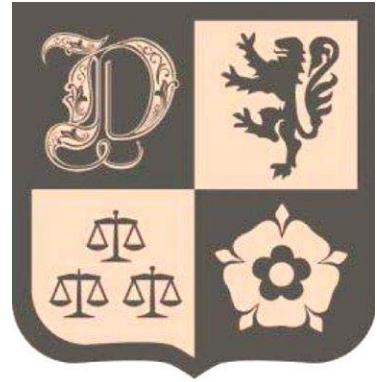


DONCASTER AND DISTRICT LAW SOCIETY



EST. 1937

WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

'I was not sure how the start of my term as president of the society would be'



Welcome everyone to the latest edition of the DDLS Newsletter.

I was not sure how the start of my term as president of the society would be. There has been so much uncertainty and stop/start about the last couple of years but finally we seem to be back on track, and I am excited about what my 'year in charge' will bring.

We have already made some exciting plans as a society. Our long-awaited ball is back on (more details later in the newsletter) and we are looking forward to getting

some in person events and training back in the diary. I am particularly looking forward to the Doncaster legal walk, which is now an annual event, and is held to raise money for the Access to Justice Foundation. It's so nice to be planning to actually see people face to face and I am really looking forward to our committee meetings being in person again. The networking and personal touch can sometimes be lost over Teams or Zoom, and I for one think that is a huge part of what makes our society great.

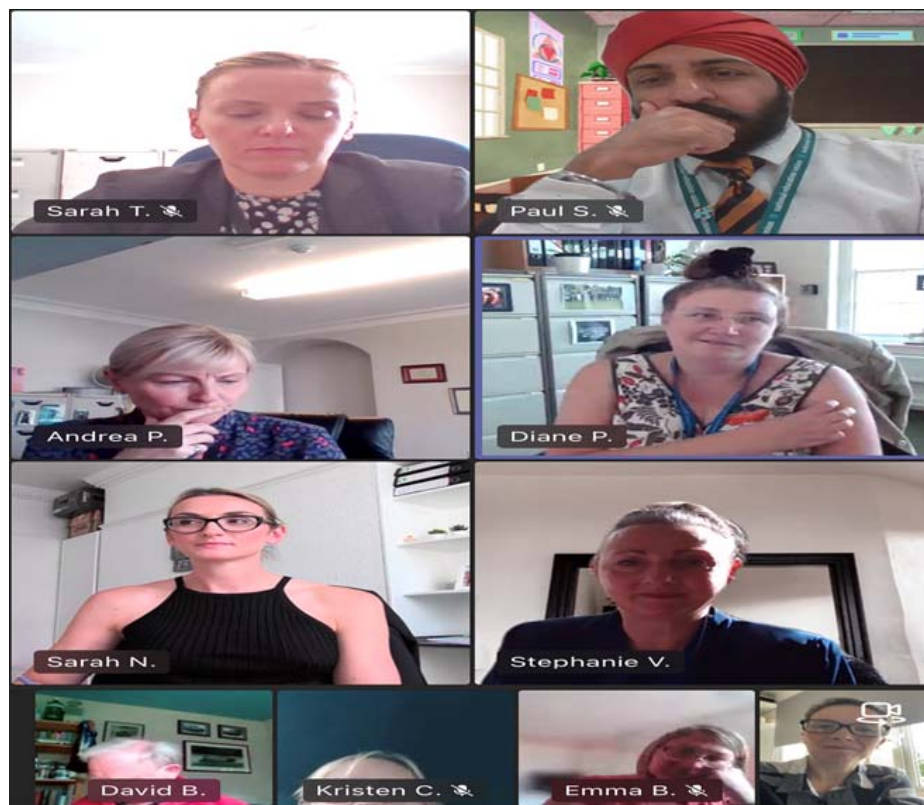
I look forward to (fingers crossed) getting to see everyone soon, catch up with familiar faces and meet new ones.

