

# CitySolicitor

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CITY OF LONDON SOLICITORS' COMPANY AND THE CITY OF LONDON LAW SOCIETY

*"What man really wishes to do he will find a means of doing."*

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW



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## editor's letter



TO SAY IT HAS BEEN QUITE A YEAR, WOULD BE SOMEWHAT OF AN UNDER-STATEMENT. IN A YEAR DOMINATED BY BREXIT, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE TIME TO FOCUS ON MUCH ELSE.

It is rare that I have the opportunity to thank our talented team who make City Solicitor possible, so please indulge my Yule time thanks. I am continually grateful to our excellent journalist, Maroulla Paul, and our talented Editorial Board for producing another excellent edition. We are pleased that we are attracting an ever growing number of advertisers who are promoting their services to our profession in the City of London. We are also grateful to our publishers, Lansdowne and also to Zmags for the online edition of City Solicitor and Buxton Press for printing. I wish a very Merry Christmas to the entire City Solicitor team.

In this edition we are proud to shine a light on the work of our Charities Committee and the charities that your Committee has supported financially in 2019. We also discuss the climate emergency and the contribution of many lawyers in that movement. We also share stories of inspiration, including from the Editorial Board's favourite rapper, Stormzy.

To say that we as solicitors in the City of London are in a fortunate position is a vast understatement. Not only do we work in the best City in the world, but on a day to day business we are able to see that our work can, and does, make a difference. That difference comes about in a myriad of different ways from helping our client achieve their goals, the economic impact of our work, the employment opportunities that we create, and our work to uphold the rule of law and in promoting the City. 2019 has proven to be a year in which the rule of law has been of increased importance.

Goodbye and farewell to 2019. How we shall miss you?! On behalf of the Editorial team, may I wish our dear readers and their families a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Henson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Philip Henson**  
Editor  
mail@citysolicitors.org.uk

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*“In this edition we are proud to shine a light on the work of our Charities Committee and the charities that your Committee has supported financially in 2019.”*

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# All I Want For CHRISTMAS...

*Once upon a time...and not really that long ago, fantasy Christmas wishes were all about fast cars and designer clothes. But times have changed. As we see our world being continually harmed not just in terms of climate change but also through human injustice and suffering, so our thoughts have become less inward looking, less materialistic and more about what we can do, as individuals and collectively, to make our world a safer, happier, fairer and better place, not just for us, but for future generations.*

*As lawyers, we have always steered clear of political comment or involvement. Now we have to take on the mantle of responsibility. We can use our time, our knowledge and our expertise to help make changes that will matter. It's time not just for wishes, but for our actions to turn them into reality.*



In June this year, David Gilmour of Pink Floyd fame sold his guitar collection comprising over 120 instruments at Christies in New York raising a record breaking \$21,490,750.

Gilmour gave this entire amount to ClientEarth saying;

“The global climate crisis is the greatest challenge that humanity will ever face, and we are within a few years of the effects of global warming being irreversible. I hope that the sale of these guitars will help ClientEarth in their cause to use the law to bring about real change.”

“We need a civilised world that goes on for all our grandchildren and beyond in which these guitars can be played and songs can be sung.”

In 2018, rapper Stormzy announced he would cover the university tuition fees of two black Cambridge

undergraduate students for the duration of their degrees. This year he extended this to two more students.

The Stormzy scholarship is aimed at supporting people from minority backgrounds who have earned a place at the University of Cambridge.

Increasingly, celebrities like Gilmour and Stormzy, are using their huge influence to inform, persuade and motivate the public into making positive changes as well as using their huge wealth to really help make a difference.

The general public are not prepared to sit around and do nothing anymore either. Extinction Rebellion took over London this Autumn and their disruption gained their cause much media coverage and helped raise awareness.

Industries that hitherto were considered, at best, frivolous and, at worse, highly polluting and destructive



children seen enjoying the art whilst being simultaneously educated.

On 25 September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the universal, integrated and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with a set of 17 goals (SDGs);

**Goal 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**Goal 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

**Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

**Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**Goal 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

**Goal 7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

**Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**Goal 9:** Build a resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

**Goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries

**Goal 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**Goal 12:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

**Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**Goal 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managed forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

**Goal 16:** Achieve peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law, effective and capable institutions

**Goal 17:** Strengthen means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

*“The Danish/Icelandic artist is passionate about climate change.”*

like the fashion industry are rethinking their whole ethos in an attempt to better, not worsen, our planet.

The most successful Tate Modern exhibit to date which has attracted in crowds from all over the world and broken all ticket sale records is Olafur Eliasson's In Real Life. The Danish/Icelandic artist is passionate about climate change and this vast interactive show brings all the problems to life in a way that appeals to all age groups as is evidenced by the hoards of young



*“Crucially, the success of the goals depends on everyone – governments, the private sector, civil society and individuals.”*

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It seems that every sector of society is getting involved in effecting the changes needed to make these goals a reality. As lawyers, however, we have always believed it is not our place to publicly comment or get involved in issues that have any political context. But as we reach crisis level in so many different areas, lawyers are stepping forward, and they are making a difference.

Let’s examine what is being done, both within and outside of the legal sector, to come closer to realising the goals set by the UN to improve our lives and to protect those who come after us as well as the world itself.

Advocates for International Development (A4ID) (<http://www.a4id.org>) is a leading, international charity that believes the law can, and should, be used more effectively to advance fair and sustainable development. To this end, A4ID aims to inspire lawyers to join the global fight to eradicate poverty and enable them to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The SDGs have become our generation’s framework for global engagement. Crucially, the success of the goals depends on everyone – governments, the private sector, civil society and individuals – who must all play their part to achieve the SDGs and work together in partnership to achieve them. Importantly, A4ID focuses on stakeholders whose legal needs are often overlooked, namely, NGOs, inter-governmental organisations, and fragile governments. The reason is that providing legal assistance to these bodies has a multiplier effect – by addressing their legal needs, they can have an impact on scores of individuals, communities and societies. To this end, and for over 12 years, A4ID has inspired the world’s top lawyers to offer free legal support to civil society organisations that work to advance human dignity, equality and justice. With a network of over 50,000 lawyers and more than 800 development partners working towards the SDGs, to date, A4ID has facilitated pro bono projects in over 130 countries.

It is through drafting laws and policies that the SDGs can translate from aspiration to action and through human rights law that the principles underpinning the Goals can be judicially enforced. Crucially, while the 17 Goals are interdependent and indivisible, Goal 16, focuses specifically on the Rule of Law, which is of particular significance to lawyers. Without a strong constitutional culture, independent judges, and an open, transparent and democratically accountable Government that respects and enforces judicial remedies, the promise of the SDGs and achieving full human rights for all will remain empty.

Secondly, the SDGs make sound business sense for law firms. The private sector’s engagement with the Goals is steadily increasing and the SDGs are now part of business reporting for many. As companies look for legal advice on how SDG alignment will have legal and regulatory implications and as governments use the law as a lever for corporate behaviour change,



lawyers armed with knowledge of the SDGs will be able to provide incisive advice.

Finally, many global law firms have the size and scope to affect and impact the SDGs. The legal industry prides itself in being at the forefront of many issues including gender rights, environmental stewardship and local community engagement. The SDGs are the global framework to embed and report on such initiatives and provide a tremendous opportunity for the legal community to lead the way in achieving lasting change.

