



Newsletter

DEVON & SOMERSET LAW SOCIETY

www.dasls.com

March 2011

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DASLS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2011

**To be held at the
Exeter Golf & Country Club
starting at 6.00 pm**

**AGM PAPERS
included!**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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New Members - a warm welcome to:

Members

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Karen Julie **Barnard**, *WBW, Torquay*
Alexander **Betambeau**, *Peter Peter & Wright, Okehampton*
Hayley Janine **Blyth**, *Slee Blackwell, Exeter*
Steven Anthony **Carman**, *WBW, Newton Abbot*
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Alison Haley **Griffiths**, *FDC Law, Frome*
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Karen Anne **Pang**, *The Stokes Partnership, Crewkerne*
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Darren **Reed**, *Samuels, Barnstaple*
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Charlie Robin **Siegle**, *Kitsons LLP, Torquay*
Emma Jane **Slade**, *Slee Blackwell, Exeter*
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Bradley **Smith**, *Furse Sanders, South Molton*
Judith Mary **Thompson**, *Samuels, Barnstaple*
Kate Jane **Williams**, *Coodes, Holsworthy*

Affiliates

Julia Rosemary **Busfield**, *Practice Manager, Slee Blackwell, Barnstaple*
Anthony John **Stokes**, *Licensed Conveyancer, Peter Peter & Wright, Okehampton*

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*Insurance Times 2010

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President's Diary

By Rebecca Parkman, President



I can hardly believe that I am coming towards the end of my term as your President. This has certainly been a very interesting year for me during which I have done my best to make the most of the many opportunities that have been offered to me to represent our Society.

On 6 January, I attended a meeting of the Association of South Western Law Societies at which the President of the National Law Society, Linda Lee, was a guest. Most of the meeting was taken up with her address.

Linda Lee started by talking about the two Consultation Papers on the proposed changes to Legal Aid and Civil Justice. The Legal Aid changes combined with the Jackson Reforms will, if implemented, have a huge effect on access to justice and on our profession; Linda Lee believes that there would be a huge reduction in civil litigation and would expect clinical negligence work to virtually disappear. The Law Society had organised several roadshows relating to the Legal Aid Reforms in Bristol and Plymouth and had been actively encouraging both individual members and local Law Societies to lobby their MPs.

Linda Lee went on to outline the details of the Conveyancing Quality Scheme. This has met with mixed reactions from the profession. She stated that the purpose of the Scheme was to help the profession maintain its share of the conveyancing market. Our profession's insurers and the representatives of the Mortgage Lenders have apparently provided evidence of an increase in fraud and have risk-profiled the type of firm involved. As part of the CQS, the Law Society will carry out risk assessments of those awarded membership. It is hoped that the Scheme will become a recognised brand and that the Lenders will accept and trust the Law Society's own risk assessments, rendering further risk assessments of their own unnecessary. It is hoped that membership of the Scheme will guarantee firms a place on Lenders' Panels and will result in a reduction in insurance premiums.

Whilst there was some scepticism expressed at the meeting it was also generally accepted

that if the Scheme does become a recognised brand, there might be advantages for the profession.

Linda Lee referred to the general situation with Professional Indemnity Insurance and confirmed that the Law Society are in ongoing dialogue with the insurers. It has become apparent that the insurers do not, in the main, have any interest in insuring what they consider to be the "bottom end" of the market, that is smaller firms. The harsh reality of the market is that insurers are not bound to contract with any of us. The Law Society recognise that there is a pressing need for firms who give the profession a bad reputation to be removed quickly and, where possible, stopped from setting up in business in the first place. The Law Society have impressed repeatedly upon the SRA the importance of resolving the issue of the Assigned Risks Pool and Linda Lee felt that there was also a need to tighten up on waivers granted to practitioners coming in from foreign jurisdictions through the Qualified Lawyer Transfer Test. She also felt that the requirements for qualifying Law Degrees and the Legal Practice Course needed to be reviewed.

My attendance at the ASWLS meeting was followed on 14 January by my participation in the telephone conference call between the Chief Executive of the Law Society, Des Hudson, myself as President of DASLS, and the Presidents of Liverpool, Bristol, Birmingham and Manchester Law Societies. Once again, the Consultation Papers on Legal Aid and the Civil Justice Reforms were discussed. Des Hudson advised that the Law Society believes that the Jackson Reforms are potentially very damaging to firms' profitability. Local Law Societies were strongly encouraged to respond to the Consultation Papers and Des Hudson confirmed that the Law Society would circulate their responses as a point of reference for local Law Societies who might still be considering their responses. In fact our Vice President, David Turner, as Chair of our Contentious Business Sub-Committee, had already drafted responses which had been put to that Sub-Committee for comment on 11 January and which have been submitted on our Society's behalf.

