher in 2016 and in 2023 received a Silver Griffin from the Society. This was a unique distinction as it is normally only awarded only to non-Honorary Benchers.

Master Lawrey has served many other institutions with characteristic devotion including the Society for Radiological Protection where he was made an Honorary Fellow in 2025. The citation includes this passage: 'Keith is passionate about the value of professional bodies to society and the importance of them being governed and regulated in the right way'.

Few at Gray's Inn will be surprised by that!

Griffin wishes Master Lawrey and his wife Jane many years of happiness ahead and adds the hope that they will not absent themselves for too long, if at all, from the high days of the Inn's Calendar, especially the annual Mulligan Sermon

in Chapel, on which Master Lawrey has regularly written for our magazines, and the Treasurer's Reception where Keith has often been responsible on numerous occasions for the Graya stall.

We have several additions to the Board, following an advertisement which attracted many applications, for all of which we are most grateful.

Master Meyric Lewis is a planning and environmental lawyer in Chambers in the Temple. Although born and brought up in London he is very proud of his Welsh heritage and therefore glad to be a member of the Bar's most Welsh Inn. He was delighted to be elected a Bencher in 2025.

Phoebe Whitlock (called 2019) is a probationary tenant at Lamb Chambers practising in civil, technology and intellectual property law. She is a Churchill Fellow researching the use of AI in the legal profession and holds an MSc in Intellectual Property Law from the University of Oxford. Phoebe is also a lay trustee of the Royal Microscopical Society. She is also a UN Women UK delegate and an active contributor to legal education and access to justice initiatives.

Divya Kesar is a dual-qualified commercial litigator and international arbitration practitioner with over 20 years' experience of handling complex, high-value, multi-jurisdictional disputes. She specialises in cross-border commercial and investor-state cases and practises as a barrister in London and an advocate in New Delhi, bridging legal practice between the two jurisdictions. She also has a strong academic interest, with her work published in leading journals, including *Arbitration: The International Journal of Arbitration, Mediation, and Dispute Management*.

We are delighted that all have contributed to this issue of *Graya News*.

# from THE TREASURER

MASTER ANDREW MCFARLANE

**I first entered Gray's Inn Hall, at the age of 17, in November 1971. I did so because my school, who were about to give me additional responsibilities, were worried that this would mean that my meagre academic achievements would dip yet further and that I might not get into university. At that time you could still read for the Bar without a degree. I had shown interest in becoming a barrister and so I was shipped off to meet the then Under Treasurer, Oswald Terry, with a view to joining Gray's Inn.**

I can recall walking into Hall from the Benchers' entrance on that day as if it were yesterday. Oz Terry explained that Hall was 'Domus' and regarded by all members of the Inn as 'home'. In the event I, miraculously, got to Durham University to read Law, but I had been so pleased and impressed with my visit to Gray's that I joined the Inn as a student member during my first year. Since that time I, too, have always regarded the Inn as my professional home-base. This was particularly so during the Bar course year, spent at the Inns of Court School of Law, which was in Gray's based in the buildings now occupied by the school. Without family finances to back me, and at a time when chambers did not fund pupils, I was only able to undertake pupillage as a result of support from the Inn through an interest-free loan; a facility for which I was extremely grateful at that time.

I was called to the Bar in July 1977. In those days we wore an extraordinary combination of white tie, tails, gowns and (I think) wigs on Call Night. Call was immediately followed by a dinner. No relatives or friends were permitted to attend. It was all very different to the Call Ceremonies that take place today which, to my mind, are far more inclusive celebratory occasions.

The first 15 years of my time at the Bar were spent in chambers in Birmingham (2 Fountain Court, which became one of the two founding sets that became St Philips). These were very happy and professionally satisfying years, but the geography inevitably meant that my connection with Gray's Inn was minimal. Since moving to chambers in London in 1993 and becoming a Bencher in 2003, I have very much enjoyed being able to attend the Inn, and come 'home', on a regular basis.



I am pleased and honoured in equal measure to be this year's Treasurer. I have always been most grateful to Gray's for the friendly welcome given on that first, and every subsequent, visit and for the support that I received in my early years. I, in common no doubt with all past Treasurers, see this year as an opportunity to 'give back' in some small way for all that I have received.

People ask what my 'theme' for the year is, or what 'changes' I am hoping to achieve in the Inn during my tenure. Such questions are, to a degree, bewildering to me. I see my role as being a champion and supporter for all that goes on in our busy Inn, and a friend to students, members of Hall, Benchers and staff. I am not itching to impose idiosyncratic changes of my own devising, and I would much rather encourage and empower others in the Inn to develop their own ideas for our collective good.

At the start of my year I spent an hour or so with the 80 plus staff in each of the departments that support the life and work of the Inn. These were interesting meetings, which left me with a strong and positive impression of the quality of the substantial collective endeavour of the staff team.

The programme for this year started with a sell-out Mixed Mess event, joined by some 100 online, at which Master Lord Pannick KC shared his top 12 principles of advocacy. Each one, blindingly obvious and easily stated, but each, as those of us long in the tooth know, takes a lifetime to perfect.

The highlight of the summer will be a dinner, on Thursday 21 May, to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of Sir

Francis Bacon, our most illustrious member during the Inn's Elizabethan heyday. Whilst 21 May is the main focus, you can expect to see posters and other information about Sir Francis displayed in the Library and elsewhere throughout the summer, together with the vivid portrait of the great man which is already hanging in the centre of Hall below the clock.

I have taken up occupancy of the new Treasurer's Flat, just by the archway from Lady Hale Gate, and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the coming months. If you spot me, and would like to do so, please feel free to come and say 'hello!' ☐

# GRIFFIN @ LARGE

## BACON 400 IS LAUNCHED

The focus of many events at Gray's this year is the life and importance to the Society of Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626) as the Inn marks 400 years since his death. Apart from tours of the Estate that emphasise Bacon the man and his influence on the Inn, a Sung Eucharist, music in Chapel and an exhibition, the much-anticipated Bacon Reception and Dinner on 21 May will be the key event with an address at the Dinner by Professor Alan Stewart. Professor Stewart is the co-author of a fine biography of Bacon and in addition Director of the Oxford Francis Bacon, a 20-volume edition of Bacon's writings for Oxford University Press. During the evening there will be music, short readings from Bacon's works, possibly an 'essay' delivered by a multiple BAFTA, Olivier and Tony award winning actor and noted Bacon enthusiast (theatrical commitments permitting) and other entertainment, all starting in the Walks.

The public tours are the responsibility of Sam Hutchinson, Chief of Staff, who manages the events and acts as guide on many of the tours or, in his absence, the Residential Scholars will assist. The first tour took place on 20 February and proved a considerable success.



There is an exhibition at the initiative and creation of our Archivist, Katherine Gwyn. It tells the story of Bacon and showcases some of the Inn's collection of antique editions of Bacon's works. During the public tours it also includes some of the Inn's oldest documents, some of which are written in Bacon's hand. The exhibition continues in the Library until the end of June and may be viewed by everyone at the Inn during Library opening times. The Inn is indebted to both Sam and Katherine for their work in this busy year.

## THE BACON SOCIETY'S GENEROUS LOAN

From early January, members will have noticed a new portrait of Bacon (new to the Inn that is) on the east wall in Hall and shown on the front cover. It has been hung beneath the familiar image of Queen Bess who in 1597 conferred on Bacon the first award of the distinction of Queen's Counsel. Subsequently Bacon was to prosper to an even greater extent under James I as Attorney General



and Lord Chancellor before his downfall.

The artist (sadly unknown, as is the date of the work) provides a sensitive image of Bacon. What is particularly convincing about the portrait, and nicely limned, is the shape of Bacon's lower eyelids which appear to fall away from the eye, typical of a condition known as ectropion, a common result of the aging process that may be corrected by a minor operation today. So the portrait is best seen close up and admired for its considerable naturalism.

The portrait is on loan from the Francis Bacon Society for three years to whom the Inn is deeply grateful for such a remarkable unselfish gesture. Lately the Bacon Society has generously arranged for a restoration of the portrait giving to the work its colour and vibrancy which compounds the Inn's feelings of obligation.



Arms of Sir Francis Bacon

Even more recently Griffin has heard from Sally Gibbins, Principal of the Francis Bacon Society, who expressed her appreciation of how beautifully the portrait was displayed in Hall adding her 'heartfelt gratitude to everyone at Gray's Inn who made it possible to bring Francis back to his rightful home'.

As will be well known to many, the Inn owns two fine portraits of Bacon. One is located on the Bench staircase and is attributed to the 'Circle of Paulus van Somer' meaning the portrait was painted in the same era of van Somer (1577–1621) and heavily influenced by his style. The other hangs in the Under Treasurer's office. It is a fine three-quarter length image and is given the attribution 'After Paulus van Somer'. That can often mean that it is a copy that *may have been made by a pupil or apprentice of the artist*, and possibly under the artist's direction.

## DEFERRED CALL

The vexed question of deferring Call to a time when the callee has completed the non-practising period of pupillage has recently preoccupied the Bar Council, COIC, and several working parties at the Inns to name but a few.

For many in the profession there has long remained a strong perception, no more, that there was a large cohort of non-practising barristers bestriding the business world and other fields who were misrepresenting themselves to prospective employers and the public generally as fully qualified barristers (when they were not) or did little to correct any such misapprehension. This mischief alone, it was believed, was putting the reputation of the profession at risk as well as giving rise to confusion amongst the public.

From the report of the Gray's Inn Working Group and other submissions, there appears to be little evidence, if any, that the public are confused about the current situation or that the profession is suffering any reputational damage from the growing number that have been called 'though not chosen', so to speak, for pupillage. If that is so, then is the position in the profession any different from medical students completing their medical degree at Medical School (and gaining the award of MBBS or MBChB) when they are indeed entitled thereafter to call themselves 'doctor' once provisional registration with the GMC has been obtained? At that point, a doctor is still under supervision and training. Until a doctor has completed training and is registered to practise as such with the GMC, he or she is under a duty to ensure that the limit of their experience is made clear whenever they use the title of Doctor whether in personal contact, in writing or on online. That same duty is similarly placed on Barristers who have been

'called to the degree of Utter Barrister' on Call Night until they have successfully completed the non-practising period of pupillage. There is little evidence that any breach of this obligation manifests as a major issue. Since previous concerns would seem to be misconceived, certainly in this regard, and it has been shown that the qualification of barrister, standing alone, carries sufficient prestige to open doors for those unfortunate in their search for pupillage, why pull up this ladder of opportunity?

## CHORAL MATTINS FOR EPIPHANY

Only a few years ago, those attending Chapel on Sundays would often be treated to the virtuoso skills of Master Damian Falkowski (on violin) and his young daughter Clara Falkowska (on trumpet) as part of the Mattins service. At the Choral Mattins for Epiphany on 18 January, the congregation was reminded of those previous moving occasions by Master Ian Wilson (on organ) and his young son Lucas Wilson (on trumpet) playing the Trumpet Voluntary (Jeremiah Clarke and Henry Purcell). How blessed those in the congregation were at this first Chapel service of the year and how fortunate the Inn is to be able to call upon such contributors and to have as our Director of

Music, Master Christopher Bowers-Broadbent. The service took

place close to the tenth anniversary of the death of David Bowie and this was occasion enough for the Rev. Baxter, our Chaplain and known David Bowie enthusiast, to reference Bowie. In his sermon, the Preacher spoke of Bowie's fascination with Christianity, often referenced in his works. At one time Bowie was quoted as saying he had 'an undying belief in

the existence of God'. Whether that belief was sustained to the end is probably doubtful, but Bowie was certainly engaged in a life-long spiritual quest.



Griffin cannot conclude without mentioning the musical skills of Master Geraldine Andrews (Treasurer last year) who has added to her virtuoso violin playing at many events at the Inn over the years the considerable gift of also arranging music. This was amply demonstrated by Master Andrews with her impressive setting of *Nativity Lullaby* (words based on a medieval text) at the *Service of Nine Lessons and Carols* in Chapel on Sunday 14 December. The service drew a packed congregation to the Chapel that even saw some driven by the crush to sit on the stairs leading to the west gallery.

Charles Dickens holds a cherished place in the heart of the Inn. But it was not a mutual affection. He described it as 'one of the most depressing institutions in bricks and mortar known to the children of men'. In her esteemed biography, Claire Tomalin recounts how the future author, fresh out of school at 15, began his professional life as a clerk for Ellis & Blackmore, solicitors, in May 1827. That was in offices in what is now South Square, where he worked for 16 months for, initially, 10/6 a week. In Tomalin's words, 'he was eager to live the life of a young Londoner... The dandy of the late 1830s was already forming'. His experience found its way into *The Pickwick Papers* in 1836 and many other novels. It is significant that when Dickens thought about becoming a barrister, it was at Middle Temple that he entered his name, in 1839, not Gray's.



Sandra Villani (Mrs Bumble, pronounced Boombélé)

# GRAY'S EXPECTATIONS OR WHAT THE DICKENS!

MASTER CHRISTOPHER RUSSELL (Text and Photos)

Miscellany 2025 celebrated Dickens coming to the Inn 198 years before with a spirited and witty production scripted by Chantelle Staynings, Harry Samuels, Kabir Sondhi and Zander Goss which not only touched upon many of his novels, in a delightfully chaotic *mélange* of plots, but also portrayed other celebrated Victorians. If there was a thread through the mayhem, it was the tale of the life of Archbold Blackstone, played as a child by Mary Lobo, as a young man by Patrick Cole and in old age by George Penny in a metamorphosis of characters recalling Pip to Scrooge.

The set, created by Roddy Gye and his team, was essentially a black box stage with, front stage left, a tiny oasis of Victoriana with oil lamp, Puginesque wallpaper and writing desk where Dickens, played by James Sharp,

scribbled almost throughout, often attended by Isabella Massam as his long-suffering wife. Onto this stage strode Stephen Cartwright, tartan-trewed, to deliver a housekeeping message in rhyming neo-Victorian doggerel.

Harry Samuels introduced Dickens and his writing life performing 'The Routine of the Writer' (a song specially written by the extraordinarily gifted Robert Coren) joined on stage by many of the characters who would, in the ensuing two hours tell their stories in a clever sequence of scenes and songs.

James Sharp's Dickens begins the story in a provincial workhouse filled with inmates guilty only of the crime of being poor where Natalie Bird, as the mother of an infant Archie, leaves him with few items but including copies of Archbold and Blackstone. He is taken in by Mr and Mrs Bumble (pron Boombélé), played by Conor Walsh and Sandra Villani. The latter, deploying her womanly instincts, nurtures him with gin, names him after the volumes and consigns him to workhouse life.

Archie leads a troupe of fellow orphans (Kieron Spoons, Pearl Crumb, Chester Chan and Tanya Drobnis) in voicing dissatisfaction at their lot and reminiscing about eating their deceased inmates – red letter days when meat took the place of gruel. Archie calls for 'More' and on being threatened with being pushed downstairs and becoming tomorrow's supper, determines to run away from the workhouse to London to find his fortune (or become a Deliveroo rider). Aghast to hear her beloved gin is running short, and that vodka is acceptable, Mrs Boombélé, launches into a rendition of 'Vodka' from *Song of the Flame* with a raw alcoholic brio.



Mary Lobo (as child Archie)

Lost in the Kent marshes, in a scene recalling Pip's terrifying meeting with Magwitch, Archie encounters then befriends Abel Gagwitch, in convict's cap but with an inflated rubber ring around his neck and armed with a banana, who has swum from Australia after serving a sentence of transportation, played with wonderful mock malevolence by Marcus Taverner.

In his despair Archie is comforted by the ghost of his mother who entreats him to trust 'The Voice Within' with a moving performance of that song worthy of Christina Aguilera.



Harry Samuels (as Mrs Scrubbit)



Patrick Cole (young Archie) and Lemuel Lucan-Wilson (Nathaniel Orphan)

Arriving in London, Archie finds the pie shop of Mrs Scrubbit (Harry Samuels) who bemoans her incompetence in pie-making with 'The Worst Pies in London' from Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*. We enter Twist territory when he meets the Artful Dodger (Kayode Aseweje) who promises him refuge at the lair of Fag-End (Kabir Sondhi). Fag-End introduces him to his artful codgers, a troupe of bewigged ancients (Colin Manning, Elle Curzon, George Penny, Liam Chin, Libby Anderson and Lucinda Orr). It was good to see Colin Manning back treading the Miscellany boards and he leads an explanation of their MO as decrepit judges with 'You've Got to Clear a Docket or Two' parodying the Lionel Bart number. Enter Bill Sykes (Tom Jones) with an accent appropriately wandering from South Wales to Dagenham, with, not Bullseye, but Fluffy McFluffy as a dog tucked under his arm. He wants to return to Llandudno to open his café-cum-bookshop and serve cappuccino. Saara Idelbi, as his Nancy, varies her 'Where were you last night?' with a raunchy rendition of Bon Jovi's 'You Give Love a Bad Name'. A top-hatted policemen (Tim Lamb) arrives to arrest Fag-End who throws to Archie incriminating evidence belonging to Betsy Trot-On (Penny Hamilton), Archie's step great aunt thrice removed. Chastened by his brush with the law, Fag-End sings 'Reviewing the Situation' with all the wiliness of the best of Fagins and terrific accompaniment in klezmer style from the band overflowing with talent led by Robert Coren, comprising Damian Falkowski (violin), Curtis Crowley (clarinet) and Nora Wannagat (baritone sax).

We say goodbye to Mary Lobo as Archie. What fabulous new talent the Inn has in her; hers was a seam of highly accomplished acting throughout Act One. In Act Two, with Archie played engagingly by Patrick Cole; we move, to tell a tale of two cities, and find him reading for the Bar at Gray's Inn. His fellow students are the orphans from the workhouse drilled magisterially by Nia Frobisher as Cuttwitt Sharpe QC, assisted by Britney, played by Sarah Joseph, with whom Archie falls in love. Archie is instructed in Thucket v Thucket, litigation of great vintage worthy of the pages of *Bleak House*, to retrieve Madame Défarce (Katharine Elliot), imprisoned since the Revolution and the heir to the Thucket fortune.