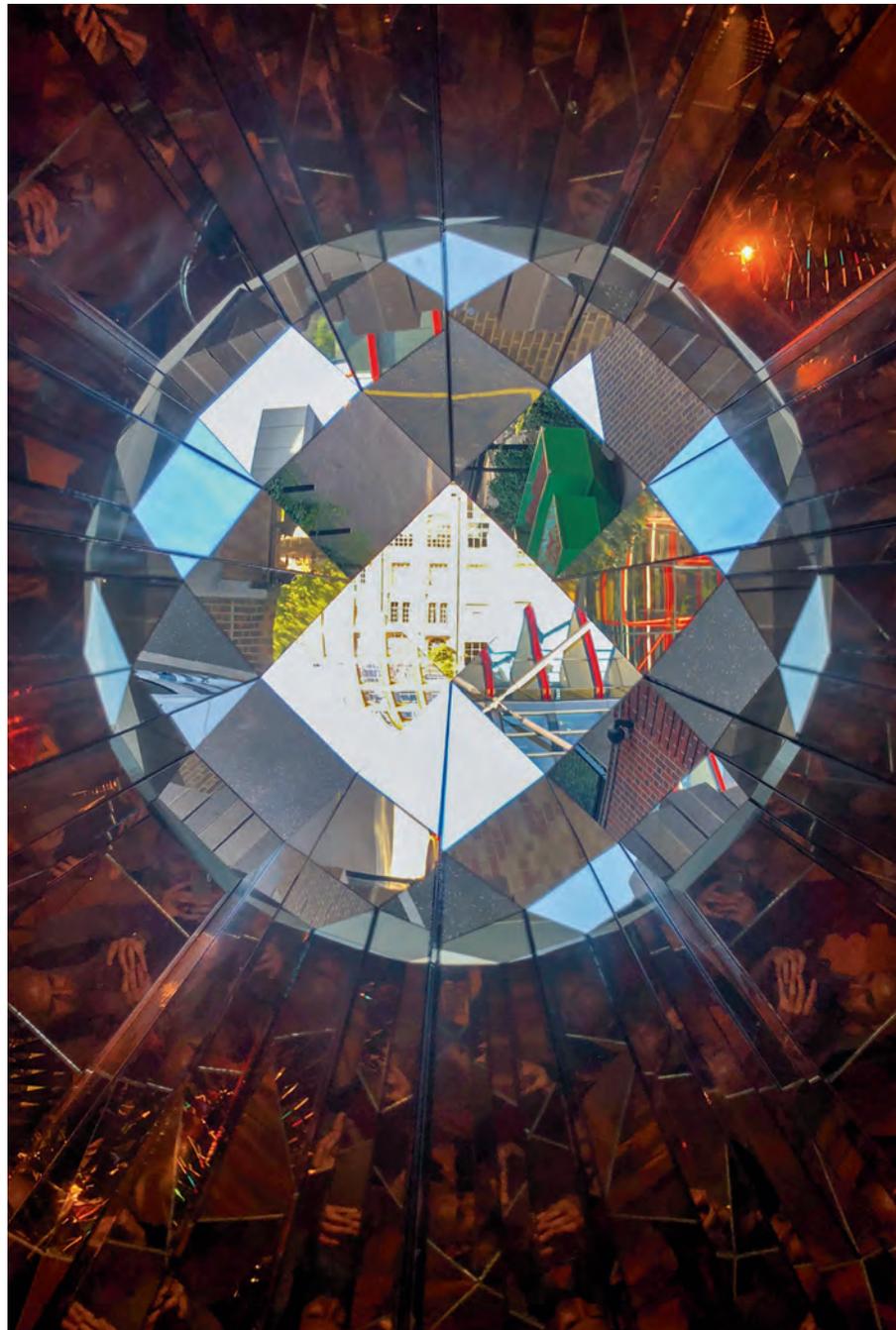
A4ID tracks its pro bono service against the SDGs, so lawyers can see how their pro bono work impacts the Goals. Through the Rule of Law Expertise programme, A4ID has worked with global law firms, run training workshops and published material on how to integrate the SDGs into international pro bono practices. A4ID has also convened global law firms, companies and NGOs to learn how to increase law firm uptake of the SDGs. In collaboration with their legal partners, A4ID is soon to launch A Legal Guide to the Sustainable Development Goals. This highly anticipated Guide provides a foundational analysis of the role of law in driving progress towards the SDGs and offers a unique, practical resource to encourage and facilitate decision makers' use of legal mechanisms to achieve the SDGs.

In 2017, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) approached A4ID for urgent assistance to develop a robust legal framework that would address the systemic gender inequality they had identified in West Africa's energy sector. Within three weeks, A4ID placed the task with a team of lawyers from Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, who developed a Directive on Gender Assessments in Energy Projects.

Drawing inspiration from current processes used in Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, the Directive forces large-scale energy development projects to assess and report on the implications of their plans for gender equality. The Directive takes into account the specific interests of women in the development of energy projects and requires that any potential adverse or discriminatory impact on women deriving from such projects are identified and mitigated.

By encouraging the development of regulatory frameworks to improve transparency in the planning and implementation of energy projects, the Directive also seeks to promote and increase the participation and capacity of women as customers, employees, managers and investors in these projects.

The lawyers' draft Directive was presented to the ECOWAS Member States for validation during a workshop in June 2017. Upon its validation by ECOWAS Energy Ministers, and with Sullivan & Cromwell's assistance, ECREEE is now working with ECOWAS Member States to develop National Action Plans (NAPs) on Gender and Energy. The NAPs will set out short-to-long-term actions to operationalise the Directive in the respective Member States.



*“The Directive takes into account the specific interests of women in the development of energy projects.”*



*“I want every lawyer in the world to harness their expertise and take visible steps towards achieving the Goals by 2030.”*

As the NAPs are implemented, the energy sector will have to go beyond vague commitments on gender equality to comply with enforceable laws that require concrete and measurable actions. As the first region in the world to introduce such measures for any type of development project, West Africa is a world leader in terms of Gender Impact Assessment requirements.

The hope for the future is that by breaking down barriers to equal rights of participation in the expanding energy services market, energy projects will start to bring equal benefits for men and women, and more women will be welcomed into the private and public sector energy workforce. The long-term impact of the legal assistance provided by Sullivan & Cromwell in developing the Directive and reviewing the NAPs will be to reduce adverse gender-related discrimination in energy infrastructure development and to reform the energy sector to make it more gender responsive and inclusive.

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP have gained unique exposure in the development of a gender-responsive regional legal Directive. Given that the Directive is the first of its kind, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP will be the voice of authority on the development of subsequent legal frameworks for Gender Impact Assessments. The lessons learned and expertise shared during this project could be used to develop similar directives in other regions and sectors around the world and help to achieve further progress towards SDG 5 on Gender Equality and SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities. The expertise that the lawyers have acquired and Sullivan & Cromwell’s enhanced reputation as a result of this project, gives the firm an advantageous edge for taking on similar work, as other sectors and regions around the world inevitably begin to seek legal assistance with the development of gender-responsive legal frameworks.

“Sullivan & Cromwell is proud to have collaborated with ECREEE, national stakeholders, and other partners on the project to bring considerations of gender to the forefront in the approval process for energy projects in West Africa. The knowledge and understanding that we gained through our collaborations will have an impact for a long time to come on how we advise clients on energy projects,” says Samuel E. Saunders, Associate at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP.

