

Newsletter



DEVON & EXETER
LAW SOCIETY

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Noticeboard

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DELS AGM

Tuesday 19th April 2005
Commencing at 6.00pm
Exeter Court Hotel

JOINT FUNCTION WITH THE BAR & JUDICIARY

Friday 10th June 2005
Commencing at 6.00 pm
Larkbeare House

Booking Form Inside

LEGAL SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday 12th June 2005



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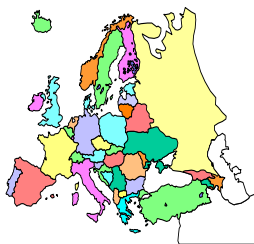
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REMEMBER

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Personal Introductions
to Lawyers in Mainland
Europe

Ring Monique on
01392 411585



DELS NEW MEMBERS

We Welcome:

Mark Alford: *Stones, Torrington*
Gary Baker: *Stones, Exeter*
Anne Balcomb: *Foot Anstey Sargent, Exeter*
Rachel Bickle: *Veitch Penny, Exeter*
Janette Bird: *Newton Abbot*
Adam Bradford
Brewer Harding & Rowe, Barnstaple
Thomas Brearley: *Michelmores, Exeter*
Peter Bridgwater: *Stones, Exeter*
Silas Brown: *Foot Anstey Sargent, Exeter*
Phillip Brush: *Crosse & Crosse, Exeter*
Debra Bulcraig: *Cartridges, Exeter*
Stephanie Burns: *Veitch Penny, Exeter*
Anthony Butler *Foot Anstey Sargent, Exeter*
Sophie Carey: *Michelmores, Exeter*
Roger Cheves *Triggs Read & Dart, Barnstaple*
Julia Clayton: *Crosse & Crosse, Exeter*
Christopher Close: *Michelmores, Exeter*
Julia Cluley: *Samuels, Barnstaple*
Helen Crossland: *Everys, Exeter*
Slade de Lacey: *Kitson Hutchings, Torquay*
Douglas Deuchar: *Stones, Exeter*
Gary Eddleston-Haynes *Ford Simey, Exeter*
Emma Edwards: *Michelmores, Exeter*
Matthew Fearnside: *Ford Simey, Exeter*
Kevin Finneran: *Michelmores, Exeter*
Zoë Gaitskell *Beviss & Beckingsale, Honiton*
Chris Gibson: *Michelmores, Exeter*
Claire Govier: *Stones, Exeter*
Emily Green *Symes Robinson & Lee, Exeter*
Judith Hockin: *Foot Anstey Sargent, Exeter*
Nicholas Johnson
Reynolds Porter Chamberlain, Tiverton
Zoe Johnson: *Foot Anstey Sargent, Exeter*
Siobhan Jose: *Stones, Exeter*
Nigel Kinder *Symes Robinson & Lee, Exeter*
Tracey Lambert: *Tozers, Newton Abbot*
Stuart Mathews: *Ashfords, Exeter*
Carol McCormack: *Michelmores, Exeter*

Paul Meek

Furse Sanders & Taylor, South Molton

Gareth Morgan: *Michelmores, Exeter*

Max Nicholls: *Michelmores, Exeter*

Simon Oliver

Gilbert Stephens, Ottery St Mary

Sandra Powell: *Ford Simey, Exeter*

Emma Reed: *Slee Blackwell, Barnstaple*

Susan Roberts: *Everys, Honiton*

Maxine Robinson: *Scott Richards, Dawlish*

Jeffrey Saidin: *Beviss & Beckingsale, Chard*

Alexandra Silveston

Triggs Read & Dart, Barnstaple

Lucy Smallwood: *Michelmores, Exeter*

David Stacey

James Mason Tucker, Newton Abbot

Susanne Stockler *Beviss & Beckingsale, Chard*

Peter Swinburn: *Ashfords, Exeter*

Kathleen Trist: *Dunn & Baker, Exeter*

Maxine Trowbridge: *Boyce Hatton, Torquay*

Jo Turner: *Hooper & Wollen, Torquay*

Clare Villanueva: *Michelmores, Exeter*

Lorraine Wakefield

Peter Peter & Wright, Holsworthy

Lesley Walker: *Stones, Exeter*

Helen Wallwork *Foot Anstey Sargent, Exeter*

Carolyn White: *Slee Blackwell, Barnstaple*

James Williamson: *Michelmores, Exeter*

Philip Wolfgang *Foot Anstey Sargent, Exeter*

Claire Wright: *Michelmores, Exeter*

PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Paul Derbyshire

President

All our guests at the dinner in Torquay have written saying how much they enjoyed it and how vibrant our Society is. I couldn't agree more. Congratulations to our two prize winners: Young Solicitor of the Year, Marie Macfarlane and Sir George Fowler Winner Zoë Dent.

