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



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some other beginning’s end.”*

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### Contact Us

4 College Hill, London EC4R 2RB

Tel: 020 7329 2173

Fax: 020 7329 2190

mail@citysolicitors.org.uk

www.citysolicitors.org.uk

Twitter @TheCLLS and @CLSC2

### Editor

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Lansdowne Publishing Partnership Ltd  
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## AN OLD BRITISH INSTITUTION – REINVENTED

*Pubs are intrinsically part of our culture; they are here to stay – but they have entered a new era; one where fine wines and fine dining replace warm pints and pork pies. We visit two of the most delicious; the Baring and the George Public House. Cheers!*

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## editor's letter



THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS HAVE NOT BEEN WITHOUT THEIR FAIR SHARE OF CHALLENGES INCLUDING COVID, BREXIT, THE UKRAINE WAR – AND, INDEED, THIS YEAR HAS ALSO MADE AN INDELIBLE MARK ON HISTORY.

Not long after the country united to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, we sadly said goodbye to our longest serving Monarch. In September, our country mourned the death of the only person most of us had ever known as our Monarch. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a source of inspiration and a symbol of stability in this country and respected overseas. Now as we are about to enter a new year, we are also entering a new era under the reign of King Charles III.

Along with the rest of the world, we, at City Solicitor, would like to pay our respects and to give thanks to Queen Elizabeth for her unparalleled devotion to her "job" and to welcome King Charles III.

We have dedicated this edition to the **"new era"**. We spoke to leading people in their different fields – a constitutionalist, a lawyer, the Lord Mayor, a Liveryman and a Herald – about how they view the transition and what they think, and hope, lies ahead. We even look at the new era of pubs that is becoming prevalent in our capital and, in so doing, raise a glass to our new King.

This year also saw us entering a new era with us moving from solely print and online to producing a podcast, Legally Speaking. We are reaching audiences all over the world and our latest episode is available at <https://anchor.fm/maroulla-paul>

Whether you read this edition in the office, at home or on the ski-slopes, may I finish off by wishing all our readers a very happy and healthy holiday and let's go into the new era of 2023 with hope and optimism.

Thank you to all our readers for all your support in the past year. We look forward to doing bigger and better things next year. Peace on Earth.

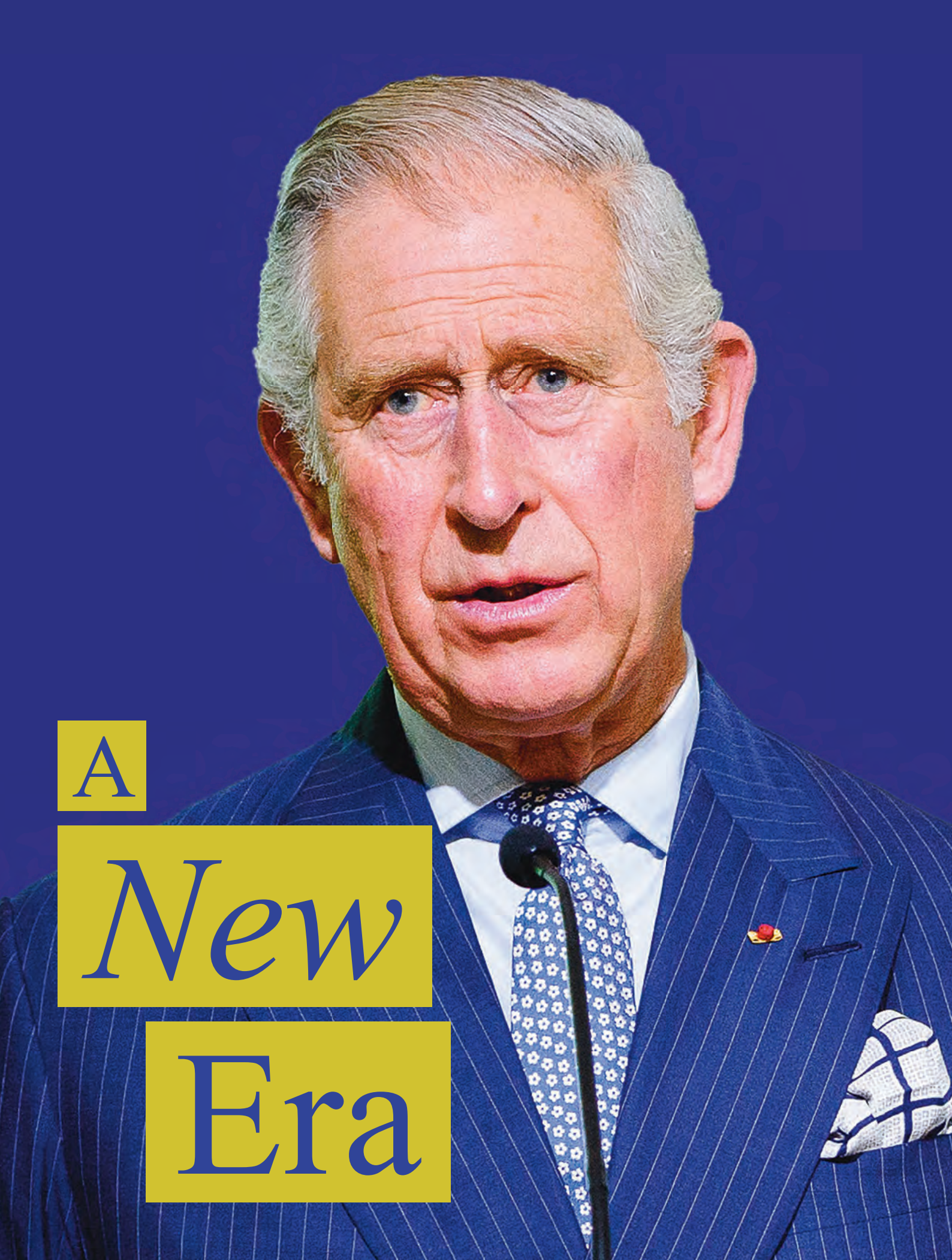
**Philip Henson**

Editor

[mail@citysolicitors.org.uk](mailto:mail@citysolicitors.org.uk)

*"In September, our country mourned the death of the only person most of us had ever known as our Monarch."*





A

*New*

Era





IN MEMORY OF  
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
1926 - 2022

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?



**A very long era has ended. The era of Queen Elizabeth II, the longest serving Monarch of our country and second-longest reigning Monarch in world history, surpassed only by Louis XIV of France, is no more.**

**We move into a new era under the reign of King Charles III.**

But how do we refer to these eras? The Queen's era was known as the Elizabethan era, but because we already had an Elizabethan era under the first Queen Elizabeth, some referred to the second one as the new Elizabethan.

Where does that leave us with King Charles? The reign of King Charles I was known as the Caroline era and that of King Charles II, the Carolean era. These words come from the Latin word for Charles.

Queen Elizabeth II made a huge break with tradition when she chose to rule under her own Christian name rather than adopt a regnal moniker as previous Monarchs had done. Charles is following in the footsteps of his mother so it is fair to assume that this era may be known as the new Carolean era.

Grouping Monarchs into a longer era – as in the Tudors – suggests that this period relating to the current line of succession will be referred to as the Windsor era.



# THE CONSTITUTIONALIST'S PERSPECTIVE

**Vernon Bogdanor, CBE FRSA FBA, is a British political scientist and historian, currently Professor of Government at King's College London. He was formerly Professor of Government at Oxford University. He is a supporter of the monarchy and spoke on BBC TV and radio on the Accession Council and Proclamation of King Charles III.**



City Solicitor caught up with Vernon to discuss the transition from the new Elizabethan era into the new Carolean one. From an outsider's perspective, the transition seemed seamless; will the new monarchy be a continuation or will there be significant changes?

Vernon believes that the transition was indeed seamless and believes that this is one of the advantages of a constitutional monarchy.

"The change comes immediately and there is no dispute about who the successor is. That is in stark contrast to systems which have executive Presidents, like America or France where there are elections for the new head of state, or systems with constitutional Presidents like Germany or Italy where, when the president ends his term or dies, the successor is usually chosen by

parliamentarians. Often this is a retired politician and often they are not very high profile. Who can name the Presidents of Italy or Germany? "

Vernon says that whilst the monarchy yields continuity, it must adapt in order to survive.

"The world is very different now from how it was in 1952, and Charles is a very different person from his mother. In part that is due to generational differences. The new King comes from a different generation to that of the Queen and he has a different style. The Queen was a product of the war time generation which had a stiff upper lip and could not afford to show its emotions. Charles is the product of a later generation which prizes authenticity. He was heir to the throne for a long time, and so we know much more about him than we ever did about the

Queen. The Queen lived in a more deferential age when there was little publicity about the royals and, because she was not heir to the throne for very long, we hardly knew anything about her when she became Queen."

Vernon believes that the main difference between the two Monarchs, and one that we have seen already, is that there will be far more "reaching out" in the new regime.