This ground-breaking legal directive forces action on gender equality in West Africa. The wide-reaching potential of this Directive is a significant leap forwards for women’s human rights.

Yasmin Batliwala is the CEO of A4ID. Her Christmas wish is;

“To see every law firm, law society, bar association, chambers and judicial office across the globe aligning their work with the SDGs. Beyond this, I want every lawyer in the world to harness their expertise and take visible steps towards achieving the Goals by 2030. As members of a profession that holds the values of justice and fairness sacrosanct, it is

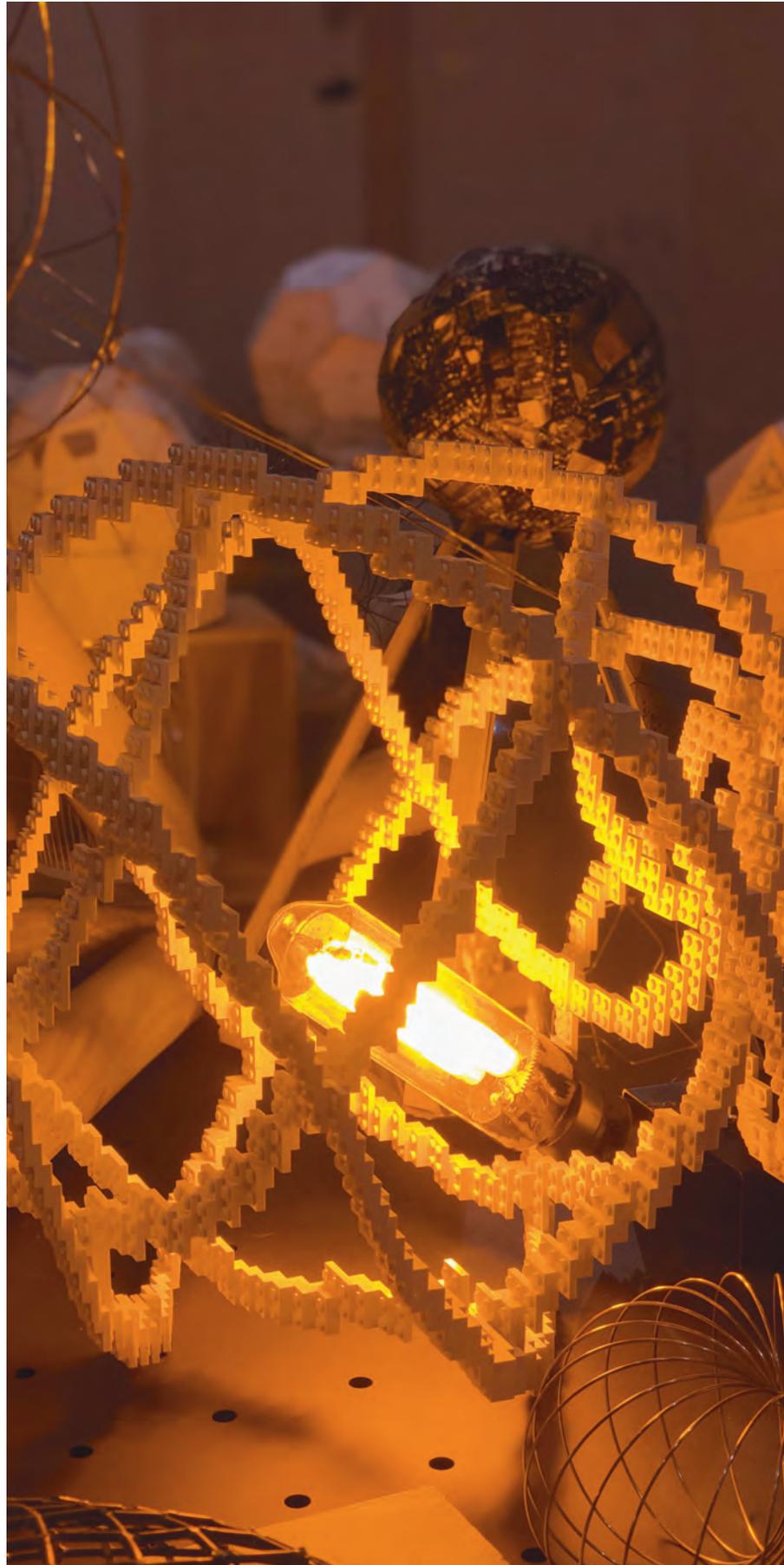
*“Everyone who is in the investment chain must understand the material financial risk that climate change involves.”*

essential that we join hands to achieve the Goals and lead the way in ensuring that no one is left behind.”

One lawyer who is most definitely harnessing her expertise to help achieve the Goals is Joanne Etherton. Etherton spent almost three decades in private practice. She was a pensions partner in the London office of international law firm, Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP, having previously trained and practised pensions law at Clifford Chance LLP. But two years ago, she decided that she was at a point in her life where she wanted to use the next section of her career using her skills and knowledge to deal with the massive challenges facing our planet.

So, she joined ClientEarth ([www.clientearth.org](http://www.clientearth.org)) as the Project Lead on Climate Finance. ClientEarth is a charity that uses the power of the law to protect the planet and the people who live on it. It comprises lawyers and environmental experts who are fighting against climate change to protect nature and the environment. Etherton says she feels both privileged and excited to be faced with such a huge challenge.

“Everyone who is in the investment chain must understand the material financial risk that climate change involves. This is beginning to be better known but it is my aim to put this material financial risk on the agenda of every meeting, to mainstream it. It’s not something that should be dealt with by a sustainability team but by everyone. We need to constantly be questioning “how does this transaction affect the climate?”. All companies need to have Paris compliant business plans. This isn’t just about the oil and gas sectors. Meat-free Mondays and offices which are free of single use plastic are important as every little step obviously helps. But there is a much bigger picture that we all need to address. Like ‘how am I running my business? Am I running it in a way that is consistent with the net zero target?’. I would like to see the big institutions and pension funds thoroughly interrogate and investigate who they are investing in. Our work is making a big difference. Where we find companies falling short of the necessary requirements, we publish reports and write to the financial regulators. Not only does this cause those companies to improve their practices but it also encourages advisers to come to us and ask for advice to avoid their clients being reported. But people need to realise that time is running out. We need to act. And we need to act now. My Christmas wish is that words become actions. The background has changed over the past year. Opinion is out on the street.





It's difficult to ignore. But the talk needs to turn into positive action; this cannot be just about words on a page but about how we actually do business every single day."

Jeffrey Twentyman is Co-chair at UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development ([www.ukssd.co.uk](http://www.ukssd.co.uk)) and until April of this year was the chair of the Legal Sustainability Alliance (<https://legalsustainabilityalliance.com>), of which he was a founding member when it was set up 10 years ago. He sees the SDGs as the "closest thing to a strategy that the Earth has got" and believes the topics they cover are "matters we collectively need to get on top of as a world in order to succeed. This is not just about you. This is not just about me. Not just about the legal industry. This hugely ambitious set of objectives requires us all to get involved."

Twentyman has been practising law for over 30 years and says that time has passed in a blink of an eye. He believes that when the young lawyers of today are similarly looking back in 2050, they will have witnessed a much more significant picture of change than he himself has experienced and that there is a huge urgency and existential uncertainty attached to now and what lies ahead.