As my year as President draws to an end I have been pondering how to attract and maintain the interest of our younger members. Being a sports fan, I would like to see a DELS team of some sort. Verona and Bilbao bars have their own basket ball teams. Could DELS compete? The carrot could be the inclusion of "the team" in some of the twinning trips to Europe – Erlangen in May for instance. Ideas and interest to Monique please.

I leave DELS in good shape. The 3-yearly checkup reveals all vital organs in sound health,

thanks to the continued efforts of Monique, Tony and Lyndsay to whom we owe a great debt. If you want to be part of a winning team please put your name forward for the committee elections and come and support your Society at the AGM on 19th April.



Marie Macfarlane, The Honourable Mr Justice David Steel Zoë Dent & Paul Derbyshire

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

Christopher Palmer
Council Member

In January I reported on the recommendations made by Sir David Clementi in his Report.

Since then there has been a special Council Meeting to consider the Law Society's response, and future steps. Prior to that debate the Council was addressed by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer. As members will know, one of Sir David's Clementi's proposals was the creation of a new Legal Services Board to provide oversight of the professional bodies, but with the Law Society continuing to regulate the profession as long as the regulatory function was separated from the representative function and that the Law Society met the standards the Board would set. In his speech, Lord Falconer said:

“ The Law Society's attitude was an important factor in the Government's preliminary agreement with Sir David that an FSA type regulator was not appropriate and that the regulation of legal services can carry on being led by the professionals.”

He also said:

“ We don't intend to deliberate for too long. I hope to be in a position to say more on this in the next couple of months, and there will be a White Paper later this year.”

At the meeting on 20 January, the Council decided to establish two Regulatory Bodies to carry out the Society's regulatory responsibilities, leaving the Council to deal with representation and law reform issues. These will be a Regulatory Board and a Consumer Complaints Board. These two new Boards will take on their responsibilities in shadow form from September 2005 with a view to formally taking on their responsibilities from January 2006. The new Boards will be established under existing legislation. This means that the Regulatory Board will make recommendations to the Council on regulatory policy that the Council will have to confirm. Any legislation implementing Sir David's recommendations will then enable the Regulatory Board to carry out its work without any reference to the Representative Council.

The Regulatory Board will have nine solicitor and seven lay members. The Consumer Complaints Board will have seven lay and five solicitor members. The Regulatory Board will have a solicitor chair and the Consumer Complaints Board a lay chair. Council Members will be barred from membership of both Boards.

The Regulation Board will be responsible for all regulatory functions, apart from the handling of consumer complaints. It will be responsible for the requirements for admission as a solicitor; continuing professional education; rules governing solicitors' conduct; advice on professional ethics issues; the arrangements for monitoring compliance with the Rules; the arrangements for solicitors' professional indemnity insurance; administration of the compensation fund; determining the approach to investigation of suspect misconduct; and settling policy on all disciplinary matters. The Consumer Complaints Board will be responsible for the policy concerning complaints from consumers about solicitors' services and for overseeing the way in which the Consumer Complaints Service discharges its functions. It will also be responsible for liaison with the Law Society's Statutory Regulatory in respect of its consumer complaints function, the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner.

Advertisements have already appeared for the appointment of Chairs and Board Members. All members will be appointed by the Master of the Rolls. For the Regulation Board, the term of appointment will be for four years and maybe renewed. Appointments to the Consumer Complaints Board will be for 2 years initially, because the Consumer Complaints Board may be superseded if the Government legislates to establish an Office for Legal Complaints. The Board Chairs, with a salary of £60,000.00, will be expected to commit to two to three days per week for the work of their Board. Other members will be paid £4800 a year for the anticipated commitment of 12 days per year.