"When Charles came to Buckingham Palace the day after the Queen's death, he shook hands with people and spoke to them. The Queen never spontaneously shook hands. Indeed you were not meant to touch her unless you were formally introduced."

The culture has changed so much that one woman even planted a kiss on the new King's cheek that day in sympathy for his loss – and he accepted this graciously.

Vernon also points out that Charles's very swift and immediate visits to Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales show that he is sensitive to the Union and the non-English part of the United Kingdom.

And Vernon believes we can expect more Shakespeare from our new Monarch.

"The references to Shakespeare when Charles spoke of his mother were very interesting. I think we will be hearing a lot more Shakespeare coming from the Palace – and indeed greater patronage of the arts. Charles is a keen painter and plays the cello. In the days of King George I and King George II the Palace was a patron of the arts and that may happen again with Charles."



We asked Vernon how he would describe the reign of Queen Elizabeth;

"Many have spoken about the late Queen's sense of duty, but that does not really sum up her reign. Duty after all is a rather cold word. The Queen seemed to understand the heart and soul of the British people. This was apparent for example in her two Covid broadcasts, and in her speeches commemorating VE Day and D Day; and while she did not reach out to as many people as the new King is likely to, she reached out more than her predecessors did."

Indeed, nearly one third of people in this country claim to have seen or met the Queen!

Vernon says that the Queen acted – as the monarchy does in general – as a symbol and focus of unity. Recent events show that very clearly.

"We have been consumed by political conflict over such matters as Brexit or the premiership of Boris Johnson. But the reaction to the death of the Queen showed that, at a deeper level, we are more unified as a country than many imagine. Most people are less invested in politics than commentators or journalists, and the monarchy brings us all together in a way that a President could not because the choice of President is bound to be divisive. We say 'God Save the King' but not all Americans would say 'God Save President Biden' or 'God save President Trump. And not all French people would say 'God Save President Macron';!"

Vernon thinks Charles' reign will inevitably see a gradual and subtle modernisation of the monarchy – which must continue to adapt.

"It is difficult but important to achieve the right balance. If the monarchy does not adapt, it gets to be stuck in the past and would appear irrelevant. If it adapts too rapidly, it moves ahead of public opinion. And of course the public do not want a radical or campaigning Monarch. They want a consistent and steadying monarchy which can unify the country."

Vernon sees the reaching out that Charles has always done as Prince of Wales and is now doing as King as one example of this gradual process.

"The Prince's Trust – Prince Charles's own charity – reached out to people that one would not normally associate with the monarchy – unemployed young people



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*"If the monarchy does not adapt, it gets to be stuck in the past and would appear irrelevant."*

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and members of ethnic minorities, for example. I am sure that he will continue to do this and there will be more emphasis on the disenfranchised in society."

Vernon firmly believes there is a place for the monarchy in this day and age.

"The monarchy is over and above politics. It makes the succession to the Head of State indisputable and seamless and it is a focus for the whole country. There is a wonderful passage in Graham Greene's

novel, 'The End Of the Affair', when the heroine goes to Buckingham Palace on VE Day and sees the royal family on the balcony. They are not, the heroine says, leaders like Hitler, Mussolini, Roosevelt or Churchill, but just an ordinary family who have never done any harm to anyone. I believe most people regard the royal family in that way. The monarchy plays an important role in holding the country together."

Vernon says that most of the continental monarchies such as those of Scandinavia





*“Vernon points out that our monarchy, unlike the continental monarchies, has an international dimension since the King is also King of 14 other monarchies.”*



and Benelux reign in countries which are havens of political stability and moderation.

“This is not due to the monarchy. Rather the causality is the other way around. It is precisely because these countries are stable that they are able to continue with a monarchy. They have had no revolutions, no sudden breaks. Such countries are fortunate and some countries without monarchies envy those who do.”

Vernon points out that our monarchy, unlike the continental monarchies, has an international dimension since the King is also King of 14 other monarchies – the so-called realms – such as Australia, Canada and Jamaica – and also head of the Commonwealth. The Queen was always careful to ensure that the role of head of the Commonwealth was not simply an extension of the role of Queen of Britain since that would have appeared as imperialism reinvented. The role therefore of head of the Commonwealth is a separate one and of importance in its own right. The Queen carried it out impeccably and Charles will, Vernon believes, follow the example that she has set.

Charles has already spoken about scaling down the monarchy and Vernon believes that this would be sensible.

“Anyone who is in receipt of public funds should be doing public work. Indeed one way in which the monarchy altered during Queen Elizabeth’s reign is that it moved from being a rather mystical or magical institution to becoming a more utilitarian public service one. Charles, as Prince of Wales, always championed this ideal and will, I am sure, continue to do so – especially perhaps in the various charities of which he is patron, although, as he has said, he will now have to adopt a more arms length approach to these charities, and many of his responsibilities in this are will devolve to the new Prince of Wales. But whatever the precise arrangements, the monarchy must always be seen to be serving the public.

Slimming down the monarchy must be done with caution. For there are many civic functions where local people seek a desire for recognition of achievement, a recognition which members of the royal family are in a good position to provide. If, for example, there is a new Town Hall in Wigan or a new public library in Hartlepool, the public would rather it was opened by a member of the royal family than by a politician. The King of course cannot attend all such functions. He needs help. So other members of the royal family must be called upon. Such events are generally not reported in the national press, but they are reported in the local press and contribute greatly to civic pride and patriotism.”

We asked Vernon if he had ever watched the Netflix series ‘The Crown’ and whether he saw it as helpful or harmful to have such programmes about the monarchy. Vernon has never watched it and emphasises that few people really knew what the Queen or her family were really like.

“The only people who knew what the Queen was like were her close friends and if they revealed details about her life,

they would not remain close friends for very long. We do not really know much about the private lives of members of the royal family and that is as it should be. They are just as entitled to their privacy as everyone else.”

Whilst Charles was, as heir to the throne, sometimes outspoken in expressing his beliefs and views, now that he is King he will only be able to speak on advice. Such a change of role is hardly unusual with a change in role. A barrister, after all, changes his role when he becomes a judge. No one understands this better than Charles who was, after all, trained in the constitutional tradition. No one could be better prepared for his new role.





# THE LORD MAYOR'S PERSPECTIVE

**The last time City Solicitor spoke with commercial solicitor and partner at DLA Piper LLP, Vincent Keaveny, he was just about to take a year's sabbatical from his day job and begin office as the 693rd Lord Mayor of the City of London. Now as he reaches the end of that time, he reflects on how much happened in that 12 months; from the Jubilee to the death of Queen Elizabeth II to the proclamation of King Charles III. He takes stock of his original agenda and looks at what has been achieved. And he looks forward to his own new era.**

Vincent says it's been quite a mileage that has been clocked up in the past year. He feels he can genuinely say he has achieved a lot of what he intended. It began with a brilliant Lord Mayor's Show to kick the year off. International travel resuming normal service post the pandemic allowed Vincent to visit over 20 different countries – despite Covid-related restrictions continuing up the last third of the year. Vincent's theme for his office was 'People and Purpose – investing in a better tomorrow', and great strides have been made. In May, at the midway point between COP 26 and COP 27, he hosted the 'Net Zero Delivery Summit' at Mansion House with attendees such as Mark Carney and John Kerry. This was

followed up in July by the 'Finance for Impact Summit', one of Vincent's primary focuses. What was achieved with both of these summits is work that will continue when the new Lord Mayor, Nicholas Lyons, takes over from Vincent.

On the people side, the work around social mobility has had real traction. 'Progress Together' was launched, the employers' membership body to make a push to improve socio-economic diversity in the financial services sector – particularly at senior levels in the industry.

Vincent says that if we had asked him in July or August what the highlight of his year had been he would have, without



hesitation, picked the Platinum Jubilee with the service in St Paul's and the reception in Guildhall.

"Meeting King Charles – and The Queen Consort – as they are now – at the bottom of the steps of St Paul's was fantastic. My wife, Amanda, and I were very fortunate – we went to the concert, to the Pageant, to the Trooping of the Colour, we were at the heart of a hugely joyful celebration."





Then three months later, something which none of us expected happened.

"I really thought the Queen would be with us longer and I had never considered that in my time in office I would have to be dealing with her death. On that Thursday afternoon, it really was a bolt out of the blue. But we needed to kick into action immediately with the plans for the City proclamation. On the Friday evening we had the service at St Paul's, I then attended the Accession Council on the Saturday morning, and we did the proclamation at midday. There were a number of City events over the next week; organisations such as Lloyds of London commemorating Her Majesty."

Vincent and Amanda were also highly privileged to have been invited to the funeral as well.