Twentyman believes people are no longer finding it tolerable to sit back and say nothing but that speaking up is quite alien to the legal industry who have historically been a support sector, not leaders.

"Lawyers have typically remained neutral on any political issues. Our role has been in helping others to say what they want to say without expressing our own feelings; speaking for people in Court, writing letters for them, acting for businesses regardless of whether we morally agree with them. It's not our business to have an opinion. But society is increasingly having greater expectations of how businesses should behave. Reputation is everything and the legal industry cannot stay immune from that. So we have a conundrum; lawyers are supposed to act with integrity; how can we claim to support sustainability in our business and elsewhere if we represent businesses who are behaving in ways that undermine sustainability? The old view was that if it was legal, it was good enough. But today people are questioning what is good in the workplace and what is bad business and making decisions on where they work and who they work with based on how well they behave. We can't pretend that this will not impact law firms and these sorts of conversations are starting to happen at partner level. Young lawyers coming into the profession today have more acute ambitions to work in a purposeful way than was the case historically. We are subject to the same forces that are affecting other businesses and these forces will drive us to consider delivering on purpose and not just on profit. If we accept that every human life is of equal value – and there is no contrary view to that – then we need to stop talking and start acting. People feel constrained by their jobs, they aren't sure exactly what they should do in the workplace – but when you look at the crises that both nature and people are

facing, it's simply not a choice to do nothing. There is an unignorable backdrop of anxiety on all of these matters and I, for one, am not prepared to be a bystander.

My Christmas wish? That businesses actually act on what they say, that we consider the long term and start the rapid shift of getting to where we need to be rather than holding back."

Are law firms acting? Or are they still holding back? To find out exactly what they are doing, we spoke to Linda Horbye who is Head of Corporate Responsibility at CMS. Is CR merely something that businesses have to tick a box – or are they taking it seriously?

"The purpose of a CR programme is to ensure that every business meets its responsibilities. At CMS our purpose is a bigger vision. We are working towards creating a better future – for ourselves, our clients and for the next generations. We have adopted the UN SDGs and are supporting individuals to work together to achieve them.

We run five different programmes that support the UN SDGs at CMS; Charitable Giving, Education and Social Mobility, Environment, Local Needs and Pro Bono.

Take Local Needs. With homelessness a growing problem in London, every January we take over the Whitechapel Mission (<https://whitechapel.org.uk>) for a week. We have over 100 volunteers to take over the mission, cooking and serving breakfast, sorting donations and providing advice to those who use the service. We also invite our clients to join us meaning even more support for the Mission. January is a particularly hard time for the homeless; the weather is harsh and not being a part of Christmas family festivities has its emotional toll.

In the Education and Social Mobility programme we try and make sure as many people as possible have fair access to opportunities. To that end, we have a CMS Law Scholarship whereby we fund and mentor students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are interested in a legal career.

We also teach our young people about both their rights and responsibilities and we are a member of PRIME and the Social Mobility Business Partnership meaning we run a number of programmes to ensure fair access to work experience. We encourage disadvantaged young people to come into our offices and meet our clients and understand the work we and they do.

Every member of staff at CMS is given a hundred hours a year to spend on doing CR activities that help others. We really do put our money where our mouth is.

My wish this Christmas is that businesses, organisations and individuals all actively embrace the UN's goals and we all work together to try and solve the huge challenges we face."

*"The purpose of a CR programme is to ensure that every business meets its responsibilities."*

The CMS funding of university students has obviously not received the high profile media attention given to the similar donation from Stormzy who now totally funds four black disadvantaged students throughout their Cambridge education.





*“The FRU helps people who are not eligible for legal aid and cannot afford lawyers.”*

Beard and his team are working hard to reach as wide and diverse an audience as possible to apply to Cambridge.

“A couple of years ago our intake of black students was 30 a year. This went up to 60 last year and this year it’s 91. A lot of that is because of the Stormzy effect but we also are running a media campaign, running outreach programmes, summer schools as well as partnering with Oxford University and Rare on the Target Oxbridge programme. Whilst our figures are improving and encouraging, our aim is to go much further.

My Christmas wish is for everyone to be able to fulfil their true potential, regardless of the circumstances into which they were born. That’s easy to say and hard to do, but our society can only benefit from every step that we take in that direction.”

The Free Representation Unit ([www.thefru.org.uk](http://www.thefru.org.uk)) has been providing representation in social security and employment tribunals since 1972. It is the oldest pro bono organisation proving that – whilst the SDGs have focused and encouraged action, some people – and some lawyers – have been trying to make the world a fairer place for a very long time.

The FRU helps people who are not eligible for legal aid and cannot afford lawyers. The work is done by volunteers, mostly law students and legal professionals in the early stages of their career. All FRU’s representatives are trained and supervised by legal officers. The aims of the FRU are two-fold; to help relieve poverty by providing representation but also, symbiotically, to support the education of young lawyers.

Its Chief Executive, David Abbott talks about the two tribunals FRU work in;

“In social security tribunals, the amounts of money involved may seem very small, but to those concerned, they would have a significant impact on their lives. The money could make the difference between eating and not eating, having the heating on or freezing to death, getting out of the house or being isolated. The employment tribunals cover a wide range of claims; from trying to recover unpaid wages to serious sexual harassment and discrimination.

The benefits of this funding reaches far further than the four students (who remain anonymous so that they are not differentiated in any way from other students).

We spoke to Jon Beard who is the Director of the Admissions Office at Cambridge University;

“Stormzy approached us 18 months ago. His aim was to show that young disadvantaged black people can occupy all the same spaces in society as anyone else. He wanted to smash the stereotype. He is currently providing free education to four students who can leave Cambridge debt free thanks to the donation. But Stormzy’s contribution extends way further than just funding these four students. His profile gives us reach that we could never achieve alone; there is a huge difference between the University encouraging students to apply and Stormzy saying ‘you CAN do this’. Applications for our project, Target Oxbridge, which is a free programme that aims to help students with black heritage increase their chances of getting into the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, increased from 200 to 700 since the media coverage around the Stormzy Scholarship – that’s no coincidence.”