The publication of the Clementi Report clears the way for the development of new models for the non-regulatory arm, sitting alongside a ring-fenced regulatory arm. Work is underway to develop draft business models for a new non-regulatory function and also the development of proposed governance structures suited to each model. The combined product will form the basis of a consultation document to be issued to the profession in the autumn of 2005.

The Council has taken the view that the separation of regulation and representation, within the Law Society, is a vital and bold first step in the modernisation of the Society's governance, and for the regulation of the profession. It is, however, important for the Law Society to keep in mind its overall objective. That is to maintain professional-led regulation subject to appropriate oversight from a Legal Services Board which operates independently of Government. The main strand of this approach is to seek to ensure that the proposed LSB operates at a "light touch" supervisory regulator, rather than in a more heavy-handed way. It is felt desirable that regulatory powers are vested in the front line regulators (e.g. the Law Society) rather than vested in the LSB and then delegated to the front line regulators. It is also felt to be desirable that the Law Society's powers should be entrenched in the sense that primary legislation would be needed to remove them.

In addition to the separation of regulation and representation, and the establishment of a Legal Services Board, Sir David Clementi did recommend the creation of an Office for Legal Complaints. Thus, it is important for the Law Society to ensure that the remit of the OLC is properly drawn. It will be important to make clear that the OLC's role lies solely in providing

consumer redress rather than straying into the disciplinary field. It will also be important to ensure that the OLC has more flexible charging powers than are currently available to the Law Society, so that the main burden of paying for the cost of dealing with consumer complaints can be borne by the firms from which they are generated, rather than by the profession as a whole.

Let me mention just one other matter: that is how the Society should deal with the surplus which now exists in the Solicitors Indemnity Fund. The surplus arises from the fact that the outcome of claims in the last five years of the Fund is likely to be significantly lower than was originally anticipated together with the fact that the shortfall arising from under provision earlier in the 1990s is also less than had originally been anticipated. The consequence is that there is likely to be an overall surplus in the region of £80m.

Although the surplus arises from contributions made by firms, it does not legally belong to the contributors. SIF was not a mutual fund. Under the existing Rules, the surplus would be used first for any reasonably practical indemnity purposes with the balance being returned to the Law Society where it could be used for general regulatory purposes. Given the existing legal position, the options for the Council were:

1. To act in accordance with the present rules. The great bulk of the surplus would be returned to the Law Society and would be available for the Law Society's general regulatory purposes. This could include transfer to the reserves to be used ultimately for purposes falling within Section 47 of the Access to Justice Act thus ameliorating Practising Fee increases which would otherwise be necessary.
2. Seeking the Master of the Rolls' approval to an amendment to the Rules to permit contributions to be returned to contributors. This might be most readily justified in respect of the last two years' contributions towards the shortfall, when SIF was not providing any existing indemnity cover. Those shortfall contributions were called for by SIF on the basis of prudence and turned out (with the benefit of hindsight) to have been unnecessary.
3. Seeking the Master of the Rolls' approval to an amendment of the Rules to permit the

surplus to be issued for wider purposes including the Law Society's representational work.

In considering the options, the Council were well aware that, despite the absence of any legal entitlement to any return of contributions, many practitioners would feel strongly that contributions which turned out not to be needed for indemnity purposes, should be returned to the contributors directly to the maximum extent practicable. On the other hand, the Society is facing significant budgetary challenges in the immediate future. As a result of the deficit on the Staff Pension Fund, the Trustees require an additional 9% on the employer's contribution. This amounts to £3m.-£4m. a year which the Society is obliged to pay. Furthermore, there will be significant costs over the next three years in managing the transition to the new governance arrangements and in preparing for the possible transfer of consumer complaints handling to the new body recommended by Sir David Clementi.

The Council considered a report from the Working Party which had been looking into the way in which they SIF surplus might be dealt with. The decision made was to seek a rule change to enable a refund to contributors of contributions for the 2002/2003 and 2001/2002 indemnity years amounting to approximately £50m: and to seek an amendment to Rule 11 to allow a wider range of options to be considered by the Law Society for dealing with the balance of the surplus. This was thought to be a sensible compromise. It is likely to avoid most of the practical repayment difficulties which would be associated with the earlier contribution years. It extends the range options available to the Council for applying the surplus. It will enable the Council to use part of the surplus for purposes not covered by the practising certificate fee e.g. representational activities.

