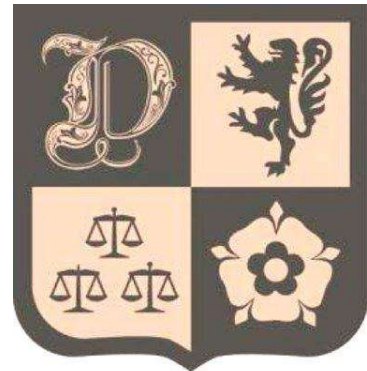


DONCASTER AND DISTRICT LAW SOCIETY



EST. 1937

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP....

Following the Government's recent announcements about the 'Roadmap' out of lockdown and back towards normality, it feels like there is finally some light at the end of the tunnel.

We started the year following the drama of Christmas restrictions and the implementation of a further lockdown, which has seemed never ending. But now we can see an end in sight (hopefully), and we can get back to

planning events and training which we love to do. As soon as January was over, I made a point of saying goodbye to the January blues and putting my best foot forward and

encouraging everyone to 'Have Faith for February'! and look how quickly it has passed.

Already in the pipeline, the committee has been looking towards organising our first legal walk for Doncaster and considering possible dates. Leeds, Sheffield and York, as well as cities up and down the country host legal walks every year with much success and in aid of the Access to Justice

Foundation. We are hoping to put Doncaster on the map with its very own walk – so watch this space as we really would love as many people as possible to join us!

'the committee has been looking towards organising our first legal walk for Doncaster'



IN THIS EDITION:

- What a year it's been!!
- Meeting with Nick Fletcher – MP for Don Valley
- National Council Report
- Christmas Charity Donations
- Upcoming Training / Seminars
- Meet our In House Liaison / Diversity

We can also hopefully look towards getting our annual ball rebooked. You may recall that this was originally scheduled for March 2020, but it quickly became apparent that this would not be able to happen in 2020, despite our enthusiasm.

Following multiple postponements, a sort of rolling contract was agreed with the Hilton, to allow the parties to get a date back in the diary as and when it was possible, as restrictions were lifted and guidance changed. However, this rolling contract was quite extensive and has been taking some reviewing – even by the standards of a collection of lawyers. Nevertheless, Racheal (our social officer) and I are

determined to get the event back on track and will update further on this as soon as possible.

2020 also saw us say goodbye to two well-known and well respected pillars of the legal community of Doncaster in District Judge Thompson and District Judge Rodgers. Both have sat at Doncaster County Court for some time and I'm sure a number of society members will have had involvement with them on cases. As a committee, we took the decision to send both Judges a little retirement gift as a gesture of thanks and well wishes from the legal community for them to enjoy in their retirement. District Judge Rogers and District Judge

Thompson will now sit at Doncaster from time to time as Deputies and I do look forward to crossing paths with them in the future

That's all from me for now.

Stay safe and hopefully, by the next edition of the newsletter, I can look forward to actually seeing some of you in person.

Andrea

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT LAW SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2020/2021

For the 2020/2021 subscription year, we are able to offer a reduced membership rate as follows:

Full Member – Solicitors / Legal Executives (Qualified Status)	£35.00
Associate Member – Other Legal Professionals (Trainees, Paralegals, Support Staff etc.)	£20.00

More details about our membership benefits and our membership pro-rata system can be found on our website

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MEETING THE NEW GUY

Our PLO met with the newly elected MP for Don Valley



Finally, in December, after the pandemic drama and chaos that ensued in 2020, our Political Liaison Officer (PLO), Tony Rawlings, had the pleasure to attending a Teams meeting with Nick Fletcher, Member of Parliament for Don Valley following the General Election in 2019. Nick is the first Conservative to ever be elected for this seat.

During the meeting, which also included Mr Fletcher's office manager, Nick was very warm and friendly and gave encouragement for him to be addressed by his first name. He was keen to have an open dialogue with the society, it's committee and members and is keen to know our views on matters affecting the local community. He also confirmed he would be happy to be a Guest Speaker for the society, should we hold events such as our AGM or annual ball.

He was very pleased to be passed a list supplied by DDLS of member lawyers and firms, that could be passed to constituents should they need legal assistance.

Being the professional that Tony is, he tried to keep the meeting flowing and was keen to use it as an opportunity to build a good relationship for us to work together in the future. However, Tony did not shy away from asking Nick some questions about his thoughts:

Does he see any evidence of left behind areas being uplifted?