Sarah Joseph (as Britney Blackstone)

Michael Burton plays Uriah Heep, styled as Archie's clerk who explains his role with 'I Am the Clerk, Signor!' lyrics he wrote to the tune of Bizet's Toreador March. Bereft at Archie's departure, Britney sings 'Can't Help Lovin' That Man' from *Show Boat* in a performance of exquisite sweetness and purity.

Archie arrives in Paris with his companion, Nathaniel Orphan (Lemuel Lucan-Wilson). Together they celebrate their survival of the channel crossing with the *Friends* theme 'I'll Be There For You': every inch carefree young bucks in the French capital. They find Défarce, a two-fan-waving revolutionary with spitting contempt for barristers as the tools of the Ancien Régime, content with her life in an abandoned prison and unaware the revolution is over. She recalls her caged existence with 'Green Finch and Linnet Bird', another song from *Sweeney Todd*. Meilleur (Conor Walsh), Lapire (Isabella Massam) and Moyenne (Elena Johnson) perform the totemic opening sentence from the novel.

Back in London, we are introduced to the judges of the court of Chancery allocated to the Thucket case, Sir Davey Dickie and Sir Dickie Davie: a vehicle for an iteration of



Gwynfor Evans (as Mr Scratchit)

the much loved routine of David Foskett and Richard Price, sporting full-bottomed wigs and a colourful and contributing parrot on their shoulder playing up to their roles as beacons of diversity with near faultless Yorkshire and Birmingham accents and a new maxim of Equity: 'Equity looks on that as done which is sometimes a pain in the arse to do'.

For the trial scenes, they are joined by Sharpe and Britney as counsel for the Plaintiff and Lincoln Temple (Libby Anderson) for the Defendant and, finally, the entourage from Paris. Despite cross examination by Temple of Défarce for war crimes, she is awarded the value of the estate which legal costs have reduced to nothing.

Britney and Archie are married. The wedding party is the cue for the inevitable dance routine to fizzing and accomplished choreography, this year by Kuzmenko and Amy Oliver to 'Shut Up and Dance' and a company 11 strong.



Thushiga Karunanithy and Lameesa Iqbal (dancers)

As the newlyweds reflect on their happiness, Gagwitch reappears, revealed as Britney's father and Archie's benefactor, and gives his blessing to the union. Less enthusiastic is Lady Lavisham whose ward Britney has been. As an embittered Lady Lavisham, Geraldine Andrews, dressed in Haversham-like wedding weeds and holding a bunch of roses, gives a most poignant performance of 'Losing My Mind' from Sondheim's *Follies* before Toria Ellis, on Lavisham's instruction, torches the place; she anticipates her task with the Clare Teal number 'Messin' With Fire'.

Time moves on. In Act Three, Archie (now George Penny) is widowed, in silk, with a distinguished career behind him (having solved *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*), crabby, querulous and living alone in Gray's Inn one foggy Christmas Eve. He berates his clerk, Scratchit (Gwynfor Evans) for booking him to appear in court in Milton Keynes on Boxing Day. His loathing of parties ('I'd rather rip out my eyes with a blunt quill') and grumpiness is confronted by the arrival of high kicking carol singers (Lameesa Iqbal, Harriet Palfreman, Áine Tyrrell and Samara Brackley) and a



Amy Oliver (as Charlotte Brontë)



Zander Goss (as Joseph Bazalgette)

tingling 'Jingle Bell Rock' augmented by the full company of the Songbirds in a performance applauded to the rafters.

Archie is visited by the ghost of Christmas Past (Elle Curzon) and confronted by his past including the younger Archie (version Cole), and his suitress, Belle (Chantelle Staynings) whose attempts to secure a proposal are thwarted. Belle's anguish is portrayed in song with a heart-wrenching and towering performance of 'My Days' from *The Notebook*.

The Ghost of Christmas Present (Suding) serenades Archie with 'Pure Imagination' from *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* and confronts him with the impoverished Scratchit family Christmas. Gathered round the tree (Lucinda Orr), the children (Harriet Palfreman, Áine Tyrrell and Pearl Crumb, with Liam Chin as Tiny Tim) receive their modest presents before a tear-jerking, duet of 'Suddenly Scratchit', parodying 'Suddenly Seymour' from *Little Shop of Horrors*, by Gwynfor Evans and Lara White (as Mrs Scratchit) with virtuosic harmonies.

The ghost of Christmas Present conjures up other contemporary titans: Florence Nightingale (Lucinda Orr),

the Brontë Sisters (Lameesa Iqbal as Anne, Alice Kuzmenko as Charlotte and Amy Oliver as a high maintenance and histrionic Emily), Joseph Bazalgette (Zander Goss) and Isambard Kingdom Brunel (Stephen Hill). Oliver's Kate Bush doppelganger performance of 'Wuthering Heights' is a highly charged balletic tour de force bestriding the stage before Bazalgette trades achievements with Brunel and gives him advice for pulling a girl with 'If You've Only Got a Moustache', from *A Million Ways to Die in the West*.



George Penny (old Archie), Harriet Palfreman (Doris Scratchit), Pearl Crumb (Boris Scratchit) and Áine Terrell (Maurice Scratchit)

The ghost of Christmas Yet-to-Come (Elle Curzon) invokes the funerals of Archie and Tiny Tim. It is the latter's death which melts Archie who morphs into Father Christmas and gives Scratchit the morning off before departing to visit his estranged celebrity hairdresser son.

The closing number, 'My Favourite Character', written and composed by Harry Samuels, had the entire company debating which of the glorious range of characters in the production had been their favourite. That was an invidious task indeed: such had been the excellent quality of exuberant talent. The description by the Treasurer in her closing remarks, of this being a 'Vintage Miscellany' was an understatement. It takes its place with the best with standards of storytelling, production and performance which seem to edge higher every year and gives voice and song to the collegiality of the Inn in a way that is not matched by anything else in the calendar. If Dickens himself had been in the audience, his opinion of Gray's Inn would surely have been turned on its head. □



Isabella Massam (Mrs Dickens) and James Sharpe (Charles Dickens) with other members of the company.

**M**y connections with Singapore go back to my pupillage, as one of the silks in Chambers did a lot of work there, which meant he travelled there regularly. I assisted him from England by supplying the results of legal research, or sometimes drafting pleadings and skeleton arguments, in the process developing good working relationships with my counterparts in the local law firms. However, my love affair with the country truly began in 1992, when I spent three weeks across the causeway in Johor Bahru, working through the documents in a commercial fraud case in which my leader was Master John Thomas (then a QC). I was unable to do the work in Singapore, because I was still a junior, but my clients put me up in the Shangri-La hotel in Singapore at weekends, and I rapidly got to know my way around. I developed a taste for the local food, and came to know and admire the harmonious way in which people from the four main ethnic groups – Chinese, Indian, Malay and European, lived and worked together, and celebrated each other's cultural heritages. Once I was in silk, I travelled there on a regular basis to advise on cases, and appeared as counsel in international arbitrations and, on one occasion, by special dispensation, in a trial in the High Court. Over the years I have made many good friends in Singapore, and have come to regard it as my second home.

In September 2024, I was having lunch in Hall with the Hon. Justice Su Tiang Joo, a judge of the High Court of Malaya, and a member of the Inn who has done sterling work over many years to promote the Malaysian Chapter of its alumni, of which he is President. I had just got off a plane from Singapore, where I had been advocacy training with Master Jacqueline Perry KC and two other judges, pursuant to a long-standing annual invitation most recently extended by the current Attorney-General, Master Lucien Wong. It occurred to me that if we were invited back to teach in 2025, the Inn might be able to use this as a launchpad for an amity visit by a small delegation. When I mentioned this to Justice Su, he embraced the idea wholeheartedly and immediately sought to persuade me that we must also visit Malaysia.

Thus it came about that in September 2025, I travelled to Singapore with Master Perry and Master HH Judge Anuja Dhir KC, in order to fulfil our commitment to train the young lawyers in the Attorney-General's Chambers. At the end of the week we were joined by the remaining

# TREASURER'S AMITY VISIT TO SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA 2025



Eden Hall, Singapore Left to right: Paul Broom, British High Commission, Master Georgina Kent HE Nik Mehta OBE, British High Commissioner, Liam Chin, The Treasurer, Master Jacqueline Perry, Master Anuja Dhir, Master Sophie Lamb

members of the delegation, the Master of Students, HH Judge Georgina Kent, Liam Chin and Sam Hutchinson, our Chief of Staff, who had the unenviable task of dealing with the logistics and ensuring that we were all in the right place at the right time. I have to say that he did that job superbly, and it was not easy because we had a truly packed programme.

On the first evening, Sunday 21 September, we were hosted at a private dinner at Violet Oon restaurant in Dempsey by Master Christopher Lau SC, recently

appointed as an Honorary Bencher. The other guests included Master Sophie Lamb, Master the Hon Justice Philip Jeyeretnam, President of the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC), and Engelin Teh SC, one of the first female advocates to be appointed to the rank of senior counsel and a truly inspirational role model.

Next morning we visited the Law Courts and were given a tour of the Judicial Heritage Gallery on the ground floor, a relatively new installation which I had not previously seen. I was taken aback to find one of my Singapore cases being referred to in an exhibit on display! We then went to one of the courtrooms used by the SICC and viewed a video presentation about the work of that court, before we were joined by Master Jeyeretnam who answered questions about the SICC and then took us out for lunch. In the afternoon the delegation were welcomed by His Excellency Nik Mehta OBE, the British High Commissioner, to the High Commission (a wonderful historic building named Eden Hall), where guests from law firms across Singapore, my former senior clerk David Grief, and other members of the Inn, including Master Robert Hardy and his wife Chee, joined us for a networking event and a splendid High Tea.

On Tuesday morning, Master Kent went to the Subordinate Courts to speak at a training event for judges and judicial officers. In the late afternoon Master Perry and I participated with Master Lamb, Master Lau and Master Jeyeretnam in an event entitled 'Mareva Injunction at Fifty in a Cross Border World' organised by the Singapore Academy of Law. I gave a short lecture which was followed by a panel discussion, but unfortunately Master Perry and I had to be whisked away by Sam before the end in order to catch a plane to Kuala Lumpur. We did not arrive at our hotel until almost midnight, which meant there was little opportunity to relax before the busiest day of the trip.

Bright and early the following morning we travelled across the city to Limapulo Terrace where I was subjected to a lengthy interview for 'Advocates the Podcast' by two senior Malaysian advocates, and then fielded a lively Q&A session. The venue was immediately above a local restaurant who supplied us with the most delicious lunch, fortifying us for the journey back to the Asian International Arbitration Centre where I delivered a keynote speech entitled 'From Advocate to Arbitrator – Building a Sustainable Career in Commercial Arbitration'. We received a warm welcome there from Datuk Almalena Shrmila Johan, CEO of the AIAC, and the Hon Dato Mary Lim, a formal Federal Court Judge who is now Director of the AIAC, and an old friend from international



Palace of Justice, Malaysia Left to right: Sam Hutchinson, Master Georgina Kent, The Treasurer, Rt Hon Tan Sri Hasnah binti Dato' Mohammed Hashim (Chief Judge of Malaya), Master Jacqueline Perry, Liam Chin

advocacy training. The final event that day, and one of the highlights of the trip, was a splendid gala dinner at the Majestic Hotel, organised by the Malaysian Chapter of our Alumni, attended by many senior judges as well as practitioners who were members of all four Inns of Court. Justice Su, Master Kent and I made speeches and Liam Chin proposed the toast to 'Domus'.

There was no chance of a lie-in on Thursday because we had to be up at the crack of dawn to travel to a meeting before court with the Rt Hon Tan Sri Hasnah binti Dato' Mohammed Hashim, Chief Judge of Malaya. I sat next to Justice Hasnah at the gala dinner, and there was an immediate rapport. She has since retired, and we are in regular contact. We had a meeting in the Chief Judge's beautiful private suite before she had to leave us to sit on a case; her staff then showed us round the library and an interesting exhibition of the history of the courts in Malaya. We then travelled back to Kuala Lumpur for an afternoon meeting with the President of the Malaysian Bar, Mohamad Ezri bin Abdul Wahab, who took us to the roof of the Bar Council's offices so that we could take photographs of the wonderful panoramic view. Then it was back to the airport for the return flight to Singapore.

After the intense activity of the two days in Malaysia it was quite a relief that the only remaining event in the programme was dinner with Master Lucien Wong on Friday evening. He was greatly interested in Liam Chin's past career as a chef, and persuaded him to cook for him on a future occasion!

I was delighted with the success of the visit and the warmth with which we were received everywhere we travelled. I am sure that the visit has consolidated existing ties and made the Inn a lot of new friends. On a personal note, I cannot wait to see more of Malaysia. I must end by reiterating my thanks to Sam, who ensured everything ran smoothly and worked extremely hard – though I would like to think he also enjoyed the trip! □

**Master Geraldine Andrews**

# INTERROGATORIES

## ANSWERED BY THE TREASURER

MASTER HEATHER WILLIAMS

1

### What made you decide to become a barrister and did you consider any other career?

It was a choice that, in a way, made itself. At school there was something called 'The Challenge of Industry', aimed at encouraging interest in a career in business. I am afraid that, for me, it had the opposite effect. When, miraculously, I started my time as a Law undergraduate at Durham University, I decided to join Gray's and with fellow student Master John Steel, I came up to London a number of times to 'keep terms' by dining the requisite number of dinners. During the vacations I had spent time in two or three solicitors' offices. With no disrespect intended to our sister profession, I have to say that these visits confirmed my intention that, if I was going to practise law, advocacy was my goal.

I gave very serious consideration to making a go of it as an actor or a journalist. Most of my time at university was spent acting, singing, dancing (yes!) and directing in plays, light opera and revue. It would, I now see, have been a foolish endeavour, but at the time I was seriously tempted. One of my fellow revue chums at Durham went into the church and eventually became Bishop of Worcester (the Rt Revd Dr John Inge). He is wont to observe that he and I both pursued careers, as a substitute for the theatrical life, that have involved a lot of dressing up and performing. Dr Inge is to give the Mulligan Sermon this year on 17 May. Looking backwards, and now knowing much more about myself than I did in my 20s, I think that I might well have been able to pursue a career in medicine or psychiatry. This idea would have seemed laughable to my teenage self, and to my science teachers, but, as the years have gone by I have thought more and more that it would have been possible. For over 40 years now I have had to understand and work with very detailed medical evidence connected with allegations of child abuse. The human body and mind are fascinating. At Durham, we had to take a non-legal module as an adjunct to our course and I chose psychology. I was a Samaritan in Birmingham and later took an intensive course in counselling skills in the hope that it might assist my approach to those clients who seemed so hard to engage. As a Family judge, the need to know why people behave as they do, and what may be done to support them to behave in a safer way going forward, is often at the forefront of the risk assessment that is stuff of decisions about a child's future welfare.

Finally, and separately, on the topic of careers, I did, and have always felt, a call to consider ordination. This was strong at Durham, which is an internationally renowned centre for Christian learning, and this call has ebbed and flowed in strength throughout my life. It is now too late, but in the coming years I hope to renew and increase the connection.

2

### How did you come to choose Gray's Inn?

I was introduced to Gray's by my school. I was warmly welcomed by the then Under Treasurer Oswald Terry and I never even considered looking at any other Inn. All readers of this article will agree with me that I made the correct choice, and that there would have been nothing to be gained by any further research!

Being serious, Gray's delivered on that early promise of welcome and support. My father had died when I was 15 and my mother suffered a life-changing stroke during my Bar year. I was an only child and there was no family money available. In 1977 the idea of pupils being funded by chambers was not in anyone's mind: it was only shortly after the time when the pupils had to pay the pupil supervisor a fee for taking them on. At that time the Inn had an interest-free loan scheme for the young Bar. Without the substantial loan that Gray's afforded me, I do not think that I could have gone on to practise at the Bar. It is as simple as that and for that support I have always been, and remain, so grateful to the Inn.

3

**You became a Family Lawyer specialising in children cases; how did that happen?**

More by chance rather than design. I was in a common law set, 2 Fountain Court in Birmingham. I was not drawn to the Family work, but had no knowledge of the public law (child protection) part of the jurisdiction. One morning, the clerks asked me to go to Nottingham for 2pm for an urgent wardship hearing. My clients' three children had been removed, without notice, by social workers the previous evening and the case was up for a first hearing before a Registrar (now District Judge). With no knowledge of the law, and no time to gain any, I headed up to Nottingham with a strong feeling that the social services must have acted unlawfully, the children should be returned to the parents immediately and not removed again until there had been a full hearing in due course. I advised my distraught clients accordingly in the short conference that took place before we were ushered into see the judge. My own shock at discovering that my gut feeling that this was all wrong was itself wrong was even more profound than that of the two parents. Of course, those reading this piece, and I, can now see how very naïve I was, but it was a genuine revelation that the State had such power and that this was all in accordance with the law. I was immediately intrigued to understand just what this law was, what were the checks and balances, what was the due process and, fascinatingly, what factual situations there might be which could justify this degree of intervention into family life.

Separately, around this time, I began being instructed in contested adoption cases for Birmingham City Council. Again, I was struck by the draconian nature of the court's powers. By adoption a child is regarded, as a matter of law, as if they had been born to the adopters and not to any other person. It fundamentally shifts the tectonic plates of a child and future adult's identity, and does so for life. I was intrigued to understand just what the underlying legal basis was for this jurisdiction and, separately, what degree of human behavioural disfunction needs to have taken place to justify making such an order. This was all more than a decade before the Human Rights Act 1998, and at a time when child care law was in its infancy and our understanding of child abuse was developing from a fairly rudimentary level.