In conclusion may I, again, urge members to feel free to contact me whenever they wish. The next Council meeting is on 11/12 May when the Council will, amongst many other issues, consider the outcome of the review of the current rules applicable to referral fees.

DISTRICT JUDGES' CORNER

District Judge Andrew Moon
Plymouth C.C.C.



The Designated Family Judge, HH David Tyzack Q.C. presided over a meeting concerning the Private Law "Programme" in respect of Children Act Applications, with the staff at the County Court [Family Section], District Judges, CAFCASS, and members of the Staff of the Family Proceedings Court [Plymouth & South Devon] which was held on 22nd February 2005.

Further information will follow but at this stage, to give effect to the Programme [which is not a "Protocol"] CAFCASS will be (hopefully) seeing the Parties with a view of identifying the issues in each case, and reporting back to the Court before the first appointment which will be between 4 to 6 weeks from the date of issue.

In appropriate cases, to obtain earlier final hearing dates than this Court can provide, transfers to the Family Proceedings Court will be made. Any such decision would be made at the First Appointment, giving the Parties [and their Advocates] an opportunity to make any representations.

Further details will be circulated when the "nuts & bolts" are clarified.

ZIMBABWE: REPORT OF MEETING AT ASHFORDS SOLICITORS

Paul Derbyshire
President



On the 11th February 2005 members had the opportunity to meet Joseph James – the LSZ President. Over 30 turned up to hear Joseph speak about the parlous state of the Rule of Law in his country. Many of you have said how moved you were to hear him speak of the injustices which are largely unknown to us here in Devon. Judges who are appointed by the State with the gift of fangs, open hostility to lawyers from the Police, the absence of legal aid. These are just a few examples. It puts our own concerns very much into context.

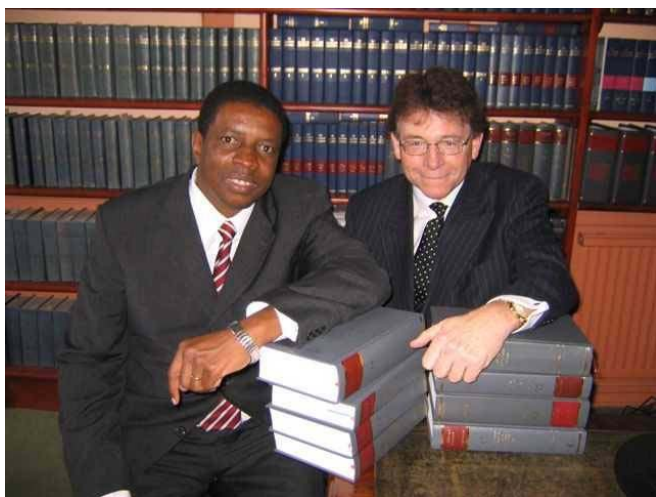
Realistically, although we can give moral support to our Zimbabwe colleagues on Human Rights issues, the pressure is better directed from Chancery Lane. Alison Hook (Head of International – who was also at our meeting) is able to co-ordinate a national response at a level that would be impossible for DELS.

But we can certainly help at a practical level and you are already doing that! Over 400 books have been collected in Exeter and thank you to all who have contributed. Joseph now has the list and we have been given financial support from Alison's department to send them out. The first consignment is expected to go soon.

Meanwhile, one suggestion from the meeting was to set up an "E-friend" list, so that those who have access to email can be linked to a DELS solicitor. The idea is that the LSZ lawyer will be able to ask for research help e.g. finding cases to support an argument in Court, particularly Civil, Crime, Employment and Human Rights. We also hope that such links can lead to friendships which will grow over time.

So if you want to join the scheme, or if you have books that you want us to collect, please contact the DELS office and prove, as ever, that "Devon makes a Difference".

Thank you.



Joseph James, President of the Law Society of Zimbabwe with Devon & Exeter Law Society President Paul Derbyshire

MANAGING PARTNER / PRACTICE MANAGER FORUMS

Discussion forums have been established for Exeter & East Devon, North Devon and Torbay & South Devon since 2000. Meetings are held quarterly over a lunchtime and are hosted by different members of the forum who provide a sandwich lunch.