As evidence that the government is serious about this, Nick referred to the Green Book Review 2020 which he felt was well worth a read.

Does he see Brexit as having any impact on left behind areas?

Whilst the economy might slow down for a time, we should be looking forwards at this time.

What are his views on bullying in public life?

As an employer for 26 years (in the private sector), he has operated a policy of zero tolerance for bullying.

What attracted him to politics?

Being in business, he sees how politics effects both businesses and people and rather than spend his time shouting at Question Time, he would rather try to make a difference.

The meeting ended on good terms, with confidence that there was an opportunity for a good working partnership in the future.

LAW SOCIETY COUNCIL REPORT

Our National Council Officer, Mark Newby (Yorkshire Constituency Member, Law Society Criminal Law Committee Member and Scrutiny Performance and Review Committee Member), gives us a run down of the latest happenings around the profession...

It would be no understatement to say that 2020 has been a period of significant change for us all and whilst our paramount thoughts have been for those closest to us as well as those who are bravely running our NHS, it has also led to significant changes in the Justice System and Legal Community:

Reform of the Law Society Council

After an extended period of discussion and debate the last piece of the jigsaw of the reform of the Law Society national structure was the Council itself. The Council ultimately passed a resolution to reform the Council Structure and to align it more closely with the changing pattern of the profession as a whole. This will lead to a reduction in the more traditional geographical seats with an emphasis on greater representation for special interest groups such as in-house solicitors and a greater voice for key characteristic seats.

Such a task is to be achieved by a reduction in other seats and the re-drawing of certain boundaries, measures which are not without controversy. However, in support of the long-term interest in reform the Council approved the measures, and this was then debated at the Law Society AGM which approved the resolution. The other resolution which went to the AGM, but which was not approved by the Council was a restriction of terms to 12 years. This was subsequently approved at the AGM. A ballot had been called and whilst the turnout was low, the result announced in January was to pass both resolutions.

Detailed work now needs to be undertaken and approved by Council with regard to implementation and this will be a major issue in the months ahead as we strive to find a fair path for the changes required and to ensure no one is disenfranchised in the elections to come.

The Courts

We are all well aware of the continued pressure upon the Courts and this is unlikely to abate for some time, even when the immediate lockdown issues are resolved. We can expect a pressure on getting as many cases as possible through the Courts and the issue of extended hours and new ways of working remains on the agenda.

Criminal Practitioners have been particularly hit over the last few years and the law Society over the last few days reported on the scale of decline.

Access to the Courts for Solicitors

A long-awaited scheme to match the one negotiated by the bar has now been launched which allows Solicitors to fast track through security measures subject to random checks. You will require an ID Card and this can be obtained by visiting <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/en/campaigns/court-reform/news/new-solicitor-id-card-scheme>

SRA Activity - Transparency and Money Laundering

Price Transparency

The issues of Price Transparency and Money Laundering continue to be key for the SRA. Firms have already been subject to price transparency in a number of key areas, with the SRA Requirements giving clear guidelines for what must be published including firm Complaints Procedures together with a SRA badge being displayed to show they are authorised. The SRA has been seeking evidence of compliance and it seems likely verification of the data and compliance will continue. Several firms have faced sanctions for non-compliance, and you should make sure you meet the requirements if you have not already done so. But the requirements are now likely to increase as the SRA reacts to the Competition and Markets Authority Report in December 2020.

This will be an ongoing piece of work and the Law Society will be doing everything possible to ensure any further requirements are realistic and achievable for firms. It does not seem likely however that the tide of price transparency can be turned back now.

Anti-Money Laundering

In case you missed it, the 5th Money Laundering Directive has led to renewed heightening of the expectations of what Solicitors firms must do and the stringent proposals now are likely to place a significant burden on solicitors which will no doubt be added to by the proposed economic crime levy to be set this year.

The anti-money laundering (AML) guidance for the legal sector has been extensively reviewed and redrafted following the implementation of the EU's 5th Money Laundering Directive.

Solicitor and Firms must make themselves familiar with the requirements – access the Law Society Webpage <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/anti-money-laundering/anti-money-laundering-guidance>

In addition, the Law Society is providing a number of webinars for members to assist you in preparing which can be accessed via the Law Society events pages on Law Society website.