Stephanie

IN THIS EDITION:

- DDLS AGM 2021
- Support the Seniors in Your Community
- Christmas Donations
- Probate Update
- Meet our Junior Lawyers Division Rep
- The ball is BACK ON!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021



Another year, another virtual AGM.

Our Annual General Meeting was hosted via Teams on 23rd September. As with last year's AGM, the meeting went quite well, despite it not being our preferred choice of how we like our AGM to be hosted.

The meeting was opened by Andrea Pashley, as our outgoing president, who as a result of the pandemic had been in the post for 2 consecutive terms but was happy to hand over to her worthy successor. Andrea commented how the society had continued to meet and conduct business virtually, thanks to the work and enthusiasm of secretary, Diane and the rest of the committee, making the society as strong as ever. Andrea then virtually handed over the gong to our incoming president, Stephanie.

Stephanie opened her incoming address by thanking Andrea for her generosity and commitment in serving a double term through the pandemic, and for her guidance in the time as vice president. Stephanie also gave thanks to the dedicated committee, as well as the members who support the society through attendance at training and social events. Stephanie acknowledged what a dreadful time it has been for many, presenting people with personal and professional challenges. Whilst most enjoyed the slower pace of life that we have experienced, others have suffered terribly. We have also shared and identified with the sadness associated with being unable to meet up with or losing loved ones during this period.

Stephanie went on to champion how great a place Doncaster is to practice in the legal profession but also a great place for former practitioners, and all being well we will host another Past Presidents Dinner soon.

Stephanie closed her address with optimism that her 2021/2022 term would see us doing more and seeing each other more before finally using her opportunity to wish our society, Doncaster and all those across the globe who have suffered from the dreadful impact of Covid better times throughout 2021/2022 - and a proper start to the roaring twenties!!

The meeting also discussed the formalities of our accounts and the re-election of officers. Most officers remained in the previous roles. Paul Singh was elected, unanimously, as Junior Vice President. Emma Beazley was proposed as Social Officer by Stephanie, seconded by Andrea.

The meeting was short and sweet, and concluded promptly. Fingers crossed next year will see the return of the in-person AGM, with the much missed tasty lunch afterwards.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT LAW SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR 2021/2022

President – Stephanie Veysey (Atherton Godfrey)
Vice President – Sarah Thiede (Malcolm C Foy & Co)
Junior Vice President – Paul Singh (Minister Law)
Secretary – Diane Parker (Atherton Godfrey)
Treasurer – Sarah Naylor (Atherton Godfrey)
Membership Officer – Janice Oxley / Kristen Craig (Dawson & Burgess Solicitors)
Social Officer – Emma Beazley (Atherton Godfrey)
PR Officer – Maria Dallas (Atherton Godfrey)
Training Officer - Jessica Mason / Eleanor Storey (Malcolm C Foy & Co)
National Council Officer – Mark Newby (Quality Solicitors Jordons)
Parliamentary Liaison Officer – Tony Rawlings (Paul Bullen & Co)
Diversity & Inclusion Officer – Paul Singh (Minister Law)
Junior Lawyer Division Representative – Liam Bawden (Jones & Co Solicitors)

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SIMPLE WAYS TO SUPPORT THE SENIORS IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Looking for ways to get involved and give back to your community? Reach out to seniors who don't have relatives living nearby to provide support and assistance with the daily challenges of aging, especially with assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even just a few minutes of your time can make a world of a difference to seniors who are struggling. Whether you pick up the phone to chat with a senior neighbor or get involved with the senior community, your contribution is bound to make a difference. So here are some tips from Doncaster & District Law Society to help.

Help Seniors Stay Connected

Strong social connections keep us happy and healthy. If you know someone who doesn't have friends or family nearby, help them get connected!

- Seniors can connect with their long-distance loved ones via technology and gadgets, but you might need to lend a hand.
- Help your senior neighbors get set up on social media.
- Show seniors how to use video chat to connect with friends and family.

Make Aging in Place Possible

Most seniors prefer to age in place, but living at home becomes increasingly difficult as we grow older.