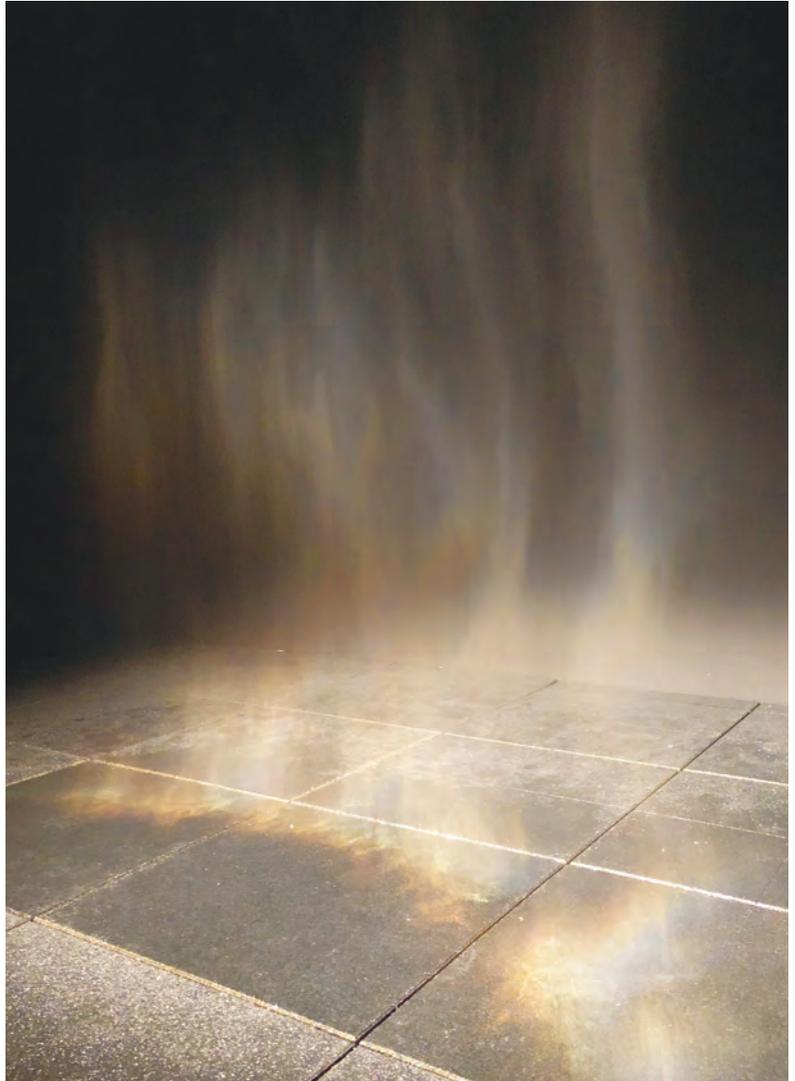
We undertake the work that solicitors and barristers do in other jurisdictions. 95% of our volunteers are current law students or they have just completed their studies and are looking for training contracts or pupillage. We are giving them experience – and they are helping those who most need it. Individual lawyers and law firms can work with us to mutual benefit, and we always welcome financial support.

My Christmas wish is to see the cuts that have been made in Legal Aid reinstated and provision extended. Indeed, Legal Aid was never available for representation in the tribunals we deal with. Extended Legal Aid would be like a magic wand for our massively disadvantaged citizens.”

Not every action has to be big to make a difference. Nor does help only have to come from those with expertise or knowledge of a particular cause. Cameron Saul, co-founder of the Bottletop Foundation, launched #TOGETHERBAND (<https://togetherband.org>) on 22 April this year, Earth Day. #TOGETHERBAND aims to unite us all as a global community, to engage a billion people through creativity and culture in sharing a commitment to achieving all of the 17 UN SDGs. Saul wants to empower every individual, to help them feel closer to these issues. His focus is that “together, we can move the needle.” He wants to harness the immediacy of social media to bring the general public into the conversation about what is most important to the human race and to be able to contribute to the route map for achieving the Goals.

How does it work? Each of the 17 aims is represented by a different colour. The object is to pick the cause that is closest to your heart and to buy a band of that colour. With each band you buy, you will receive a second one to share with someone special to you to inspire them to find out more about and also support the cause. The bands themselves are upcycled plastic from the oceans’ coastlines and from firearm metals. They are woven and assembled by women who have been rescued from difficult situations – some were living on the streets, others victims of sex trafficking. The wearers of the bands then see content about their chosen cause on social media so making them mini experts and ambassadors. 100% of the proceeds from each sale are used to spread the word about the SDGs and fund life-changing projects to build a better future for us all.

Saul’s Christmas wish is “to see everyone looking after each other a bit more. It is all too easy to feel separate and retreat into our own bubble. We are trying to remind everyone we are all in this together



and we need to be thinking creatively about how we can support one another. It’s not only big actions that make a difference. Small acts of kindness, how we shop, considering the impact of our daily choices both on people and the planet – all these things add up. We all need to be conscious of how we are living – and the band is a reminder of that.”

**A lot of good work is being done. But it’s a drop in the ocean. Each and every one of us needs to step up and do our bit; whether it’s something as small and simple as buying a #TOGETHERBAND or whether we can give up time and use our individual expertise to help. The cost of doing nothing is too high. Not just for us, but for the future of our world.**

Photography courtesy Kristos Georgiou ([kristos@sparkloop.com](mailto:kristos@sparkloop.com))

All imagery is from the Olafur Eliasson “In Real Life” showing at Tate Modern until 5 January 2020.

To buy a #TOGETHERBAND go to [www.togetherband.org](http://www.togetherband.org)

# LIVERY NEWS

A look at what has been happening – and what is coming up.

## Master's Word – Serving, Giving and Party-Going

**John Wotton, Master**

I'm now six months into my term as Master and it's a privilege to hold office this year. There are three main strands to the Company's activities, social, charitable and civic and I'd like to take this opportunity to say a few words about each of them.

The Company's events are enthusiastically supported and conducted in a great spirit of conviviality and good humour. By the time you read this, our annual Livery Dinner will have taken place at Fishmongers' Hall, which I chose because I've always felt that this building has a very special atmosphere, arising from the harmonious proportions of its rooms and the large windows which light them. Harmony will be a feature of the evening, for I am a great music lover and, in addition to our guest speaker being the former Lord Mayor and distinguished musician, Sir Andrew Parmley, I have arranged a short song recital to punctuate the meal. As I write the dinner is fully booked and a waiting list has formed.

The second big Company event of my year as Master will be our Annual Banquet, which will be held at the Mansion House on Monday 2nd March 2020. This is always a classy occasion, providing a great opportunity to introduce the Company to our friends, families and colleagues. I always bring guests along and I hope you all will, too. Our guest speaker at the Banquet will be Tony Juniper CBE, Chair of Natural England. I have been a committed conservationist since I was an undergraduate and met Tony when we were both on the board of an international biodiversity NGO. He is one of the most prominent environmental campaigners in the UK and a compelling speaker. As global concern grows about the climate emergency, I think it will be timely for us to look beyond the confines of our own profession to the wider issues faced by the world. I'm greatly looking forward to hearing Tony's speech.

We find that the more events we put on, the keener members of the Company are to attend them.

Our Committees are bubbling over with ideas for new events and we need to find the resources quickly to support an increased annual programme. We are working on this. Pleased as we are that our events are so popular and the Company so well-supported by the Livery and Freemen, we must not be complacent. Two Liverymen have written a thoughtful paper, which invites us to consider whether the Company is as committed to diversity and inclusion as it might be. These are important questions, for we wish to reflect in our membership the diversity of the solicitors' profession and to conduct our activities in a way that is welcoming to all our members, potential members and their guests, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity or sexual identity and irrespective of any disability they may have. We also wish, of course, to be considerate and respectful towards each other and our staff. The matter has already been discussed by some of our Committees and will be taken forward under the supervision of the Court.

Turning to the Company's charitable fund, I have made it a priority of my year to achieve a substantial increase in the fund's charitable giving capacity. It is small by the standards of livery companies in general, including some that are much younger than we are. The Charities Committee and Court devote great care to choosing the organisations to be supported and the Company bears all the costs of administering the fund, so that every pound donated goes to support our charitable objectives, which focus on access to justice and social inclusion in inner London. Many members of the Company support the charitable fund by annual giving and many have also left legacies to it in their Wills. I wrote recently to all Liverymen who do not donate regularly, inviting them to start doing so and this produced a gratifying response, increasing our capacity to make annual donations by some £5,000. I wish to double this figure to £10,000 by the end of my term as Master, next June. Please consider making

regular donations to the charitable fund, if you do not already do so.