"It was an extraordinary moment. They decided to put the two Mayors together, so we were sitting next to Sadiq Khan and his wife Saadiya. Looking around it was remarkable to see who was there. After the funeral I attended an extraordinary reception hosted by the Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly, in Church House; I chatted to the Emperor of Japan, the Queen of Spain, the President of Ireland, the Vice President of China – it was a truly unique occasion. I felt that entire week that I was walking through history. I think – and have said this often during my office – that our history is a platform from which to look forward not backwards, that it is an opportunity to look at the challenges and problems of the moment. But the Queen's death and the days following made me very conscious of the historical role this office plays in the role of the Kingdom."

When it came to the proclamation itself, Vincent confesses he had to focus on two particular words – he had to say

'HIS' Majesty the 'KING' – words that have never been uttered in our lifetimes; we have been hardwired to say Her Majesty, the Queen forever. Fortunately, he got it right!

We asked Vincent how he would describe Queen Elizabeth's reign.

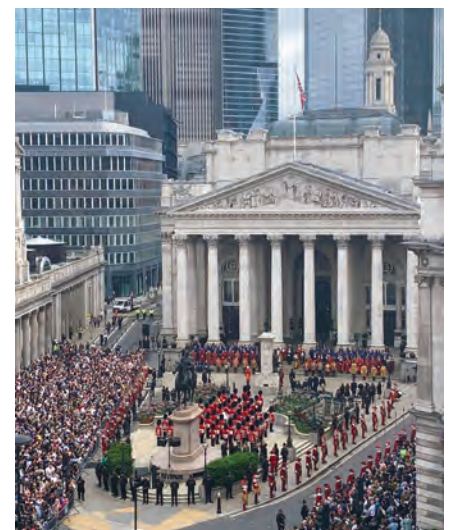
"The change that we saw over the course of her reign was quite extraordinary. The UK has totally transformed in that 70 years. We have been able to manage that transition so successfully and much of that is down to the stability the Queen provided. She was an incredible example to everyone in public office. I now see having just spent a year doing what I've been doing that it is incredibly hard work, to do that for a lifetime as she did is quite an amazing achievement."

Vincent is sure the new era will bring both small and subtle as well as larger more visible changes.

"At the funeral there were a significant number of people invited from the last Honours list, people who have been honoured for their service to the community. This shows an outreach to a greater proportion of society, making the monarchy more relevant to more people. I am sure King Charles will remain committed to the environmental agenda and be influential there even though his new role might mean he cannot be as actively involved as he has been over the past 40 years."

Just as King Charles has stated how he needs the support of the Queen Consort, so Vincent has needed the support of his wife, Amanda during his time in office.

"It is underestimated what a huge commitment it is for the other half of the person in public office. As Lord Mayor,



I am the one getting the praise – but she has worked every bit as hard and had to deal with me when things have gone wrong. She has her own causes she has successfully championed, particularly homelessness. She raised over £130,000 from her 'sleepout' in March. As an ex intensive care nurse she is also passionate about the NHS and has visited a lot of hospitals."

Vincent says, as well as Amanda, the star of the show has been their dog, who often appeared at Mansion House events uninvited and unannounced!

What does Vincent's own new era hold in store for him? Vincent will be returning to DLA Piper, but he says he has changed as a result of his time in office so what his role will specifically be is yet to be determined. He will most definitely be bringing a whole new list of WhatsApp contacts with him! He intends to continue with the work he has begun on social mobility. First and foremost he says he needs a rest; he is feeling the wear and tear of a very full but very satisfying year!

# THE LAWYER'S PERSPECTIVE

**As well as the proclamation made by the Accession Council at St James's Palace on 10th September this year and the subsequent proclamations, including those of the Lord Mayor, Vincent Keaveny, at the Royal Exchange, many local councils also held proclamations to announce and honour the new King.**



Jonathan Andrews is an associate in the Entertainment and Media Team at Reed Smith and is also very involved in expanding access to our profession, particularly in regard to those with disabilities. Earlier this year, Jonathan was also elected as a Councillor of the London Borough of Bromley, making him one of the last group of people to be elected under the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Jonathan explains how the proclamation cascades down from the initial ones in London to the devolved Parliaments and then to local Sheriffs and Councils. The Mayor of Bromley Council read the same proclamation that was read in St James's Palace and Jonathan and his fellow Councillors played the same role as the Accession and Privy Council.

"Everyone came together at a local level to witness the proclamation. The occasion was both a celebration of the new King, marked by a reception after the proclamation, but also a tribute to the Queen and we all signed a book of condolence. At times, it felt very sombre as although we were proclaiming a new King, we were also grieving our Queen. But despite that lingering sadness, there was also a celebration of the new succession. It seemed very odd to be singing 'God Save the King' after a lifetime of 'God Save the Queen'. The ceremony took place in the Bromley Civic Centre and many members of the public attended. It was also streamed so those who could not attend could also see it."

This tradition of the proclamation beginning nationally and then cascading to the most local level obviously began in a time long before there was social media, or even media in the way we understand

it today, so it was the only way the public could be informed that there was a new Monarch. It continues today no longer through necessity but rather as a celebrated ritual; whilst we enter a new era we also like to maintain elements of the past.

Jonathan says he feels very privileged not only to have been a part of such a moment in history but also to have been in the presence of HM Queen Elizabeth II on several occasions.

"In 2016, I was highly commended at the Queen's Young Leader Award where I was recognised for my work around disability, inclusion and employment opportunities. That meant I became an associate fellow of the Royal Commonwealth Society and I went on to do some work with them on the subject and this led to me being asked to be the British flag bearer at the 2018 Commonwealth Service. Along with Canada, I led the procession through Westminster Abbey and the Queen followed. The order is decided by the year of entry into the Commonwealth so the UK and Canada are always first. Through this same role, I also was invited to the Royal Albert Hall for the Queen's 92nd birthday celebrations. It was a concert which included Kylie, Shaggy and Tom Jones and I was fortunate enough to be close to the stage and, very unexpectedly, at the end of

the concert, the Queen turned up on the stage and we all sang happy birthday to her. It was a real honour."

Jonathan, like so many of us, says the Queen was the only Monarch he had known in his lifetime as she was 67 when he was born, he only recalls her as a Grandmother type figure. He saw her as a great ambassador figure for the UK abroad and loved her sense of fun and humour which she displayed by jumping out of helicopters with James Bond and having tea with Paddington Bear. He also sees her as a link to history, particularly to World War Two.

"The Queen was the last public figure I can think of who served in World War Two. When I was growing up, there were people around who had living family or friends who had gone through the War but, with the passing of time, it feels that is no longer the case. Now it is something we read about, and of course remember, but very few have lived adult experience of it anymore. My own Great-Grandmother, who had vivid memories of the Blitz, was born the same year as the Queen, but she died last year, and so the Queen's passing feels very much like almost a final ending to that era."

Jonathan says that whilst the Queen was a "constant", we saw great economic,

*"Jonathan, like so many of us, says the Queen was the only Monarch he had known in his lifetime as she was 67 when he was born."*



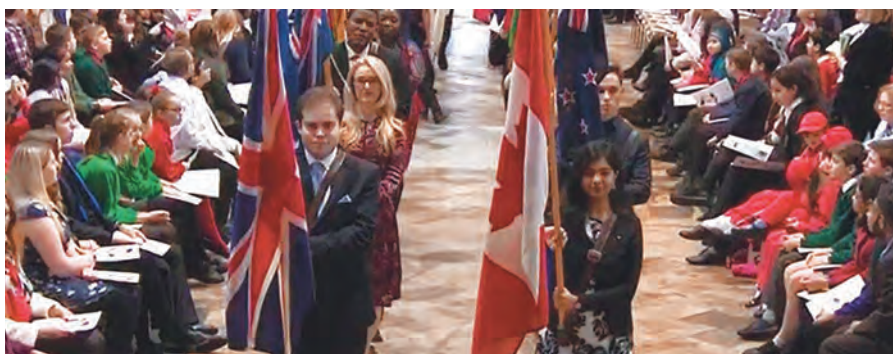


social and other change throughout her reign and that change will inevitably continue in the new King's era.

As well as being a part of the new era of the monarchy, Jonathan is also a very active participant in heralding a new era in our society generally and in our profession specifically, an era that is more open and more inclusive.

"I have been involved in initiatives around disability since I was a teenager. I want to make employment open more widely to those with disabilities. I have personal experience in that I was diagnosed at the age of nine as being on the autistic spectrum but I was raised to never see this as something that would hold me back or stop me achieving and I always wanted to make sure that was the case for everyone".

Jonathan is a part of his law firm's disability network LEADRS and, externally, gives a lot of talks on the topic. He has been on advisory bodies for the UK Government and was placed number four in the Shaw Trust Power List of the Most Influential Disabled People in the UK in 2020. He is now a judge for the Power List, helping to support more disabled people who are doing important work around improving the lives of others. Jonathan firmly believes that there is a lot more than can be done to make sure



everyone has a fair chance of getting into the profession of their choice and to support them to use their skills in the best possible way.