On a more positive note, Des Hudson made it clear that the Law Society remains keen to work with local Law Societies wherever they

can for the benefit of local members. The Law Society's Regional Managers, including our own Matthew Still, act as a conduit for information between the Law Society and local Law Societies, assisting us all to forward plan events without clashing with each other. He also expressed the Law Society's willingness to supply articles to local Law Societies on "hot topics" of the day for circulation to our members and members will have seen in our last newsletter an article by Des Hudson regarding the introduction of ABSs.

On 17 January, I had the pleasure of attending the DASLS College of Past Presidents' Annual Meeting as an observer. It was a privilege to enjoy a relaxed lunch in the company of so many of our past Presidents from Devon and Somerset, including our two lady past Presidents, Olga Warren and Margaret Anstey. It was a particular pleasure to see HHJ Erik Salomonsen at the meeting.

On 18 January, I attended the Mill on the Exe for the latest in the highly successful series of networking events organised by the Joint Professions Networking Group of which DASLS is a member. Although the event was held just after the Christmas break, over 100 delegates attended, a good proportion of them from DASLS.

I returned to the Mill on the Exe on 27 January to act as a "runner" for the final event of this year's DASLS Challenge Cup – the Quiz. Although the cup itself had already been won by Foot Anstey, to whom I was pleased to present the cup at the end of the evening, competition to win the quiz itself was extremely fierce. Some very high scores were achieved with Gilbert Stephens declared the winners at the end of the evening.

I was invited, as President of DASLS, to sit on 2 February on a Question Time Panel with the Bishops of Bath and Wells and Taunton and the Principal of our local College. I was called on to answer some quite searching questions, including who I would like to see playing my part if a film were to be made about my life. I nominated Tamsin Greig on the basis that she would make everything so much more glamorous than it really is!

The following day, I had the privilege of travelling to Barcelona with Michael Cosgrave, Rod Mole and Jeremy Ferguson as a guest of the Barcelona Bar to attend their Legal Weekend. This included a most uplifting Mass in the Church of Sant Raimon De Penyafort to commemorate Lawyers who had died during the year. I thought this a strange concept until it was explained to me that Lawyers at the Barcelona Bar rarely retire, continuing in post well past the U.K. retirement age. This was illustrated at the formal ceremony at the office of the Bar later that day when numerous Lawyers were awarded certificates for 50 years' practice! Although the Mass itself was conducted entirely in Catalan, the choir of the Barcelona Bar gave a stirring rendition, in English, of the Hallelujah Chorus at the end of the service.

We also attended the Bar's educational event, a seminar on international networking which proved to be both interesting and informative. I had not before considered this as something from which Lawyers in firms of every size can benefit. Cross-border issues now crop up in many aspects of our work such as estate administration and family work.

On 11 February, I was delighted to host a meal for the members of our Committee at a restaurant close to my home in Weston-super-Mare. It was a great opportunity to spend an enjoyable evening with friends. I was surprised at how many of those who came had memories of holidays in Weston-super-Mare. Perhaps I could take this opportunity of encouraging you all to pay my home town a visit to sample the delights of our new pier and revamped sea front!

I am looking forward to rounding off my year as President with two charity events, a quiz at Somerset Cricket Ground on 24 February and our Charity Cycle Ride on 12 March. My sincere thanks to all those of you who will be supporting these. I hope that we will be successful in augmenting the funds that we have already raised for the Somerset and Devon Community Foundations this year at our Annual Professionals Luncheon and Members' Dinner.

I wish my successor, David Turner, and his Vice President, David Bowen, all the best for the forthcoming year and pledge my support to them both. Thank you to all of you for giving me the opportunity to represent you this year and for all the wonderful support that I have received.

Did you know back copies of the DASLS Newsletter can be found at www.dasls.com



LEGAL SUNDAY SERVICE 2011

This year's Legal service will take place on **Sunday 5 June 2011 at Exeter Cathedral.** Anyone wishing to take part in the Procession, would they please contact by 31 March.

Monique Bertoni at DASLS
Tel. 01392 366333 monique@dasls.com

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Parties will be responsible for the venue and its costs.

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Brittany - Great

By James Roden, Trainee Solicitor with Kitsons

In December 2010 I had the immense pleasure, not to mention privilege, of spending a thoroughly eye-opening ten days or so in Brittany enjoying the gracious hospitality of the Rennes bar and especially of Maître Poirier and his firm of advocates in Fougères. My stay got off to the most auspicious of starts, marked as it was by the weekend of celebrations for the bicentenary of the reformed *Barreau*. (detailed in President's Diary, January 2011).

Throughout the entirety of my *séjour* the roof over my head was that provided by Hélène Laudic-Baron, an *avocat* in Fougères who



Statue of the Comte de Lariboisière in Fougères

was every bit the generous hostess. During the course of the week I was able to gain an insight into all aspects of the law as practised by the *avocat*. The work of the *avocat* overlaps with that of both solicitor and barrister, although the professional structure shares more in common with the latter. The *avocat* gives legal advice and representation (with full rights of audience) on contentious or potentially contentious matters, while non-contentious work such as wills, probate and conveyancing are dealt with by a *notaire*.