On the civic side, this autumn has seen the end of Past Master Vincent Keaveny's highly successful term in office as Aldermanic Sheriff. I was proud to propose the vote of thanks to Vincent and his fellow Sheriff, Liz Green, at Common Hall in the Guildhall in October. In 2020, we may look forward to the possibility that Vincent will become Lord Mayor and that another Liveryman, Alderman Alison Gowman, will stand for election as Sheriff. With Past Masters Sir David Wootton and David Graves serving as Aldermen, it is gratifying that the Company is strongly represented at the heart of the civic City. It was also gratifying that the opportunity to take part in the Company's float in the Lord Mayor's Show attracted more applicants than for as long as any of us can remember. Those who took part (including many members of the Cadet Unit we support) put on a great, eye-catching performance, attracting enthusiastic cheers from the crowds and plenty of media coverage. It's good for the profession that the public sees our light-hearted, public spirited side on this great occasion.

Supporting our distinguished Liverymen when they hold high office in the City involves substantial obligations on the Company's part, which need to be funded. This requirement, together with our wish to increase resources to support more events which appeal to you, our members, lies behind the substantial increase in quarterage, of which you will recently have been notified. I hope you will understand why this is necessary and will continue to feel that the Company represents good value. It is inexpensive, by Livery Company standards. Of course, the more new members who join the Company, the more widely the financial burden can be shared, so do bring your friends and colleagues along and get them interested in joining us!

## The Lord Mayor's Show – 9th November 2019

**The City of London Solicitors' Company brought carnival colour and cheer to the City's streets in this year's Lord Mayor's Show. The Company continued its long association with Harlesden-based Mahogany Carnival who provided another amazing array of colourful costumes.**

The Company took the Lord Mayor's theme of "Supporting Innovation, Investment and Culture", and portrayed some of the practice areas covered by the City profession including banking and finance, shipping, transport, sport and music. Solicitors, represented by legal eagles and knights on horseback, completed the float. Our thanks go to Mahogany Carnival and all the firms who supported our entry in this year's show, either by donating or taking part on the day. We were also grateful for the support of our wonderful Cadets from the Company's affiliated unit, the 71st London Irish Rifles based in Camberwell, who joined us on the parade.



## The City of London Solicitors' Company Charitable Giving

If you are interested in finding out more about the work of the Charitable Fund, the following charities received one-off gifts from the Company during 2019.

### CHILDREN & EDUCATION

#### Cerebra

Fund research, share information, support parents and carers and provide direct financial assistance and legal advice to families of children and young people with brain injuries.

Web: [www.cerebra.org.uk](http://www.cerebra.org.uk)

#### Keen London

Provide free one-to-one supported sports and recreational activities for children with additional, special or complex support needs. Free weekend sessions run in Camden, Hackney & Lambeth.

Web: [www.keenlondon.org](http://www.keenlondon.org)

#### Tower Hamlets Education

##### Business Partnership

Educational charity bridging the gap between students and the world of work. Working with young people in Tower Hamlets matching them with business volunteers to improve basic literacy and numeracy skills, employability and interview skills.

Web: <https://thebp.org.uk>

### LEGAL & REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS

#### Chaos Theory

Providing support for those affected by community violence and by knife and gun crime. Advocacy, support and legal advice for families who need assistance with legal appointments or who are going through court cases.

Web: [www.chaostheory.org.uk](http://www.chaostheory.org.uk)

#### Only Connect

Working with men and women aged 16 and over with recent experience of the criminal justice system to end reoffending and support progress into education, training and employment.

Web: <https://onlyconnectuk.org>

#### Why me?

##### Victims for Restorative Justice

Supporting victim survivors of crime to help them recover from trauma and encouraging the participation of offenders in restorative justice, including a project in London prisons to bring offenders and victims together.

Web: <https://why-me.org>

#### Woman's Trust

Woman only charity providing free therapeutic services to address the consequences of domestic violence and providing family law advice workshops for women attending the Family Court.

Web: <http://womanstrust.org.uk>

### MEDICAL

#### Crossroads Counselling

Providing a professional counselling service offering long-term, low-cost counselling for people on a low income who live, work, study or worship (any faith) in Tower Hamlets.

Web: [www.crossroadscounselling.org](http://www.crossroadscounselling.org)

If you would like to support the Charitable Fund, please contact [clerk@citysolicitors.org.uk](mailto:clerk@citysolicitors.org.uk) for details on how to donate.

## 2020 CALENDAR THE CITY OF LONDON SOLICITORS' COMPANY

Mon. 13th Jan.	General Purposes Committee at the Company's offices at 4 College Hill, E.C.4. at 5.00 p.m.
Tues. 4th Feb.	*Court meeting at 4.30 p.m. followed by Court/Committee of the City of London Law Society/Chairmen of Committees/Liverymen Dinner at 6.30 p.m.
Tues. 25th Feb.	General Purposes Committee, at the Company's offices at 4 College Hill, E.C.4. at 5.00 p.m.
Mon. 2nd Mar.	Inter-Livery Bridge Competition at Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2.
Mon. 2nd Mar.	Banquet, Mansion House, at 6.45 p.m. Liverymen, Freemen and Guests.
Mon. 16th Mar.	*Court meeting at 11.00 a.m. followed by luncheon at 1.00 p.m.
Fri. 27th Mar.	United Guilds' Service, St. Paul's Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. followed by lunch at a venue to be arranged. Liverymen.
Thurs. 7th – Sun. 10th May	Master's Weekend, Cornwall.
Wed. 13th & Thurs. 14th May	Inter-Livery Clay Shoot, Holland & Holland, Northwood, Middlesex.
Thurs. 14th May	Inter-Livery Golf – Prince Arthur Cup. Walton Heath.
Mon. 18th May	Court meeting at 5.00 p.m. Annual Service at 6.30 p.m. H.M. Tower of London, followed by Reception/Supper at Trinity House. Liverymen, Freemen and Guests.
Thurs. 28th May	General Purposes Committee, at the Company's offices at 4 College Hill, E.C.4. at 6.00 p.m.
Mon. 15th June	Court meeting at 4.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting and Champagne Reception at 5.30 p.m. at Tallow Chandlers' Hall, Dowgate Hill, EC4. Liverymen and Freemen
Wed. 24th June	Election of Sheriffs, Guildhall, noon. Followed by lunch at a venue to be arranged. Liverymen.
Thurs. 10th Sept.	General Purposes Committee at the Company's offices at 4 College Hill, E.C.4. at 5.00 p.m.
Tues. 29th Sept.	Election of Lord Mayor, Guildhall, 11.45 a.m. followed by lunch at a venue to be arranged. Liverymen.
Thurs. 1st Oct.	*Court meeting at 4.30 p.m. followed by Court Dinner at 6.30 p.m. L.
Thurs. 29th Oct.	General Purposes Committee, at the Company's offices at 4 College Hill, E.C.4. at 5.00 p.m.
Sat. 14th Nov.	Lord Mayor's Show
Mon. 16th Nov.	*Court meeting at 11.00 a.m. followed by luncheon at 1.00 p.m.
tba Nov.	Livery Dinner, venue to be tba at 6.45 p.m. Liverymen and Guests.





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## AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...