- Launch a grocery shopping service for homebound seniors.
- Take the time to learn about tripping hazards and how seniors can avoid them.
- Help them keep their home clean and optimized for happiness and wellness.
- If you know a senior planning a move to assisted living, help them pack and sell their home.

Encourage Seniors to Get Involved

Seniors are at risk for mental health issues, particularly if they're facing constant feelings of boredom and isolation. Encourage local seniors to get out of the house and engage in the community!

- Start a local club for the seniors in your community.
- Remove barriers to participation in community activities and events.
- Connect seniors who like to knit with new parents who need baby blankets and clothing.
- Encourage seniors to find fulfillment in volunteer work.

Offering your assistance to seniors in your community is a great way to show your appreciation for older adults and build fellowship. Help a senior neighbor prepare to safely age in place, find local volunteer opportunities, and connect with their long-distance loved ones. Whatever you do to provide assistance, helping your neighbors will benefit you too!

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

It's nice to give something back

At Christmas, the committee normally get together to enjoy a Christmas meal and a few drinks, to look forward to the festivities and reflect on the previous year. As with last year, this was not quite possible this year, and after some discussions and considerations by our new president, it was agreed that charitable donations would be to two causes: The Trussell Trust and 24th Doncaster Brownies.



The Trussell Trust support a nationwide network of food banks and help provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty. They also help campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK.

More than 14 million people in the UK are living in poverty – including 4.5 million children. They support more than 1,200 food bank centres in the UK to provide a minimum of three days' nutritionally-balanced emergency food to people who have been referred in crisis, as well as support to help people resolve the crises they face. Between April 2019 and March 2020, food banks in their network provided a record 1.9 million food supplies to people in crisis, an 18% increase on the previous year and during the coronavirus pandemic food banks have seen need rise even further.

It takes more than food to help solve hunger, and they have recently launched a five year strategic plan - the end goal being to end the need for food banks. It is ambitious, but by working Together for Change, it is achievable.



Brownies introduces girls aged 7-10 to a world of new opportunities, challenges and fun.

Girls go along to camps, holidays, day trips and sleepovers. They get together with their friends at regular meetings where they learn new hobbies, get creative, develop skills and have outdoor adventures.

As well as trying activities in their meetings, girls choose from interest badges related to things they want to know more about.

The 24th Doncaster Brownies in particular are a mix of girls from different schools and walks of life, that each term work on activities themed around a title. The title for the start of 2022 is "Make Change" which is all about making things better. So far, they have looked at "The Greatest Place on Earth" where they discussed what makes a place great and what they could do the local communities to make things better.

On 22nd February, Guides and Scouts around the world celebrate Thinking Day in honour of the founder of the 2 movements Lord Robert Baden-Powell whose birthday was on 22nd Feb. He married Olave, who became Lady Baden-Powell on her marriage, and she became Chief Guide – a position she is believed to have held until she died. Coincidentally, her birthday was also on 22nd February. The Doncaster 24th Brownies will be joining others across the South Yorkshire county at a Thinking Day campfire at Hesley Wood Scout Activity Centre on that evening.

PROBATE SERVICES SUBJECT TO FLAT RATE FEE



The Ministry of Justice recently announced all users of the probate service will pay a single, flat rate fee of £273, following its consultation last year.

Currently, fees are £155 for professional users and £215 for non-professional users. From 26 January 2022, these will change to one single probate fee of £273.

Sarah Thiede, Solicitor at Malcolm C Foy & Co and Vice President of the Society, commented:

"It's good news that the government's original proposal to introduce a "death tax" has been scrapped, as this would have seen grieving families pay up to £6,000 for probate.

However, introducing a flat fee of £273 is still a big rise for consumers – 26% for individuals applying for probate without a solicitor.

Since the start of the pandemic, bereaved families have had to deal with extensive delays in probate – which has only marginally improved. SFE (Solicitors for the Elderly) members are still reporting an average wait of 6 to 9 weeks.

The probate service still needs serious improvements, especially now people are having to pay considerably more for it. We're hopeful that the fee increase will bring positive changes, but if not, both consumers and solicitors will feel frustrated at the system once more.