There was at that time no narrative, detailed textbook aimed at the growing number of solicitors, barristers and judiciary involved in this work. David Hershman and I decided to write a small book on the subject. Coincidentally, and through no planning on our part, Parliament was in the process of enacting the Children Act 1989. Our book was published on 14 October 1991, which was the day that the new Act came into force. We publish updates to the text three times each year, and are now onto Update 104. Tragically David died in 2004. I continue to edit the updates together with HH Judge Madeleine Reardon and Alex Laing.

4

**What do you find most rewarding about being a judge?**

Most Family cases involve the court taking a difficult situation and aiming to resolve it in a way which is safer or otherwise for the members of that family. This is a positive goal to have, and the courts have wide and very flexible powers to change the living arrangements and/or family finances in order to achieve this. The two questions for a judge in any Family case boil down to: 'what on earth has gone on here?' and 'what on earth are we going to do about it?'

There are, of course, no overtly 'right' or 'wrong' outcomes and, crucially, judges seldom get to know how things actually work out, but I think that the essential judicial task of a Family judge is both interesting and rewarding for that reason.

5

**What are your priorities for your year as Treasurer?**

I had not thought that I would need any priorities and I certainly do not have any specific goals for my time. The Inn is run by its members, through committees and Pension, with our decisions being implemented by the excellent staff team led by the Under Treasurer. It is a collective endeavour and not dictated from the top

I see my year as an opportunity to give back to the Inn, in small part, for all that I have received from my earliest years and since. My aim is to do the best that I can with respect to the students, by choosing speakers who are of the highest quality, by supporting the Education Department as much as I can, and by taking time to get to know as many of our young protégés as I can.

6

**What has life on the Bench taught you?**

There are many answers that I can give to this question. Life on the Bench has been a multi-faceted and very rich experience. Here are a few bullet points:

- You learn more by listening than by talking.
- Don't judge a book (that is a person) by the cover.
- First impressions are not always, or often, sound.
- My clerk at the Bar used to put 'PD' in the handwritten diary for members of chambers sitting as a fee-paid judge. 'PD' stood for 'public duty'. There is a high degree of public duty displayed by all in the Family Court, be they staff, magistrates, judges, lawyers, social workers or others. No one is doing what they do for the money and their commitment to the delivery of justice is admirable.
- After 15 years as a member of the Court of Appeal, I have seen a good slice of the practising Bar across the full spectrum of non-criminal work. Professional standards are impressive across the board, and the degree to which the Bench can rely upon the integrity of counsel remains high.

7

**What are your other main interests outside of the law?**

We live in Herefordshire and for over 30 years I have been based in London or working in courts all around the country. The norm of our family life is for me to leave home on Monday morning and return on Friday evening. My main interest outside the law has simply to be at home with Susanna and enjoying family life together. My time is spent pottering around and cultivating the vegetable garden. Some time ago, I got to know the then Chief Constable of West Mercia. He, too, was a keen vegetable gardener and his wife reckoned that he was so keen on his plot because it was the one aspect of his life when he could plan something, plant the seeds in carefully placed lines and watch the whole project come to fruition on time and in line. This was in total contrast to every other aspect of his professional life! I knew what she meant and, in these last years during which I have been President of the Family Division, her wise observation has often come back to me.



I have had a life-long interest in the theatre, sadly from the auditorium rather than treading the boards. I am also a failed amateur magician. In my teens conjuring was a very active hobby, but the busy-ness of practice and family life took over. In recent times I have tried to take up card magic again and to learn, for the first time, some of the more complicated sleights. This turns out to be very difficult, despite the high quality video tutorials that are now available (in contrast to the scratchy line-drawings of my youth). Unlike those of a young person, the fingers of a 70 year old are more like a bunch of courgettes rather than okra.

I should also mention that we have inherited a parrot, whose name is 'Jester'! I am looking forward to spending more time with him too.

8

**Which three persons from the past would you most like to bring to Guest Night?**

Archbishop Thomas Cranmer: the Book of Common Prayer is a joy. He was an eye witness to one of the most interesting periods in our history. That such a fine and valuable human being could have been executed in such a foul way has always struck me as abhorrent.

Houdini: the great showman magician, whose ability to capture and captivate public attention with the most unbelievable stunts has never been surpassed.

Ada Lovelace, the very first pioneer of modern computing, who died age 36.

## POPULAR MYTHS AT GRAY'S INN



## THE NIGHT OF ERRORS

MASTER TIMOTHY SHUTTLEWORTH

PART 2

**T**here have been several productions of Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* (hereinafter '*Errors*') in the Hall at Gray's Inn since its original performance on 28 December 1594. They include in the last 30 years productions in 1994 and 2016, the last being performed by 'Antic Disposition' in a zany setting that was described as a blend of *Some Like it Hot* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. It received a joyous and well-deserved reception.

The 2016 production was played against the screen, as was the production in 1895 (sic) on 14 December that year performed by the Elizabethan Stage Society to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the first performance at Gray's. Incidentally the production in 1994 was mostly acted against the north wall in Hall on a raised platform which was both curious and disappointing to many, including this writer. A myth has grown up at Gray's that the original production was set against the screen already in place by the time of the performance in 1594. That belief has been buttressed by many scholarly commentators and even by the Royal Shakespeare Company ('RSC').

## THE MYTH TAKES HOLD

In a commentary on the Stage History of *Errors* in 2025 and having stated that the first performance of the play was at Gray's on 28 December 1594, the RSC persists in its long-held view that 'the richly carved screen at the end of the great hall, with its five arched doorways and gallery above could have provided an excellent background for a specially erected temporary stage'.

By planting the idea, not for the first time, that the original staging 'could have' used the screen as a backdrop, the RSC have contributed to the idea that the staging was indeed performed against the screen. Despite it being somewhat counterintuitive, however, the original staging of *Errors* was NOT performed against the screen.

The myth perpetrated by the RSC has been reinforced, for example, in the Introduction to the Penguin Shakespeare Classics series on *Errors* in a revised edition (2015) by Randall Martin, Emeritus Professor of English at the University of New Brunswick. He writes:

**'The two 'Amazonian women'(in the play) Adriana and the Abbess, strongly defend the integrity of their respective domestic and religious domains. At the original Gray's Inn performance, their houses were probably represented by the two doors on the Hall screen of Gray's Inn.'** (my emphasis).

## WHAT DOES GESTA GRAYORUM SAY?

As indicated in a previous article the only source for the first production of *Errors* is *Gesta Grayorum*, hereinafter *Gesta*, which is a contemporaneous account written by someone, we don't know whom, and only published in 1688.

Before proceeding further, it is material to point out that *Gesta* mentions the existence of an actual 'stage' in Hall on the night of *Errors* (and on another subsequent night) which was 'caused ... to be built', as opposed to referring more to simply to an acting area. Whilst it

is unlikely to have resembled any formal classical style structure, it does suggest something semi-permanent. Here I adopt what Charles Whitworth, formerly Professor of English Literature at Montpellier University and Editor of *The Comedy of Errors* Oxford Shakespeare series (2002), writes:

'The allusion to 'the stage' in 'Gesta ...seems to imply that it was already there in place before the aborted entertainments of the Innsmen gave way to the performance of 'Errors' by the professional players ...'

If that is correct, it is unlikely that 'the stage ' would have been up against, or indeed near the screen as the stage structure, no matter how menial, would have obstructed access to the Hall from the west end for the scores of Gray's Inn members expected on 28 December and their equally large number of guests. Wherever it was located, it couldn't possibly have been in situ against the screen on 20 December 1594 either, eight days before *Errors*, because on that evening the Prince of Purpoole's 'champion' entered Hall, dressed in full armour 'on Horseback', and rode towards the dais to address the Prince ,who sat there in state, with his Court. It is also important to add that the focus of *all* the entertainment during the Christmas festivities of 1594 /95 was upon the Prince on his throne on the dais including on 3 January 1595 when there was 'a most honourable Presence of Great and Noble Personages' (per *Gesta*) that included the Lord Keeper( Sir John Puckering ),the Earls of Shrewsbury, Northampton, Cumberland, Southampton and Essex, and Lords Burghley, Rich, Compton, Mountjoy and ... Sir Robert Cecil.

I turn now to the most exhaustive examination of the first staging of *Errors* at Gray's in an article appearing in *Theatre History Studies* (January 1984). It was written by Margaret Knapp, then Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of the City University of New York, and Michal Kobialka, then a doctoral candidate at the same University. The article is headed 'Shakespeare and the Prince of Purpoole: The 1594 Production of *The Comedy of Errors* at Gray's Inn Hall.'

It is impossible to set out here every part of the argument in that excellent academic study that points strongly away from the performance in December 1594 being acted against the screen. I shall, however, describe the look of Hall in 1594, the measurements thereof being much as they are today, and relying heavily on Knapp and Kobialka, I add their conclusion:

(1) There was a dais in Hall at the time, as now, at the east end where the Prince of Purpoole (a student, Henry Helmes), his princely Court retinue, and important guests would be seated watching events during the student Christmas festivities including on 28 December. These festivities covered several nights beginning on 20 December and lasting until Shrovetide 'when the gentlemen' of Gray's Inn performed the Masque of Proteus before the Queen at Greenwich'.

(2) On the north and south sides of the Hall there were tall scaffolds on which the audience was seated for the performance of *Errors* and any subsequent spectacle during the Christmas season. This is clear from *Gesta*.

(3) Below the dais was a fireplace located underneath where the louvre in the roof still exists today.

(4) So where was the stage? The key to answering that question, and to the solution, is the description of Hall to be found in *Gesta* for the festivities on 3 January.

After the masque that night and a running buffet, 'there was a table set in the midst of the Stage, before the Prince's seat'(ie below the dais) and 'there sate six of the Lords of the (mock) Privy Council'.

We know from an earlier description in *Gesta* that the 'Privy Council' had previously sat at a table below the dais.

Knapp and Kobialka conclude that the stage must have been in the space directly in front of the dais between the dais and the fireplace adding:

'If it (the stage ) were in front of the Hall screen, as it is usually conjectured to be, it would be at the opposite end of the Hall from the Prince (seated on the dais), and therefore not very tempting as a seat for (him and) important guests ... '.

Both academics accept that the stage area would be very limiting but make the point that there would be nothing to stop the players broadening the playing area by using the space between the scaffold seating located hard against both the north and south walls, the area in-between having been cleared of any tables or chairs to permit the earlier dancing and revelling in Hall.



In his Note on the play published in the impressive souvenir programme to celebrate the 400th Anniversary Production of *Errors* in Hall between 12 December and 17 December 1994, the late Nigel Miskin, (whose son incidentally, now Master Charles Miskin, produced the 1994 production of *Errors*) clearly draws attention to the work of Knapp and Kobialka, who are mentioned in a footnote,

when he writes:

'A careful study of the layout of the Hall as it probably was in 1594 has suggested that the stage would have been erected towards the eastern end where, it is assumed, the Prince of Purpoole and his court would have been seated on a dais ... '.

Having written as much, Miskin immediately follows with this passage in which he hedges his bets by not wholeheartedly embracing the work of Knapp and Kobialka:

'An alternative view is that the stage was nearer the great screen ... In that event the screen would have provided an arcade setting then thought to be in the Roman stage tradition ... '.

And so the myth that the original staging of the play was performed against the screen continues to hold sway ... perhaps because it is more attractive and better appeals to the imagination of many. □

## LORD EDMUND DAVIES LEGAL EDUCATION TRUST



**E**ach year, ten students from Wales spend a week at the Inn where they shadow barristers and solicitors, marshal judges and take part in moots and debates. It is an opportunity for students who would not otherwise have the opportunity to gain a unique insight into legal London. The week is funded by the Lord Edmund Davies Legal Education Trust and supported by Gray's Inn.

The week began with the students taking part in a workshop hosted by the Inn's Griffin mentors. After a few hours of perfecting their arguments, the students took part in a debate, presided over by Sir Nicholas Francis. The motion was that Wales should become an independent country. Those in attendance were not convinced by the proposition, the majority voting for Wales to remain part of the UK!

On the Tuesday, each student spent a day with a solicitor, followed by a talk from Lord Justice Clive Lewis, who himself grew up in South Wales, about life in the Court of Appeal. On the Wednesday, the students each spent a day with a barrister, where they were able to sample life at the Bar. In the evening, they had a talk at 29 Bedford Row about practising at the Bar. On the Thursday, the students spent time at the Old Bailey, followed by a tour of the Supreme Court. Lord Lloyd-Jones spoke to the students about his own journey from Pontypridd Grammar School to the Supreme Court. On the Friday, the students spent the morning at the Law Commission in Westminster where they had talks on university

applications and legal careers. The Inn's education department spoke to the students about the route to qualifying as a barrister. In the evenings, the students attended dinners at City law firms where they could speak to guests about legal careers.

Lord Edmund Davies was Treasurer of Gray's Inn in 1965. He attended Mountain Ash Grammar School and went onto to study at King's College, London and Exeter College, Oxford. He was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1929 and practised at the common law bar in Swansea. Shortly after his appointment to the Court of Appeal in 1966, he was chosen as chairman of the Aberfan inquiry. His condemnation of the National Coal Board was unqualified. He was appointed to the House of Lords in 1974 and continued to live in Gray's Inn until his health deteriorated.



He was President of the London Welsh Trust between 1982 and 1988.

The Trustees of LEDLET would like to thank all of the speakers who took part in the week, and the Inn for its continued generosity. We look forward to welcoming the next cohort of LEDLET students into the Inn again this summer.

**Thomas Jones**

# BETTY ARCHDALE: A GRAY'S INN PIONEER

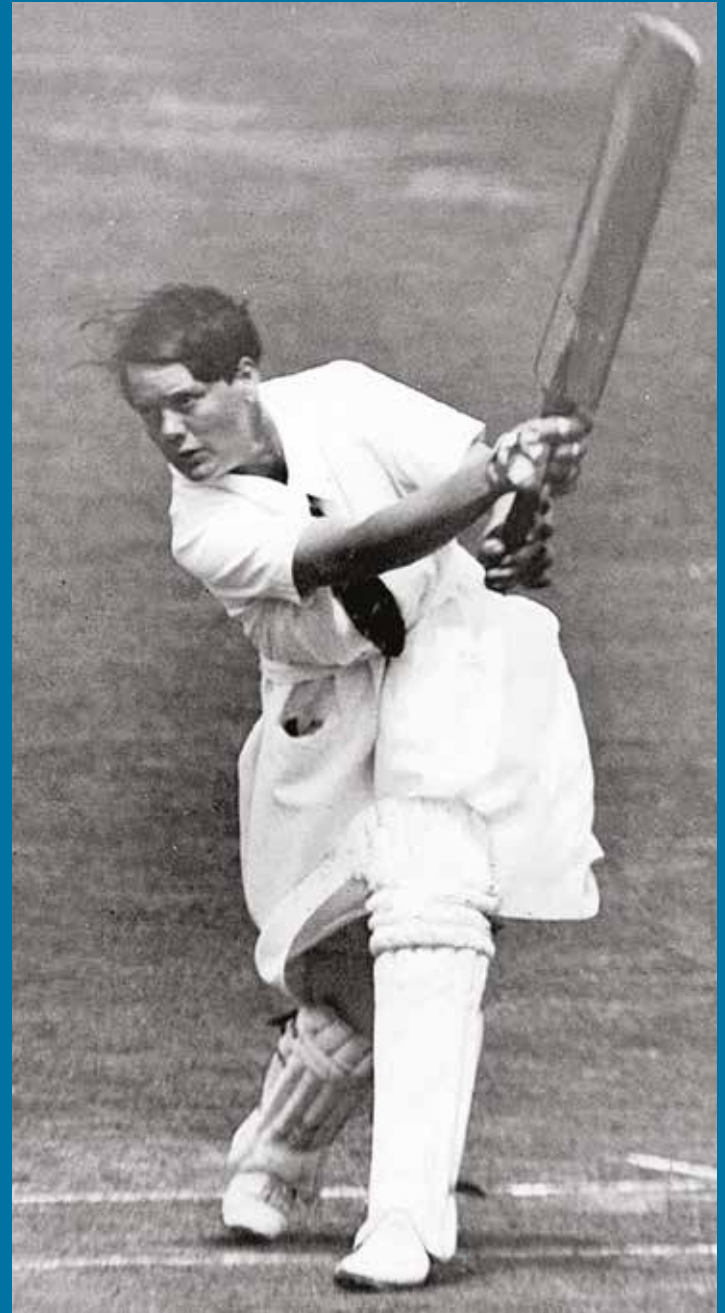
MASTER CHRISTOPHER BUTCHER

**F**or those who are suffering from dismay following the English men's test cricket drubbing in Australia, a tonic may be to reflect on the truly remarkable career and achievements of a former member of Gray's Inn, Betty Archdale.

Archdale was the daughter of Helen Alexander Archdale (née Russel) a prominent Scottish feminist and journalist. Helen took part, for example, in the Scottish suffrage demonstration on 9 October 1909. Shortly afterwards, she, with others, disrupted a meeting addressed by Winston Churchill, was imprisoned for breach of the peace, and only released after commencing a hunger strike. In 1910 she became an organizer of the Women's Social and Political Union ('WSPU'), and in December 1911 received a two-months' sentence of imprisonment for smashing windows. She worked in various capacities for the WSPU's papers *The Suffragette* and *Britannia*; and formed a close relationship with another leading feminist, Margaret, Viscountess Rhondda.