"Whilst there are certain things someone may struggle with, there may be other things they are really, really good at. It's about not just having a one size fits all but thinking smartly so that people's talents can be well used and not simply discarding or discounting someone because of a disability."

Whilst what happens in the new era of the monarchy is only for us to surmise not for us to effect, what happens in our profession is very much in our hands. Let's work together with Jonathan and others who are championing more access to ensure we are genuinely open and inclusive.

*"Whilst there are certain things someone may struggle with, there may be other things they are really, really good at."*







# THE HERALD'S PERSPECTIVE

**When we think of the monarchy, pomp and ceremony spring to mind. A huge part of that is the role the Heralds play. David White, Garter King of Arms proclaimed the Accession of HM King Charles III at St James's Palace while in Scotland it was read by Lord Lyon, King of Arms in Scotland, Wales Herald in Cardiff and Norroy and Ulster King of Arms in Hillsborough.**

In olden times, this proclamation of a new Monarch by a Herald would be the very first notice to the public but today this is preempted by a globally televised recording of the announcement to the Accession Council. Yet the tradition remains although certain parts of the original events have now been dropped. After the announcement at St James's Palace, in the old days the Heralds went to the City stopping at various places to repeat the proclamation, places such as Charing Cross, Chancery Lane, Bread Street and finally at the Royal Exchange. This time this only happened at the Royal Exchange.

There used to be a mock play acted out at Temple Bar whereby when the Heralds arrived their admission was blocked and they had to negotiate their entry with the Lord Mayor's men. In our new era, this play is was no longer enacted.

The College of Arms is the official heraldic authority for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and a great part of the Commonwealth including both Australia and New Zealand. Its role, beyond having a huge presence at ceremonial affairs such as the Proclamation, is to grant new coats of arms and to keep registers of these

arms plus pedigrees, genealogies, Royal Licences, changes of name and flags. They advise on national and community symbols such as flags and on everything relating to Peers and Barons. Today, they are based in Queen Victoria Street, a few minutes walk from St Paul's on the site of a building that was gifted to them by Mary Tudor; that building burnt down in the Great Fire of London and a new home was built.

City Solicitor had the honour of speaking with Christopher Vane, Chester Herald. Christopher, a retired barrister, told us a bit of the history of the College of Arms.





"The Heralds have been going since the Middle Ages. Henry V made an order that unless you had been at the Battle of Agincourt, if you wanted a new coat of arms, you had to get it from the Heralds. However, little attention was actually paid to this direction and by the 16th Century it was all something of a free for all with everyone using coats of arms and no consistency. In order to get some control over the use of heraldry, the Crown directed the Heralds to go out into individual counties to record arms. From 1535 until 1690 Heralds went around the country trying to establish who was entitled to a coat of arms and who was not. If you had been using a coat of arms for a long period of time with no objection, then you could continue to do so. They would also try to draw up family trees. This was important because if the coat of arms could be passed from father to son then you needed to know who the father was and who the son was. Essex had five 'visitations' as they were called. Cumberland had one. The further you were from London, the fewer 'visitations'. Running parallel with this there were Grants of Arms to people. These are not made by the College of Arms but by

the Kings of Arms; these are the most senior Heralds. A lot were being granted, about 300 a year – this period was considered the heyday of heraldry. Today around 150 a year are granted but in the 18th Century it was down into single figures. In the Civil War, some Heralds sided with the King and some – particularly towards the end of the war – sided with Parliament. Parliament then appointed its own Heralds. When the Restoration happened, the King's Heralds came back – but there were also the new Parliamentary ones. A reasonable compromise was reached; the King's Chief Herald, Sir William Walker, became the number one and the parliamentary chief, Sir Edward Bysshe, was his number two. It was all reasonably amicable. By the 18th Century, interest in heraldry waned. Very few coats of arms were being granted, but they were recording lots of pedigrees and with greater accuracy. In the 19th Century there was a revival and business picked up.

Today, Heralds play a part in ceremonial and royal occasions; obviously recently there was the Proclamation and also the Queen's funeral but also every year there is the Garter Service and the Opening of Parliament. The public associate these occasions with the Heralds but in reality they do not take up much of their time. They only take up to 4 or 5 days a year. The rest of the time is spent doing genealogical searches, designing coats of arms, and getting pedigrees recorded."

What does being the 'Chester' Herald mean? Christopher explains that until he became that, he had never actually been to Chester, despite being brought up in the north of England.



*"Henry V made an order that unless you had been at the Battle of Agincourt, if you wanted a new coat of arms, you had to get it from the Heralds."*

"The Chester Herald was originally the Herald to the Earl of Chester, which title is held by the Prince of Wales. In effect, the Chester Herald was the Herald to the Prince of Wales. That is not exactly the case today. I was made Chester Herald because that was the only vacancy available at the time. There can be 6 Heralds and, if there is a vacancy, that is the one to which you are appointed.

There are different ranks of Heralds; Below Herald is a pursuivant – this is how you normally start and then you get promoted. There are three Kings of Arms at the top; Garter, Clarenceux and Norroy and Ulster. England is divided into two; if you live north of the River Trent or in Northern Ireland your coat of arms is granted by Garter and Norroy and Ulster and if you live south by Garter and Clarenceux."

We asked Christopher how he would sum up the era of Queen Elizabeth;

"It's very difficult because I have never known anything else. I remember as a child using a prayer book that I was given at my christening and in the front was a picture of the Queen. She was permanently with us; timeless. On Sunday, I was in church and the rector instead of praying for Queen Elizabeth, prayed for King Charles. Although I should have anticipated this, I did not. This was a change from what most of us have always known. Change is inevitable, nothing remains the same forever."

As we enter this new Carolean era, we have already seen, as mentioned above, some adherences and some changes to tradition in the Heralds' part in the proclamation. The next major royal event for the heraldry is the Coronation in May next year. It will be interesting to see how much of the old will remain and how much will be new.

# THE LIVERYMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

**Paul Jagger is a man of many hats and talents. He is an IT specialist having worked in everything from big corporates like IBM to start-ups in Silicon Valley – and most places in between. He is a Court Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists, the Livery Company for the tech industry. He is also a winner of the City Livery Club's Root and Branch Award 2016.**

Within the City, Paul is best known as an author, blogger ([www.cityandlivery.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.cityandlivery.blogspot.co.uk)) and podcaster ([www.cityandlivery.podbean.com](http://www.cityandlivery.podbean.com)). He has written several books including: *The City of London Freeman's Guide*; *City of London Secrets of the Square Mile*; *Songs and Music of the City of London*. But most of all, Paul is a self-described "extrovert City nerd" but we prefer to describe him as a "City enthusiast", someone who is deeply passionate about everything relating to our wonderful City.

City Solicitor caught up with Paul to hear his perspective on the events following Her Majesty's death – and he had a lot of fascinating insights, for example: The City had chosen to forgo the tradition of challenging the Heralds at the old site of Temple Bar. In 1952 the City Marshal met the officers of arms on horseback and demanded to know their business in the City. Much doffing of caps followed and the Lord Mayor gave permission for the Heralds to enter the City and make the proclamation.

Given that nobody is alive who planned or reported on the previous accession it is understandable that small hiccups occurred in the TV coverage of the event, such as the Band of the Honourable Artillery Company being described as the Band of the Grenadier Guards, or the BBC identifying the City Marshal as Clarenceux King of Arms during the procession to the Royal Exchange.

Paul is still trying to establish which is His Majesty's mother's Livery Company, but one thing is certain – King Charles III is a member of more livery companies than any other member of the Royal Family, past or present (14 at the latest count).

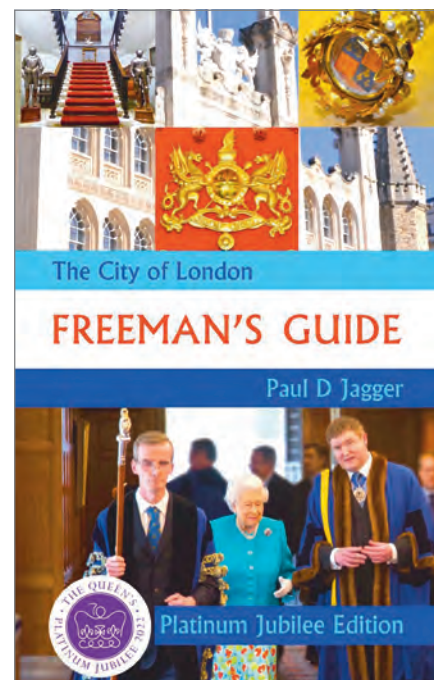
Asked to describe Queen Elizabeth's reign, Paul had one word immediately: "steadfast."

"During the funeral, I thought surely there has been no time since the death of Queen Victoria that so much history passed into history in just one day. The Queen was so omnipresent in our national life that it was difficult to imagine a time where she would no longer be there. It is a great testimony to her reign and to the preparations that were made for the transition that everything went so smoothly, not just the funeral but also in the seamless transition to King Charles whose speech to the nation struck exactly the right tone of sorrowful affection for his mother, while offering a sense of reassuring continuity. To have gone through a change of Prime Minister, formation of a new Cabinet and accession of a new Monarch in two days, and yet still, we can all sleep safely in our beds, is evidence that we have a stable system that works."