It should be assumed firms will be randomly selected for SRA Thematic Review and it would be a serious mistake to ignore your obligations.

The Law Society's Future Relationship with Local Law Societies

Local Law Societies will be aware that a National decision was made to lose a significant number of our regional managers and there is now an ongoing consultation as to how the relationship with Societies can be best addressed and delivered going forward.

We were all sad to see Jo McLeod, Cath Carter and Claire Quinn leave and thank them for everything they did for us in Yorkshire.

This is a time of major change both within the Law Society and externally, and whilst we may all come out of this in a positive way in the long term it is clear there are a lot of challenges ahead.

Hopefully this briefing is of assistance and if Mark or his Council Member Colleagues in Yorkshire can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to get in touch. <https://yorkshireunion.org.uk/council-members-corner/>

CHARITABLE DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

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. In 2020, coronavirus had other ideas. It was therefore decided that we would make some donations to charity instead of getting together.

After some committee discussions and research by our president, we settled on two causes that we wanted to support: South Yorkshire Community Foundation and Age UK.

South Yorkshire Community Foundation



The foundation was set up in 1986 with the view that everyone deserves the same opportunities no matter where they live, to achieve wellbeing across South Yorkshire, to build stronger communities and to transform local lives. South Yorkshire's Community Foundation is a part of the UK Community Foundations network made up of 46 Community Foundations across the UK.

Since their formation, through the efforts of fund raising and the generosity of donations, the foundation has helped communities across South Yorkshire in many ways from helping organizations maintain local woodland areas and promoting activities suitable for all to supporting projects set up to help disadvantaged parents struggling to meet

the demands of caring for new babies and young children.

The donation to South Yorkshire Community Foundation was made in Memory of Molly Hurst to The Young People Health & Wellbeing Fund. This a project set up to support young people aged 10 -26 years old with their mental health and wellbeing. Molly was a young lady who sadly took her own life. In their grief, her family and friends decided it was time to take action and set up a fund to ensure more help is available for young people to support their mental health and wellbeing.

For more information about South Yorkshire Community Foundation, please visit www.sycf.org.uk

Age UK



During the pandemic, many people have experienced a feeling of loneliness and isolation. However, for many of the older generation of the UK, the pandemic has made them even more lonely and isolated.

In the run up to Christmas, Age UK launched their Christmas campaign. When carrying out research ahead of the start of the campaign, that Christmas is the loneliest time of the year for over 1.5 million older people, with those who have been widowed feeling it the most. Age UK's research found that more than three-quarters of over 65s felt that the first Christmas

after losing someone you love is the hardest. It was estimated that up to 170,000 older people would be facing Christmas 2020 as their first Christmas without their spouse and that most of the older generation who face Christmas alone do not look forward to the festive period.

Money raised from campaign will help to fund essential services, such as the Age UK Advice Line, which gives clear, practical guidance that helps makes sense of complicated situations and helps people access the support they need to get back on their feet, for example following bereavement. The advice line is free to call and open every day of the

year – including Christmas day. Age UK and local Age UKs across the country work to combat loneliness through a range of services and activities, such as lunch clubs, exercise classes and advice and support when there's no one else to turn to.

This struck a chord with our committee and wanted to do whatever we could to help people feel less lonely during the Christmas period.

If you would like more information about Age UK, its services and campaigns, please visit

www.ageuk.org.uk

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT LAW SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR 2020/2021

President – Andrea Pashley (Malcolm C Foy & Co)
Vice President – Stephanie Veysey (Atherton Godfrey LLP)
Junior Vice President – Sarah Thiede (Malcolm C Foy & Co)
Secretary – Diane Parker (Atherton Godfrey LLP)
Treasurer – Sarah Naylor (Atherton Godfrey LLP)
Membership Officer – Janice Oxley / Kirsten Craig (Dawson & Burgess Solicitors)
Social Officer – Racheal Harrison (Malcolm C Foy & Co)
PR Officer – Maria Dallas (Atherton Godfrey LLP)
Training Officer - Jessica Mason / Eleanor Storey (Malcolm C Foy & Co)
In House Liaison Officer – Paul Singh (National Education Union)
National Council Officer – Mark Newby (Quality Solicitors Jordans)
Parliamentary Liaison Officer – Tony Rawlings (Paul Bullen & Co)
Diversity & Inclusion Officer – Paul Singh (National Education Union)

VACCINATING THE NATION!!

The roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Doncaster is well underway. As this is the largest vaccination programme ever embarked on in Doncaster, as much support as possible is needed, from volunteers to help support the 5 vaccination sites across Doncaster.

Volunteers can help at the sites by greeting and directing people being vaccinated, asking questions regarding symptoms, maintaining flow and social distancing, observing people post vaccination, providing support and assistance to staff and members of the public onsite.

If you have some spare time and would like more information about being a volunteer, please contact volunteering@voluntaryactiondoncaster.org.uk

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT: PAUL SINGH



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

Almost certainly a stand up comedian. I tried it a couple of times and really enjoyed it and found most people did laugh with me rather than at me. A lot of stand ups don't go into the profession until later in life so may be there is still time for me!

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

I currently work in-house for the National Education Union. I am an employment lawyer by trade and spend my time representing the teacher members of the union in ET matters and also in fitness to practice hearings. It's really rewarding helping individuals who find themselves in difficult situations.

3. What made you want a career in Law?

Truth be told, my parents. They wanted me to be a lawyer from an early age as they saw it as a respected profession which was also fairly well paid. They have always supported me and spurred me on and I thank them for getting me to where I am today.

4. Tell us about your role on the committee.

I joined the committee after moving back to work in Doncaster from Sheffield. Whilst at Sheffield I had been heavily involved in the Sheffield Law Society and was even president for a year. I wanted to continue working with the local law society as I see them as a great way to allow lawyers to connect with each other but also to work on issues as a group. I joined the DDLs committee as the In-house rep but last year I have taken on the role as Diversity and Inclusion rep. Both haven't progressed as well as I would have hoped and have been stalled by the pandemic but I always get involved in committee meetings and hopefully my suggestions are found to be useful and my occasional jokes make the meetings go a bit faster.

5. Tell us an interesting fact about you.

My wife has a fear of buttons.

6. Why do you think Doncaster is great?

I am Doncaster born and bred and could never imagine living somewhere else. Despite having worked around Yorkshire, I always feel most comfortable in Donny. It isn't as pretentious as some towns or cities and the people are really friendly and community minded. It always has things going on and is one of the few places you see where new projects are being carried out and is always developing. Viva Doncaster!

UPCOMING TRAINING

Training Officers, Jess and Eleanor have had a busy start to 2021 and have lined up a great schedule of training for the coming months

Civil Law Update (by Bank House Chambers)

10th March 2021 @ 4:00 pm

Update on Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents Act) 1975, Latest cases on Vicarious liability and Civil Procedure update

Doncaster Law Society Speeding up the conveyancing process (by Redbrick Solutions)

16th March 2021

Online portals and e-signatures, Electronic AML, Alert to confirm money on account and then a trigger request to order searches, Efficient ordering of searches, Ordering full reports and not just alerts, Environmental reports, Viewing documents in the online portal, Land registry integration, SDLT integration and much more

New Build Portfolio – how to win more new build work and get full searches back in 24 hours (by Redbrick Solutions)

30th March 2021

The UK housing crisis, Targeting New Build Developers, The CDS 3 step process to Full searches in 24 hours, The ideal site, Alternative solutions

What happens when I receive a report with a FURTHER ACTION and doesn't PASS first time?

13 April 2021 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

What should you report back to your client, What is a FURTHER ACTION and how can they occur?, Does FURTHER ACTION mean FAIL?, Are there other reports I need to access at this point?, Who can I speak to when I get one?

20th April Why client communication is key to success (by Redbrick Solutions)

Client communication is key to a law firm's success. During the present time when we are unable to see clients face to face, effective communication is even more vital than ever.

Contaminated Land: How to Protect Your Client (by CLS Property Insight)

27 April 2021 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

A look into our Environmental Report provider - Future Climate Info (FCI) Origins, Law Society and CML obligations, The Legacy of Contaminated Land, Case Studies, What do we check for?, Further Actions and how to deal with them Aand much more

May Training Events

Lawyer Checker in collaboration with Conveyancing Data Services: Cybercrime update

May 4th at 11.00am

Top cyber security tips & learn how you can make a difference to your firm's security.

For more information on any of our training events, to book your place or to make a suggestion for training you would like to see please contact Jess (jmason@malcolmcfoy.co.uk) or Eleanor (estorey@malcolmcfoy.co.uk) or e-mail the society at doncasterdistrictlawsociety@gmail.com