Helen Archdale had married Captain Theodore Montgomery Archdale in 1901, an Irish officer in the Royal Horse Artillery, and their daughter Helen Elizabeth (Betty) was born on 21 August 1907. One of her godmothers was Emmeline Pankhurst. Amongst Betty Archdale's earliest memories were collecting stones in their garden for use in breaking windows in a suffragist demonstration, and visiting her mother in Holloway prison. Betty Archdale's education was radical by the standards of the time. She attended the avant-garde co-educational school at Bedales, where she first played cricket, and then St Leonard's School, St Andrews, which her mother (and Lady Rhondda) had also attended, where cricket was played. After school, she was a student at McGill University in Canada between 1926 and 1929, obtaining a first class degree in economics and political science. After returning to England, she studied for an LLM at London University, specialising in International Law, and became a member of the Inn in April 1934.

During this period, she acted as secretary to the Six Point Group, an organization founded by Lady Rhondda which aimed to secure full social, economic and legal equality for women through legislative reform. She became a socialist, and made a trip to Russia in 1932; also acting, at times, as the secretary of Ellen Wilkinson, the left-wing Labour MP for Middlesbrough East from 1924. In June 1933 she was a part of a delegation which lobbied the Lord Chancellor, Lord Sankey, regarding the nationality of married women, and advocated for women's right to independent nationality. The British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act 1933 did not, in the event, grant full equality to women, but included a safeguard against



statelessness, namely that a British woman would not lose her British nationality upon marrying a foreign man unless she acquired her husband's nationality; and also provided that if an alien was a subject of a state at war with the United Kingdom, his wife, if she was at birth a British subject, could declare that she desired to resume British nationality, allowing the Secretary of State to grant her a certificate of naturalization.

Also during this period, the tall and athletic Betty Archdale, as well as playing in goal for Kent at hockey, became a leading figure in women's cricket, again playing mostly in and for Kent. She was chosen to captain the first ever England Women's team to tour Australia for the inaugural test series between the two countries in 1934/5. In the first test at Brisbane, she made 32 not out in England's first innings, and England won the match by 9 wickets. In the next test, at Sidney, she made only 3, but England's first innings total of 301 for 5 (declared) saw England to a victory by 8 wickets. In the third and final test at Melbourne, Betty Archdale scored 32 and 10, but the three-day match was drawn. *Wisden Australia* commented that 'her forthright yet engaging personality made her a popular figure to whom the sizable Australian crowds responded warmly.' Betty Archdale then captained England in a one-sided test match in New Zealand, played at Christchurch, which England won by an innings and 337 runs. On the tour as a whole, the team had played 21 matches, had lost none, and won 16. The *Daily Mail* recorded Betty Archdale as saying, on the team's return, 'Of course, we had to put up with a good deal of barracking, but it was all very good-natured'. The victorious return, and Betty Archdale's role, were noted in *Graya* No. 16 (Easter 1935).

After that return, Betty Archdale applied herself to activities of the Six Points Group, of which she became Chairman, and to qualifying for the Bar. In 1936, she was one of the signatories of a letter to *The Times* drawing the attention of the public to, and welcoming, a Bill coming before the Indian Legislative Assembly, which provided that no Hindu woman should, on account of her sex, be excluded from the right to inherit or own property. On 7 June 1937, she appeared as senior appellant in a Moot at the Inn, presided over by Master R.E. Dummett, on an issue, reflecting her interests, of whether there could be extradition under the Anglo-Portuguese Extradition Treaty. She was called to the Bar by the Inn. Also in June 1937 she, as chairman of the Six Points Group, wrote to Éamon de Valera, at that point head of government in Ireland, asking about the status of women under the proposed new constitution for Eire. Her letter outlined the group's concerns that certain articles of the constitution would allow for discrimination against women, and were 'based on a fascist and slave conception of women', emphasizing the role which women had played in the struggle for Irish freedom.

In July of the same year, as if her activities in June had not been enough, Betty Archdale played in the third and final test match against Australia at the Oval. Doubtless she had not been able to play in the earlier two matches (one of which was won by England and the other by Australia)

because of her legal preoccupations. She scored 29 in England's first innings total of 308 for 9 (declared), but the match was drawn.

We see Betty Archdale mooting in the Inn during May 1938, on the issue of the construction of a will. Counsel were complemented by the President (Morton J) upon 'their most learned arguments and judicious selection of cases'. She was also clearly actively pursuing her legal career, but this did not prevent her, even though playing relatively little cricket, from being selected to captain the English women's side which was to have toured Australia in the winter of 1939/40. She participated in two dress rehearsals for the tour, one a match between North and Midland and South and East, in which she captained South, and another at the Oval in July 1939.

With the outbreak of the war, however, the tour was cancelled. Betty Archdale volunteered for the Women's Royal Naval Service ('WRNS') to be a wireless operator. In 1941 she was promoted to the rank of Second Officer and in the summer of that year was posted to Singapore, and was still there at the beginning of February 1942, when the *Daily Mail* reported that she and 30 'Wrens' were 'almost the only English women now left there', maintaining telegraph touch with the world. She was, however, able to escape just before Singapore fell to the Japanese. In the New Year's Honours for 1944 she was awarded the MBE, and later that year was promoted to the rank of Acting First Officer. During the war she had also been posted to Colombo, Sri Lanka, to Kenya and to the Persian Gulf. Just as the war was ending she was sent to Australia, and she decided to stay there. In 1946 she was appointed Principal of the Women's College of the University of Sidney, founded in 1892. She remained Principal until 1957 when, seeing it as having even greater potential for her to advance women's education, she became headmistress of Abbotsleigh School for Girls in Wahroonga, NSW. There she modified the curriculum to include a greater emphasis on physics, sex education, debating and Australian (as opposed to British) history. She retired in 1970.

She remained associated with the University of Sydney and was elected to its Senate in 1959. She founded the Australian branch of the International Law Association in 1958, and chaired the NSW Branch of the Australian Institute of International Affairs (1960-1962) and the Arts Council in NSW (1972-1974). In 1998 the Australian National Trust voted her one of Australia's hundred living 'national treasures'. In 1999 the MCC elected her as one of the first ten women honorary life members of the Club. She died on 11 January 2000, aged 92, after a life both pioneering and remarkable. The whole Gray's community can be proud of her association with the Inn. □



WRNS Betty Archdale



# GRIFFINS

## *in the INN*

MASTER STEPHEN IRWIN

**G**riffins are rampant in Gray's Inn. You can see them everywhere on the buildings, you can buy a somewhat sombre tie spotted with them, they appear on the stationery, they are embossed on the Gray's Inn diaries. A Bencher who survives fifty years from Call may be lucky enough to be presented with a little silver griffin. In *Graya* and *Graya News*, Griffin (in truth Griffins) enlarges and occasionally growls on the topics of the day. But what are griffins? Where do they originate? What are their powers and attributes? Are they benign or should we be fearful of them? And how did we come to have the Griffin as our symbol?

To answer the last question first, if you consult the *Illustrated History of the Inn* (p. 41) the golden Griffin on a black ground was adopted by the Inn as its badge in about 1590 but it is not known why. Without more, it might simply be thought that the Inn wanted to garner more of the glamour of an armorial badge. The 1590s was a period when the Inn's prestige was at a zenith. Elizabeth I was on the throne, her chief ministers – Lord Burghley, Sir Nicholas Bacon, Walsingham, and then Burghley's son Robert Cecil – had been or were leading members of the Inn. Although warfare had moved on from the time when mounted knights in plate armour represented the ultimate in heavy battle force, the signs and symbols of chivalry were immensely popular. The young Earl of Essex rose into huge favour with the Queen in the late 1580s in part because of his exploits in the Royal tiltyard at Westminster.

Internet research suggests that the Lion Rampant of Lincoln's Inn is derived from the arms of Henry de Lacy, third Earl of Lincoln, from whom it is thought the Inn takes its name. Inner Temple acquired a grant of arms adopting the Pegasus in 1561, and in 1597 the Middle Temple were granted their arms, picturing the Lamb of God carrying the banner of St George. So heraldic symbols were important.

However, our learned Master Timothy Shuttleworth has

advanced a more specific and fascinating explanation for the adoption of the Griffin: see *Graya News* No 35 (2020). Master Shuttleworth observes that until the 1590s, the Inn used the family arms of the de Greys of Wilton consisting of three white bars alternating with azure, lying across a shield. From the early 14th century until the 1590s, the de Grey family owned the Manor of Purpoole, in which stands the Inn. The title and the estate were inherited in 1593 by Thomas Grey, the 15th baron. These arms may now be seen in the portico above the Benchers' entrance from South Square.

Although Thomas Grey helped to suppress the rebellion of the Earl of Essex at the end of Elizabeth's reign, he himself came to grief soon after the accession of James I and VI. Grey was what was then becoming termed a Puritan. He was seemingly involved in the 'Bye Plot', a plan to capture the new king and force him to permit religious tolerance. Grey was tried and convicted of treason, and sentenced to death, but was reprieved by the King literally on the scaffold on 10 December 1603. He was returned to the Tower, where he remained until his death. His lands were forfeit and his honours and titles suppressed.

This association must have been hugely difficult for the Inn. Sir Robert Cecil had been instrumental in securing the succession of King James to the throne. He had been

in clandestine contact with James before his English accession. He was positioned to become the chief minister to the new king, as he had been to Queen Elizabeth after the death of his father Lord Burghley. In addition, Sir Francis Bacon, recently knighted by the new king, and full of ambition to succeed to great office, advancement which had eluded him during the reign of the old Queen, would have been anxious to avoid connection with such a plotter.

There is no mention of any decision as to such a change of emblem in the Pension Book. Only two entries might give a clue, although each is equivocal. In the Pension of

July 1595, it was ordered that £6 'claimed by one Mr Segar the Queen's servant for nyne shields & their emprisses be discharged in part of payment.' The Mr Segar in question is identified as the Somerset Herald and Norroy King-at-Arms. Clearly these were heraldic decorative shields. The de Grey arms were comprised in a shield, where the Griffin is usually presented in a roundel. Then, at the Pension of 26 January 1604, the first after de Grey's trial, the Benchers recorded as first business an item demonstrating that the new king was taking a close interest in who was admitted to the Inn: 'Att this pençon the kings commaundment was signified delivered by the Judges that none shall hereafter bee admitted into this Societie unless he bee a gentleman by descent until his majesties pleasure bee further knowne'. Clearly the Royal gaze was on the Inn.

It can at least be said that these entries are consistent with the change of emblem at the time and for the reason proposed by Master Shuttleworth.

Why a Griffin? As Master Shuttleworth reminds us, the late Master Richard Stone in his *Gray's Inn: a Short History* (1997) suggested that the Griffin was probably adopted from the arms of Master Richard Aungier, a very senior and distinguished Bencher of that time. It may also have appealed to the theatrically inclined or 'Masque-minded' in the Inn, who would realise that it was a much more striking image than the rather neutral blue and white bars of the de Grey arms.

## WHAT IS A GRIFFIN?

But what is a griffin? Sir Thomas Browne was a great prose writer of the 17th century. Part of his business as a writer was to put down the urban myths and fake news of his day. He described the griffin as 'a mixed and dubious animal, in the forepart resembling an eagle, and behind the shape of a lion, with erected ears, four feet, and a long tail'. Browne traces the origin back to classical sources and to 'an hieroglyphic of the Egyptians'. At a time when many believed in the literal existence of such creatures, he is scathing about the notion. They are fancies only:

'the Hieroglyphical authority, although it nearest approach the truth, it doth not inferre its existency. The conceit of the Griffin, properly taken, being but a symbolical phancy, in so intolerable a shape including morality. So doth it well make out the properties of a Guardian, or any person entrusted; the ears implying attention – the wings, celerity of execution- the Lion-like shape, courage and audacity- the hooked bill, reservance and tenacity. It is also an Embleme of valour and magnanimity, as being compounded of the Eagle and the Lion, the noblest animals in their kinds..' *Pseudodoxia Epidemica or Enquiries into very many received Tenents and commonly presumed Truths:* Browne (1646)



The griffin certainly appeared in some imagery of classical times. Here is a rather lovely example dating to 430–420 BCE, from the Royal Necropolis of Sidon, a city now in the Lebanon, which today can be seen in the Archaeology Museum in Istanbul.

However, the griffin is a far older beast than that. Between the eighth and sixth centuries BCE, the griffin was the key decorative motif on bronze bowls or cauldrons, found around the Mediterranean. Aristeas of Prokonnesos, a seventh century mystic and poet from a Greek island in the sea of Marmora, places the griffin's habitat near the land of the Hyperboreans, the winter retreat of Apollo. The griffins were guards (of gold) whose vision was legendary. Griffin cauldrons were associated with temples or sanctuaries and the images of griffins cast or incised in bronze bore 'an unwavering cultivation of lifelikeness, attention to characteristic detail, and not least the sophisticated crafting of the griffins' eyesight' (Papandreou 2021, *Bronze Monsters and the Culture of Wonder*, p. 226). The word griffin is derived from the Greek word *gryps*, meaning hooked (referring to their beaks). Once the phase of manufacture of such cauldrons ended around the sixth century BCE, the griffin image faded and became less prevalent during classical times.

There is also scholarship suggesting how such imagery may have arisen in the Mediterranean region. In her book *The First Fossil Hunters* (Princeton 2000), Adrienne Mayor recounts her first visit to Samos, the Greek island just off the Turkish coast, pursuing her idea that the images of griffins might be drawn from the remains of unfamiliar extinct animals. She visited the museum and found a trove of bronze griffins retrieved from the ruins of the sanctuary of the goddess Hera. Excited by her finds, Ms Mayor rushes out of the museum and down to the quay, where she hires a motorcycle, and hares off up a switchback road to the village of Mytilini. The museum there contains the skull of the *Samotherium* major, an extinct animal from the giraffe family. The *Samotherium*

had a range including Greece, Turkey and modern Romania, but in all honesty it bore little likeness to a griffin. Mayor therefore pursued the idea further east, to where the Saka-Scythians roamed at the base of the Altai mountains. Scythian nomads came into contact with the Greeks much further west, near the Black Sea. These people had told Aristeeas that in their hinterland gold was defended by fierce 'griffins', who were lion-sized predators with strong, wickedly-curved beaks like those of eagles. Mayor comes up with the attractive idea that the eastern Saka-Scythians had found remains of bird-like dinosaurs in the Gobi desert, admirably preserved in the dry climate. They could not of course fly, but had four legs and laid their eggs on the ground in the desert. The skeleton of one of these dinosaurs, the *Protoceratops*, when placed in a standing position, bears a remarkable resemblance to a griffin, with a sharp beak, a raised front leg and a long tail. The story about the 'griffins' guarding the gold found in the mountains may



Bronze griffin in Samos Museum.

have been invented to deter treasure seekers. An image on a red-figure vase from the fourth century BCE shows a mounted spearman attacking a griffin, with what Mayor suggests is a nugget of gold floating rather mysteriously behind the head and above the wings of the griffin (p.31). Could therefore the images and ideas have their ultimate origin in the remains of extinct dinosaurs scattered over this part of Asia?

Enough perhaps, to whet the appetite of those tempted by Griffomania. But set aside escaping a dangerous political association, honouring an elderly distinguished lawyer, or providing an exciting image for the Masque, all this might suggest that those who chose the eagle-eyed, undefeatable, guardian of gold to be the heraldic badge of the Inn, had an instinct for the apt.

*With thanks to Master Shuttleworth and to the Editor for their scholarship. ☐*

## How to enjoy Gray's Inn this summer

Plan a summer party.

Book the marquee in the Walks and secure one of London's unique outdoor event spaces. With flexible packages, full event support and a stunning setting, it's the perfect venue to host your celebration.

**Contact: [venue@graysinn.org.uk](mailto:venue@graysinn.org.uk)**

Enjoy weekday seasonal buffet lunches in Hall or relax in The Bridge Bar, where you will always find a friendly face. Don't miss our Thursday Night Supper Club with great dishes at unbeatable value.



**T**he diverse nature of legal practice was on full display at the Inn on 23 October 2025, when a panel of senior practitioners gathered to discuss life at the Employed Bar. Drawing on experiences from government and private practice, domestic and international, the discussion offered a candid and often refreshing portrait of careers that sit outside the traditional self-employed model of the bar, which we all know so well.

leadership and business development. Her advice was simple: stay open-minded and reassess what success looks like at different stages.

Timothy Manley echoed that sentiment. Now working in the FCDO on human rights and international law, he described falling into 'government work and staying because of the responsibility and impact. From early appearances in the Court of Appeal to advising ministers

## THE EMPLOYED BAR: MANY PATHS, ONE PROFESSION

PHOEBE WHITLOCK

Chaired as an open and practical conversation, the Panel brought together a diverse group of speakers: Master Lucinda Orr, Partner at Enyo Law and Treasurer of the Bar Council; Timothy Manley, Assistant Legal Adviser at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office; Simon Regis CBE, Deputy Director at the Government Legal Department; Birgitte Hagem, a senior prosecutor at the Crown Prosecution Service; Julija Stukalina, Senior Associate at Nautica Law; and Commander John-Paul Fitzgibbon of the Royal Navy.

Despite their varied backgrounds, a consistent theme emerged: few had planned a career at the Employed Bar, but many had found it offered precisely the combination of intellectual challenge, public service and work life balance they wanted.

Commander Fitzgibbon, who joined the Royal Navy as a warfare officer before qualifying as a barrister, spoke of a career unlike any other. His work involves advising on the legality of military operations, weapons systems and the law of armed conflict. He notes that 'no two days are the same', describing the challenge of providing clear legal advice in high-pressure operational contexts. He also stressed the importance of professional independence, particularly where the employer is also the client.

For Birgitte Hagem, a career at the CPS offered both variety and purpose. Starting as a junior prosecutor, she quickly gained courtroom experience before moving into specialist work in organised crime and counterterrorism. She described the CPS as supportive, inclusive and well-suited to those with caring responsibilities, and although not as well paid as private practice, she felt the sense of public service more than compensated for the trade-offs.