Looking forward, how does Paul see the new era?

"There is clearly going to be an element of continuity – that goes with the job. It is part and parcel of the role the King has taken on and that is reassuring for the nation. I think there will be a slimming down which will be of no surprise to anyone. I also think that King Charles will be a little more proactive, more willing to take the lead within the bounds of his constitutional responsibilities of course. It was as clear as clear could be on the evening he made his first speech that he fully understood the change that had come to him and the responsibilities that go with that and, therefore, what he will have to leave behind."

I think during the King's reign there is going to be quite some preparation for the transition to William and Kate which will be a much bigger change for the monarchy. He has the challenge of maintaining stability, making his own mark but also because his will not be a 70-year reign, he also must prepare the ground for a very different transition.



Charles, it has been said, has been the longest serving apprentice; William will not have that luxury."

Paul says he has his own hopes and aspirations for specific changes in the new era.

"We saw much pageantry and heraldry during the proclamation and the funeral procession; for many it was the first time they had seen or heard of the Heralds and learned of the role of these officers of arms in state ceremonial."

One of the areas I am hopeful for reform is the law relating to coats of arms. Heraldic convention in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland (Scotland has its own heraldic authority) currently treats women in ways that are indefensible in the 21st century and very much out of step with equality and inclusion. In my view heraldic convention must move with the times – otherwise it risks becoming irrelevant. The monarchy survives by staying relevant, by continuing to adapt and evolve. Just as with the monarchy, the officers of arms (who are appointed by the Monarch) cannot be trendsetters, but neither can they stay so far behind the times, that they are seen as being painfully out of step."

Readers who wish to know more about the above topic can contact the Equality of Arms campaign at [equalityofarms@virginmedia.com](mailto:equalityofarms@virginmedia.com)

Paul has very kindly allowed us to publish his writing on the links between the monarchy and the City; a fascinating article on the myths and the traditions and also the reality.





## THE CITY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MONARCH AND THE ROYAL FAMILY

Of all the myth and lore that envelopes the Square Mile perhaps none is more persistent than the idea that the Monarch has to ask to enter the City of London and may not do so without the permission of the Lord Mayor.

While it is true to say that the City's relationship with the Crown is complex and exceptionally ancient, the myth that the Monarch is in some way subordinate to the Lord Mayor is simply nonsense. The very fact that the Lord Mayor has to be approved by the Monarch at a ceremony that takes place in the House of Lords, and later makes an oath of allegiance to the Monarch at the Royal Courts of Justice during the annual Lord Mayor's Show should put paid to this myth, yet it continues to spread.

The genesis of this myth is likely to be the Ceremony of the Pearl Sword which has, from time to time, been held at the former site of Temple Bar on Fleet Street. During the ceremony the Monarch's carriage procession draws up, the City Police pull a red cord across the street where Temple Bar once stood, the royal procession stops, the Lord Mayor approaches the carriage and presents the hilt of the City's Pearl Sword to the Monarch who touches it and symbolically returns the sword to the Lord Mayor. This is act of feudal fealty in which the Lord Mayor surrenders his principal symbol of authority to the Monarch, who in turn (assuming the Monarch finds the Lord Mayor suitably qualified to continue in office) returns the sword.



The essence of the ceremony is captured in the painting by Alexander Talbot Rice which hangs in Ironmongers' Hall and recalls the moment when Lord Mayor Sir Michael Oliver (Citizen & Ironmonger) offered up the Pearl Sword during the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

The Pearl Sword is believed to be a gift from Queen Elizabeth I to the City of London, and it is one of several ceremonial

*"The Pearl Sword is believed to be a gift from Queen Elizabeth I to the City of London, and it is one of several ceremonial swords owned and used by the City."*



swords owned and used by the City. With the City's ceremonial mace they are symbols of the authority that the Monarch delegates to the Lord Mayor. The Lord Mayor takes position, place and precedence before all persons in the City other than the Monarch and is the Monarch's representative in the City. The office, title and dignity of Lord Mayor flows from the Monarch, not from Parliament – an institution that did not exist at the time office of Lord Mayor was

created. The office of Lord Mayor is therefore a creature of the Monarch's creation, not the government.

The last point is particularly well illustrated by the fact that the City, despite being a ceremonial county, has no Lord Lieutenant, rather the lieutenancy is held in 'commission' (i.e., by a committee rather than an individual) and the Lord Mayor is the head of the Commission of Lieutenancy for the City of London and the Monarch's representative in the City of London. The Monarch issues a new Commission of Lieutenancy each December, notice of which is placed in the London Gazette. A uniform has been designed for the Head of the Commission, and the Deputy Lieutenants of the City of London but has never been created or worn.

That said, some officers of the Crown do have to ask permission to enter the City.

His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Greater London (not the City), presently Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE (Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists), certainly does have to ask permission to enter the Square Mile when in uniform and the author has been witness to an incident when that occurred.

Likewise officers commanding His Majesty's armed forces may not march them into the City without permission

first having been sought and obtained from the Lord Mayor, whereupon they are met at the City boundary by the City Marshal and escorted through the Square Mile – although this now only happens on ceremonial occasions. The same is true for officers of arms from His Majesty's College of Arms such as when the accession of a new Monarch is announced. Again, this only happens on great occasions of state – it would be ridiculous for officers of arms to have to ask permission to enter the City every working day as the College of Arms is located in the Square Mile.

The City's several swords and the mace are not the only symbols of royal authority displayed by the Lord Mayor of London. Following Henry V's successful campaign in France, which was funded and equipped by the City's merchants, the Lord Mayor was presented with a Crystal Sceptre in 1415. The Sceptre features the arms of Henry V and appears during the Silent Ceremony in Guildhall when the Lord Mayor Elect is installed.

The Crystal Sceptre is also held by the Lord Mayor during the coronation ceremony. The Lord Mayor is the only elected government officer who plays a role in the ceremony, and stands with the Bishops, Peers, Kings of Arms and Heralds on the dais in Westminster Abbey. The Lord Mayor is also afforded the privilege of a unique coronation robe, trimmed with



four rows of ermine and gold. He stands out very clearly in this image from the BBC film of the coronation, no mystery about 'Where's Wally?' in this image.

The Lord Mayor is involved long before the coronation ceremony since he, with the other Aldermen of the City of London, is one of the members of the Accession Council that meets to proclaim the Monarch's right to accession on the demise of the Crown (i.e., the immediate passing of the Crown down the line of succession). The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and the Freemen of the City of London are mentioned in the proclamation of accession used in the United Kingdom.

The Livery Companies also played a role in the coronation, the Glovers provided the gloves worn by the Monarch, the Girdlers provided a girdle (belt) and stole, and there were various other gifts presented by the other Companies. Some of the artefacts provided by the Livery Companies were perishable such as the Wax Changers' provision of beeswax candles, a custom they continue for royal weddings and funerals, as do the Gardeners' Company by providing flowers.

A comprehensive list of gifts presented to the Monarch by the Livery Companies and held in the Royal Collection may be viewed online. Recently the author had the opportunity to handle the remains of a beeswax candle used in the Royal Wedding of HRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and provided by the Wax Changers' Company and see the

*“The Crystal Sceptre is also held by the Lord Mayor during the coronation ceremony.”*







## *“Our late Queen was a Citizen & Draper of London.”*

Coronation (or Queen’s) Cup presented by the Goldsmiths’ Company.

Our late Queen was a ‘Citizen & Draper of London’ on account of her admission as a Freeman of the Drapers’ Company in 1947, and then as a Freeman of the City of London later the same year. In 2017, Her Majesty was elected to the Court of the Company and visited Drapers’ Hall to celebrate 70 years of membership. Clearly the Drapers’ Company take the business of who may progress to Court very seriously indeed!

His Majesty the King is a member of no fewer than fourteen Livery Companies, he is a Citizen & Fishmonger by right of patrimony, Patron of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots, Past Master of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and either a Freeman or Liveryman of the Brewers, Carpenters, Drapers, Farmers, Fruiterers, Gardeners, Goldsmiths, Musicians, Pewterers, Shipwrights and Stationers.

HRH The Princess Royal has served as Master of no fewer than eight Livery Companies – a post that is far from a sinecure, and is Perpetual Master of the



Saddlers’ Company. In 2020 HRH The Princess Royal received the City Livery Club’s Root & Branch Award for her outstanding commitment to the Livery.

