



Albion Chambers CRIME TEAM NEWSLETTER

Returning after lockdown

Atending court for the first post-lockdown trial. Weird, obviously, but also surprisingly emotional. Yellow tape everywhere making the whole place look like a crime scene. Quoting the Coronavirus Act 2020. A frightened witness in a mask. The judge suggesting that jury notes be texted to the court clerk to avoid moving paper around. Long discussions about how best to air a courtroom.

But some things never change. Brilliant court staff. Determined jurors. The judge getting my name wrong. The wrong type of plunger for the hand sanitiser. That moment at the verdict when time stands still.

It was good to be back.



Adam Vaitilingam QC

This wasn't the gentle introduction to being Circuit leader that I had hoped for, but it's been the most brilliant demonstration of what a great part of the world this is to be a lawyer.

On the whole I think there's been a remarkable level of openness between judges, the Bar and solicitors about the difficulties we've all been facing, and that's made it so much easier to find solutions to local problems. Circuit had some of the

first courts to re-start jury trials, and some of the first hybrid family hearings, but the focus now has to be on increasing capacity in all jurisdictions. Here's hoping for some of those elusive Nightingale courts on Circuit sometime soon.



Kate Brunner QC

This week, 17 August, I have at last returned to doing a jury trial. The adrenaline started to flow again and there was additional apprehension because of the process requiring social distancing. Yes, the jury was spread around the courtroom. Some members of the jury were up on the balcony (I was in Worcester). But other than that, the trial ran as normal. Even down to the usual technological failures!

What was apparent were the tremendous efforts, made by all the court staff and everyone involved in the trial, to make it all run as smoothly as possible. In these times when, for the most part, we are encouraged to be distanced from others, it is nice to be reminded that people are what



Editorial

The spring newsletter contained three articles about sentence and imprisonment. Ironically, by the time it was published we were all suffering a form of imprisonment, having been locked down since 23 March 2020. Of course, our enforced incarceration could never be compared to that suffered by those we represent or prosecute but, nonetheless, it presented each of us with a raft of difficulties. It was for that reason that I asked the team for their thoughts upon that time to be put into this uniquely personal newsletter. I hope that their reflections serve as a reminder that there as was much to love as to hate about that time. Importantly, through our remoteness, we connected. We witnessed extraordinary kindnesses. We found a new way of working that didn't leave us burnt out and absent from our families each evening.

Now, as wearing a mask becomes the norm, it is important not to forget all of that good but to use it to find a new way of working that allows each of us to work to the best of our ability, to serve our clients without fear or favour whilst also providing time for what we have belatedly found to be the important things in life.

Sarah Regan

Head of the Albion Crime Team

makes things work and it is people that matter.

It feels good to be out of my home study and back in the arena. I hope to see many of you there.

Fiona Elder

We have become used to video footage impacting evidentially upon our cases, such as the now ubiquitous CCTV or the widely-utilised body-worn video. It has denied the advocate the previously fertile battle-ground arguments of who said or did what and when. The detailed exploration by cross examination of those features is now, often, futile in the face of the imagery within the footage. Other areas of evidence now receive the forensic scrutiny of the interrogators of testimony. Advocates therefore adapt their approach to the same overall task of challenge and persuasion.

Video imagery has in fact stepped out of its evidential constraints within the criminal justice system and has become a welcome vehicle for progressing cases themselves. It has provided access to court hearings for clients and lawyers. It has enabled cases halted and stuck to regain momentum.

The ability to tune into an important, but short, court hearing is a panacea for the multiple ills of: miles to be covered, parking fees, public transport expenses, several court centres to be serviced in one day and the fatigue that all that brings.

The video hearing is a positive improvement for access to and efficiency of the system. It would be shameful if this embracement of what is after all a commonly-used modern tool in all other business areas was abandoned post lockdown.