Master Orr's route was less linear. After pupillage in a shipping set and a stint in US law firms, she found her way into employed practice almost by accident. What she discovered, however, was a professional environment that offered teamwork, intellectual depth and strategic responsibility. Now a partner at Enyo Law, she reflected on how career satisfaction evolves: early practice is detail-heavy, mid-career work is about managing people and problems, and senior roles increasingly involve

on international negotiations, his career demonstrated the breadth of opportunity available within the public sector.

Simon Regis CBE, who has spent over two decades in government legal service, reflected on a career shaped by public impact rather than private gain. From confiscation work to advising on major public inquiries, he emphasised the privilege of shaping law and policy that directly affects people's lives. Government work can be intense, but he explained that it also offers a sense of purpose and visibility that few other roles can match.



The speakers

Across the discussion, several shared themes emerged. One was flexibility: the modern Bar is far more permeable than it once was, with movement between self-employed and employed practice increasingly common. Another was realism: careers rarely follow a straight line, and success often comes from seizing unexpected opportunities. Mentorship, resilience and a willingness to 'fail forwards' were repeatedly emphasised.

The panel also dispelled myths. Advocacy, for example, is not confined to the self-employed Bar; employed practitioners appear in court, advise on high-stakes litigation, and shape legal outcomes in different but equally significant ways.

As the discussion closed, one message stood out: the Employed Bar is not a consolation prize or a deviation from the standard path anymore. For those willing to look beyond traditional pathways, it offers not only meaningful work but a sustainable and rewarding legal career. □



# A CONVERSATION WITH MASTER HARRY CARTER

MASTER STEPHEN WOOLER

**M**aster Harry Carter experienced all forms of legal practice before opting for public law and public service. His breadth of expertise and ability to command the confidence of even the most difficult ministers resulted in a summons to No.10 and appointment as the first ever General Counsel to the Prime Minister. Awarded a life peerage by Theresa May, he has now 'retired' to the crossbenches of the House of Lords where his straightforward and thorough approach in testing and probing legislation has earned him great respect – significantly improving some of the welter of legislation. Calm in crises, he is the consummate public servant.

## What influenced your career path most?

I did not start with any predetermined plan. After graduating from Reading University, I was fortunate in securing a place for post-graduate studies at the European University Centre at Nancy in France and subsequently an attachment to the Human Rights Directorate for Human Rights in the Council of Europe. This period coincided with the Falklands Conflict, and an abiding memory is trying to explain to sceptical European colleagues (particularly the French) why the UK would assemble such a battle fleet and fight over some small islands 8000 miles away.

I then read for the Bar and was called by Gray's Inn in 1984 – obtaining a pupillage in commercial chambers (1 Brick Court). There, the younger tenants were fast appreciating the growing importance of European law, and this reinforced my fascination. It also whetted my appetite for public law although my first job was in fact elsewhere

## What was your first job?

A semi-legal role in a publishing company that specialised in law for businesses. It was quite well remunerated (and a company car meant a lot to a young man in those days). Although prospects seemed good, it did not offer long term security or the satisfaction of public service. Change beckoned.

## Your introduction to the Civil Service?

A false start and a sharp lesson, I am afraid. I applied to what was then the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food – an organisation that regularly handled difficult European issues. I was complacent and underestimated the thoroughness of the process so was underprepared. But that experience stood me in good stead because thereafter preparation and knowing the brief became de rigueur. I was soon to learn that the Home Office Legal Adviser was recruiting. My research showed just how valuable my European and human rights experience could be to the Home Office. I prepared accordingly and the rest is history. The team was small with about 14 lawyers and every one of them was hugely experienced and willing to help me find my feet.

## What was your role in the Home Office?

The Home Office responsibilities then were incredibly wide. Although we had specialisms, we all needed to be able to respond across the whole piste. Early on, I was assigned data protection, Northern Ireland and prisons. The first was then a new but fast developing area of law that was to permeate practically all activity in both private and public sector.

My prison work afforded me insights into the problems of sentencing policy and operating a prison service with an aged estate, limited investment and a spiralling population. They inspired a passion that endures. Since retiring I have become a trustee of the Prison Reform Trust and lose no opportunity to speak on such matters in the House of Lords. We must achieve honesty and proportionality in sentencing policy. Prisons are essential but achieve nothing if they do not have the capacity to rehabilitate those who are amenable to rehabilitation. 80% of offending is currently reoffending, a shocking indictment of the failure of successive governments to tackle this issue.

### What about Northern Ireland?

Home Office legal advisers also advise the Northern Ireland Office. Counter terrorism work was high on the agenda. Much of my work related to the negotiations that led to the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement in 1998. Mo Mowlam was Northern Ireland Secretary, and I accompanied her to many meetings including direct meetings with the main protagonists. I admired her humanity and resilience. One meeting was particularly memorable because frustration was building. Mo Mowlam started scratching at her head and the next moment a wig went flying across the room revealing her completely bald head – the result of ongoing chemotherapy. It also revealed her commitment in the face of adversity in a way that changed the dynamics of the meeting and progress became easier.

That period was particularly challenging. The Good Friday agreement had to be implemented through legislation – by November 1998, the Northern Ireland Act had received Royal Assent.

Controversy was the watchword throughout this period with the second Bloody Sunday Inquiry always on the radar and the ongoing saga of Private Lee Clegg. Originally convicted of murder in 1993 and sentenced to life imprisonment for the lethal shooting of a passenger in a stolen car travelling at high speed through a roadblock, Clegg was finally cleared in 2000 and reinstated in his regiment. The current Prime Minister was a junior lawyer in his defence team.

I continue to take an interest in Northern Ireland affairs. The Good Friday agreement was a major breakthrough. The challenge now is to find longer term acceptable arrangements for the governance of Northern Ireland accompanied by closure on the Troubles through mechanisms that are compatible with our ECHR commitments. Easier said than done.

### What is the secret of working successfully with Ministers?

In short, gaining their trust by showing them that you are on their side. Government lawyers must work with elected politicians of all persuasions. Their role is to assist the implementation of policy within the law. It is important that Ministers know that you are trying to find a proper means to their policy goal (even if your personal view is that the policy is wrong). However, the advice must remain objective. It is easier now to do that by couching advice in terms of the risk of successful challenge attached to a policy or proposed course of action. Tone is also essential. Getting these things right makes it easier to say 'No, Minister' when necessary; and one must resist giving advice simply because it is what you think the Minister wants to hear.

### The call to 10 Downing Street: how did it happen?

All Prime Ministers build their own team, and nobody works at No.10 except by invitation from the Prime Minister. Shortly after Theresa May succeeded David Cameron, I was asked to go to No.10. On arrival, I found several other Home Office colleagues were already there. I was particularly apprehensive because previously there had been no permanent lawyer post at No.10. Being asked to become her General Counsel was uplifting for the confidence it signalled but left me apprehensive – how might this work given that the Attorney General was the established source of advice to the PM?

### How did it work?

Very well in practice. It had always been stressed to me that the AG is the government's ultimate legal adviser whose view must prevail. So I met the AG and made it clear that my routine in-house advice would not be such as to undermine or gainsay the role of the AG – we would be on the same side. During my 7 years at No.10, I worked closely with successive Attorneys General – there were quite a few – and we always managed a successful *modus operandi*.

### What was the reality of working with Prime Ministers?

Overall, it was very enjoyable albeit punctuated by frequent crises. My working relationship with Theresa May was very close. I had an upstairs office but was frequently summoned down without any idea of the issue. Despite my preference to prepare for such meetings, I usually found the answer came instinctively from years of working across difficult issues. She was diligent and considerate and a pleasure to work for.

Despite this good relationship, it came as a huge surprise when, having been invited down after her resignation to bid farewell, she offered me a life peerage. The formal announcement came later in her resignation honours list.

The time I felt specially sorry for her was seven days after the 2017 General Election. The massive fire at Grenfell Tower was a catastrophe calling for an equally massive response. Under the civil contingencies plan, that responsibility rested with the local authority – the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, probably the best resourced local authority in the UK. But they were just not up to it and it took several days for that to be realised and for central government to take the lead. It was a very damaging start to her second term.

Implementing Brexit was her predominant issue. Having assumed the poisoned chalice, Theresa May was sincere in her approach that any solution should respect the 48% as much as the 52%. It was an admirable aspiration. But in trying to please everyone, no-one was happy, such was the strength of feelings on each side. Ironically, the reset of relations with Europe sought by Kier Starmer looks remarkably like that original agreement which Theresa May negotiated.

Boris Johnson was the complete opposite to Theresa May and my interactions with him more limited. A colourful character with wonderful worldly knowledge (and a great classicist), he did not have the qualities PMs need. I only saw Liz Truss once, in passing in the corridor, although I just had time to get to know her team.

Rishi Sunak to my mind had great potential but no real opportunity to fulfil it. His decision to call the election came as a surprise. He had every quality needed – clever, hardworking, quick to learn and complete integrity. But he had never run a policy department. He compensated by his ability to learn on the job. The small boats crisis was his undoing. However, I had retired in late 2023, enabling me to take my seat in the House of Lords – a role that was incompatible with my previous Civil Service status.

## Inside 10 Downing Street; tell me about the culture

I did not attend the infamous Christmas parties!

But how No.10 performs impacts greatly on the effectiveness of Whitehall as a whole – the more so as government becomes more presidential and less cabinet. A significant part of the problem is the number of Spads (special advisers appointed by ministers on a political basis but not part of the Civil Service). Their focus is politics rather than public service and the public interest, yet in No 10 they sometimes manage

those who do have that responsibility. This, combined with their propensity for informal briefing of the media and spin, makes orderly government difficult. And the relationship between Spads and career Civil Servants in No 10 was often tense. That said, there were some incredibly talented Spads with whom I worked closely.



## So, who really did rule the roost?

Without a doubt, it was Larry the cat! He went wherever he pleased and did whatever he pleased. I watched him one morning sauntering into a ministerial meeting in the Cabinet Room. Having jumped onto the table he strutted its length and back observing the proceedings with disdain before making his way to the Foreign Secretary and spreading himself out on his papers where he remained. Nobody batted an eyelid or disturbed him!

## Tell us what it is like to be a crossbencher

It is very rewarding – an opportunity to influence and improve legislation for the better. A crossbencher can stand aside from party politics and focus on the public interest. Parliament now faces an unprecedented volume of legislation with some Bills literally the size of a telephone directory. Many are ill-constructed and others, whilst fundamentally sound, lack balance. The Private Member's Assisted Dying Bill is an example of the former where important issues have not been properly addressed. The Employment Rights Bill and Renters' Rights Act contain many worthwhile reforms but both lack balance in the distribution of rights.

I find myself free to engage in policy debates hitherto outside my sphere of learning, so I am also broadening my horizons and bringing new perspectives to the debates. I usually speak several times a month.

## What was your maiden speech like?

I was nervous. An early opportunity came up to speak on victims and witnesses, an important topic for me, and so I decided to get it done sooner rather than later.

## You also work as a consultant for Kingsley Napley?

I am proud to be a consultant to such a great firm. After 34 years as a lawyer in the public sector, it is a privilege to be part of such a highly rated public law team in the private sector.

## Do you find much time to participate in Inn activities?

Sadly not. I would love to be more involved and hope there will come a time when I can be. ☐

# IS IT TIME FOR AN ETHICAL RESET IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION?

PHOEBE WHITLOCK

**O**n a blustery October evening at the Inn, the City of London Law Society (CLLS) convened its annual lecture against a backdrop of growing unease about professional ethics in the legal world. The setting was grand, but the question posed was direct: *is it time for an ethical reset in the legal profession?*

The lecture, delivered by Professor Richard Moorhead, Professor of Law and Professional Ethics at the University of Exeter and Monash University, was followed by a panel discussion chaired by Master Peter Gross, former Lord Justice of Appeal and former Treasurer of Gray's Inn. They were joined by Stephen Kenny KC, Chair of the Bar Council's Regulation Panel, and Julie Norris, investigations and regulatory partner at Kingsley Napley.

Professor Moorhead began with a clear premise: ethical failure is rarely the product of a few 'bad apples.' Instead, it emerges from ordinary professionals operating within cultures that subtly reward aggression, conformity and self-justification. Drawing heavily on the Post Office Horizon scandal, he argued that what shocked the public was not merely the scale of injustice, but the number of lawyers involved across decades, firms and seniority levels. That pattern, he suggested, pointed not to individual deviance but to systemic failure.

At the heart of the problem, Professor Moorhead argued, is what he termed 'aggressive lawyering', which is conduct that may be technically defensible but is ethically corrosive. Lawyers persuade themselves that what is arguable is acceptable, and that what is acceptable is justified. Over time, this mindset erodes integrity. Legal professionals begin to conflate advocacy with partisanship, and professional detachment with moral indifference.

Moorhead identified three reinforcing dynamics. First, human frailty. Lawyers, like everyone else, are prone to self-justification and moral licensing, particularly under pressure. Secondly, orthodox professional ideals such as zeal, neutrality and unaccountability can become dangerous when untethered from judgment and restraint. Thirdly, these habits embed themselves institutionally, creating what he termed 'legality illusions'

which are narratives that appear lawful but obscure deeper ethical failures.

The Post Office cases, he argued, revealed how these dynamics operate in practice. Legal advice became shaped by what the organisation wanted to be true, rather than what was true. Evidence was framed, suppressed or rationalised. Professional independence eroded not through overt dishonesty but through incremental compromise. Similar patterns, he suggested, could be seen in other corporate scandals, from financial misconduct to the misuse of non-disclosure agreements.

The panel discussion that followed reflected both agreement and tension. Stephen Kenny KC accepted that aggressive advocacy could tip into misconduct but cautioned against wholesale reform of ethical rules. For the Bar, he argued, the principles are already clear: independence, integrity and personal responsibility. The challenge lies less in rewriting the rules and more in reinforcing ethical competence, particularly for senior practitioners who trained before formal ethics education became standard. 'We need better drivers,' he suggested, 'not new rules of the road'.

Julie Norris struck a similar but solicitor-focused note. While acknowledging high-profile failures, she resisted the idea of a profession-wide crisis. Most solicitors, she argued, act ethically, and regulatory reviews have not revealed systemic abuse. The real deficit lies in training and culture. Ethics, she noted, is often treated as a compliance exercise rather than a practical skill. In environments driven by billing targets and hierarchy, junior lawyers may struggle to challenge decisions that feel wrong. Culture, not ignorance, is often the problem.

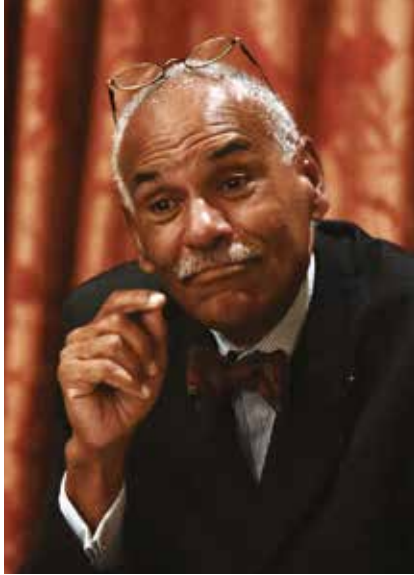
Closing the evening, Master Gross observed that while the English legal system remains globally respected, reputation cannot be taken for granted. Overzealous advocacy rarely impresses judges, he noted, and often undermines justice itself.

Throughout the discussion, it was clear that education needs reinforcement but ultimately, the evening ended without an easy answer. Whether the profession needs a 'reset' or simply a recommitment, one message was clear. Integrity, once eroded, is far harder to rebuild than to protect. □



Richard Moorhead

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH PANEL EVENT:



Icah Peart KC



Barbara Mills KC



Jason Pitter KC



Garry Green KC, Allison Munroe KC

One of the hosts of the event, Jason Pitter KC, said by way of introduction: 'The Inn had no hesitation in hosting this significant event, not just to highlight the past, which is obviously important for inclusion by the collective celebration of all of histories. It is also a part of our forward strategy aiming for equality, which includes the promotion of diversity through excellence by showcasing past and present black talent to inspire and encourage this and the next generation by demonstrating how success and excellence in the profession can be achieved, even in the face of adversity.'

Faith Osifo, a participant from the Inner Temple writes: 'Following on from the huge success of last year's inaugural Black Silk event, this year was even bigger and better. Hosted in the magnificent surroundings of Gray's Inn, the evening was a powerful and uplifting night of reflection, insight and meaningful connection.'

We celebrated and reflected on the legacies of two formidable Black barristers who have recently passed, Michael Hall and Dr Courtenay Griffiths. Tributes to Michael Hall's kindness and generosity as a colleague and mentor to so many was a powerful reminder that people never forget the impact that you have on

them. Similarly, the short video tribute to Dr Courtenay Griffiths left many in the room chuckling at his sharp wit and smiling fondly at his iconic tenacity as an advocate. Although, like many in attendance, I had never met either of them personally, the stories shared offered a vivid glimpse into their characters and left me inspired by their impact. That is the power of legacy.'

Master Anesta Weekes commented: 'Courtenay Griffiths was the star of our celebrations for Black History month. Our audience beamed with pride to see and hear a short recording of Courtney's legal submissions in the 'Taylor case' in West Africa. His voice, stature and spoken words filled the court room. His oral presentation was and remains second to none, in the Taylor case and in the UK courts'.

Faith continues: 'The exceptional panel featured Icah Peart KC, Anesta Weekes KC, Martin Forde KC, Allison Munroe KC, Garry Green KC and Nneka Akudolu KC who all openly shared the highs and lows of their journeys to becoming silks. Across a range of different practice areas, a clear message remained consistent: Black excellence at the Bar must be amplified, not only to celebrate the achievements of those who have paved the way, but also to inspire others to recognise their own potential and believe that these spaces are theirs too'.