The meetings run to a standing agenda covering Recruitment and Training issues, IT, Health & Safety, Indemnity Insurance, Quality Marks, Recommended Suppliers and Money Laundering. The intention is to provide an opportunity to discuss and share Practice Management issues and experience without divulging sensitive business information.

If you would be interested in attending the next meeting in your area then please contact Tony Steiner at DELS office – Tel. 01392 494110 or email: tony.steiner@devonlawsociety.org.uk

FIXED FEE SCHEME FOR COUNSEL

Members are reminded of this scheme whereby Barristers will give an opinion on a topic for a fixed fee of £50.00 + VAT.

The Chambers that are participating are:

Walnut House - Tel. 01392 279751
Southernhay Chambers - Tel. 01392 255777
Rougemont Chambers - Tel. 01392 208484
Colleton Chambers - Tel. 01392 274898
One Garden Court SW - Tel. 01392 209032

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The fixed fee

The fixed fee is £50.00 plus VAT.

Payment of the fee must be made by the Solicitor within fourteen days of receipt of Counsel's fee note. In the event of non payment or late payment, Counsel may refer the matter to the Committee of DELS to take up with the Solicitor.

2. Entitlement

A Solicitor wishing to take advantage of the scheme is entitled to receive from Counsel up to 30 minutes initial advice either in person at Chambers or over the telephone.

Solicitors are not entitled to written confirmation from Counsel of the advice given.

If Counsel is unable to advise within the half hour limit then either Counsel can refuse the instructions or negotiate an additional fee. The "cab rank" rule does not apply.

3. Procedure

At the first instance Solicitors should contact the Clerk of participating Chambers and clearly state that this is a DELS Fixed Fee Scheme matter. They should then supply the following information :-

- (i) Name of preferred Counsel
- (ii) Names and addresses of all the parties
- (iii) The general area of Law involved
- (iv) The precise legal issue upon which advice is required

4. Conflicts

It is the responsibility of Counsel to ensure that no conflict of interest arises. For this reason it is essential that Solicitors accurately identify the parties involved.

THANK YOU!

Dear Members of the Devon & Exeter Law Society,

I am writing to say a very big thank you to everyone who helped me raise such a fantastic amount of money at DELS annual dinner. With your help we managed to raise £425 for CLIC which is a huge boost to my fund-raising appeal and was far more than I could have anticipated. I have just reached my half-way target of £1000 this week, and I still have a long way to go in terms of fund raising, but the contributions made from the 'speeches bet' have really encouraged me in my task.

I am honoured to be running for CLIC (Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood), which is one of the UK's leading charities working to eliminate childhood cancer and leukaemia. CLIC keeps families together by not only offering clinical services but a cushion against financial and emotional crisis, providing a unique all-embracing approach to care when a child is diagnosed with cancer.

I am now well into my training for the London Marathon, as you might expect, and although I

am still loving the whole 'fitness' thing, these early starts and long cold runs are proving to be more of a challenge than I had initially expected. However, the sponsorship from friends, family and so many unknown pledges gives me the enthusiasm to do that extra mile!



So thank you for your generous support, it is very much appreciated by me and CLIC.

Kind Regards

Rob Derbyshire



Solicitors Support Network

FREE & CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT FOR SOLICITORS
ARE YOU EXPERIENCING PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL PROBLEMS?

If so, you do not have to do so alone.
Support groups exist to assist you.

For confidential help ring
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- Solicitors Assistance Scheme
Advice ref. professional / personal difficulties
- Solicitors Benevolent Association
Living expenses support for Solicitors & their dependants
 - LawCare
Support ref. personal / alcohol / addiction / stress problems
- Young Solicitors Group
Assistance to Young Solicitors, up to 10 years ppe
- Trainee Solicitors Group
Assistance for Trainees, Junior Paralegals & Students
- Black Solicitors Network
Advice for black / Afro-Caribbean Solicitors
- Solicitors' Sole Practitioners Group
Support for sole practitioners
- Association of Women Solicitors
Advice / re – training / mentoring / maternity issues for women solicitors
- Group for Solicitors with Disabilities
Assistance for trainees and solicitors with disabilities
- Solicitors in Local Government
Assistance for local government solicitors
- Commerce and Industry Group
Assistance for in – house solicitors

LAW WORKS CLINICS

Julian Lewis

Law Works Clinics Manager

Overworked and underpaid? Fancy doing it for nothing?