The manner in which our late Queen viewed her relationship with the City was best evidenced by her Annus Horribilis speech of 24 November 1992 – given in Guildhall to celebrate the 40th anniversary of her accession. To quote:

“1992 is not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure. In the words of one of my more sympathetic correspondents, it has turned out to be an ‘Annus Horribilis’. I suspect that I am not alone in thinking it so. Indeed, I suspect that there are very few people

or institutions unaffected by these last months of worldwide turmoil and uncertainty. This generosity and whole-hearted kindness of the Corporation of the City to Prince Philip and me would be welcome at any time, but at this particular moment, in the aftermath of Friday’s tragic fire at Windsor, it is especially so.”

The warmth of the relationship between the Livery Companies and the monarchy is captured in the speech given by the Master Mercer during the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee luncheon, hosted by the Livery Companies, at Westminster Hall on 5 June 2012.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eBYUOKQOnE>



# AN OLD BRITISH INSTITUTION –



## *Reinvented*

When we think of all things stereotypically English, fish and chips, football, tea — and pubs — all spring to mind and whilst it will be fair to assume that all these will remain intertwined with our culture forevermore, nonetheless they do get updated along the way to fit in with the tastes of the day.

Going to a pub in London these days can be quite the culinary experience with the very highest quality cuisine and the finest wines and cocktails being served. If you are still hankering chatting with friends or colleagues around the bar with a pint and some traditional pub grub, that is still there too — but far from sticky floors and a dull ploughmans, expect beautiful surroundings, Scotch eggs so delicious they will have you licking your fingers and a list of beers that is as varied and extensive as the wine list — not to mention a plethora of non alcohol choices.

It is definitely fair to say there is a whole new era of the public house. And before you start thinking “gastropub”, we are talking food that really is an art rather than just saying it is.



# THE BARING

The concept of going to your 'local' has somewhat expanded of late. As well as visiting the establishment up the road from where you live or round the corner from the office, people are choosing to travel around London to experience sensational food. Today, pubs are a destination and one such fine establishment is definitely The Baring to be found in the eponymous street not far from the canals in Islington.

If you happen to live in South or West London and are about to dismiss this, be warned that would be the equivalent of dismissing Tate Modern because you live in North London. The Baring is owned by Adam Symonds and Rob Tecwyn, two names that anyone who knows anything about hospitality in London will immediately recognise. The pair met around a decade ago when they worked together at another North London fine dining pub, the Bull and Last in Highgate. From there chef Rob went to work at the extraordinary Dabbous as well as Moro, Morito, Henrietta Hotel and Kerridge's Bar and Grill. Restaurant manager and the expert in wines and beers Adam ran the Oresey and Six Portland Road. With this wealth of experience behind them, when they decided to get back together and open their own place, it was inevitably going to be pretty sensational.

When you visit the Baring, it both does – and doesn't – feel like a pub. It is in a quiet residential street somewhere between Islington and Old Street and on the outside looks much like a very smartened up and spruced local. Walk in and you could be forgiven thinking you are in somewhere like St John in Clerkenwell or Brawn in Columbia Market as there is a clean, minimalist look not normally associated with a public house. The walls are white with nothing hanging on them which, together with the huge windows that dominate the dining room, create a light, bright feel. The nod to a more pub like environment is the dark green panelling and second hand, dark wood tables and chairs. As you would expect, there is a long bar occupying one side of the room but, because of this place's popularity, the stools at the bar are currently just for the overflow of diners – although expansion upstairs is already in hand with plans to allow the bar to accommodate those just wanting a pint – or a hogweed martini – whichever you prefer.

My guest, Jeremy and I arrived at the Baring one Tuesday lunchtime and the place was full. But such is the nature of the room that you feel you have lots of space, you are not on top of the people next door but there is a fun, convivial atmosphere that makes you feel you are amongst friends.

We decided to start with a drink – well, we were in a pub after all – and I chose the Folias de Baco pet nat



rose which, for the uninitiated, is a sparkling pink wine made in the old, natural way with minimal intervention. If all that has lost you, just know it was delicious.

Jeremy's eyes lit up at the selection of beers. There is an interesting choice from British craft breweries and some spontaneous fermentation beers. If, like me, you don't have a clue what the latter is, just know it uses natural rather than added

Keg Pint
Harbour Classic Lager 4%
Bohem Amos Pilsner 4.9%
Harbour Artic Cold Sky IPA 4.3%
By The Horns Oatmeal Stout 4.2%
Standard Brew Co, Table IPA 3.6%
Crafty Apple Cider 4.5%
Cask Beer
Harveys Sussex Best 4%
Sharing Bottles 75cl
Burning Sky Saison de Peche 6.3%
Crossover Blendery Mount Ida 2022 6.4%
Wilding Cider, Yarlinton Mill & Dabinett 2020 4%
Bottles & Cans 33cl
Five Points Railway Porter 4.8%
Harbour Helles Lager 4.5%
Magic Rock Salty Kiss 4.1%
Dupont Saison 6.5%
White Hag Irish IPA 7.2%
De La Senne Jambé de Bois 8%

*“When you visit the Baring, it both does – and doesn't – feel like a pub.”*

## AN OLD BRITISH INSTITUTION – REINVENTED

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yeast – and, as with natural wines, it is where the trend is going. Jeremy chose an oatmeal stout from By The Horns and his taste buds found it as divine as mine had found the pet nat.

It was time for food. Our super friendly and helpful waiter, Sam, guided us through the menu which was quite short with a handful of starters and mains to choose between. I am always a big fan of smaller menus as I believe it ensures produce is fresher plus it was hard enough choosing between five starters and five mains all of which sounded equally yum.

We decided to share starters so allowing us to taste more. We eventually chose the quail shish with garlic yoghurt and pul biber chilli alongside the smoked beetroot, goats curd and walnuts. They arrived looking like works of art almost too good to eat. We managed though and joyously dug in. Any magician would have been

proud of us as they disappeared in no time.

To drink, we chose a La Galoche Beaujolais and Sam asked us if we wanted it chilled or at room temperature. Impressive stuff! We opted for slightly chilled and it was the perfect pairing.

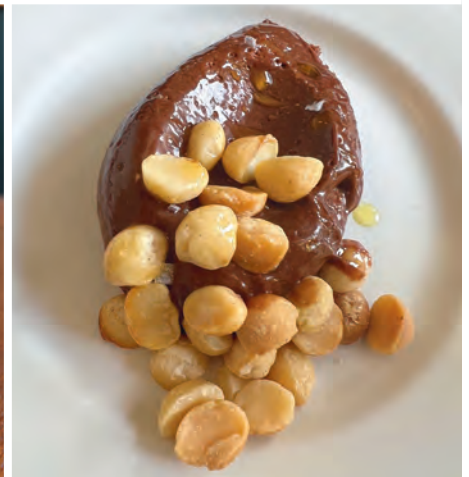
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*“Our super friendly and helpful waiter, Sam, guided us through the menu.”*

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For our mains I chose the salt marsh lamb rump with kofte, aubergine and friggittelli pepper and Jeremy had the grilled pork, jerusalem artichoke, cime di rapa and charcuterie sauce. We had the grilled hispi cabbage as a side. The plan had been to try each others but by the time we had remembered that we had greedily scoffed the lot. This was definitely NOT pub grub but fare as fine as you would get in the top Michelin eateries.

We could not resist dessert. We opted for the warm almond financier with greengage and cream and the chocolate with olive oil, seasalt and macadamia and two glasses of the Jurancon Henri Lapouble for good measure. Suffice to say as I am writing this, I am literally salivating. A word of strict advice; if you go, however full you may feel, HAVE DESSERT.

Whilst we were having coffee, Adam joined us to tell us a bit more about the vision behind the Baring and how it all came to be. If anyone knows anything about pubs, it is Adam as he has worked in them since he was 18 years old. He says he and Rob had spoken for ages about doing something together; originally

they planned on a restaurant but owing to Adam's deep roots in the pub world, he persuaded Rob to think about that instead.

"We thought about the food that we love eating – places like Jolene, Brawn, Western Laundry – and we decided to put that type of restaurant food into a pub environment. It's the best of both worlds."

It's a formula that clearly works. The Baring is busy. Trying to get a table is not easy, which is why those who fail to get an evening reservation are opting for lunch instead.

Adam says he thinks the Baring's location is important. It's not mainstream West End and even within Islington, it is not on the well known restaurant filled Upper Street. It is almost hidden away so only those in the know know to go. One end of the street is a dead end so you are never likely to simply walk past. That makes it feel special – which, indeed, it is.

Adam is determined to make the Baring more of a pub by bringing people just in for a drink – hence turning the upstairs into another 35 cover room. Currently the

downstairs seats 40 but demand means every bar stool is filled with diners. The expansion will allow people to pop in just for a pint.

Adam emphasises that the philosophy of the Baring is all about good produce with good provenance. This extends beyond the food into the wines and beers. It's not something they shout about but it is how they believe things should be done.

What's the long term plan? The pair would like to open more places but they don't want to replicate the Baring. They want their mark to tie everything they do together, to stick to their core values but to make each one different.

Make the journey to Islington. Enjoy this gem. It is different, it is special and the only downside is trying to get a reservation.