# BLACK SILK

OCTOBER 2025



and Nneka Akudolu KC



Martin Forde KC



Anesta Weekes KC

Garry Green KC added a comment: 'Black Silk celebrates diversity both at the Bar and amongst the community of Black lawyers. My tip is stay true to yourself, authenticity is an amazing value which is to be celebrated'.

Icah Peart KC also added a comment: 'Be persistent: you know your own worth, and you know yourself when the time is right for you to be appointed to the rank of silk—don't let the views of others deter you'.

Faith continues: 'In her resounding closing address Barbara Mills KC, outgoing Chair of the Bar Council, reflected on the progress achieved to date while candidly acknowledging the work that still lies ahead, particularly in light of there being no Black KCs appointed in 2025 despite the abundance of outstanding talent. Nonetheless, the room celebrated with warm applause the recent judicial appointment of The Honourable Ms Justice Obi, whose achievements will continue to inspire many.

This year, the attendees spilled out into the gorgeous Gray's Inn dining hall where a drinks and food reception followed. Conversations deepened and connections grew over rum punch, jerk chicken and patties. The room was buzzing with old friends catching up and new

relationships being formed across different practice areas and different generations. It was a vivid reminder that Black excellence is nurtured through community, connection and collective support especially by taking up spaces that have been historically exclusive. Black Silk 2025 was a phenomenal event to be a part of. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the amazing panellists and speakers, and the hosts Laurie-Ann Power KC and Jason Pitter KC who facilitated thought-provoking conversations and questions from the audience. Also, a huge thank you goes to Alex Taylor-Camara, Mark Robinson, Gray's Inn and everyone else who helped make this special event come to life. We all look forward to next year as the legacy of the annual Black Silk event continues on!

*The Editor and Divya Kesar had hoped to attend this event and report on it for Graya News, but unfortunately both were temporarily incapacitated. Their attempts to attend on-line were then frustrated by technical issues. The event was so successful (bar the technical issue) that the Inn is running it again and making it even bigger this year. We are most grateful to Faith Osipo, to Jason Pitter KC and Anesta Weekes KC, both Benchers of the Inn, and to the panel members quoted above for sharing their reflections on the evening. □*



WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY **NOF AL-TEMIMI**, AGIS MOOTING OFFICER, **MERCEDES PAPADOPOULOS**, AGIS SOCIAL OFFICER AND **KAYODE ASEWEJE**, AGIS PRESIDENT

**G**ray's Inn aims to empower each of its members to reach their goals, fostering educational excellence within an inclusive, connected and supportive community. AGIS aims to facilitate these goals for the student body through a range of educational and social activities, some recent ones being described below.

### AGIS CHRISTMAS MEET

On 5 December 2025, the AGIS committee organised its first social event of the season: an informal Christmas meet. Students and residents of the Inn met at the Bridge Bar for mince pies, mulled wine, and hot chocolate.

In an era of Zoom meetings and email chains, this cosy evening was a great opportunity finally to put faces to names, including the EDI Officer and mince pie quality sampler, Boma Orubibi. One of the residents of the Inn, Master Oscar del Fabbro, walked us through his role at the Inn and ensured we became well acquainted with the rest of the residents. Together, we reflected on our experiences on the Bar course and shared our ambitions for our future career paths, as we prepared for pupillage applications over the Christmas break.

Beyond networking, AGIS social events aim to further the inclusion of students in the life of the Inn and stimulate



interest in the various events and opportunities Gray's has to offer. These include the famed Miscellany, the Grand Night and Mixed Messes. The opportunities for interaction with barristers at various levels of seniority who specialise in a diversity of areas allows students to recognise the practicalities of life at the Bar. In addition to being valuable information for pupillage applications, they are also useful in deciding what kind of career they may want to have at the Bar.

The Christmas meet was a true testament to the friendly and supportive spirit that defines our Inn, and a wonderful way to begin the festive season in a community, particularly for those studying away from home.

### MOOTING

For any aspiring barristers at the student stage, mooting is the touchstone of advocacy experience. It is one of the best opportunities students have to develop the craft of oral and written advocacy, in an environment where the stakes are lower than in a real-life case.

AGIS delivers opportunities throughout the year for student members to get involved in external mooting competitions. This year, we have registered Gray's Inn students for the Jessup International Law Moot, the Sparks WMILAR Moot (on International Law and Animal Rights), the European Law Moot and the UKELA Environmental Law Moot. This is with the aim of giving students the opportunity to engage with a wide range of disciplines and practice areas. Moots such as Jessup take place over a number of months, allowing students to engage in-depth with the moot problem and develop their written and oral advocacy over a longer period. The students have so far have highlighted the value of mooting in developing both confidence and competence in advocacy. Gray's Inn students have historically excelled in the national rounds, and the aim this year is to do even better at the global rounds.

Participants have described the process as challenging but rewarding, particularly in strengthening their legal

research skills, written submissions, and oral argument. Mooting provides practical insight into life as a barrister, allowing students to practise persuasive advocacy, respond to judicial questioning, and work collaboratively in preparation for their future careers as barristers.

We also recognise that not all students have mooting experience, and the confidence to put themselves forward for major national and international competitions. This year, we have collaborated with the Inn's Debating Society to run an 'Introduction to Mooting' workshop, aimed at this category of students. This was held in January 2026, using a mooting problem from a previous competition to get students thinking about formulating arguments for either side of a case (event pictured below). Feedback has been positive, with participants expressing gratitude for the opportunity to develop their advocacy without competition pressures. We plan to make this a regular feature of our mooting schedule to ensure all students, no matter their level of experience have the opportunity to develop and excel at mooting.

## THE RITE OF SPRING— AGIS BALL 2026.

Mercedes Papadopoulos

Spring arrived early at Gray's Inn Hall this year. Hellebores, tulips, and Persian buttercups adorned the long dining tables while wisteria hung from the balcony. With silk flowers scattered around the venue, even Churchill could not resist embracing the flower power look for the occasion.

The theme for this AGIS ball was '*The Rite of Spring*', Stravinsky's eclectic rendition to the season of change and transformation. For attendees, this year marks the beginning of our own ritualistic dance from student to barrister, a challenging growth journey, where we learn to conquer our trepidations with ambition and resilience. And what better way to celebrate the advocacy metamorphosis than feasting and dancing alongside our friends, all night long?

George Yong, Bar Course student member and talented saxophonist, delighted the guests with soft jazz during the crémant reception in the Large Pension room. Master Christopher Russell was on photographer duty. All eyes set on our likely 'Best Dressed Award' contenders. One wore a red dress, her neckline lined with embroidered daisies. Another one was wearing a light blue ball gown, with an up-do decorated with butterflies, hoop earrings to match.

At dinner time, the guests entered the hall and enjoyed a candle lit banquet with copious amounts of wine. While the piano played, students captured memories in disposable cameras, until it was time for the dessert table and port back at the Large Pension room. The choice of four sweet treats, including a decadent island chocolate



tart and a superb, caramelised banana sticky date cake, were swiftly transformed into crumbs as we fuelled up to have our dance.

Back in Hall, George was now our DJ, playing the piano alongside a curated playlist. Students cast their vote on the who was the 'Best Dressed': Middle Temple takes the price! Guest Venus Chong wins a bottle of champagne and shares it with friends while dancing to the music. At this point, high heels have come off, there is nothing but bliss and enjoyment.

Just as the night was about to turn a bit too loud, the speakers stopped working. But that did not stop the party: immediately students burst into song in unison, swiftly followed by George's sax, in a perfectly synchronised performance of '*I Wanna Dance with Somebody*'.

The night culminated with an improvised sax and piano duet rendition of '*Bohemian Rhapsody*', with Gray's Inn students euphorically singing and dancing along to the music, surrounded by candles and flowers. Most importantly we enjoyed amidst our friends, and soon to be, our learned colleagues at the bar.

And so, *The Rite of Spring* was complete. □



**T**he factors contributing to just outcomes for criminal cases are many and varied, especially in an adversarial system, but the cornerstone must surely be open minds and rigorous evaluation of the evidence by the prosecution, defence and judiciary. The responsibility of the defence can be more straightforward because their duty, subject to the general obligation to the court, is to act in the best interests of their client. By contrast, prosecutors have wider responsibilities to the public and the overall fairness and integrity of justice. Hence, the Code for Crown Prosecutors imposes a duty to review evidence and pursue only cases where the evidence affords a realistic prospect of conviction and proceedings are in the public interest.

difficulties, and the others were both minors, yet no adult was present. Admissions formed the basis of the prosecution case, and all were convicted – Lattimore of manslaughter (diminished responsibility) and the two minors of murder.

An initial appeal in 1973 failed, but the case was pursued in 1974 by the local MP, Mr Christopher Price. An ITV programme in 1974 adduced evidence from two other distinguished pathologists who placed the time of death earlier (between 6.30pm and 10.30pm) but Lattimore had a strong alibi for that time. It caused the Home Secretary to refer the case back to the Court of Appeal, which accepted the fresh evidence as exonerating Lattimore and concluded that it also undermined the

# EVALUATING EVIDENCE

MASTER STEPHEN WOOLER

Public confidence will not be enhanced by prosecutors who take the testing of their case to the point of trying to pick holes in it. Yet too robust an approach is likely to lead to equally unsatisfactory outcomes. During my career as a prosecutor, I was involved in two very different cases where unexpected developments showed the facts very differently from how they first appeared. In one case, investigators made assumptions that tainted the whole process. The Crown Court got it wrong, the Court of Appeal got it right (but for the wrong reasons), and a judge-led inquiry also got it very wrong. In the second case, it was the integrity and thoroughness of the senior Investigating Officer that resulted in the Court of Appeal being able to rectify a possible miscarriage of justice at an early stage.

## MURDER OF MAXWELL CONFAIT

The first case was the murder of Maxwell Confait, a 26-year-old Seychelles-born cross-dresser whose strangled body was found after a fire in the locked room where he lodged in the small hours of 22 April 1972. The investigation proceeded on the assumption that the killer(s) had set the fire to destroy evidence. Establishing the time of death was difficult because the police surgeon and the forensic pathologist gave different time estimates based on the level of rigor mortis. Uncertainty as to the possible effect of the heat of the fire on the body complicated the position further. The subsequent trial proceeded on the basis that death occurred at about 1.00am – shortly before the fire.

That trial involved three youths, Colin Lattimore, Ronald Leighton and Ahmet Salih who had come to police notice after the fire as after allegedly being involved in arson activity (of a lesser nature). They were interviewed in unsatisfactory circumstances even by the standards of the pre-PACE days. Lattimore suffered from learning

credibility of the confession evidence. In October 1975, all convictions were quashed. The Home Secretary then established an inquiry led by a retired judge Sir Henry Fisher, into the circumstances. Its main focus was the investigation process and in particular, the treatment of suspects by the police.

His report was highly critical of the uncertainty surrounding suspects' rights and apparent lack of knowledge even within the legal professions of the operation of the Judges' Rules. He criticised the police for the narrowness of their inquiries, which had ended abruptly once the suspects had been charged. Concluding the issues were too wide for his inquiry, he recommended a Royal Commission – which was subsequently established under Sir Cyril Philips and led to wide-ranging reform for both investigations and prosecutions. But the most controversial part of his report was the finding that, despite the quashing of their convictions, Leighton and Salih were, on the balance of probabilities, responsible for the killing. He rationalised this by saying that the Court of Appeal decision had been correct because the fresh evidence meant a jury could not be satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt.

Having sat throughout the Inquiry, I could see Fisher's line of reasoning. But the youths were clearly as out of their depth before him as they must have been at the police station and at the Old Bailey. His life experience simply did not equip him to evaluate such factors or the psychological evidence intended to help him. His propensity to accept police evidence at face value was also manifest. The youths did not deny making the admissions, nor did they offer cogent explanations. The alleged 'police brutality' was not put higher than a thwack with a rolled-up newspaper. Fisher needed more than that to convince him.

Despite their controversial nature, the findings stood without the degree of challenge that might be expected today. But there was to be a final revelation.

At the end of 1979 the Governor of a prison in Kent passed on information that an inmate had 'confessed' to fellow inmates that he had been one of two men involved in the murder of Confait. It was a convoluted story, which I do not seek to go into here. It is enough to say that a thorough investigation followed which established that the confessing inmate and the associate he feared would implicate him were both involved. Although the suspects both blamed each other for the actual killing, it was common ground that the killing had occurred some two days before the fire; that they had met Confait in a

pub and had left after buying a bottle of whisky, which they took back to his lodging. Their motive seems to have been 'queer rolling' (to use the distasteful language of the day). They had also stolen his possessions which had gone unnoticed.

Despite the absence of evidence as to the identity of the killer, the extent to which this new account chimed with the known evidence was startling. Examination of the unused material in the trial (all properly disclosed) confirmed Confait's visit to the pub and his leaving with two men after buying whisky and cigarettes. When the evidence of the crime scene was revisited, it was far more supportive of the new version of events than any other scenario. A whisky bottle top and stubs of the correct

## – CAUTIONARY TALES!



The Triumph of Justice by Gabriel Metsu, courtesy Mauritshuis, The Hague

brand of cigarettes were present, and records were missing. Further pathological evidence also confirmed the time of death as two days before. The apparent discrepancy between police surgeon and original pathologist became explicable: rigor mortis was present when the former arrived but wearing off by the time the latter arrived a couple of hours later.

In short, the case had proceeded through investigation, prosecution, appeal, further appeal and inquiry based on a wholly wrong assumption that the death and fire were contemporaneous. Despite the fresh evidence, Fisher declined to reopen his inquiry. This left the absurd position that Leighton and Salih were innocent men in the eyes of the law but still had the stigma of Fisher's findings. Eventually, the Attorney General made a statement to Parliament explaining the development and stating that, despite the findings of the Inquiry, the pair could not have been responsible for the murder.

Although Fisher was rightly critical of the inadequacies of the investigation, their full extent only became clear when the fresh evidence emerged. It left unaddressed how three youths who could not possibly have been responsible for the killing, each separately admitted responsibility. The learning and theory surrounding false confessions is extensive and the psychology remains complex. Eliminating the possibility of wrongful confessions is practically impossible, but the introduction of the PACE Codes and recording of interviews makes evaluation easier.

## MURDER OF GARY SHIELDS

Confessions are also very much in play in my second example, which arose from the murder and sexual assault of 6-year-old Gary Shields at Tynemouth in August 1974. His body was found amongst reeds at the foot of a steep bank leading down to the River Tyne. A 25-year-old man with mental health problems, Paul Hails, was initially convicted of manslaughter (diminished responsibility). He had been seen walking in the relevant area at the material time. However, the case against him hinged on the veracity of confessions he made – and then retracted – and then confirmed. The police had recognised his vulnerability and ensured that he had legal representation. Apart from his admissions, the only evidence was his presence near the scene and some weak forensic evidence of a fibre found on the body similar to a T-shirt owned by Hails. But the garment was mass-produced and the evidence was hardly conclusive.

Hails was not the first person to confess to the killing. A youth dubbed by the police as 'Joe Ninety' because of his limited intellect was spoken to by a junior detective early in the investigation and claimed responsibility. The senior Investigating Officer then interviewed him and found him unable to answer basic questions about the circumstances and concluded that he could not have been responsible. Further investigation indeed eliminated him. At trial this information was all disclosed, but the jury was sufficiently convinced to convict Hails.

Most investigators would have drawn a line under the case but the Investigating Officer remained troubled. There had been another suspect – an older man – who

lived with his mother at the top of the bank and had a conviction for incest. A counterpane found close to the body bore a laundry mark that linked it to his house. However, he denied any connection with the crime, and detailed investigations failed to find any evidence. The officer later explained that he had to follow the evidence which pointed to Hails. But his doubts about the other suspect meant he left instructions with the local division that he was to be contacted immediately if the individual came to police notice again.

Several months later, he received a call to tell him that the individual had been arrested for molesting young children in the local park. When the officer went to speak to him, the suspect immediately said that he had expected him 'because you always thought I killed Gary Shields'. The suspect then made detailed admissions before retracting them. A major concern was that the details contained in the confession were inconsistent with the known facts – the timings did not correspond, and the original investigation had, in effect, alibied him for what appeared to be the time of the killing. The suspect asserted that he had taken the victim's clothes home and burnt them in the boiler. The boiler had been searched, and the police considered that as no traces of metal and plastic from zips and fastenings had been found, then it was impossible that the clothes been disposed of in that way.

So what was to be done with these developments? First and foremost, all the new evidence needed to be disclosed, and the safety of the conviction reviewed. That was relatively easy because Hails had a pending appeal. The documents were served with a suitable covering note explaining their provenance and the fact that, although the matter was one for the court, the DPP did not have confidence in the conviction. Unsurprisingly, the case was brought on quickly, and the Court of Appeal had no difficulty in quashing the conviction.

As for the new suspect, the only evidence was that of his admissions, which were retracted and inconsistent with known facts. A further prosecution for murder would have been unrealistic.

There can be few cases of murder where three separate individuals have confessed without there being any conviction and with such an inconclusive outcome. Three things stand out. First, the difficulty of assessing the veracity of confessions, especially when dealing with vulnerable individuals. The problem endures despite the more stringent safeguards introduced over recent years.

Secondly, the importance of avoiding assumptions and taking nothing at face value – professional scepticism. In essence, maintaining a questioning mind that avoids both positive and adverse assumptions about the integrity of individuals and evidence. Finally, the readiness with which the decisions not to launch further prosecutions were accepted by those concerned. I am sure they were both correct, but similar events in today's less deferential world would quite probably prompt a strong campaign for 'justice' and further investigations or review. Perhaps society was in the past too accepting of such outcomes, but in reality, it probably amounted to a wider acceptance and understanding that justice is not a perfect science. □

# ENA COLLYMORE-WOODSTOCK



10 SEPTEMBER 1917-2025

Ena was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1948

## A REMARKABLE LIFE

MASTER MEYRIC LEWIS

**E**na Collymore-Woodstock OD MBE, Jamaican barrister and magistrate, one-time trainee nurse, Second World War anti-aircraft radio operator, Chief Commissioner of the Girl Guides for Jamaica and a member of Gray's Inn since 1946, has died at the amazing age of 108.