What will you be doing in April? Wishing you'd had a longer holiday (any holiday?) at Easter? How about early June? Counting the days until the Summer sun?

Volunteering?

The government has declared 2005 to be the Year of the Volunteer. Each month has been allocated a theme. April's is "Justice". Then 6-10 June sees this year's Pro Bono Week.

Many readers will, I am sure, deliver professional services pro bono in one capacity or another, or have done so at some point. Does your firm offer the first half hour of advice for free? Some would say that is pro bono: others that it was fishing for worthwhile business. Perhaps you've let your local CAB know they can call you occasionally to confirm a point of procedure or law? Maybe there is something more formalised in which you take part. However, the bulk of pro bono work is provided on an ad hoc basis. What I would ask you all to consider in this Year of the Volunteer, is whether there is scope for you to re-visit your possibilities. What can you set in motion for April, or June? Artificial dates to be sure, but dates which could be your markers. Can your firm have introduced a pro bono policy by April? Can it plan to have involvement ready for June?

LawWorks is a partnership project between the Law Centres Federation and the Solicitors Pro Bono Group, and funded by the Legal Services Commission. It tries to increase the volume of social welfare legal advice available by setting up new pro bono clinics. A typical clinic will be hosted by a local advice agency or community group, requiring a certain number of volunteer lawyers to pitch up at a given time and place. LawWorks staff try to work flexibly with the possibilities that exist on the ground, for instance with a soup run for homeless people in Southampton, or an employment rights telephone advice line in Birmingham. The project has also set up a web-based second tier advice facility, which includes the possibility of some casework, for which we also need volunteers.

The latest clinic I have assisted setting up is at Cardiff Law Centre. Roy Phillips, Supervising Solicitor at CLC explains: "We have set up an employment law clinic, to start in early 2005. People need this advice in our area – the problems they encounter are many and varied. Running a clinic will expand and complement the existing services we have the capacity to offer 9.30-5, Monday-Friday. Lawyers and law firms are looking for a variety of ways to express their commitment to pro bono work. If we get it right, it's got to be a good thing for all involved."

We all know there is a great mass of people for whom the law is inaccessible. I know that there are also many lawyers keen to offer their professional services in a voluntary capacity to try and meet some of this need. If you want to explore ways of developing pro bono legal advice provision for people in your area, please get in touch. I hope to be working with you in the future.

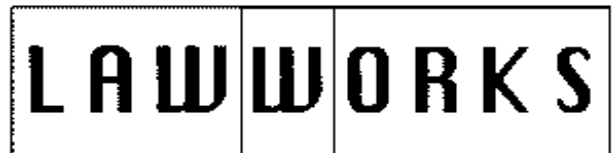
Julian Lewis

020 7387 8574

julian@lawcentres.org.uk

The LawWorks web pages are hosted by SPBG at www.probonogroup.org.uk.

Year of the Volunteer information can be found at www.yearofthevolunteer.org/



DEVON & EXETER
LAW SOCIETY

www.devonlawsociety.org.uk

WALK OF THE MONTH

THE SHIP INN, KINGSWEAR

LENGTH OF WALK: 5 MILES (GR 882510)

This walk can be combined with a visit to the lovely National Trust Gardens at Coleton Fishacre. You will need to check in advance to make sure that they are open. They start with weekends only in March and then fully open (except Monday/Tuesday) from 23rd March to 30th October.

The Walk

We start from the Ship Inn at Kingswear (where they do a lovely crab sandwich). Turn left from the pub and then left again round the beautiful old church. Turn right into Beacon Road (signposted "Coast Path"), past a pretty row of stone houses and a view across to Dartmouth. The road soon narrows to a path and you get a very clear view of Dartmouth Castle across the river. This path then joins another road, which narrows and winds around the coast through some attractive woodland.

It passes between some flats on the right and garages on the left, and then curves to the right and climbs among some more trees. About half a mile after you joined this road, it curves to the left and about 50 yards beyond the bend you will find a path leading off to the right down some steps (sign posted "Coast Path Froward Point"). This stretch of path is dedicated to the memory of Lt Col H. Jones of Falklands War fame, who had family connections with the area.