There is no need for judges to fear that they need to participate in a Tik Tok-based advertisement for their court centre (but picture it if you wish). The work will come anyway so let's deal with it in a way which is less time consuming in the run up to a final hearing. Saving us all time. After all, isn't 'time' what we now realise we have previously squandered whilst slavishly servicing our practices, and hasn't the lock down revealed just how rare and precious a commodity 'time' is?



David Sapiecha

For a number of years now, Regulatory Crime has been considered to be a road of choice for those seeking an answer to the many challenges of mainstream criminal-justice work. As someone who has always worked in this area, such interest has provided good reason to ensure a consistent quality service based on experience. When Coronavirus arrived, courts were closed, and backlogs grew in the court lists. Overnight, regulatory work faced a new challenge. This work seldom involves defendants remanded in custody; the victims are not seen as high priority, but they are victims all the same and now they, and the cases forming the regulatory workload, are at the back of the queue – waiting.

Personally, this has provided an opportunity to advise and prepare the detailed 'paper' heavy cases, working through large email attachments not destined to be placed on the Digital Case System. But the advice falters at the question, 'when will it be heard?' Answer, "who knows?"

One extremely positive lesson that has emerged from these times is the bringing together of solicitors, officers and clients from around the country, in one easily-arranged Zoom/Teams meeting. No travel, no delay and efficient use of everyone's time. As for moving cases forward – patience is required. The law regulating businesses remains, indeed it has grown, and one must acknowledge the challenges in other areas of the criminal justice system and patiently wait our turn.



Alan Fuller

Apandemic was needed to shake me out of a comfort zone of repetition, endless emails, white noise, and exhaustion.

I stopped to listen to the birds. I stopped to surf. I stopped to think.

It was a comfort zone because the old routine gave the illusion of value and professional worth – for me at least. Daily court attendance was the routine which sometimes stopped me from cooking meals or hanging out with the little person

who shares our shack. She tells me about some new band. I stop to listen. There is some Bowie in that. Interesting.

The work started again. Slowly, but surely. Rarely a dull moment. Zooming in to meet a client for the first time. Building rapport in a video conference. "It's lovely to meet you". It really was. We smiled, over distance, and I told her about what would happen... next...coffee at the ready. All systems go. I direct the inquiry on MS Teams to prepare a new story board in a large prosecution. Time to share the screen. Detectives in their garden rooms. None of us were distracted. We stopped for a break. The windows are open. The birds are singing. We got the job done.

These challenging cash-strapped times mean that we all spin plates to stand still. But variety is one imaginative solution. I love my prison CVP conferences. One client told me he enjoyed the visual interaction – "Yes, that is me on the screen!" Oops. Make it interesting. Make them interested.

And now we are back. But I don't want to give up some of my new habits. I'm not so tired from pointless travel. When I meet people now, face-to-face, it feels even more special. The privilege of articulating the human experience: complainant or defendant. Defending young people who have been pushed from pillar to post. "What were you thinking when your dad passed you the knife?" I stop to listen. Writing now. Surfing later.



Kannan Siva

We have all had our own experience of the lockdown and subsequent restrictions placed upon the way we live and work. In a professional field in which the stresses and strains can be onerous, we have a tendency to want to appear to be stoic, to show that we can "tough-it-out" with the best of them. Some of us, and this includes me, imagine that an excessive capacity for work is a personal validation: it may be, but it won't impress everyone, and it takes a heavy toll on us personally, even if we don't realise it. It may be, then, that the change in work patterns has caused us to reflect upon and even alter the way we approach our work; it should

do, as those of us who work to capacity in the criminal justice system have few opportunities to draw breath.

What I have taken away from drawing breath is the confirmation that the system in which we work, and those who run it, take no account of the lawyers and paralegals, employed and self-employed, who work within it. The vacillation and incompetence of the MoJ and HMCTS, the administrators and judges who cannot administrate, leave us to shoulder the burden of loss of income and, if the lengthened court sittings come to pass, impositions upon our precious personal time. The hours may be longer, but there are no additional lawyers and support staff to occupy the hours, so we will all do longer hours. We are the ones who must face the anxieties and hostilities of the public, the witnesses and defendants, whilst reporting back to ever more demanding judges.