Throughout her long life she broke many barriers to the employment of women in jobs traditionally regarded as the preserve of men and championed women's entitlement to pursue their chosen profession: 'Women can do the same as men. Don't limit yourself because you're a woman.' When she died, she was the oldest surviving female veteran of the British Army of the Second World War.

Mrs Justice Marva McDonald-Bishop, President of the Jamaican Court of Appeal, paid tribute to her achievements: 'Her legacy is not confined to the courts she presided over but lives on in the culture she cultivated, a judiciary that prizes talent, integrity, and excellence above all else. She was a true architect of transformation.'

She was born in Spanish Town, Jamaica, on 10 September 1917 to Madeline and Frank Collymore. Her mother

got a job as postmistress after Ena's station master father's early death. Sadly, Madeline died shortly after Ena's graduation from high school. After working as a bookkeeper for a bakery, Ena applied to be a temporary court clerk at Kingston Magistrates' Court but was not offered the job because it was not regarded as suitable for a woman. It had been expressly advertised as a post for a 'male clerk'. But she persuaded them to take her on, on probation. She told the Jamaican Nation News 'Only men were in the office in those days and when I turned up, everybody was looking at the application'. Apparently other male staff would pop by for a look at 'this young miss who applied for the job of male clerk'. 'They gave me cases to type and asked me "is it all right" because one of the cases was called rape. I said 'no, everything is all right', but I did not know what rape meant!' She went on to be employed full-time in the Kingston Court Office. 'I was looked on as quite a novelty for some years'.

In the Second World War, she was one of the first women from the Caribbean to join the Auxiliary Territorial Service in the British Army when, in 1943, women of colour were at last allowed to join up. She survived a torpedo attack on her Atlantic crossing. She was employed initially as a typist but complained to the War Office that she

'didn't come here to do what I did at home' and so, after passing an evaluation test and being told she could choose any role, she took up a post as a radar operator (another first for a Black woman) for an anti-aircraft unit stationed in the UK and later in Belgium, monitoring V-1 flying bombs and enemy aircraft. 'I was very adventurous and wanted more responsibility and more action'.

In 1943, she met the then Princess Royal, Princess Mary, at an ATS reception at the Colonial Office. 'There weren't that many women in the Army. Very few women of colour either. I felt special'. 'We all knew we were doing things for the first time.'

After the War, she read for the Bar at Gray's Inn, joining the Inn in 1946. She was popular among students and was elected Vice President of the Inns of Court Students Union and Treasurer of the West Indian Students Union. She was the only woman on the students' debating team.

She was called in January 1948. On her return to Jamaica later that year she went back into the Court Service and served as a Deputy Court Clerk and then Court Clerk, the first woman to be appointed to that position in Jamaica.

She married Victor Woodstock in 1951. She was appointed Assistant Crown Solicitor in 1953, again the first woman in Jamaica to take on that role. Her husband's job as a civil servant took him away from home so Ena would sometimes have to take her children into work. 'I used to put my baby son in his bassinet and drive around Jamaica to court. When they were older, the children would sit under my feet in court while I acted as a Judge'.

In 1959, she became Jamaica's first female Resident Magistrate. She also chaired Jamaica's Juvenile Court, having studied juvenile delinquency at the University of London while reading for the Bar and, in preparation for taking on her new duties, in the United States.

For her long service to the Girl Guides, including ten years as Chief Commissioner for Jamaica, she was awarded an MBE in 1967.

She was awarded the Jamaican Order of Distinction for her contribution to Jamaican justice in 1975. She also served as a Judge of the Grand Court of Grand Cayman, Acting Judge and member of the Legislative Council of the Turks and Caicos Islands and, after retirement in 1977, continued to sit as a magistrate in the Turks and Caicos and Anguilla. She was named a Pioneering Caribbean Woman Jurist by the Caribbean Court of Justice Academy for Law in 2021.

In addition to her professional achievements, she devoted much time to the church and to volunteering for Soroptimist International (motto: 'Standing up for Women and Girls') in Jamaica where she was instrumental in lobbying against discrimination in salaries for women, in the establishment of the Family Court and the promotion of legal rights for children born out of wedlock. She also encouraged businesses to provide child-care spaces and urged local newspapers to delay publication of their daily editions until after school hours so that children could both finish the school day and have the chance to earn money on delivery rounds.

Her ground-breaking career and extensive public service reshaped Jamaica's justice system, expanded opportunities for women and were a source of inspiration at home and abroad. Indeed, her influence was widespread. She travelled a great deal and was delighted to be told by an immigration officer when entering the US on one occasion that she knew who she was because she had done a school project on her.

Many women in her family followed in her footsteps. Three of her four grandchildren are lawyers, continuing the illustrious tradition established by their grandmother. Ena died on 2 December 2025 at the age of 108. □



Generations of lawyers (L to R) Ena's grandchildren, Raisa St. Clare and Amanda Riley-Jordan, her daughter, Marguerite Woodstock Riley and Ena herself at Raisa's call to the Bar in Barbados.

# HISTORY SOCIETY LECTURE

# THE SCAPEGOAT

## THE BRILLIANT BRIEF LIFE OF THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM

REPORT BY MASTER TIMOTHY SHUTTLEWORTH

**O**n his tomb in Westminster Abbey George Villiers, first Duke of Buckingham, is described as one 'whom Kings loved deeply'. That was certainly true of both James I and Charles I, the former having bestowed on him the highest rank in the peerage and elevated him to a station in the Councils of the State equivalent to a First Minister, causing considerable envy amongst many of his contemporaries.

By the end of his life when he was murdered at the Greyhound Inn at Portsmouth in 1628, Buckingham had become the object of much censure and hatred too. He was nevertheless a scapegoat, as argued by the distinguished multi-award-winning cultural historian, Lucy Hughes-Hallett FRSL, in her lecture to the History Society on 25 September 2025.

Miss Hughes-Hallett's presentation focused on Buckingham's spectacular rise to prominence and equally sudden fall, the subject too of her latest well-reviewed biography of him entitled 'The Scapegoat'.



Whilst admiring Buckingham's good looks (he was called 'one of the handsomest men in the whole world') and celebrating him as 'the greatest subject the country has seen', Miss Hughes-Hallett was not starry-eyed about him. It had left her 'uncomfortable' (she said) that Mary Villiers (mother to George) had groomed her son to attract James I. In Miss Hughes-Hallett's estimation George 'was brought to Court as sexual bate' for the King.

We learnt that James made little pretence of his affections for George. To the King, he was 'my sweet child and wife ... Jesus had his John and I have my George' which Miss Hughes-Hallett interpreted (not unreasonably) as meaning: 'If Jesus can do it, I can do it too' i.e. to love a man.

As time went on Buckingham's position at Court grew more and more powerful and influential. Notwithstanding his closeness to the King, however, 'being the King's favourite is a job' but he was not raised to the 'job' by dint of any sort of training. In consequence, he relied on the advice of his ultra-flatterer, Sir Francis Bacon.

Bedfellow apart, James also needed Buckingham as 'his gatekeeper'. The King hated going out in public because of his earlier experiences in Scotland, particularly as a very young boy, when he was the subject of repeated attempts to abduct him. As the King's gatekeeper, Buckingham was the recipient of many expensive gifts ('not just a bottle of wine(!), but loads and loads of money', we learnt). He became very rich and spent his wealth on fine clothes, many homes and ... art .

At this point Miss Hughes-Hallett treated her audience to a slide show of stunning portraits showing Buckingham either painted sitting alone wearing rich costumes, sometimes covered in strings of pearls (in commissions by Van Somer, Van Mierevelt or Rubens), or alongside his wife (Katherine Manners, daughter of the Earl of Rutland) scantily clad in poses from

the classics in works of other great painters of the time, including principally Anthony Van Dyck in his famous portrayal of the couple as 'Venus and Adonis'.

Buckingham also built up a fine collection of paintings, becoming something of a connoisseur. This was achieved with the assistance of Balthazar Gerbier, a Dutchman by birth. A portrait painter himself, Gerbier was also 'a hustler, a dealer, a fixer, a go-between ... who had a nose for a bargain'. He was the 'creator and curator' of Buckingham's enviable art collection.

In 1625 James I died. By that time Buckingham had been Lord High Admiral for several years. James was a pacifist but the men of England didn't support their King's refusal to go to war. There was a strong public appetite for war and in the new reign Buckingham shared that sentiment. He seems to have been given his head by Charles on what wars to pursue, the King seeing himself as the younger partner. It was very much a case of a 'younger brother' (the King) looking up to an older brother (Buckingham).

Buckingham's foreign adventures (the repeated failed assaults on La Rochelle) were disastrous for the country. Charles could presumably have stopped his favourite but did not. Because the public dared not to criticise the King, they turned on Buckingham. He was the 'evil spirit that walketh between a good master and a loyal people'. In his foreign policy (it was argued): 'Buckingham had made decisions that resulted in the deaths of thousands and the destitution and misery of thousands more. He was not a blameless sacrificial victim, but he served that function'.

As Miss Hughes-Hallett's compelling lecture drew to its conclusion, her audience was left in no doubt that Buckingham was indeed ... 'The Scapegoat'! That leaves me to add that last December, *The Sunday Times* critics named 'The Scapegoat' one of the best non-fiction books of 2025. □



# BOOK REVIEWS

## ROUGH JUSTICE BY MASTER WENDY JOSEPH (DOUBLEDAY) 2024

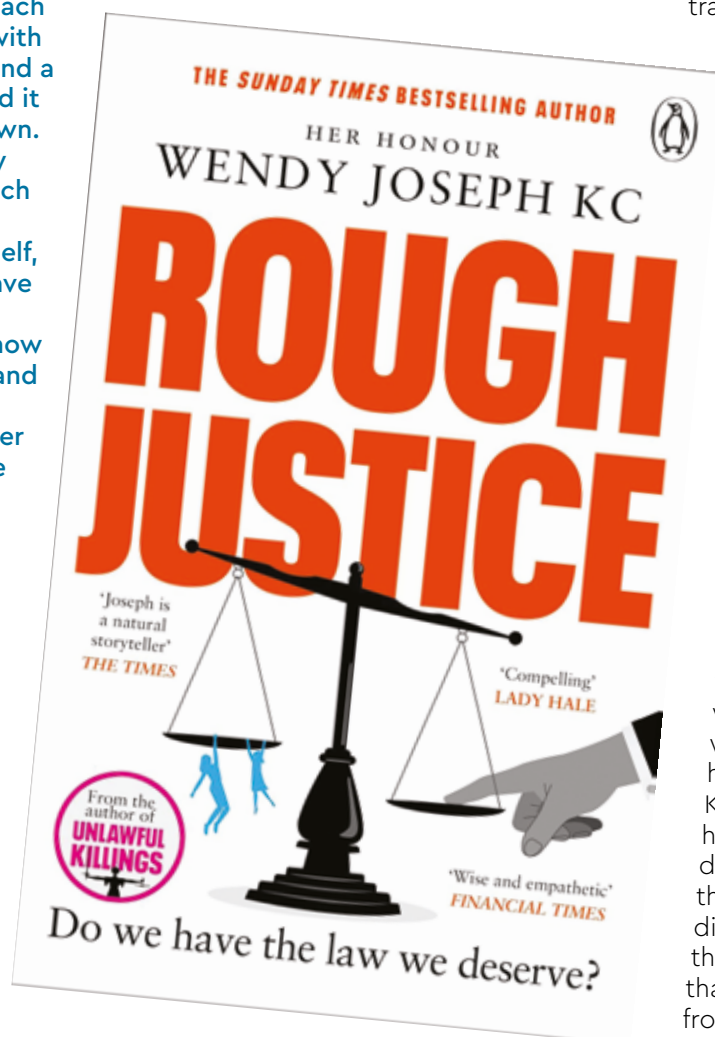
**M**aster Wendy Joseph has given us another excellent book, which follows a similar pattern to her previous work, *Unlawful Killings*, but this time focussing on women and girls. She gives us an insight into the thinking of an experienced judge in the Old Bailey, and, through this, an aperçu of why criminal law can be so fascinating, suggesting it is because it is all about stories and about people. She introduces us to four defendants in this book, which is divided into four parts. As in her previous book, Master Joseph has combined facts from different trials and changed the names for the sake of anonymity. Each part presents a defendant with whom we can sympathise and a compelling narrative. I found it difficult to put the book down. She links each modern story with one from the past, which she found by accessing the records of the Old Bailey itself, and asks herself what we have learned in the intervening period, in particular about how to treat fragile defendants and witnesses. The discussions over tea and lunch with other judges help to resolve some of the difficult situations.

In the first part, 'The Evil that Men Do', we read about a defendant charged with molesting a child, with the prosecution facing the difficulty that no contemporaneous complaint was made. In the second, 'The Way to Dusty Death', a 15 year-old child made unwise contact with a drugs gang, some of whom appeared to be present in the public gallery for part of the trial. She was charged with murder of an elderly

lady, dismemberment of the body and disposal of the body parts. At the suggestion of the judge, the third is put into a separate count, to which she pleaded guilty. Master Joseph also found a way of dealing with some of those in the public gallery. The junior defence counsel, who was absent at the beginning of the trial, conducts a skilful defence on the first two counts. In the third part, 'The Quality of Mercy' we learn about 'battered woman syndrome' and what can lead a woman who had been married for 20 years to kill her husband. In some ways this is the most difficult case of all, but a possible defence of diminished responsibility emerges, following post-traumatic stress disorder. In the

fourth, we learn about a young boy who was blinded when attempting to use a sawn-off shotgun found in his grandmother's home. His father and grandmother (who has dodgy legs) are charged. The members of the jury are the heroes of this story, but counsel gain admiration too, behaving with surprising humanity.

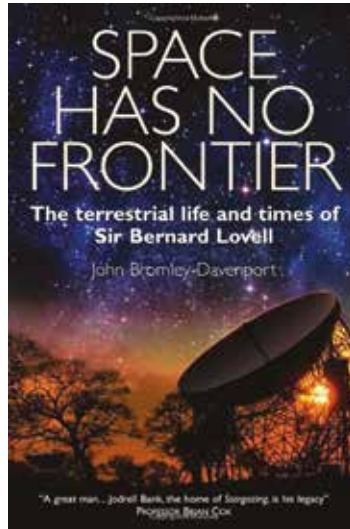
Master Joseph raises important questions as to whether we do all have equal access to the law and the courts and whether we are all treated equally and is to be congratulated on another thoughtful and beautifully written book. It is something which I would not have read had I not read 'Unlawful Killings', and would indeed have been the poorer had I not done so. Although I felt that the outcome in the four cases discussed was fair, it is clear that the system, even though better than it was 200 years ago, is far from perfect. □



REVIEW BY MASTER ROSEMARY JEFFREYS

## SPACE HAS NO FRONTIER: THE TERRESTRIAL LIFE AND TIMES OF SIR BERNARD LOVELL BY JOHN BROMLEY-DAVENPORT

**S**ir Bernard Lovell's great project, a radio telescope at Jodrell Bank, celebrated its 80th birthday in December 2025. It was marked, amongst other things, by a haunting new composition – Pulsar – by Hannah Peel for the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. To mark the occasion, it seems appropriate also to include a notice of John Bromley-Davenport's biography of Lovell, which was first published in 2013.



John Bromley-Davenport, a member of Hall, first met Lovell in 1995 and knew him for the last seventeen years of his life. This book reflects its author's affection and admiration for the man Patrick Moore described as 'the Isaac Newton of radio astronomy.' It charts Lovell's childhood in a religious, and music- and cricket-loving family, in Oldland Common near Bristol; his career as undergraduate and graduate at Bristol University; and then his transfer to an assistant lectureship at Manchester University. Soon after his arrival there, Lovell's great hero, Patrick Blackett – later Lord Blackett and a Nobel Prize Winner – arrived to be head of the physics department. With the outbreak of World War II imminent, Blackett arranged for Lovell to work with the Air Ministry on the development and application of radar, and it was in this field that he spent the war, making a significant contribution to the improvement of radar, and its adaptation to various defensive and offensive uses, including in particular 'H2S', which facilitated navigation and bombing when aircraft were 'blind' because of darkness or weather conditions.

After the war, Lovell returned to Manchester, and began research seeking to use radio echoes to detect cosmic rays. It soon became apparent that, in the centre of Manchester, there was too much interference with the radio waves from sources of electricity, such as the tram network. The Head of Botany revealed that his department had some fields which they used as a nursery, some 20 miles south of Manchester, in the heart of the Cheshire plain, at a place called Jodrell Bank. There, Lovell sited aerials with which, on 14 December 1945, he started observations. Little progress was made in relation to the detection of cosmic rays, but very soon there were interesting observations in relation to meteors. As Bromley-Davenport puts it, 'almost without realising it, [Lovell] had become an astronomer.'

By the end of 1948, Lovell had formed a plan to erect a very large, fully steerable, paraboloid. In February 1950 a committee of the Royal Astronomical Society unanimously endorsed the project. And so began the process of designing and constructing what became the Lovell telescope at Jodrell Bank. This process

was embarked on without any proper cost budgeting or a plan for how the amount which it would actually cost could be raised. It is a testament to Lovell's enthusiasm and will-power that it was built at all. Ultimately, the financial difficulties were eased by a piece of good fortune: in October 1957, in full view of the press, the telescope was able to track the course of the carrier rocket of Sputnik I. This changed the public's and the government's perception of the value of the telescope. In the following years, the telescope played its part in the cold war, as an instrument capable of detecting and tracking ICBMs, and in the space race, during which, for example, the telescope detected the crash of the Russian unmanned spacecraft, Lunik 15, onto the surface of the moon. The Russians had sent Lunik 15 to the moon at the same time as Apollo 11, apparently aiming to steal at least some of the Americans' thunder. The telescope showed how completely this failed.