*Think about a restaurant in Mayfair.*

*Chances are you won't think of anything like Scully, the St James' Market establishment that opened in March last year.*

*But then if you were to think about a restaurant anywhere, you probably wouldn't come close to Scully either.*

*It's a one off.*

*A complete melting pot; a series of ingredients (and not just in the cooking!) that you would never dream of putting together – but which work, magically, wonderfully. Scully is an experience. In every sense. And for all of your senses.*





You will find Scully in a little corner at the side of St James' Market, nestled quietly and unobtrusively next to Mayfair expecteds like Aspinal, Aquavit and John Smedley. But once you walk inside, you immediately are transported far away from the rather stuffy Englishness associated with the area, to somewhere you have probably never visited before.

The decor is Scandinavian in feel. With a lot of Italian marble on the bar counters. As you walk in you are greeted by an enormous wall filled with large glass jars brimming with colourful fruits and vegetables, pickling, fermenting, marinating, hydrating – you could be in a market in Morocco or Turkey. Put it all together and add the very chilled and cool music playing and it's more like something you would find in the meat-packing district in Manhattan.

This melting pot continues with the staff; the pastry chef, Adrian Petrovan (whose sweet delights are just exquisite – but more about those later) is from Romania. The various chefs are Italian, Greek, Jamaican, Brazilian, Kazakh... then, of course, there is Scully himself. Ramael Scully was born in Malaysia; his mother is of Chinese and Indian heritage, his father a mix of Malay and Irish. Add to this the fact that he lived in Australia from the age of eight and grew up with a very cosmopolitan group of friends and you begin to understand the extent of the influences on his cooking. Training in Europe and working at Ottolenghi increased what was already an eclectic and vast knowledge. In 2011, Scully became Head Chef at Ottolenghi's restaurant, Nopi and the two wrote the eponymous cook book.

It was with Ottolenghi's complete support and blessing that Scully left to set up his own eatery.

At Scully you can choose to sit at a table in peace and privacy – or you may sit at a counter of the completely open kitchen,

chatting to the chefs and watching them cook your feast. There is nothing chaotic about Scully. Yes, it's always busy and the chefs are endlessly and without respite having to turn out dish after dish – but there is an aura of calm about everything. It feels like you are sitting at your best friend's kitchen island counter, having a catch up over a drink or two whilst your friend makes you dinner. It's totally relaxed.

But now the food. As with everything else in the Scully experience, the food is totally new, different, unexpected, exciting, surprising – and wonderful. The menu is based on sharing foods; truthfully, it's irrelevant which dishes you choose as each one is exquisite. You simply can't go wrong – so just try as many as you can. Waiters explain the dishes on the menu in great detail but it's hard to follow it all – each dish seems to have a big mix of ingredients – some very unexpected, some totally obscure – and the cooking methodology sounds hard. The chefs tell you how each recipe was born – a lot seem to have been handed down from mothers or grandmothers; some are created whilst different members of Scully's staff draw from their different cultural heritages when hanging out at Scully's home and inventing new delights. They talk of it as though it's simple food – and watching them cook it looks so simple too – but it isn't. This is definitely very serious grown up cooking; things are dehydrated then hydrated, fermented, left for days, weeks, months – sometimes it sounds more like a highly complex scientific process than anything else. This food takes time, knowledge, care, artistry, patience and a lot of genius thrown in – and the results are definitely worth it.

Whilst you are reading the menu and trying to decide if there are any dishes you can resist, you will be served with spiced chickpeas. Who could have thought chickpeas could taste so good? This is definitely a taste of the brilliant food to come.

Try snacking on your chickpeas whilst sipping a Bloody Negroni. Head Barman, Freddie, explains the drinks are their own recipes too – this one uses a gin that is aged in oak casks and has a bitter sweet taste enhanced with some dehydrated blood orange.

A must have is the Arepa with Eggplant Sambal and Bergamot Labneh. This is a spaceship shaped corn package that has been fermenting forever and which you stuff full of the aubergine and the salted strained yoghurt. Forget what it sounds like – it's what it tastes like that matters – and it tastes exquisite. Try and restrain yourself from ordering another one, as undoubtedly that is what you will want to do, because there is a lot more to come.

On the subject of not judging a book by its cover, try the Puff Beef Tendons, Tomato Pancetta Kilpatrick, Oyster Mayo. The thought of beef tendons, which Scully gets from China Town, may not sound too appealing. Once you've tasted them though, there really is no going back.

Each item on the menu is a fusion of flavours you will never have tasted before. Each one more delicious than the one that came before.

A personal favourite is the Gilthead Bream served with Black Curry Mole, Miyagowa and White Cabbage. Never mind what it means, it's extraordinary. The mole is rich and chocolatey and coffee tasting and just divine.

Make sure you leave room for dessert. Actually, ensure you leave room for more than one. These deserts are calories that are a hundred per cent worth it. Pastry chef, Adrian Petrovan's favourite is English Strawberries, Goat Curd Cheesecake and Cornflake Pretzel Crunch. This is a completely bonkers sounding dish and arrives looking as though you have been served with a huge bowl of whipped cream. But, it's yet another one not to judge till you taste it. It's addictive.

Even with coffee, there are more delights. Two delicious petits fours – one made with tahini and the other with coconut. Adrian explains not to sweeten the coffee, to try the tahini one first and end with the coconut. The last morsel is just as delicious as the first was.

As well as running a restaurant that is big on diversity in every sense, Scully is also about sustainability. Nothing is wasted. Who knew that broccoli stalks could taste delicious? Every bit of every thing is used – and it is all amazing.

Just like his food, Scully the man is a larger than life experience. He is ever present in the restaurant, not just the creator of dishes but there cooking in front of you and telling you his life story. Just as you cannot fail to love his food, the same is true of him. Whilst he chats away to you and simultaneously prepares divine things for you to try, you yet again feel like you are in your best friend's home. Scully calls himself a "feeder" and that is true, Portions are very generous here. Scully is passionate about food, sustainability and diversity. He says he worries about



*“Unless we start to take care of our world and think carefully about the food we choose to cook, the chefs of tomorrow will not have the options we have today.”*

the future of our world and cites how not so long ago red mullet and mahi were found on menus but now are practically extinct. He is sad that we still continue to serve swordfish as that is going in the same direction. He chooses to use chocolate that doesn't have palm oil, doesn't use clingfilm and gives his used oil to pig farmers.

His Christmas wish?

“I worry about what is in store for our young chefs. Unless we start to take care of our world and think carefully about the food we choose to cook, the chefs of tomorrow will not have the options we have today. We all need to learn to use as much as possible, things like fish cheeks, for example, are a delicacy – not something to be thrown away. My wish is that the kids of today have enough knowledge and care so they are able to make delicious food for our children and their children without harming our world.”

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# I'M DREAMING OF A SUPERLEGGERA CHRISTMAS...

By Joel Leigh

The author downgrades his Christmas wish list and contemplates the soaring costs of competing in motorsport.

So, Neiman Marcus recently added a special limited-edition Aston Martin DBS to their Christmas 'fantasy gifts' list. Designed by Daniel Craig and available, naturally, in a run of only seven, this inky blue beauty comes with a matching all-platinum Omega Seamaster Diving watch hand engraved on the back, tickets to the world premiere of the new James Bond Film 'No Time to Die' and an invite to watch your new car glide off the production line in Gaydon, Warwickshire. In the spirit of Christmas 12% of the proceeds of sale will also be donated to charitable causes.

My only problem? The £545,000 price tag.