The *cabinet* or firm of Maître Francis Poirier is a small organisation with more in common with chambers than with a firm of solicitors. Me. Poirier and his colleagues Hélène and Marine are self-employed, though there is a certain amount of file- and fee-sharing between them. Working hours are long – roughly 9am to 9pm – and most appointments to see clients fall after about 6pm. The day is spent working in the office, appearing in court and travelling to and from court. The majority of the hearings that I attended with Hélène were in Rennes, about an hour's drive away, and I would place the average length of those hearings at around 6 minutes. On a couple of occasions we travelled further afield: once to the *Tribunal de Commerce* at Caen (1 hour 45 minutes journey each way, 15 minute

hearing) and once to a 10 minute family hearing in St. Briec which is about 2 hours' drive each way. If the impression that you get from the above is that a significant portion of the day is spent driving to and from relatively short hearings, then I have been lucid.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of attending court was in the level of formality. In the *Prud'hommes* (employment tribunal) and the *Tribunal de Commerce*, *avocats*, clients and the general public would come and go freely, drifting in and out of the hearing room. The *avocats* often made no more than a token approach toward the bench and clients were sometimes called upon to answer impromptu questions wherever they happened to be standing in the room. In spite of all this apparent informality it seems that the *avocats* wear their robes as a matter of habit (sorry) for all hearings. Meanwhile in our atmosphere of relative pomp we solicitors have all but dropped the robe, so to speak, while barristers wear them less often than they once did. I was reassured, upon entering a criminal trial just for a little look, to see that formality and starch still had their place. It did soon dawn on me, however, that something was awry. The gentleman sitting to the judge's left and at a bench as high or nearly as high as that of the judge, was the prosecutor. The defence counsel was down at floor level with everyone else. It came as something of a shock to see the judge and prosecutor (both *fonctionnaires*) placed on equal footing, glaring in unison at the defence counsel far below.

Another aspect which I found to be of interest was that of the rigours (or lack of rigour) of civil procedure. Civil matters here are of course fairly front-loaded in order to avoid unnecessary court time – the "cards on the table" approach. I was surprised to hear evidence mentioned in passing during hearings which, properly disclosed at an earlier stage, might have cleared things up nicely, and to find that there is no general obligation to disclose documents which may have an adverse effect on one's client's case. Arguably this way of doing things means less time is clocked up preparing for hearings. On the other hand it seems to clog the system with otherwise avoidable 60-second hearings (and the ensuing costs.) This seems to be borne out by

discussions I had with various *avocats* about the long waiting time for hearings. Examination of the evidence at hearings seemed, to my common-law sensibilities, somewhat cursory. *Avocat* A pleads (including, in the absence of a bundle before the judge, a lengthy narrative.) *Avocat* B reciprocates. Both *avocats* then hand their file to the judge, who then returns a verdict some weeks or months later.

The above may read like flippant criticism of a foreign system. However, the French legal system seems to work in its own way – given my brief view of it I am inclined to believe that it makes more sense the more you know about it. I document the shocks and surprises because they make more interesting reading. In reality the practical similarities probably outweigh the differences between our jurisdictions – two very similar sculptures made from different base materials.

The one point I can be unequivocal about is that the experience was well worth the time and that I would advise anyone with even a passing interest in civil law jurisdictions to get out there and see for him- or herself. Maîtres Poirier, Laudic-Baron and Lorczy were helpful and thoroughly charming throughout, as were their support staff and all of the *avocats* I had the pleasure of talking to during the week and indeed during the Twin Bars event which preceded it. Fougères itself is an enchanting historic town which I would thoroughly recommend.

If you would like any further information on my placement please contact me at james.roden@kitsons-solicitors.co.uk. Should you wish to find out more about how to get involved in Twin Bars events and related activities, email Monique Bertoni at monique@dasls.com.



Cité Judiciaire, Rennes.

Cook's & Hatchard's Law Prize 2011 ... *last call for nominations!*

Somerset Members are invited to nominate candidates for this prize.

To be eligible their training contract must have ended in the twelve months from 1 June 2010 to 31 May 2011.

Please send nominations in writing to DASLS office, for consideration by the Trustees at their next meeting in June 2011.

The successful nominee will receive the 2011 Law Prize at the annual Somerset Dinner to be held in Taunton.

The winner's firm will benefit from the attendant publicity in Somerset.

Please return your nominations to DASLS office by 27 May 2011.

Extract from the Central Register of Charities maintained by the Charity Commission for England and Wales

OBJECTS

In the award of a cash prize to be called "The Cook's and Hatchard's prize" to or to be divided between the trainee solicitor or trainee solicitors who has or have completed his, her or their training contracts or (in the unfettered judgement of the trustees) a substantial part thereof in the county of Somerset (as hereinbefore defined) and who (without regard for age) has or have (in the unfettered judgement of the trustees) obtained honours in the academic stage of and / or has or have otherwise shown merit throughout his, her or their period in training. Provided that if in any year no candidate is qualified for the prize of that year, the income which would otherwise have been applicable for that prize may to such extent as the trustees think fit be applied in augmentation of the income applicable for the prize or prizes of one or more years next following.