Go down the steps and then the path as it winds steeply down to a drive. Cross the drive (signposted "Coast Path") and carry on down through the trees to a stile. Cross it, then cross the stream beyond and join the drive on the other side. Follow it to the right (signposted "coast path"), and then after a few yards turn left just before the gateway ("Coast Path" again). Notice the old turret on the right. This was the mill after which this cove (Mill Bay Cove) was named.

There is a steep climb up the other side of the valley, with some steps to make it a little easier. You enter a wood and wind to the right, still climbing, but less steeply now. The path levels off at the top and for some distance you can enjoy a much more gentle amble along a stunningly beautiful stretch of coast. There is a great view to the right across the river and down the coast to Start Point.

The path (which is in fact a broad grassy track) winds first left and then right as it follows the line of the coast, with mixed woodland merging into Monterey pines in all sorts of intriguing shapes, and a variety of wild flowers lining the way.

After almost ½ mile you cross a stile into the National Trust property of Higher Brownstone. The path becomes narrower, but the going is still easy, and still among the pine trees. It turns inland to skirt Newfoundland Cove, from the other side of which the view down to Start Point opens up again.

You pass the buildings of a Second World War defence battery on your right and come to a junction in the path. You can either turn right here (signposted "Coast Path Brixham") for an interesting but fairly strenuous climb down and then up along the edge of the slope, or go straight on (signposted "Link to Coast Path Brixham") for a more straightforward walk along the top.

The two paths meet again shortly before a stile, and you can see the Mew Stone just offshore to your right. Cross the stile to a path which winds down to another junction. Again you can go either way. The path to the right (signed posted "Coast Path") takes you along the lower slopes again, but if you want to enjoy the view, go straight on (sign posted "Viewpoint and link to Coast Path"). At the viewpoint you get an excellent view both ways along the coast, and inland to the 80 foot Daymark tower, built as a navigational aid over 100 years ago and still used.

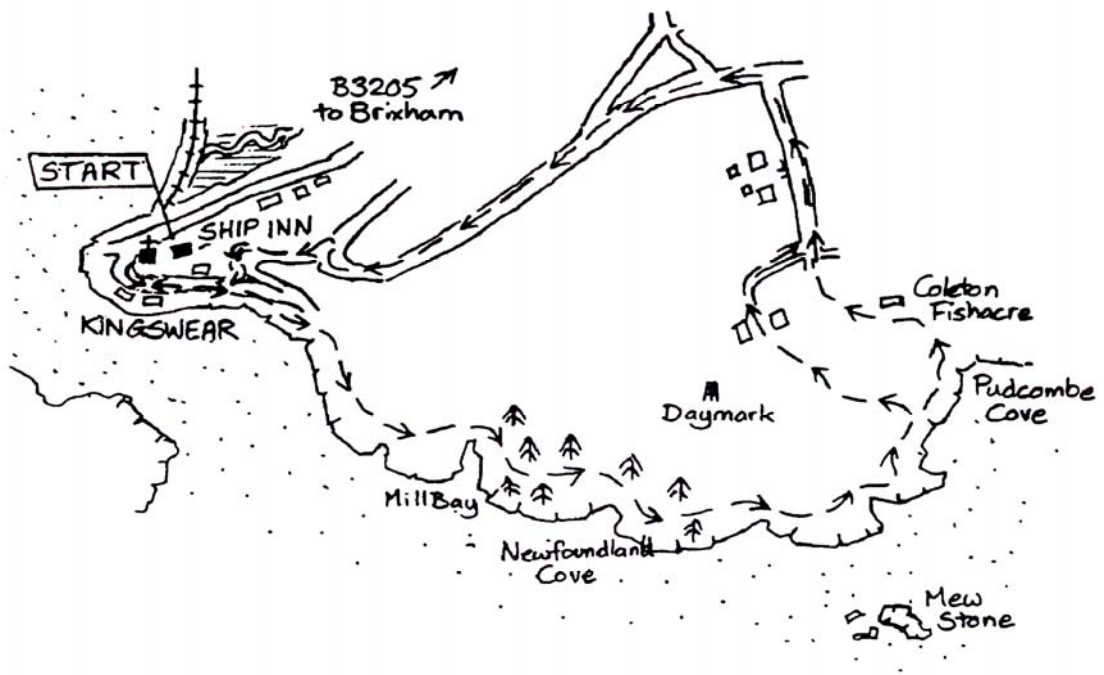
The paths come together near a small stream which you cross and then follow the edge of the cliff. Cross a stile, and you will soon start climbing inland again, winding up the bracken-covered slope to another junction. If you want to visit Coleton Fishacre Gardens, go straight on (sign posted "Pudcombe Cove"). The path descends steeply into the valley, from which there is access to the gardens when they are open. Non-members of the National Trust have to pay at the main reception office.