As a committed criminal lawyer who entered the profession as a vocation several decades ago, I will embrace the return to full employment as it comes. What the last few months have given me is a strengthened single-mindedness in defending and supporting those with whom, and for whom, I work in this failing and badly-run system.



Patrick Mason

On Thursday, 19 March, after a particularly difficult day in court, Emily Heggadon and I decided we deserved an early-evening drink.

We walked into what used to be known as All Bar One, only to be told they had just closed. As we made our way up Park Street, certain that we would easily find somewhere open, we stumbled upon an extremely violent robbery. At that moment, it felt as if the world was, quite literally, about to end.

As Boris Johnson addressed the Country on the evening of 23 March, I wondered whether my jury, by that stage into the fourth week of a trial, would return the following day. Every single one of them did. More than that, they continued

to return each day until they returned their unanimous verdicts. That was the last trial in the country to conclude after lockdown and, looking back on it now, it seems a world away. Then there was no formal social distancing, no wearing of masks, no hand sanitiser, no cleaning of the court. Yet when I outlined the sentencing guidelines only a few days later, I did so from the safety of my home via Zoom. My opponent also appeared via Zoom while the victims, who read their victim personal statements, attended court as did the judge and the defendant.

And that very quickly became the norm; Zoom, Teams, CVP even the spider phone which gave rise to some moments of great hilarity. What was common to all those hearings, whatever the platform, was that we all worked together to keep the system going because that, as professionals, is what we do. How we do that in the coming months and years will be the challenge because for me personally, it will not be possible to unlearn the things that have enabled me to live with a greater sense of balance in the last few months.



Sarah Regan

Barristers are independent, blah blah blah. It's fiction. Behind the scenes is very different; the bumping into colleagues in the clerks' room, the inevitable good-natured but brutal ribbing from Bonnie, the comparison of child-related horror stories with Ken, the 'how did you do? I came second!' conversations in the kitchen – all are hugely important for the mental wellbeing of everyone at Albion.

Others will write more eloquently about the benefits of this sort of collegiate-Bar atmosphere on one's wellbeing, so I'll stand aside and let them do so.

But what is often forgotten are the huge benefits of that collegiate-Bar approach on our professional practices, the daily grind of being a good lawyer, a good advocate. During lockdown, although members of Albion Chambers have been busy on remote hearings, Albion Chambers, the building, has been largely mothballed. What I have really

missed is the human, open-door nature of Albion, whether into the rooms of individual members or indeed the tea-room.

On any 'normal' day, if you popped into the tea-room in Chambers, colleagues from the Family, Employment, CoP, PI, Crime, Regulatory and Inquest teams all sit around munching a pie from St Nick's market or, for me, a quinoa superfood salad, obv's. Someone will inevitably ask, 'can I just run something by you all?' and during the next ten minutes, whatever legal point, or whatever legal argument discussed will have been pulled part and reconstructed, using the skills and experience from so many different perspectives and the end product is almost always a far stronger, far more cogent version of what we started with.

And speaking for me personally, it's not a stretch to say that I am a better lawyer and a better barrister, because of the Albion tea-room. It'll be good to be back... especially for my clients.



Richard Shepherd

I think that when you're preparing a case, you need to stand back and look at the bigger picture rather than being drawn down rabbit holes or failing to see the wood for the trees. That means you have to stop, pause, and think – it's no good endlessly ploughing through evidence, unused or emails without stopping and just thinking.

Lockdown has enabled me to stop ploughing on and see the bigger picture and consider how life is both personally and professionally. Historically, I have not been keen on remote meetings or hearings. However, familiarity has not bred contempt, and I can now really see their value. I am hopeful that remote hearings will continue to be used in circumstances where there is no disadvantage to either side, because the additional time I will have as a result of not driving many hours for a brief mention, can be better used to take time to really think about my cases.