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CONGRATULATIONS

to Fiona Hooper
of Withy King
(pictured here with
the
Honourable Mr
Justice Royce).

Fiona was the
recipient of the
Cook's &
Hatchard's Law
Prize 2010.

INVITATION TO THE MAY 2011 INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS' MEETING

Dear President, colleagues and friends,

As already announced in Erlangen, last year, the Young Bar of Leuven will be hosting the next International Lawyers' Meeting of the Twin Bars.

It will be held in Leuven from **Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th May 2011**.

Further details will follow including the topic for discussion.

We are looking forward to meeting many of our friends and colleagues in May.

Yours sincerely

Tijl Leempoels
President—Jonge Balie Leuven

Any member interested in attending, please contact Monique Bertoni at DASLS office
to receive further details when available - monique@dasls.com

LAWYER LED CAREER BREAKS IN THAILAND

Simon Moore has written to the Secretary of DASLS as follows:

"I am a qualified UK Solicitor who has taken time out to set up a scheme aimed at establishing volunteer English language teaching for the school children in Northern Thailand.

"Should you feel any of your members might find this of interest, then perhaps you would be so kind as to refer them to the scheme's website

<http://www.ruralthailandvolunteerteaching.co.uk/>

"Appreciating any assistance you can give.

Simon Moore
112/10 Nonsawan A
Namphong J
Khon Kaen
40170
Thailand
Email: simon1318.moore@virgin.net

Sustainable DASLS Newsletter

Thank you to those members who have already opted to receive the DASLS Newsletter by e-mail only, in place of the hard copy.

We are conscious of the impact of the Society's printing and are seeking to reduce our paper usage.

If you have not yet opted out of the hard copy newsletter but wish to do so, just let Monique know - monique@dasls.com

Plastic Envelopes



DASLS newsletters continue to be distributed in clear plastic envelopes.

These envelopes can be recycled in the carrier bag recycling bins found in local supermarkets.

News from The University of Exeter School of Law PhD in Legal Practice

Exeter University Law School is launching an exciting and innovative doctoral programme specifically designed for lawyers wishing to achieve academic recognition based on their professional profile and practical expertise. The PhD in Legal Practice will be awarded to suitably qualified practitioners of at least five years professional standing on the basis of a *portfolio of legal practice*.

The focus of the portfolio will be a case-study (or up to three case-studies) drawn from the candidate's professional legal work in any area of practice and a reflective commentary analysing the significance of the legal issues explored and assessing the implications and wider context of the professional work undertaken. Within this commentary candidates will be expected to relate the subject matter of the case study/studies to the existing body of knowledge within the field. The research subject may be drawn from any appropriate area of legal practice within which the candidate has worked and may reflect an interest in any aspect of substantive law, legal process, legal policy, or legal scholarship.

Appropriate supervisors will be assigned from members of the Law School, whose expertise falls in most fields of legal study and under whose guidance the programme of research through practice will be advanced and portfolio compiled. Supervisors will liaise with the candidate on the nature and scope of the practical work included and advise on the technical requirements for the degree. A study plan will be tailored to suit the needs of the individual. To reflect the unique nature of the programme there is no standard period of study, though the maximum is seven years if it is undertaken on a part-time basis. Students on the programme will be invited to research seminars and expected to engage with the research culture of the Law School.

A formal launch of the PhD in Legal Practice programme will take place in June and those interested in receiving further information and/or wishing to attend the reception should contact

Professor Jenny McEwan, Director of Postgraduate Research Students
(J.A.McEwan@exeter.ac.uk)

From The Law Society - Recorder Opportunities

The JAC will launch a selection exercise for 70 Recorders in multiple circuits for both the crime and family jurisdictions on 10 March 2011. Solicitors with 7 years post qualification experience are eligible and encouraged to consider applying.

Recorders sit in both crown and county courts and their jurisdiction is similar to that of a circuit judge, however they will usually handle less complex or serious matters. The requirement is to sit for a minimum of 15 days a year but rarely for more than 30 days; sittings can be organised in advance to fit around other commitments.

All applicants who satisfy the statutory minimum entry requirements will be invited to take a written test. Following the test, if the candidate is shortlisted, they will then be invited to a selection day in London. Past test papers and their feedback reports can be found on the JAC website <http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk>

The selection day is likely to involve an interview and role play. A video of an example role play is available to watch www.lawsociety.org.uk/newsandevents/news/JAC-roleplay/roleplay.page

Eligible solicitors can sign up to receive a vacancy alert for the exercise on the JAC website www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/selection-process/selection-exercises.htm. When the exercise opens for applications there will be an information pack available containing all the details. On the website there is also an interesting case study from a solicitor who was successful in becoming a Recorder (under "Is it for me?")