#### THE BARING

55 Baring Street, London N1 3DS

#### Open

Tuesday till Saturday, 12–11pm and Sunday, 12–5pm



# THE GEORGE PUBLIC HOUSE

**The George on Great Portland Street is somewhat different from the Baring. It is still part of the new era of public houses but, unlike the Baring, it is still first and foremost a pub, with some pretty traditional pub fare – albeit the game has been upped considerably. It also has a restaurant upstairs and a sparkling wine bar showcasing the finest English wines. Whilst the two differ in many ways, they share one thing specifically, a focus on quality and excellence.**

The pub is an imposing building situated in the heart of Fitzrovia, in Great Portland Street. It is grand yet welcoming. It has been a pub since the 18th century and used to be referred to as the Glue Pot as the saying went that if you visited it, its charm and allure were such that you would be stuck there forever. In the 30s and 40s a lot of literary folk drank in the pub including Brendan Behan and Dylan Thomas no less. The literary set from the BBC used to be regulars. It was said if a bomb had been dropped on the pub, half of England's literati would have been lost.

The entire listed building was taken over by the JKS group a few years ago and it set about restoring and renovating so recreating a pub that is elegant, glamorous yet with a distinctly traditional feel.

The pub downstairs is a buzzing and busy space. In the evenings, happy revellers spill out onto the streets and you feel as though it is one long party. Food on offer has all the pub classics; fish and chips, bangers and mash, burgers, scotch eggs and – yes, of course, ploughmans. But. And the but is a huge one. This food is divine. Exquisite



produce, beautifully cooked and presented. We tried the scotch egg which was made from black pudding and was served hot with a deliciously runny yolk and which we, quite honestly, regretted sharing! The pub also serves oysters and fancy cocktails so it really does cater to every taste. There are always events happening; in Negroni week, they served a flight of different versions of the cocktail, they celebrated game season with a four course feast and they are hosting some great World Cup screenings.

But my guest, Paul and I were actually there to dine Upstairs at the George (as the website will tell you, the George is a pub of two halves). We were ushered out of the bustle to a very steep staircase which led us to a somewhat magical experience.

Upstairs at the George is a haven of peace, tranquillity and calm. Before dining,







we decided to take a drink in the Sparkling Wine Bar – a glorious room where we sat at the bar and chatted to our mixologist whilst he prepared us two Fitzrovians; a cocktail with Redbreast Lustau, dry sherry and Gusbourne sparkling wine. The George is all about all things British – and that includes the wines. They probably have the finest selection of English wines that you will find anywhere – and Gusbourne features strongly. The bar is intimate. Paul and I are there with just two other guests and it feels gloriously private and decadent. A fireplace has been transformed into a fridge of sparkling wines. I could have stayed there all afternoon – but gave in to the allure of food.

We were greeted into the dining room by Conor Daly, the restaurant manager. The room felt opulent with upholstered seating, cushions, fireplaces, candelabra and dark furniture. The atmosphere was warm, welcoming and friendly.

Conor explained that the George opened in November 2021 and the restaurant in March 2022. He says that the aim was to continue the JKS stamp of quality and to “do pubs in a different way.” The ambition is to have an offering that is excellent in all its facets.

That excellence is achieved by the list of hospitality “stars” that have combined to make the dream of the George into a reality. The head somm is Dan Orton, who was at the Ledbury before. The culinary director is James Knappett who owns the counter top 2 Michelin star restaurant, Kitchen Table. James grew up in the pub world as his family ran them so the George project was very personal to him. The executive chef is Alex Harper who has



worked at Le Manoir aux Quat’ Saisons, The Harwood Arms and many other Michelin starred establishments. The head chef is Conor Mulrooney who most recently worked at Bao. Quite the Who’s Who of London’s elite.

Paul and I were quite prepared for a treat. Our lovely serving person, Nicola, presented us with a choice of menus and we decided to opt for the Westwell lunch menu which was two or three courses alongside a glass of Westwell Pelegrim NV. To begin, I chose the devilled veal kidneys with toasted Flor sourdough warm bread and salted butter and Paul chose the torched Cornish mackerel with aromatic dressing and fig leaf oil. Both were complete polar ends of the spectrum, mine rich and extravagant, Paul’s light and fresh. The sparkling wine worked with both and both were equally gorgeous.

For our mains, Paul said the best way to test if a restaurant is really worth its salt is to choose a vegetarian option so he went for the Gardener’s pie with Montgomery cheddar and grain mustard mash with hispi cabbage and hazelnuts. I opted for the Cornish slip sole with vadouvan spiced butter and mussels. For sides we went for a healthy Isle of Wight tomato salad and possibly a slightly less healthy portion of triple cooked chips. (At least we only ordered one portion!)

What was lovely was the selection of Coravin wines so we could try some quite extraordinary glasses without having to have a whole bottle. We chose a white Pinot Noir, Artefact 3 from Artelium in Sussex and never having tried a white Pinot before I can honestly say it was utterly gorgeous.

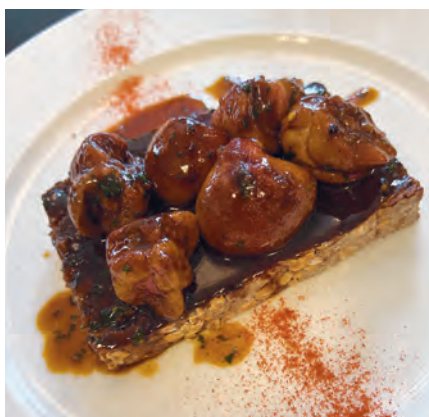




And the George obviously really is up to scratch as Paul said he adored his vegetarian option as was clearly evidenced by his complete absorption with the dish, barely speaking until his plate was spotlessly clean. My fish was equally wonderful. Even the tomato salad was sublime. And as for those chips... But as a wise person once said, if you are going to pile calories into your mouth make sure they are worth it.

We said no to dessert but Conor said why not share the sticky toffee pudding and as we couldn't really come up with a good answer to that question, we did. With two glasses of Jurancon. Paul and I have been friends forever but we nearly fell out fighting over the last mouthful of that bit of heaven on a plate.

Before we left, Conor showed us the staircase which has been turned into the wine cellar. It is a piece of art and utterly beautiful. If you go, make sure to take a



peek; it's just by the entrance to the private dining room.

This place is really extraordinary. You can opt to go to the pub downstairs, the bar upstairs or the restaurant. Each is unique. Or you can enjoy the entire experience and do all three. After all, if it was good enough for Dylan Thomas.

**THE GEORGE PUBLIC HOUSE  
and UPSTAIRS AT THE GEORGE**  
55 Great Portland St, London W1W 7LQ  
**Open**  
Monday, 12–11pm,  
Tuesday–Saturday, 12–11.30pm



# LIVERY NEWS

A look at what has been happening.

## Master's Word

**Time has sped by since my installation as Master in June and I am taking this opportunity to give a "Half Term Report".**

Rather than list the events I have attended, I will focus on my theme for the year of "planned networked growth".

I want the Company to grow in terms of the numbers of our members, the size of our charitable fund and our profile across the Livery movement and the Civic City.

There is only so much that any one individual can do. Therefore, I want our members to draw on their contacts to support the "growth" strand of my theme.

Those activities need to be focused so we need to plan carefully to ensure our collective efforts achieve the most advantageous outcomes for the Company.

Looking first at our membership, the Company needs both to attract a steady flow of new Freeman and to encourage our existing Freeman to take the Livery.

A challenge we share with many other Livery Companies is finding and encouraging potential members to join. Our strict membership criterion (being a solicitor who had practised in the City of London) gives us a clear "target" group of some 17,500 people currently practising in member firms of the CLLS. In addition there is a broader network of in-house lawyers, practitioners in non-CLLS firms and former City practitioners.

Our "target" group is diverse. While we will not necessarily match the demography of that group, aiming for as widely diverse a group of new members as possible can only benefit the Company.

We need, therefore, to ensure the Company is attractive to many people. One of the messages

from last year's Membership Survey is our members' desire for a broad range of events, not just our formal dinners. With that in mind, the Social & Events Committee and the Whittington Committee are looking at adding lower cost and more informal events to our calendar. Furthermore, the Membership Committee is organising a series of focus groups to "test the water" on our members' collective views. Our Senior Warden is working on another of our very successful "Food for Thought" events.

Obviously, we need to bring the Company to the attention of our potential members and our excellent social media presence does a sterling job on that. However, we need to do more. I want our existing members to flag the Company's existence to their friends and colleagues (the "network" part of my theme).

A number of our contacts "get" the nature and purpose of a Livery Company and they are (relatively) easy wins when it comes to persuading them to join the Company. However, some of those contacts are "cautiously interested" and need to understand the Company better before making a decision. On occasion I have been asked "What is the official line?" when it comes to explaining the Company. The Membership Committee has produced an excellent set of materials answering that very question.