That said, I have loved being back in court more recently, and have realised again the huge value of face-to-face

support for each other. I look forward to seeing you all soon.



Anna Midgley

During lockdown I have learned that I would have made an appalling primary school teacher. I can cope with the masks, the queues for supermarkets, even the lack of new episodes of my favourite soap opera*. But I am not blessed with the patience, imagination, or basic geography knowledge necessary to teach three young children. However, I tried my best and got involved when our eldest had to write a short poem about a place she knows well, being affected by lockdown. Inspired by her efforts, I have recorded my thoughts about lockdown and the CJS in verse. I am happy with the results, even if I still don't quite accept that Brazil is bigger than the USA.

The Crown Court opens its doors
And the usual suspects wander on in.
Dark-suited advocates, all learned in laws,
Nervous clients, with supporters and kin.
An anxious new pupil ready for a taste of the action,
Overhears the distant booming of ever-jovial Matt Jackson.
As wigs and gowns are checked in the robing room reflections,
And a particular judge begins day four of jury directions
The Crown Court's corridors assume familiar rhythms and pace.
Lockdown Court watches and waits.

Suddenly, a sign arrives warning of infection.
No clients. No pupils. Not even Mr Jackson.
As the corridors empty and the prison vans stay away,
Just three bail applications in the list for the day.
No steady rhythm. No justice dispensed.
Lockdown Court is alien and tense.

We have slowly adapted to this new normality,
Jackets over pyjama bottoms for CVP.

Venturing in, wearing masks, a sentence in Court Six
Anything's better than yet more Joe Wicks.
Weekly street clapping to acknowledge key workers,
The nurses, lorry drivers and pinstriped prosecutors.
Not like the good old days; that nostalgic sepia heaven,
Now we collect crackable cases for Court Number Eleven.

As we all try to get back to some form of normal state,
Lockdown Court watches and waits.

*It's EastEnders, obviously.



Edd Hetherington

What we have learned in terms of new ways of working will stand us in good stead for the future. Any 'new normal' is simply that and we should not be in a hurry to return to the 'old' way on the simple assumption it is the 'right' way.
Any new tool or way of working which genuinely makes us more productive and efficient is to be welcomed. In terms of best serving a client's needs, however, there is no substitute for real face-to-face time with them.
Any extra time with family is precious. The lockdown isolation we have faced means the opportunity to actually speak with colleagues is also to be cherished – the quantity of information that can be exchanged, together with the level of support that can be both given and received in a few short moments, is immense.
Zoom, Skype, 'Teams', 'CVP' (other platforms allowing 'remote attendance' are available) are marvellous tools. So too are Costa, Starbucks and Nero (others are again available) – 'temporary chambers' whilst on the road. Caffeine and Wi-Fi were sorely missed upon some courts requiring attendance prior to lockdown easing elsewhere. In this area at least, a robing room is simply no substitute.

You cannot control your neighbour's use of power tools whilst you are attending Court remotely (though it would be nice if you could).



Alun Williams

Well what a strange time it has been. The elation of a few weeks off quickly subsided and the panic set in. Will I ever work again? When will I work again? Will I be able to pay my mortgage? What will the new normal look like? Questions, questions, all adding to anxiety levels and deeply unsettling feelings.

This for me then moved to gratitude that I was not on the frontline and did not have any immediate concerns for loved ones... yet! But would that change? And, if so, how would I cope?

Like most others, however, I was able to settle into a new routine. Gardening, never done before but now love, daily exercise and spending some wonderful time with my baby daughter.

Then before we knew it remote hearings. Oh, my goodness!!! Will my wi-fi be sufficient? What will I wear? Will I be able to access the relevant technology? It all went relatively smoothly in the end and I could immediately see the advantages of not driving for hours, paying for parking to spend five minutes in the court room together with the reduction of risk and my carbon footprint.