Risk Management: Post Renewal Assessment

Advertorial from Aon

In the lead up to the 2010 professional indemnity insurance (PII) renewal, both insurance brokers and underwriters emphasised the need for firms to clearly demonstrate that they had effective arrangements in place for the management of risk and supervision of their practices, thus being able to present a meaningful risk profile for consideration during the PII quotation process. This was commonly achieved through the completion of enhanced proposal forms which embodied specialist risk management questionnaires, concerning areas of practice management considered to be critical risk management controls. The end of the renewal period provides an opportunity to identify those key areas of practice management that firms are finding difficult to implement. This article considers our top five non-compliance issues and contains suggestions for future renewals.

Concluding checklists

The object of the concluding checklist is to ensure that claims do not arise from loose ends being left unattended.

Firms are advised to devise and implement a concluding checklist that ensures any loose ends are recognised and dealt with as appropriate to each type of work the firm undertakes. For example, a concluding checklist could ensure that:

- *There is evidence of the return and receipt of client and third party property;*
- *File storage, retrieval and associated costs are advised to the client in writing; and*

- *The file has been checked for outstanding undertakings, charges and ledger balances.*

Concluding risk review

The concluding risk review should consider whether the client's objectives were achieved, if there has been a complaint or grounds for a complaint and, if so, if a claim is likely to be made against the firm. Practices are encouraged to undertake concluding risk assessments by developing and implementing standard concluding checklists contrasting realised risk against initial risk assumptions. In addition to providing a permanent record of risks encountered during the matter, when appropriate, checklists should be passed to the person responsible for risk management. By collating documents in this way, risk profiles can be effectively compiled ensuring that the firm's risk management arrangements are subjected to a regime of continual improvement.

Customer due diligence

Customer due diligence procedures require firms to establish the client's identity and retain proofs of identity checks on file and in a central identification register. Typically, proofs of identity will include copies of passports, driving licences and utility bills. Firms are advised to issue standing instructions to all fee-earners and appropriate support staff specifying that verifiable and traceable proofs of identity must be obtained, copies kept on file, and records maintained in a Central Identification Register.

Supervision

Insurers will also look to see if firms have developed structures for supervision that ensure that all fee earning staff are included. This structure must include partners, fee earners, consultants, paralegals and locums. It is expected that sole practitioners will specify how work should be supervised in their absence. This risk management process should also take account of branch offices, home-workers and those working offsite such as at police stations. The firm must describe its supervisory structure, in writing, taking account of all types of fee earners, including partners, and cater for each area of law the firm performs. For many firms, this is achieved by updating an existing office manual.

File reviews

A process should be established for file reviews that takes into account adherence to risk management procedures as well as substantive legal issues. The firm must ensure that file reviews are undertaken and that these reviews encompass sole practitioners and all fee earners including partners. Typically, the control and management of file reviews will be performed utilising standard checklists that specify which topics the review should encompass and records the files that have been reviewed so they are traceable.

Grahame Davidson
Senior Client Manager
Tel: 0117 948 5117
Aon Limited



Exeter Court Noticeboard

APPLICATION FOR CHARGING ORDER

Where a solicitor has failed to provide enough copies of the application and supporting documents for the Court to serve on the defendant with the interim charging order, the Court will no longer serve the order. The interim charging order will be returned to the solicitor for service on the defendant together with the required copy documentation.

Any queries, please contact Nicky Deery, Civil and Family Business Manager, Exeter County Court, Southernhay Gardens, Exeter EX1 1HU - Tel. 01392 415347

Letters to the Editor

...are always welcome.

Please write to Tony Spiers
at Aston Court, Pynes Hill,
Exeter, EX2 5AZ
(DX 8361 Exeter) or email
mail@dasls.com

Interview of the Month

Michelle Johnston , DASLS new Executive Assistant



Why did you join DASLS?

I almost didn't! The advert specified Graduate and I only

studied to 'A' level standard but I decided to telephone and enquire. Tony Steiner was happy to consider my application; I was short-listed and very fortunate to be offered the position as I was finding so much competition for job vacancies in the current economic climate - similar vacancies were receiving between 70 and 100+ applicants.

What is your dream job?

With hindsight I wish I had taken my education further. English and Biology were my favourite subjects, especially the social side of Biology but back in my school days I had absolutely no idea what I wanted to do career-wise.

What has been the most embarrassing moment during your professional career?

There have been a few but an incident that springs to mind is when I managed a Business Centre in Oxfordshire that offered facilities to small businesses. I was making a cafetiere of coffee one morning and I was a bit too harsh with the plunger, resulting in coffee and grains spurting all over my smart white working blouse. I was rescued by someone kind enough to lend me their jumper.



Which sort of work gives you the most job satisfaction?

I'm very interested in Complementary therapies and have qualified in this area.



Over the past year I worked for a Carers' Charity that ran a regular 'Forget-me-Not' Café for those with memory problems and their carers to socialise with others in the same position. It was very rewarding, and humbling, to be able to offer much-needed relaxing treatments and to be on the receiving end of so much appreciation.

What do you do in your spare time?