I suppose I could always opt for the standard model retailing at a more reasonable £225,000, but I doubt even Santa could arrange delivery in time for Yuletide and if he could, my wife's response might be less than festive.

And what sparked this car-related fantasizing? A recent invite to Aston Martin's Park Lane showroom in London and the opportunity to sit behind the wheel of the Super-GT. The event marked the latest successes of Aston Martin Racing works driver Jonny Adam and his amateur or aptly named 'gentleman driver' Graham Davidson, the Scots duo having won a series of titles in the 2019 British GT Championship including the overall drivers' trophy.

What I discovered at the event is that so-called Pro/Am driving is the bedrock of British GT racing, but the bottom line is that anyone who hasn't competitively raced a kart or car before they hit their 20's, will find it increasingly difficult to break into motorsport. And most people in that age bracket, absent an obvious talent plus exceptionally generous parents, are unlikely to be able to do so.

Even given several years' pedigree in karting, or the relatively affordable 'tin top' series, racing small saloons and hatchbacks limited to 2 litres and 4 cylinders, the next

step on the ladder requires a serious amount of dosh – think £130,000 for a single season in the GT4 Championship. The numbers rise as you pass through GT3, reaching well over £400,000 for a shot at Le Mans, then onward and upward, to around £1m for the World Endurance Championship and double that for single seater racing.

Pro/Am driving can of course provide an entrance point for the twenty-somethings who can prove they have sufficient dedication and talent to be successful, but neither of these qualities qualifies anyone for a free seat on a racing team; to succeed competitors must secure commercial backing and unsurprisingly, this is where the vast majority of would-be drivers hit the proverbial track wall.



Unusually, Davidson entered the sport aged 21 via a series of track days, securing his racing licence aged 28, but the fact he runs no less than five successful businesses, spanning everything from



renewable energy to a smallholding breeding rare sheep, cows and horses, provides a useful insight into the requisite personality type.

It's no longer enough to be exceptionally gifted with the obvious racing attributes of fearlessness, lightning fast mental reaction times and the physical fitness of an athlete, aspiring drivers must now have a high profile social media presence and network extensively in the right circles to attract the attention of commercial partners who will help carry the financial load.

For those of us who lack this necessary skillset and who are frankly just too old, we can continue enjoying track days, watching safely from the side-lines or, as I recently discovered, brave a riskier path courtesy of Aston Martin's great GT rival, Ferrari, whose 'Corse Clienti' programme takes amateur driving forward to the next commercial level.

The programme offers a small group of clients for whom a range topping LaFerrari simply isn't enough a considerably more die-hard experience; the opportunity to buy and race F1 cars without worrying about the competition. Membership of the Clienti programme guarantees Ferrari will maintain, store and deliver your car to associated track events, lay on a 'who's who' of professional and ex-professional drivers such as Olivier Beretta to tutor you, and give you full access to the F1 pit team, as well as doctors and therapists, to keep you in peak condition.

And the membership fee? Well that's a closely guarded secret, but to quote that old motorsport adage 'Speed costs money. How fast do you want to go?'

**Joel Leigh is the motoring correspondent of City Solicitor and a Partner at Howard Kennedy LLP.**



## ONE LAST WORD

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Wishing you a terrifying Christmas*

**Today, almost everything associated with Christmas is jolly and happy. Saint Nicholas and Father Christmas have merged into a single red-suited grandfather with a broad smile and twinkling eyes. In most of the world, the darker side of winter celebrations have either been sanitised or quietly forgotten. But not everywhere; in Iceland, children have to contend with 13 Christmas trolls. These 'Yule Lads' and their monstrous mother get up to everything from mischief to downright malevolence.**

Until relatively recently, there was always a balance between reward and punishment at Christmas. Good children would find stockings bulging with toys, fruit and sweets. Bad children would be lucky to escape with just a lump of coal. In Iceland, one of the jólasveinarnir, or Yule Lads, bring a present or nasty surprise on each of 13 nights in the run-up to Christmas Eve.

With its long, bleak winter nights barely interrupted by a wan, polar sun, Icelanders have long been used to creating their own entertainment. That the country is so rich in folklore, poetry and legends is hardly surprising – gathered around the hearth, extended families would have little else to do but recite familiar stories and create new legends.

Icelanders have devoted particularly creative energy to developing their Christmas traditions. The Yule Lads are at the heart of many Icelandic Christmas stories and, depending on the storyteller, can be anything from mischievous pranksters to sadistic child killers.

The most widely accepted guide to the characteristics of the jólasveinarnir is contained in Jóhannes úr Kötlum's *Jólin Koma* ('Christmas Arrives'). Kötlum paints a vivid picture of the arrival on consecutive nights of each of the Yule Lads in the run-up to Christmas.

On 12 December, the first to arrive is Stekkjarstaur (Sheep-Cote Clod) who harasses sheep but is prevented from being too dangerous by his stiff legs. The next day, Giljagaur (Gully Gawk) appears to scare travellers passing through gullies. He is followed by Stúfur (Stubby), a short and fat troll known for stealing pans to eat the leftovers. The following three trolls are obsessed with food – Þvörusleikir (Spoon-Licker), Pottaskefill (Pot-Scraper) and Askasleikir (Bowl-Licker) take their fill by stealing spoons, pots and bowls respectively. The danger to food abates for one evening when Hurðaskellir (Door-Slammer) makes

nuisance by slamming doors at night. The food theme continues with the remaining six trolls: Skyrgámur (Skyr-Gobbler) eats Icelandic skyr yoghurt, Bjúgnakrækir (Sausage-Swiper) hides in the rafters to steal smoked sausages, Gluggagægir (Window-Peeper) tries to spot and steal food through windows, Gáttapefur (Doorway-Sniffer) uses his abnormally long nose to detect laufabrauð (leaf bread), Ketkrókur (Meat-Hook) uses a hook to fish for meat and Kertasnikir (Candle-Stealer) would snaffle tallow (and edible) candles.

Nowadays, the primary function of the Yule Lads is to distribute small presents. Children leave their best shoes outside their bedroom doors and, if they have been good, will be rewarded with the appearance of a gift the next morning. Naughty children might find empty shoes or, if they have been particularly bad, a rotten potato.

If preparing for visits from the 13 Yule Lads was not enough, Icelanders have to contend with attacks from Jólakötturinn (the Yule Cat). If you were unfortunate enough not to have received new clothes before Christmas Eve, you were in danger. At best, the Yule Cat would eat all of your food. At worse, he would eat you.

The Yule Lads and Yule Cat emerge from the mountain hideout of Grýla, a terrible giantess who makes a special prey of children. Grýla's favourite meal was a stew made from the bodies of naughty children and the giantess would emerge from the mountains to seek out miscreant youth.

Stories of Grýla go back centuries – the giantess is mentioned in Snorri Sturluson's thirteenth-



century Prose Edda. Grýla served as a useful bogeyman to frighten children into good behaviour and going to bed. But it appears that Grýla was more terrifying than most – a public decree was passed in 1746 prohibiting this practice to avoid traumatizing children further.

So, whilst children in the Anglo-Saxon world are threatened with being omitted from Santa's gift list if they are naughty rather than nice, Icelandic children have a more fundamental reason to be good. It is nothing less than a matter of life or death.

This article was provided courtesy of Ian Chapman-Curry, Principal Associate at Gowling WLG and host of the Almost History podcast.

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