I naively thought that after a couple of months things would return to what they were before. As the reality hit that they would not, this was met with sadness on my part as I struggled to see any enjoyment being achieved in the job without the usual relaxed social interaction.

I looked forward to returning to court, but I have found it to be a very different experience. The robing room is now devoid of life and the usual friendly chat with court staff and security curtailed by the dreaded mask! But, as with all change, there are good points and bad. I have a new appreciation of the simple

pleasures in life but an unfamiliar fear of where we are heading and how things will be managed.

I think the answer for me as ever is 'chin up - all will be well!!!'



Clare Fear

Gustave Flaubert, who studied the law, described human speech as "like a cracked cauldron on which we knock out tunes for dancing bears, when we wish to conjure pity from the stars."

I don't have Flaubert's gifts, so can't imagine what baroque simile he would have dreamt up to describe the ordeal of trying to communicate via Skype, Teams or CVP. Despite allowing us to work from the comfort of our homes, many of us have found the experience more draining than appearing in person. When the people with whom we are attempting to communicate, and sometimes persuade, are reduced to a few square inches on a laptop screen, we find ourselves straining to fill in the gaps left by all the subtle, non-verbal cues which are inevitably lost – or bowdlerized – in translation.

This has been a timely reminder of how much communication happens beyond and around the words we use – via body language, or nuances of intonation, or simply by how swiftly or slowly we pick up on other people's cues – and what a great deal we lose, as advocates, but also no doubt as judges, defendants or witnesses, when we are not physically present in the courtroom. It is a lesson I hope to bear in mind as the courts gradually inch their way back to normality.

For this reason, I don't believe remote working should become the default for anything other than non-contentious hearings. As advocates, our role is to use every tool at our disposal to persuade the tribunal of our argument. To rely on the etiolated version of communication offered by even the slickest of video-platforms

would be to deprive ourselves, and more importantly our clients, of the fullest expression of our skills.



Rupert Russell

It is hardly surprising that many of my lockdown lessons have been learnt from the growing relationship with my lovely little girl. Watching a tiny human flourish as a result of nothing more complicated than undivided attention shouldn't have been a revelation, yet it was. So how do you move forward with that revelation at the forefront of your mind. Turn of course to cliché: work smarter not harder.

My husband had said to me a year or so ago, 'so, when will Artificial Intelligence be taking over the criminal courts then?' I trotted out the usual 'AI sitting in the criminal courts can't happen. Those involved are some of the most vulnerable and forgotten in society. Why should they suffer the indignity of having their case managed by a robot?' Since lockdown, prisoners on remand have suffered immeasurable indignity having been locked in their cells 23-hours a day, denied access to conferences with their representatives and their trials kicked into next year's long grass.

Perhaps it is time for a paradigm shift in our approach to criminal justice with a move to a model akin to front-loaded civil litigation. Why not conduct case management by telephone? Why not have clear positions of each side known prior to the five minutes before a case is called? Does a judge need to spend 20 minutes imploring a defendant to take their credit when you've spent an hour telling them that if they're not guilty they should plead not guilty?

I still don't believe AI should take over completely, but I can see the merit in case management and PTPH's by telephone. Instead of hours wiled away waiting in the cheap seats in Court 10, meaningful work could be undertaken on other cases, negating the need to work all evening and weekend. For my part I have vowed to take one full weekend day off every week, and to take the holiday I've booked out of my diary. That

way my clients and my family both get the undivided attention they need and deserve in order to flourish.



Charley Pattison

Although lockdown has been very difficult in terms of trying to acclimatise to the new world of online working, worry about the volume of work and concern about family and friends who may be at risk, it has also been a good time to pause, reflect and enjoy a slower pace.

Throughout lockdown I have had an average of three Court days per week. This has allowed me to get back to old hobbies that had fallen by the wayside, in the busy world of full-time practice.