Last year I was very much involved in a Community Choir and was privileged to join them at some stunning venues such as Sharpham House with its outstanding views

of the meandering River Dart, Dartington Hall as part of their Summer School of Music, and Christmas at The Eden Project. This year I'm taking some time out to dance. I also enjoy walking and especially like to be close to the coast.

Where is your favourite holiday destination?

Usually sunny climes, although last year I had a short break in Brussels and enjoyed its beautiful architecture. Just like Bruges, it has a main square with lots of inviting narrow streets leading off it.

What book are you reading at the moment?

I'm not but when I am, I enjoy light-hearted novels and biographies of note-worthy people.



What is the most recent film you have seen?

Thoroughly enjoyed The King's Speech, with Colin Firth and Helena Bonham-Carter's excellent portrayals of the reluctant King and Queen Mother.

What is your favourite food?

All things foreign, particularly Greek meze dishes. I was quite spoiled with Greek Restaurants when I lived in Oxfordshire/Berkshire but the Moroccan restaurant in Cathedral Close is a good substitute. I've also been to the Thai Restaurant a couple of doors away. They're both in a magical location looking out onto the Cathedral Green.

Which is your favourite restaurant?

The ones mentioned above but it's also good to eat in some of the wonderful pubs in Devon.

What is your favourite pet?

I had a cat called Scoot. That wasn't her original name but she used to scoot everywhere so fast we nicknamed her that and it stuck. She was a Burmese mix, a beautiful blue-grey colour, and a real character – she would growl at the postman and follow us on walks. When she was a kitten she somehow had the strength to drag rabbits bigger than herself through an open window.



Exclusive Online Training Offer

DASLS has teamed up with The College of Law to offer an online training facility to assist members with their CPD needs.

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This is an exciting development for DASLS and helps us stay at the forefront of training provision in the region.

The College of Law Media service offers a total of up to 76 new TV style programmes per year accessible via 10 channels covering the following areas of law:

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- Corporate & Commercial
- Employment
- Family
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- Practice Management & Compliance
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E.Mail tony@dasls.com to register your interest.

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This is the symbol of Trimega Laboratories' commitment to corporate social responsibility. This commitment aligns our core values & ethos to the PLO reforms and duty of care to public funds within the UK legal sector.

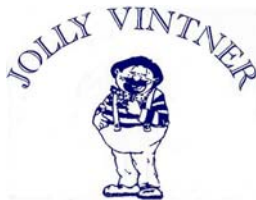
Competition!

For your chance to win a bottle of champagne, simply complete this month's crossword and send it to Monique Bertoni at DASLS, along with your name and address. The winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by **Thursday 21 April**. DASLS address can be found on the front cover. The solution will be published in the May issue.

The competition is open to DASLS Members, Associates and Affiliates.