So significant had Lovell's work become that, in 1963, an attempt was apparently made by the Soviet authorities, during a visit he paid to Russia and Armenia, to persuade him to defect. It may also be that, upon his refusal, they tried to poison him. Certainly, on his return from this trip, he was extremely ill; and he himself firmly believed that the Russians had attempted to poison him with radioactive material, perhaps to remove his memory of the things he had seen, or even to kill him.

As John Bromley-Davenport stresses, Lovell was not just a pioneering scientist: he was a man of wide interests and talents. He retained, throughout his life, a great interest in music, especially for the keyboard. For forty years he was the organist of the church of Swettenham, until he could no longer see the music. He presided over the planting of an extensive arboretum, which came to contain thousands of different types of tree. His much-praised Reith Lectures in 1958 reflected on the role of faith in the mentality of both scientist and religious believer.

John Bromley-Davenport successfully captures the character and spirit of his subject. Scientific concepts are described with simplicity and lucidity. The book is a fitting tribute to an exceptional man and his remarkable legacy. □

REVIEW BY MASTER CHRISTOPHER BUTCHER

John Bromley-Davenport has kindly said that anyone wanting to buy a copy of the book should email him at [brommersqc@btinternet.com](mailto:brommersqc@btinternet.com). The price is £20.

# INN @ ABOUT

**R**eaders may be interested to know that the co-founder of the Canal Museum in London, Dinah Hutchinson, died recently aged 90. She was a member of the Inn, and passed her Bar Finals when 8.5 months' pregnant, but does not appear to have practised. She lived in a house backing onto Regent's Canal, and oversaw the cleaning up of the path beside the Canal as well as the establishment of the museum. Many are the ways and byways of the Inn.

Another member, Malcolm Charles Dutchman-Smith, died recently, who will be known to everyone who has undergone judicial training at Warwick as Arthur Strawbridge, star of many videos. Malcolm started professional life as a solicitor, and transferred to the Bar, where he was great success and much-loved figure on the Northern Circuit. We are grateful to Greg Hoare for writing a piece about his background, which is now in the care of the Archivist.

**A new book is due out by Master Michael Beloff, entitled *Four Faces of the Law*, to be published by Bloomsbury Publishing. We look forward to reading and reviewing it in due course.**

An exhibition in London at the gallery of Abbott and Holder featured some of the work of Edna Clarke Hall, nee Waugh (1879–1979). She acquired a studio at 2 South Square. Her talent is obvious from the works featured on the website <https://www.abbottandholder.co.uk/edna-clarke-hall-the-poem-paintings/>. We hope to feature an article about her in a future issue of *Graya News*.



## A REMINDER OF A FAMOUS TRIAL

What happens today constantly finds cause to remind us not only of the nation's past but of the enduring story of the Inn too. On 20 January 2026 a rare oak chair, belonging to Judge John Bradshaw, a member of Gray's, who presided over the trial of Charles I in Westminster Hall in January 1649 at the end of the Civil War, was auctioned in Salisbury, Wilts. In finding the King guilty of treason and in sentencing the monarch to death, Bradshaw made constitutional history. The inscription on the underside of the chair reads: 'This chair belonged to John Bradshawe of Bradshawe Hall, Derby SH presiding judge of the trial of King Charles I.'



The chair sold for the amazing sum of £32,500, the guide price being £1,500 -£2,500! The explanation is probably that the chair is believed by some to be the one Bradshaw sat upon during the trial. What the evidence is for such a belief remains tenuous. Note the inscription on the underside of the chair makes no such claim. Curious that!

The Inn possesses a small image of Bradshaw painted in oil by Richard Foster which is located in the Bench Lobby. (Reproduced above with his permission and that of the photographer Justine Trickett)

## STATUTE LAW SOCIETY

On 16 April, there will be a lecture about 'Statutory Interpretation and the Devolution Statutes' by Aileen McHarg, Joint General Editor of *Public Law*, and on 21 May, Andrew Le Sueur FRSA will be speaking about 'Transplanting UK statutory models to smaller jurisdictions'. On 12 June, Ruth Fox from the Hansard Society will be speaking to the Society, and on 26 November there will be the annual Renton Lecture. All SLS lectures are at 18:00, in the Moot Room at UCL Bentham House and can also be attended online. Non-members can attend in person (with a glass of wine at the end) or on Zoom for £8. Attendance for members is free. Full details are on the website (<https://www.statutelawsociety.co.uk>).

## THE ANNUAL INNS OF COURT SELDEN SOCIETY HISTORY LECTURE, 2026

This year's lecture will be delivered by the Rt.Hon. Lord Burnett of Maldon, former Lord Chief Justice, in the Hall at Inner Temple on Tuesday, 29 October at 6 pm. The chosen subject is the very hot topic of 'Juries'. More details will be posted in the next edition of GRAYA NEWS but the pressure for tickets is likely to be considerable, so you may wish to keep an eye on the Inner Temple website.

## THE NEED TO 'DE-CLUTTER'

Every year brings an important anniversary in the nation's biography of great men and women. This year is notable not only for Bacon's death but the centenary in April of the birth of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Last December, we celebrated the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen though the celebrations spanned the whole year. When Rev. George Austen, Jane's father, retired from his living at the Rectory at Steventon in 1800, the move to Bath required him to sell his impressive library numbering over 500 books. That was largely occasioned by the need to raise money to supplement his income in retirement. The family were 'downsizing' too. This came as a great shock to Jane as the library had done much to inspire her early love of writing.

Nearly two centuries earlier in about 1613 Shakespeare retired to Stratford. Three years later he was dead. Ever since scholars have expressed incredulity that the great writer appears to have left no trace on his death of owning any books. No book collection was left in his will. Is this so surprising? As we all become older, there is the pressing need to 'de-clutter' and ensure those who have the task of winding up our Estate are not over-burdened. There is an overwhelming human desire to give as little trouble as possible to them and the grieving family left behind. Might that not have been Shakespeare's attitude too? You may be the world's greatest dramatist but you have the same concerns and emotions as the rest of the human race.

There is an alternative explanation. On leaving London for the last time, was it likely that the thrifty Shakespeare would want the expense of transporting his books up to Stratford (where they were hardly likely to be dusted down again) rather than make them a gift to his two actor friends at the Globe, John Heminges and Henry Condell, subsequently the Editors of Shakespeare's first folio? Surely they would have had more use of them?

## HISTORY SOCIETY

The remaining History Society lectures for this year take place in the Michaelmas Term and provide an exciting contrast.

On Thursday 24 September the guest speaker is the distinguished scholar and historian Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch FSA, FRHistS, FBA, formerly Professor of the History of the Church at Oxford, now Professor Emeritus. He has been garlanded with many awards for his work including the James Tait Black Prize and the Wolfson Award for History. He is regarded as the country's leading authority on Thomas Cromwell following his magnificent biography of the Tudor statesman published in 2018.

Professor MacCulloch's lecture is entitled 'Thomas Cromwell: Architect of a Protestant Empire' and will take place in the Bingham Room as usual at 5.45 pm.

The evening coincides with a Guest Night at the Inn and will conclude before 7 pm in sufficient time for everyone to attend the Guest Night Dinner that evening.

On Thursday 12 November the History Society welcomes as guest speaker His Hon. Peter Hughes KC, PhD, Bencher of the Inn who until his retirement served as a notable Circuit Judge on the Northern Circuit. Prior to 2024 Master Hughes was Chairman of the Board of the Gardens Trust. His lecture is entitled 'Of Gardens: the purest of human pleasures', a famous quote from Bacon. In the lecture Master Hughes will explore the creation of the Walks by Bacon and other themes as part of the celebration of the Bacon quarter-centenary.

Again, the evening will coincide with a Guest Night at the Inn and the lecture will take place in the Bingham Room at 5-45 pm, concluding safely before the Guest Night Dinner begins for those attending that event.

The lectures are open to all members of the Inn and two guests. The History Society lectures are FREE with booking via the GRAY'S INN ONLINE SERVICE.



## SENIOR LIBRARIAN

Claire Mazer has recently joined the Inn as Senior Librarian. A professionally qualified librarian with over 30 years' experience in UK higher education, including senior and subject librarian roles at Brunel University London and BPP Law School, she brings extensive expertise in legal research, library management, and academic support. In her current role, she oversees the Library's day-to-day operations and systems, manages collections, trains staff, and provides one-to-one guidance to GDL and Bar students. She also delivers practical legal research sessions, and maintains a keen interest in the evolving impact of AI on legal education. Claire has a collegiate, adaptable, and thoughtful approach, and combines professional rigour with a supportive style that advances both scholarship and practical skills within the Inn.



GRAY'S  
INN

# NOTICES

There were no Christenings or Marriages to report in the relevant period.

## DEATHS

Mr Christopher Eriewo Undumebraye Bazunu,  
on 20 September 2000  
Mrs Dinah Hutchinson, on 4 October 2025  
Mr Justin Philips, on 17 October 2025  
Mr Stephen Suttle KC, on 25 November 2025

Malcolm Charles Dutchman-Smith, on 26 November 2025  
Ena Collymore-Woodstock, on 3 December 2025  
Mrs Pamela Jordan, on 17 January 2026  
Mr John Cartwright on 14 February 2026  
HH Peter J Fox KC on 19 February 2026

## NEW SILKS

Christopher Michael Douglas Barnes  
Jessie Kate Bowhill  
William Neal Davis  
Bobby (Robert) Friedman  
Steven Gray  
Timothy James Killen  
Helen Elizabeth Law  
David Mark Lowe  
Alasdair Hamish Mackenzie

Eleanor Frances Mawrey  
William Charles Oliver Moffett  
Martina Patricia Murphy  
Andrew Christopher Powell  
Matthew John Piers Roberts  
Jonathan Michael Upton  
Gareth James Weetman  
Matthew James White  
Her Honour Judge Emma Nott (Honoris Causa)

## NEW BENCHERS

The Hon. Mr Justice Birt  
Ms Justice Obi  
Philip Aldworth KC (Hon)  
Mr Justice Andrew Thomas Kaneen Corlett OBE (Hon)

The Hon Lord Pentland (Paul Cullen) (Hon)  
Dana Denis-Smith OBE (Hon)  
Dame Susan Langley DBE OBE (Hon)  
Christopher Lau SC (Singapore) (Hon)

## NOTICES FROM PENSION

June 2025 – February 2026

At the meeting on 25 June 2025, the Treasurer, Master Geraldine Andrews, reported the death of Master Courtenay Griffiths KC. She congratulated Master Avik Mukherjee on his appointment as Resident Judge at Stafford Crown Court and Master Professor Julia Mary Black CBE FBA, an Honorary Bencher, who was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE). She also congratulated Master Sophie Lamb on her appointment by the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) as a member of their Court of Arbitration.

At the meeting on 23 July 2025, the Treasurer congratulated Masters Amanda Yip and David Foxton on their elevation to the Court of Appeal.

At the meeting on 15 October 2025 the Treasurer reported the death of Master Sir Jeremy Lever KCMG KC and of Master Edward Davidson KC.

At the meeting on 19 November 2025 the Treasurer congratulated Master Andrew Thomas KC on his appointment as Vice Chair of the Criminal Bar Association. She wished Master Caroline Wright well on her retirement

as a Circuit Judge. She also congratulated The Hon. Justice Richard Williams, Cayman Islands, a Member of Hall, on his election as President of the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association (CMJA).

At the meeting on 14 January 2026 the Treasurer, Master Andrew McFarlane, reported the death of Ena Collymore-Woodstock OD, MBE. He congratulated Master Neil Moody on his appointment as a Justice of the High Court. He wished Master Sybil Thomas well on her retirement as a Senior Circuit Judge and also Master Joanna Greenberg on her retirement as a Circuit Judge, as well as Master Timothy Julian Kerr on his retirement as a Judge of the High Court (King's Bench Division). He congratulated Stanley Kendrick John KC, a Member of Hall, who was elevated to Governor General of St Vincent and The Grenadines and Master Christopher Vajda KC, who was awarded a KB, Knight Bachelor, for services to international law. He also congratulated His Hon Jeffrey Blackett, a Member of Hall, who was awarded an OBE, and Mr Patrick Brian Kerr, a Member of Hall, who was awarded an MBE, as well as Mr David Harry Stemberge KC, a Member of Hall, who was awarded an BEM.



**GRAY'S  
INN**

# DIARY OF EVENTS

APRIL TO OCTOBER 2026

Treasurer  
**MASTER ANDREW MCFARLANE**

Vice Treasurer  
**MASTER NAOMI ELLENBOGEN**

Under-Treasurer  
**BRIGADIER STEPHEN CARTWRIGHT OBE**

**Hilary:** 12 January to 1 April  
**Easter:** 14 April to 22 May  
**Trinity:** 2 June to 31 July  
**Michaelmas:** 1 October to 21 December

**Please check the Events listings on the Inn's website, which is regularly updated, and use the GIOS online system to book events.**

APRIL		JUNE Contd.	
14	Holy Communion – 18:00 hrs QS: Practical Legal Research (Bar Course Students) – 18:00 hrs	16	Collaborative QS: Birmingham – 18:00 hrs
15	Pride Society event	17	Meeting of Pension
21	QS: Prep4Practice – Advocacy – Plea in Mitigation – 18:00 hrs	21	Mattins at 11:15 hrs, followed by Informal Sunday lunch at 12:30 hrs
23	QS: Ethics Discursive (Online) – 18:00 hrs Collaborative QS: Cardiff – 18:00 hrs	22	QS: Prep4Practice – Advocacy Skills Online – 18:00 hrs
26	Sung Eucharist for Francis Bacon at 11:15 hrs, followed by Sunday lunch Informal at 12:30 hrs	29	QS: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Discursive (online) 18:00 hrs
27	Collaborative QS: Bristol – 18:00 hrs	30	Summer Concert at 18:30 hrs in Chapel, followed by supper
28	QS: Student Residential: Case Analysis Online: York – 18:00 hrs	JULY	
29	Collaborative QS: Liverpool – 18:00 hrs	2	Evensong – 17:30 hrs
30	QS: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion-Discursive – 18:00 hrs Circuit Dinner on the Western Circuit (Exeter)	6	Guest Night (1976 Anniversary of Call, 2016 Anniversary of Call) 19:00 for 19:30 hrs
MAY		7	QS: Gray's Inn Moot Competition Final – 18:00 hrs
5	Holy Communion – 18:00 hrs	9	Holy Communion
8-10	Student Residential Weekend	9	Pictures, Words & Music at 18:30 hrs in Chapel, followed by supper
13	Graya Board Dinner	10	Northern and North Eastern Circuit Get Together (Liverpool) – 17:00 hrs
14	QS: Prep4Practice Lecture: Building your practice at the self-employed Bar – 17:30 hrs Advocacy & Vulnerable – Witness Training – 18:00 hrs Collaborative QS: Leeds – 18:00 hrs	14	QS: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lecture – 18:00 hrs
16	GIBC Eurovision final screening in the Bridge Bar – 18:30 hrs	16	QS: Introduction to Arbitration Online Open Evening (Online) 18:00 hrs
17	Mulligan Sermon by The Rt Revd Dr John Inge KCVO at 11:15 hrs, followed by Formal Sunday lunch at 12:30 hrs	19	Festive Mattins in Chapel at 11:15 hrs, followed by Picnic in the Walks
18	QS: Gray's Inn Moot Competition Semi-Final and Reception – 18:00 hrs	GIBC Family Day in the Walks from 12:15 hrs	
19	Collaborative QS: Newcastle – 18:00 hrs	20	Evensong – 17:30 hrs
21	QS: Student Residential (Cumberland Lodge) – Case Analysis – 18:00 hrs Bacon 400 Dinner – reception in the Walks at 18:00 hrs, Dinner at 19:10 for 19:30 hrs in Hall	22	Trinity Call
JUNE		22	Meeting of Pension followed by Pension Supper
2	Holy Communion – 18:00 hrs	24	Treasurer's Reception & The Treasurer's After Party in the Walks
4	QS: Prep4Practice Lecture: Life at the Bar – Resilience and Bouncing Back – 17:30 hrs Prep4Practice Lecture – 18:00 hrs	SEPTEMBER	
5-7	Student Residential Weekend	22	Bar Course Introductory Evening – 17:30 hrs
9	Summer Concert at 18:30 hrs in Chapel, followed by supper	24	Guest Night (1986 Anniversary of Call, 1991 Anniversary of Call) 19:00 for 19:30 hrs
11	GIBC Northern Circuit event in Manchester – from 18:00 hrs	24	History Society Lecture: Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch DD, FSA, History Society 'Thomas Cromwell: architect of a Protestant Empire' – 17:45 to 18:45 hrs
15	Barnard's Inn Reading at 17:45 hrs – Speaker: The Treasurer, The Rt Hon Sir Andrew McFarlane QS: Talking Points Lecture – Psychology and the Courts-Understanding the stress reactions of clients and witnesses – 17:30 hrs	26	Bar Course Introductory Day
16	Summer Concert at 18:30 hrs in Chapel, followed by supper QS: Practical Legal Research (Bar Course Students) – 18:00 hrs	OCTOBER	
		6	Holy Communion – 18:00 hrs
		8	Evensong – 17:30 hrs
		9	Deferred Trinity Call (1)
		9	Black History Month event
		11	Sung Eucharist in Chapel at 11:15 hrs, followed by Formal lunch for the Opening of the Legal Year
		13	New Benchers' Drinks Reception
		15	Evensong – 17:30 hrs
		15	Deferred Trinity Call (2)
		22	QS: Treasurer's Lecture (Reception) – 17:30 hrs
		29	Wales & Chester Circuit dinner, Swansea
		30	Judges' Dinner – 19:00 for 19:30 hrs