I have been reading a lot for pleasure, which is something I used to do but slowly stopped making time for. If anyone needs a recommendation, I am happy to provide a few! I have also adapted my gym life to an at-home makeshift studio, consisting of whatever space is available in the house. Baking has never been my strong point, which is why I have never entered a cake into the Albion bake off that is held at our summer get together, but this year may be my year! I have perfected my banana bread (everyone seems to have been baking banana bread in lockdown) and chocolate cake, so watch this space.

It has been heartening to see just how quickly everyone has adapted to a distanced social life as well. From a young-bar quiz every Saturday followed by various games to crime-team drinks, which on occasion included fancy dress and cocktail competitions. Everyone has really pulled together and supported one another. I can say that the collegiate spirit is not new, but I'm pleased it held strong during difficult times.

I am keen to continue to try and manage my practice in a way that allows for less weekend and evening working. This isn't always possible, but I have enjoyed having a full weekend on consecutive weeks and it is something I am going to really try hard to maintain. It

makes for a much better quality of life and a more relaxed approach to work, which is never a bad thing. I will certainly be carving out time to continue my renewed love of reading and, as I've typed this, I realise I haven't done any knitting! Perhaps that can be a post-lockdown revival along with surfing and tennis.



Lucy Taylor

Reaching the end of your First Six and approaching the start of the steepest learning curve you've faced so far is always daunting. And that's before you add a pandemic into the mix. The UK went into lockdown just two weeks before I was meant to be "on my feet" and all of a sudden my biggest concerns about my first cases had shifted. Unsurprisingly, I wasn't worried about forgetting my wig at home or turning up to the wrong court, but rather about how I was going to conduct hearings via Zoom whilst navigating through 15 open tabs at the same time, and whether my cat, Atticus, was going to make a surprise appearance. But lockdown wasn't all worry; perhaps the clandestine blessing of lockdown for someone starting their Second Six "on my screen" is that the world was forced to slow down and everyone was in effect a beginner again. It was humbling to see Judges and lawyers alike extending such kindness, compassion and understanding to each other whilst trying to adjust to the new normal of remote hearings. Nevertheless, I was delighted to find myself in court almost every day for the past few months. If anything, lockdown has certainly made me more appreciative and excited for every moment I get to be doing the job I've been waiting so eagerly to do. Perhaps absence really does make the heart grow fonder.



Simranjit Kamal

I have been preparing myself to do this job for what feels like forever. At the start of this year, as the eventual Second Six of pupillage inched closer, I was filled with excitement and nerves. Lo and behold just two weeks prior to the day I was meant to be on my feet, the world went into lockdown. Of all the things that had been part of my training as a pupil, no one cared to mention how to deal with a pandemic. As I found myself with more time to reflect than I asked for, I learnt not to take it personally. I came to appreciate the fact that this was a chance to reflect on my choices. It was an opportunity to take a moment and affirm to myself I really want to be a Barrister. Eventually, as a pupil in corona-generation, my first cases were not on my feet but rather 'on my screen'. As I found myself with more time in between cases I could reflect on what had gone well and more importantly what I could do better. But the most telling sign for me was the fact that after each hearing, I was raring to go back and do it again. Taking this enforced pause, helped me affirm my choice of coming to the Bar. As the courts return to some level of normalcy, I appreciate the opportunity to do this job even more. Even on those days where everything seems to have gone wrong, I put it down as a bad day rather than launching an inquiry into my choice to become a Barrister. I have been grateful for this enforced time to pause and reflect. Although the world feels slightly wounded, the slowing down of pace has also been life-affirming.



Ehsanul Oarith

On 20 March I printed off the criminal diary as usual, ready for the results of all our hearings to be completed.

Little did I know that was the last diary I would print and that thereafter I would be working from home with a Chambers laptop on my kitchen table. No printer, no double screen, no proper phone.

Thankfully, I have a tech-savvy daughter who was able to help me set up

Zoom and other ways of keeping in touch with people, but the idea of not being in chambers, not seeing my colleagues and the "Team" was so hard to comprehend. How would we be able to get court hearings covered? How would we sort out briefs where there were actual papers not a digital version? How would the self-employed survive when their income was drastically cut overnight? How would our solicitors manage when they had to furlough staff?