Once someone is interested in joining they will go through the membership application process but there are a number of misapprehensions about that. "Do I have to be invited to join?"; "I don't know many existing members", etc.



Tony King

Our Junior Warden is preparing a "Pathway to membership" guide which explains the process, together with helping our Committees liaise together to improve that process.

Looking at growing the Company's Charitable Fund, there is ever increasing demand for charitable support to which we should contribute.

I know our members are facing a number of calls on their finances and many of them will already be making contributions to their favourite charities. Nevertheless, if all of our "active" members (Liverymen and Freeman) were to make charitable contributions matching their quarterage payments, that would produce a healthy increase in our charitable funds.

The Charities Committee is exploring options for increasing the attractiveness of our charitable giving, such as identifying a "Charity of the Year".

Finally on my theme, there is raising our profile beyond the Company. The Livery Committee is involved in a number of Livery-wide activities (such as the Livery Climate Action Group) and we have strong relationships with the Financial Services Group of Companies. It is early days but I am exploring the possibility of a joint event with one or more of those Companies.

We are fortunate to have many committed and enthusiastic members and by harnessing their collective efforts we will continue to be a successful Company. It may be a cliché but "We are stronger together".

**Once again, the Solicitors' Company dazzled at this year's Lord Mayor's Show! Our float, entitled "City Solicitors – Playing Their Part" used spectacular costumes from the natural world to underline City law firms' commitment to environmentally responsible and sustainable business operations. Thank you to the law firms who supported us, Mahogany Carnival, our Members and our Cadets for helping us to put on another amazing display.**



# THE MONARCHY AND THE MOTOR CAR; WHAT MIGHT THE NEW CAROLEAN ERA HERALD?

**Taking a trip through the history of royal transportation and weighing up the need to meet modern-day environmental challenges**

By Joel Leigh

In the summer of 1535, the court of Henry VIII travelled between six and 14 miles a day during 'Tudor Progress', the annual event when Tudor Kings and Queens would connect with their subjects throughout the kingdom. Travel was on horseback or by royal barge, but as river transport became increasingly impractical, and riding in carriages became more socially acceptable for men, royal carriages gained in popularity.

Unreliable roads required a succession of design improvements, initially to meet royal standards of comfort, but it didn't take long for the Tudors to realise that the pomp and pageantry of the royal carriage was a particularly effective way of projecting the power of the monarchy.

Indeed, and long after the need to get from A to B under horsepower became redundant, carriages continue to be used at all significant royal events, including coronations, funerals, and weddings, as well as annually at the Trooping of the Colour and to mark both the State Opening of Parliament and the first day of Royal Ascot.

Notable royal carriages include the 'Gold State Coach' commissioned by George III in 1760, the oldest and most important and used at every coronation since, to the 2012 'Diamond Jubilee Coach', the first to be added to the collection in over a hundred years. Whilst these two stand out as the obvious highlights of the Royal Mews collection, also on display are five modern-day equivalents, the State Cars, currently comprising three Rolls-Royces and two Bentleys, amongst numerous other official vehicles.

Travelling royalty of old by no means confined themselves to four wheels, however. Queen Victoria embraced the possibilities of train travel from the outset, taking her first journey on the Great Western Railway from Slough to London on 13 June 1842 accompanied by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The first royal carriage was designed and built that same year, followed by a succession of royal trains which took to the tracks in the following years.

As for sea travel, one of the earliest routes was between England and France, Henry VIII famously sailing to Calais in 1520 in an attempt to improve relations with his gallic equivalent, François I. This meeting of Kings took place at a grand festival with tents crafted from gold embellished fabrics that were so magnificent that the event became known as the 'Field of the Cloth of Gold'.

As time went on, first the military and then the political needs of the British Empire and latterly the Commonwealth, increased the need for British



monarchs to visit foreign climes, leading in turn to the launching of the first official royal yacht. Built by the Dutch East India Company, HMY Mary was purchased by the City of Amsterdam in 1660 and presented to keen sailor Charles II as part of the 'Dutch Gift' on the restoration of the monarchy. She proved only the first of an incredible 27 royal yachts commissioned during his reign alone.

The tradition continued down the centuries; to date there have been no less than 83 royal yachts, culminating with 'Britannia', launched in 1954. Despite being recognised as the personal pride and joy of Elizabeth II, by the late 1990's Tony Blair's Government concluded there was little justification for the expense of replacement, culminating in a final, and some might say symbolic voyage, bearing home the last Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, on 1 July 1997.

Whilst 2021 saw Boris Johnson announce plans for a replacement at a cost of some £250m, these were shelved by Rishi Sunak ahead of the recent Autumn Statement, a victim of the cost-of-living crisis and the political need to cut what could be viewed as unnecessary public expenditure. Any thoughts of a replacement appear firmly in dock, despite Charles III's ascension to the throne.

As to the future of the current Royal Train, a dedicated set of claret liveried sleeper, dining and lounge carriages presented as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977, many were disappointed when

plans for the late Queen to make her final journey from Balmoral to London for her funeral were shelved at the last moment. This was in contrast to Queen Victoria, who was borne by her train from Paddington to Windsor for burial in 1901.

In this age of high-speed rail networks, some consider the Royal Train a throwback to a bygone age which should join its forbears at the National Railway Museum in York but as a life-long environmental campaigner it's reasonable to assume that rail travel will form part of the new King's transport arrangements. Cars appear his enduring passion however, with the Rolls-Royce Phantom VI state limousine an early preference.

Whilst at first blush motoring may seem contradictory to the interests of the planet, Charles has already settled on a novel approach to decarbonising his Aston Martin by converting it to run on an 85% bioethanol fuel blend derived from the by-products of wine and cheesemaking at Highgrove. He was also the first member of the Royal family to buy an electric car – a Jaguar i-Pace he described as 'silent but deadly'.

Having such a prominent environmentalist on the throne of the sixth-largest economy in the world is hugely significant. One can only hope, as one wag noted on social media, that the erstwhile Prince of Wales continues to 'drive Caerphilly'.

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



## THE LAST WORD

## DID YOU KNOW?

## A great deal of pomp

**It is the sixth of May – an important date at the start of a new Carolean era. But this time, we aren't looking ahead to the coronation of Charles III. Instead, it is 1659 and the start of the restoration of the British monarchy.**

The War of the Three Kingdoms saw England's bloody civil war spill into Scotland and Ireland. Historians still debate the final death toll for the conflict. A sensible estimate suggests 200,000 people across the islands lost their lives.

Charles I was amongst the dead. On 30 January 1649, the King was beheaded. Within four years, Oliver Cromwell took his place as the head of state. Anti-royalist sensibilities required new titles. In place of a King, the Lord Protector ruled. Instead of a kingdom, he ruled a Commonwealth.

It is possible that the Lord Protectorship could have survived the death of Oliver Cromwell in 1658. But it could not survive the rule of Oliver's son, Richard. The army grew increasingly restless under his rule. At the same time, the regime buckled under the weight of huge debts.

In April 1659, the grandees of the army asserted their control. Parliament was dissolved on 22 April 1659. On 6 May 1659, a Declaration of the Officers of the Army was issued. It invited members of the Rump Parliament to retake their seats in a revived House of Commons.

Richard Cromwell remained at Whitehall Palace, more a prisoner of the new regime than its master. His seal of office was ceremonially destroyed on 14 May. On 25 May, Richard formally resigned his office. He accepted Parliament's offer to treat him honourably, pay his debts of close to £30,000 (equivalent to nearly £4 million today), and provide him with a pension.

The demise of the Lord Protectorship ushered in a period of chaos as the army competed with Parliament for authority. England saw a "bewildering succession of failed regimes as political order broke down".

A year later, the Stuart Restoration was well underway. On 8 May 1660, Charles II was formally proclaimed king with, as noted in Samuel Pepys' diary "a great deal of pomp". Members of Parliament joined with the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of London to "heartily, joyfully, and unanimously acknowledge and proclaim that, immediately upon the Decease of our late Sovereign Lord King Charles, the Imperial Crown of the Realm of England... did... descend and come to His Most Excellent Majesty Charles the Second."



Charles II finally returned to England on 25 May 1660. Samuel Pepys accompanied the royal party in their crossing from the Netherlands. In his diary, Pepys writes that the King "was received by General Monk with all imaginable love and respect at his entrance upon the land of Dover. Infinite the crowd of people and the horsemen, citizens, and noblemen of all sorts."

This reception was a mere taste of the pageantry to follow. Charles entered London on 29 May 1660. It was the King's 30th birthday and the City was en fête. The Lord Mayor greeted Charles at St. George's Fields in Southwark. A huge procession took seven hours to pass through the City. It was already early evening by the time the King reached Whitehall.

By the time Charles was crowned on 23 April 1661, the new Carolean era was well underway. From regicide to republic to restoration.

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

[www.almosthistorypodcast.com](http://www.almosthistorypodcast.com)



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