The gardens are a delight – 20 acres of rare and exotic trees and shrubs set in a gorgeous valley, and with spectacular scenery all around. They are probably at their best in Spring but worth a visit any time.

Work your way up the valley through the gardens to the main entrance, and then up the drive to the lane at the top.

If you are not visiting the gardens, then turn left at the junction (sign posted "Car parks") and cross a stile. Keep to the left hand side of the field beyond and right at the end go through a gate ("Car parks" again). Keep to the left of the next field and cross a stile on to a track ("Car parks" again). Cross another stile to Coleton Farm. Cross the farmyard and go through two gates to reach the lane. Turn right and after about 200 yards you will come to the gateway for Coleton Fishacre.

From here you should head north (i.e. straight on if you have come from the gardens, left if you have come from Coleton Farm). The lane passes Kingston Farm on the left and then turns to the left. Follow it round and then after about another 200 yards, as it turns to the right, go straight on into another lane. There is a good view to the right over the fields and soon you can also see across to Dartmouth ahead. At the T-junction, turn left, still with the same views ahead and to the right, but now with the imposing façade of the Britannia Royal Naval College half-right. The lane dips amongst some trees and then winds down into Kingswear. At the next-junction, turn left and follow the road as it winds sharply to the left and to the right. Follow it round to the right of the church and then right to return to the pub.



Could You Help?

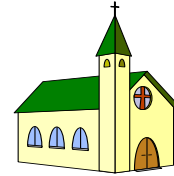
LawCare needs more volunteers. People who could care for a lawyer in need based on their own experience. If this is you please call 0870 774 3663
www.lawcare.org.uk/volunteers



NOTICE CONCERNS

VOLUNTEER TRUSTEE OFFICER

The Church of England is seeking a motivated volunteer to assist the Property Services Department in the Anglican Diocese of Exeter in an important and challenging project.



The individual will have

- Experience in legal, trustee and property matters
- Good organisational skills and attention to detail
- High motivation and the ability to work on his or her own initiative
- Sympathy with the Mission and Ministry of the Church of England

This is a voluntary post with flexible hours at Diocesan House in Exeter. Reasonable travel and working expenses will be reimbursed.

For further details and an application pack contact Alistair Sutherland on 01392 272 686 or email alistair.sutherland@exeter.anglican.org

NATIONAL PAIRS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2005



As a solicitor or fee earner you are invited to enter this prestigious Championship which was inaugurated in 1991. The Finals of the Championship will take place on Friday 9th September 2005 and will be played at the Brabazon Course at the Belfry Hotel, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

The entrance fee is £50.00 and proceeds from the event together with a generous donation from OyezStraker are presented to the Solicitors Benevolent Association.

For further information and an entry form please call **01675 465 566** or visit www.sbagolf.org.uk

LEGAL SUNDAY SERVICE – Sunday 12th June 2005

Please note that the Legal Sunday Service will take place on Sunday 12th June 2005. Please let Monique know by Friday 25th March if you want to process or attend the service.



NATIONAL LAND INFORMATION SERVICE LAUNCH

NLIS have organised local, free-of-charge forums, to find out how you can benefit from using official, local authority searches, as well as e-conveyancing through the NLIS hub service. These forums are being held in:

Barnstaple Civil Centre – 12th April 2005: 15.00pm – 18.00pm

Plymouth Civic Centre – 13th April 2005: 15.00pm – 18.00pm

County Hall, Exeter – 21st April 2005: 15.00pm – 18.00pm

For further information contact **Sarah MacKnight**, NLIS Marketing Manager on **020 7324 2431** or email smacknight@mda.co.uk