It's time to draw a line in the sand and be clear about how and when vital changes will be made so bereaved families aren't enduring further stress and anxiety at what is already a difficult time for them.

We're also concerned that the universal fee, applied to professionals and individuals applying alike, could encourage families to reduce costs by applying themselves and avoid speaking with a lawyer. Seeking professional advice when dealing with probate will help resolve any complex arrangements with the estate and helps relieve pressure on grieving loved ones."



FULL CIRCLE
FUNERALS. YOUR WAY

A LEGAL AND PRACTICAL GUIDE TO FUNERAL DISPUTES

Free webinar – 11am Friday 11th February 2022

Nicola Phillipson TEP

Barrister at Parklane Plowden Chambers

*Author of A Practical Guide to the Law in Relation to
Control of the Body after Death*

Julia Burns

Mediator and Conflict Coach

Dove in the Room



Barrister and author Nicola Phillipson will consider the law relating to who has control of the body after death, with a particular focus on funeral disputes. Mediator and Conflict Coach, Julia Burns, will explain alternative ways of dealing with such disputes exploring mediation and family conflict coaching.

To join this webinar please follow the Zoom link on the webpage:

<https://fullcirclefunerals.co.uk/learning-together/webinars/>

Enquiries to sarah@fullcirclefunerals.co.uk

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT: LIAM BAWDEN



1. What would you be if you were not a lawyer?

- To be honest, there isn't any other career that would suit me, or keep me as interested as Law does. Although, if I had to choose something else, a career in Marine Biology would be ideal! I have always been fascinated by Marine Biology and think that travelling the world studying the oceans would be the ultimate alternative. I will just have to stick to looking after my marine aquarium for now!

2. Where do you work and what do you do?

- I am a Dispute Resolution Executive at Jones & Co Solicitors', Harworth Office. I manage a varied case load, ranging from Landlord & Tenant Disputes and Personal Injury Claims, right the way through to Contentious Probate and Clinical Negligence cases. All of which, keeps me extremely busy and by its very nature, no day is the same!

3. What made you want a career in Law?

- SUITS.... only joking! I have quickly learnt that the TV program isn't like reality, and I am still waiting for my Donna to show up! In all seriousness, when considering Law, I liked the idea of diverse cases, the ability to support people during difficult times, and the prospect of really changing the world for the better. Cliché, I know!

4. Tell us about your role on the committee.

- I am the Junior Lawyer Division Representative. As I have only just joined the DDLS Committee, I am not entirely sure what my role entails! (If you have any ideas on how to describe my role please feel free to go ahead and draft something!).

However, as far as I am aware, I am going to be representing the Doncaster's Junior Lawyers Division (once we have resurrected it!). I am aiming to recruit as many Junior Lawyers for the JLD throughout Doncaster! This role will allow me to provide the up and coming generation of lawyer's thoughts to the DDLS Committee and feedback the ideas and knowledge given by the experienced DDLS Committee members.

5. Tell us an interesting fact about you.

- As a teenager, I competed in Gymnastics Competitions countrywide. Whilst studying for my GCSEs I took a break from training and didn't get back into the sport until last year! It has been difficult returning in the midst of the pandemic. However, I am aiming to return to training more consistently when the restrictions of the pandemic aren't as strict.

6. Why do you think Doncaster is great?

- Doncaster is a major regional hub that has plenty of scenic walks and local activities to get involved in! Doncaster is the town where I was raised, and I am proud to say that I get to practice law in my hometown.

*Doncaster and District Law Society
would like to invite you to Save the
Date for our.....*

**ANNUAL BLACK TIE
BALL
FRIDAY 10 JUNE 2022
AT 7PM**

*Following much anticipation and
planning, we can confirm that our
rescheduled ball will be held at the Hilton
Garden Inn Suite. Further details will be
sent to all parties booked to attend*

*A limited number of tickets have become
available. For details please e-mail -
doncasterdistrictlawsociety@gmail.com*