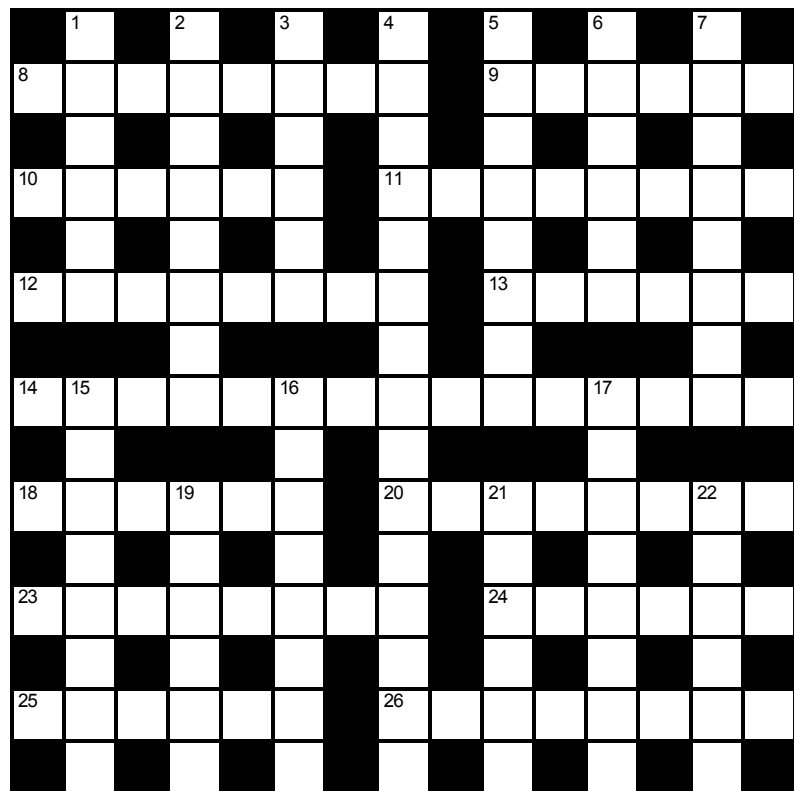
Champagne supplied by

Telephone:
01884
255644



CROSSWORD CORNER

Compiled by David Stephens of Battens

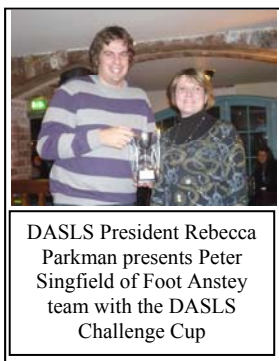
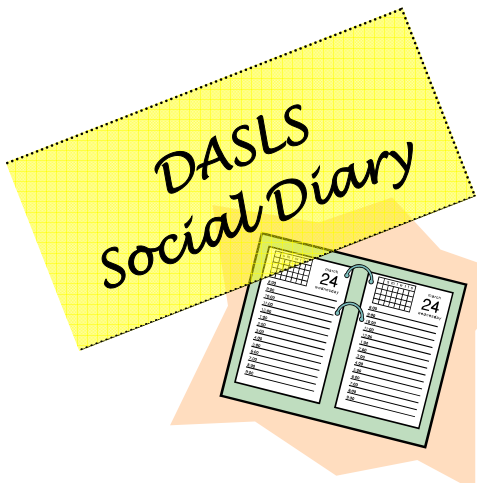


ACROSS

- 8 Girl makes one vicar upset (8)
- 9 Uzbekistani capital to Pisa, without a shilling – the perfect place! (6)
- 10 Dawkins the dodger, replete of skill (6)
- 11 Unfortunately no smooth trip into space (4,4)
- 12 Rat to set about man with a will (8)
- 13 Boat set afloat (6)
- 14 Overnight I slink about as shy person (9,6)
- 18 Allocate, like advert (6)
- 20 Military unit formed by Indian wife without war leader and endless drones (8)
- 23 Lip Bruce curled about Ireland, for example. (8)
- 24 Make a quick visit to convenience with family (4-2)
- 25 Detain a young doctor (6)
- 26 Empty tower said to be among fewer (8)

DOWN

- 1 Qualification - one of many in our circle (6)
- 2 Thrown about to infect (8)
- 3 Pick the bones out of "plentiful" - excuse the pun (6)
- 4 Communist ikons cede Sri Lanka? Hmm - maybe. (6,3,6)
- 5 Old countryman breaks Oval jugs (8)
- 6 Haitian leader on footwear, it's said, from Japanese island. (6)
- 7 Free again, but iced over, unfortunately (8)
- 15 Banshees? - disbanded - yesterday's men! (3-5)
- 16 Type of fish to encourage barbecues (8)
- 17 "D" word (laugh out loud) around Europe (3,5)
- 19 Hardens in one belonging to you, reportedly (6)
- 21 Increase pitiful! Distributed without me (6)
- 22 Superfluous kofta I toasted evenly (6)



DASLS Challenge Cup



**To Foot Anstey -
Winners of DASLS
Challenge Cup
2010 / 11.**

The January Quiz was the last challenge in the 2010 / 11 series. As ever it was one of the most popular events in the Challenge Cup competition and the evening was hotly contested by 13 teams. Gilbert Stephens were victorious for the third year running. Can anyone beat them next year? Runners up were Windeatts with Charlesworth Nicholl & Co and Cartridges sharing third place.

**Watch this space for news
of the 2011 / 12 competition.**

DASLS Challenge Cup League Table

Challenge Cup leader board
2010 / 11 Final Results

Foot Anstey	25
Hooper & Wollen	17
Ashfords	16
Michelmores	13
Gilbert Stephens	13
Trowers & Hamlins	7
Charlesworth Nicholl	5
Windeatts	5
Everyys	4
Kitsons	4
Ford Simey	3
Over Taylor Biggs	3
Cartridges	3
DASLS Open Team	1
Pardoes	1
Symes Robinson & Lee	1
Clarke Willmott	1
Teign Advocates	1
Stephens Scown	1

	T	A	D		F	K	U	I	R	R										
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Solution to the January 2011 Crossword.



Crossword Winner!

**Congratulations to
Tracy Bailey
of
Foot Anstey Solicitors
in Exeter.**



Heard it on the Grapevine: A Chilean Adventure

by Rory AKA The Jolly Vintner

Chile, well what can I say? I know this is meant to be a wine article but what a fantastic experience visiting a country that feels so good about itself. It is the tiger economy of South America and this was reflected in every aspect of my all too brief visit to this fascinating country.



Fourteen wineries in five days, 177 wines tutored by the wine makers so no swift, spit and move on to the next wine but listen intently, question and praise or condemn their efforts (of course in a very polite English fashion "I think it needs more time" or the catch all "yes really would be better with food".) But on the whole a marvellous adventure with six relative strangers (as opposed to my normal life of strange relatives.)

Where I suggest to watch this space is the development of Pinot Noir. We tasted some absolute crackers being produced from some very young vines, and you just think as the vines mature some of these will be world beating wines.

And as for Carmenere, the lost grape variety of nineteenth century Bordeaux, rediscovered in Chile in the mid 1990's and is Chile's USP, a wine that is great with spicy foods, my pick of the bunch was the In Situ Winemakers Selection from the Aconcagua valley. A breath taking site with the backdrop of Mount Paidahuen, (the highest peak of the Andes), Cacti all around, eagles soaring, ancient rock carvings and simply beautiful almost manicured vines. Wonderful.