Like most people I know, I had many sleepless (and often tearful) nights worried about whether I would still have a job, whether my daughter would lose her job, whether my family would be okay.

I was afforded the light relief of some members of the team (who will remain nameless) sending me pictures of their Lockdown Court attire which included a pinstripe suit jacket with shorts and flip flops, pyjama bottoms and even elf leggings.

And after weeks of uncertainty and feeling very helpless, I'm now back in Chambers every other week with a colleague I have worked with for over 25 years. We are getting busier every week the team has pulled together and Chambers is okay. It's still hard to accept this new way of working, but we have no choice; we have all just pulled together and "got on with it". Yes, I have cancelled all my holidays this year and thrown away my calendar, as it had everything in it crossed-out, but I'm okay and so are my friends and family. I can work from home if I need to, and I can have socially-distanced coffees with my team and check they are okay. I can keep in touch with my colleagues and plan a night out in the pub when this is all over.

The 20th of March seems a very, very long time ago...



Bonnie Colbeck

The 23 March 2020, not only my elder son's fifth birthday but, of course, the day the country 'fully locked-down'. The following day, I was clerking at home, a completely alien concept to me, following nine years of working in Chambers, in a thriving and buzzing clerks' room. It was a real struggle, I cannot pretend otherwise. Two young children, trying to understand why Daddy was home, yet couldn't be played with, whilst I was hiding in the bedroom, trying to work. A situation I'm sure a number of professionals across the country can relate to; getting more and more frustrated that I couldn't assist my wife, especially when the tantrums erupted between my sons!

I then took a call from my Chambers Director, who could instantly tell the struggle I was facing at home, and it was suggested I would be among the first group of staff to be furloughed. Although nervous about what that may mean about my future employment, I took the opportunity to remove the stress of work from my life. My wife worked throughout lockdown, as she works for a branch of the NHS, and I took on the challenge of home-schooling our eldest; helping our younger son to learn to fully walk and everything else that was needed in between. Our family thrived, mostly, during lockdown and I will be forever grateful for the extra time I have had with them; exploring our little part of south Bristol, has been a particular highlight. I even lost some weight! Something I'm not sure I would have achieved otherwise, if not for the constant exercise I have had with the family!

Now back at work, spending one week in Chambers, one week at home: things feel a little more 'normal'. I feel refreshed and am enjoying the challenge. Long may it continue!



Ken Duthie

Albion Chambers Crime Team

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Adam Vaitilingam QC
Call 1987
QC 2010 Recorder
Deputy High Court Judge



Kate Brunner QC
Call 1997
QC 2015 Recorder
Upper Tribunal Judge



Timothy Hills
Call 1968



Don Tait
Call 1987 Recorder



Fiona Elder
Call 1988



David Sapiecha
Call 1990



Alan Fuller
Call 1993



Nikki Coombe
Call 1994



Giles Nelson
Call 1995



Kannan Siva
Call 1996



Michael Hall
Call 1996



Patrick Mason
Call 1997



Sarah Regan
Call 2000 Recorder
Team Leader



Richard Shepherd
Call 2001 Recorder



Harry Ahuja
Call 2001



Emma Martin
Call 2002



Anna Midgley
Call 2005 Recorder



Derek Perry
Call 2006



Edward Hetherington
Call 2006



Alun Williams
Call 2009



Clare Fear
Call 2010



Matt Jackson
Call 2011



Alec Small
Call 2012



Rupert Russell
Call 2013



Charley Pattison
Call 2013



Chloe Griggs
Call 2014



Robert Morgan-Jones
Call 2014
Deputy District Judge



Lucy Taylor
Call 2016



Emily Heggadon
Call 2017



Simranjit Kamal
Call 2018



Ehsanul Oarith
Call 2019

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