Two things from the trip will stand out as moments of sheer comic lunacy, possibly tiredness was a bit to blame, but on being taken around the "tourist tour" of one of the world's largest wineries by a character whose voice and mannerisms were those of the Sacha Baron Cohen character Borat left seven grown adults collapsed in a mass hysteria of the giggles. (OK it may have been one of the moments where you had to have been there.) And the second well having just left a winery that played Gregorian chant to wine during the day, and turned it off at night so the wine can rest, to the neighbouring vineyard where parties amongst the vines are common during harvest and a disco in a fantastic log veranda overlooking the valley, you just had the feeling of the neighbours phoning up to complain about the noise as their wine was trying to sleep.

Trust me the wine trade is actually a lot weirder than you think or is it just me?

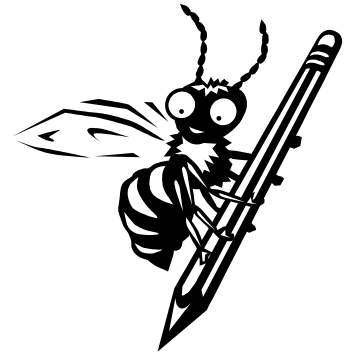
And no I did not get Argentina, but nearly got stuck in Brazil on the way back.....

To coincide with my trip to Chile I would like to offer a mixed case of some of the wines tasted including a bottle of this year's trophy winning red at the Wines of Chile awards. This delightful case would normally retail around £100 but to your good selves it will be £92. Free delivery 20 mile radius of Tiverton. Ten pounds further afield.

Rory AKA The Jolly Vintner
23 West Exe North, Tiverton,
Devon EX16 5LX - Tel. 01884 255644



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New dates to be announced.

Family Procedure Rules 2010 - Preparing for Change

Wednesday 16th March 2011:
5.00pm – 6.30pm 1.5 hours CPD
Robin Tolson QC and Jody Atkinson

Property Litigation

Thursday 17th March 2011:
9.45am – 1.00pm 3 hours CPD
St John's Chambers

Estate Planning for the Middle Income Client after the Finance Act 2006

Wednesday 23rd March 2011:
9.45am – 1.00pm 3 hours CPD
John Thurston

Mental Capacity Act & LAPs

Wednesday 23rd March 2011:
2.00pm – 5.15pm 3 hours CPD
John Thurston

Criminal Law Update

Wednesday 23rd March 2011:
10.00am – 5.30pm 6 hours CPD
Anthony Edwards

Wills & Administration of Estates for Paralegals & Support Staff

Thursday 24th March 2011:
9.45am – 5.15pm 6 hours CPD
John Thurston

Conveyancing Documents inc. Building Regs (Plymouth)

Tuesday 29th March 2011:
9.45am – 1.00pm 3 hours CPD
Richard Snape

Residential Conveyancing Update (Plymouth)

Tuesday 29th March 2011:
2.00pm – 5.15pm 3 hours CPD
Richard Snape

New Litigation Tactics

Tuesday 29th March 2011:
9.45am – 1.00pm 3 hours CPD
Dominic Regan

CPR Update

Tuesday 29th March 2011:
2.00pm – 5.15pm 3 hours CPD
Dominic Regan

Landlord & Tenant Update

Tuesday 29th March 2011:
6.00pm – 7.30pm 1.5 hours CPD
District Judge Harvey

Ten Problem Areas in Conveyancing (Taunton)

Wednesday 30th March 2011:
9.45am – 1.00pm 3 hours CPD
Richard Snape

Development Land (Taunton)

Wednesday 30th March 2011:
2.00pm – 5.15pm 3 hours CPD
Richard Snape

Service Charges in Commercial Leases

Wednesday 4th May 2011:
10.15am – 1.30pm 3 hours CPD
Peta Dollar

Commercial Property Update

Wednesday 4th May 2011:
2.00pm – 5.15pm 3 hours CPD
Peta Dollar

ABS - Big Bang or Damp Squib?

Wednesday 11 May 2011:
2.00pm – 5.15pm 3 hours CPD
Nick Jarrett-Kerr

Children Law Update

Thursday 12th May 2011:
10.00am – 4.30pm 5 hours CP
Susan Campbell QC & Christopher Naish

The New National Conveyancing Protocol & Related Changes (Yeovil)

Tuesday 17th May 2011:
9.45am – 1.00pm 3 hours CPD
Richard Snape

Residential Conveyancing Update (Yeovil)

Tuesday 17th May 2011:
2.00pm – 5.15pm 3 hours CPD
Richard Snape

Business Property Relief and Agricultural Property Relief (Taunton)

Tuesday 7th June 2011:
9.45am – 1.00pm 3 hours CPD
John Thurston

Administration of Estates (Taunton)

Tuesday 7th June 2011:
2.00pm – 5.15pm 3 hours CPD
John Thurston

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