

SEDBERGH SCHOOL
POLITICS AND LAW TIMELINE

"Many Sedberghians have made enormous contributions to public life and to the communities and constituencies which they have served. Lord Bingham is widely regarded as the greatest Judge of the modern era. He, in particular, and countless other Sedberghians, only a few of whom can be featured in this timeline have had, and in some cases continue to have, a significant impact on the administration of justice and/or on the legal profession and on society at large."

- 1550's, 1600's, 1700's, 1800's, 1900's, 1910's, 1920's, 1930's, 1940's, 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, 1980's, 1990's, 2000's



The Sedbergh Bench
From left to right: D.R. Wood, R.P. Lowden, T.D.T. Hodson, J. de G. Walford, T. Hewitt



The Right Honourable Sir David Edward
Appointed Queen's Counsel in 1974. 1992-2004, Judge of the European Court of Justice. Awarded the Distinguished Cross, first class, Order of St. Raymond of Peñafort (Spain) in 1979; appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George in 2004; sworn of the Privy Council in 2005; appointed as an Officer of the Legion of Honour and Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2012.



Geoffrey William (Bill) Meikle
Retired solicitor, partner 1962-97 in the largest firm in the NE, appointed Under Sheriff for Newcastle upon Tyne 17 times, Clerk to the Lieutenancy for Tyne and Wear for 5 years, Hon. Treasurer of the Newcastle upon Tyne Law Society from 1997, Deputy Lieutenant for Tyne and Wear for 15 years (now retired), Deputy Chairman for almost 20 years of the NE Rail Users Consultative Committee.



Andrew Robertson
A former solicitor, he was Chairman of the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde 2007-15. Awarded an OBE in 1994. Chairman of the Sedbergh School Foundation 2001-8. School Governor 2000-8, Vice President of the Foundation from 2014 and 1525 Society President from 2013.



Lord Bruce-Lockhart of The Weald
Leader of Kent County Council 1997-2005. In 2004 he became Chairman of the Local Government Association. Made a Knight Bachelor in 2002, having previously been appointed OBE. Elevated to the peerage in 2006 as Baron Bruce-Lockhart, of The Weald in the County of Kent.



His Honour Judge David Hodson
Senior Circuit Judge, Manchester 1987-96. Senior Circuit Judge and Hon. Recorder of Newcastle upon Tyne 1997-2010. Bench, Inner Temple. Deputy, then Chancellor of the Diocese of Newcastle 2001-12. Judicial Member of the Parole Board. An Assistant Surveillance Commissioner 2013-15.



Alan Craze
Former solicitor who has been Her Majesty's Senior Coroner for the County of East Sussex since 1998.



Anthony Watson, QC
Called to the Bar Inner Temple 1968. He has acted in many of the leading Intellectual Property cases of the last 40 years. Joined Hogarth Chambers in 2013.



John Rink
Spent 35 years with magic circle law firm Allen & Overy; the last 10 years as Managing Partner and 2 years seconded as Legal Director of British Aerospace. Post-retirement, 2003-9 non-executive director of Eversheds. School Foundation Trustee 2007-13; School Governor and chair of the Executive Committee 2008-16.



His Honour Judge John Walford
Appointed an Assistant Recorder in 1984, Recorder in 1989 and Circuit Judge 1995. Served as President of the Council of Circuit Judges in 2008 (and retired in 2013).



His Honour Judge David Wood
Appointed an Assistant Recorder in 1984, Recorder in 1989 and a Circuit Judge in 1993. He was appointed Chancellor for the Diocese of Bradford from 1999-2014. OS Club President 2015-2017.



His Honour Judge Richard Lowden
Resident judge at Durham Crown Court 2001-9. He was judicial recorder at Durham 2005-10. Died in 2012.

Peter Birkett
Called 1972; Inner Temple. Recorder of the Crown Court 1989; master of the Bench (Inner Temple) 1996; deemsiter of the High Court (Isle of Man) 1999; approved to sit as a recorder at the Central Criminal Court 2000; member of the General Council of the Bar 1999-2001; leader of the Northern Circuit 1999-2001.

His Honour Judge Tim Hewitt
Became a recorder, or part-time judge, in 1996. He was appointed a judge in 2000 and sat on the North-East Circuit, in Newcastle, Durham and Teesside Crown Courts until his death in 2007.

His Honour Judge Robert Warnock
Junior of the Northern Circuit 1981. Asst. Recorder 1993, Recorder 1997. Circuit Judge 2003 now at Liverpool Crown Court. Snr. Judge S.B.A. Cyprus 2012.



James Lupton, Baron Lupton
Qualified as a solicitor in 1997. Co-funded investment bankers Greenhill London in 1998 and is Chairman of Greenhill Europe. Co-treasurer of the Conservative Party. Appointed as a life peer in 2015.



Her Honour Judge A Louise Bancroft
Called to the Bar by Inner Temple in 1985. 1985-2013 Barrister, 2002 Recorder (Northern Circuit). 2013 appointed Circuit Judge based at Liverpool Civil & Family Court. 2015 elected Judicial Bench of Inner Temple. Former Governor of Casterton School, Sedbergh School and the Foundation.



John Litton
Called to the Bar in 1989 and was a member of the Attorney General's A Panel of Treasury Counsel for 7 years before taking Silk in 2010. Assistant editor of the Encyclopedia of Planning Law. Called to the Bar in Hong Kong, N. Ireland and the Supreme Court of the Eastern Caribbean. A member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and an Associate Member of the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators.

Christopher Boyle
Called to the Bar in 1994 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2013. He specialises in planning, environmental, transport and infrastructure, compulsory purchase and ecclesiastical law. He is a member of Planning & Environmental Bar Association (PEBA) and the Compulsory Purchase Association (CPA).



Robert Walton
Called to the Bar in 1999 and took silk in 2019. He has an extensive practice in all aspects of planning, public, environmental and compulsory purchase and compensation law.



The Right Honourable Sir Richard Aikens
Queen's Bench Division and nominated as judge of the Commercial and Admiralty Courts. Presiding Judge of the South East Circuit 2001-4. Judge in charge of the Commercial Court from 2005-6. Lord Justice of Appeal in 2008-15. Sedbergh School Governor 1988-97.

Karen Bruce Lockhart
Scottish Advocate. Governor of Sedbergh School 2005-13. Foundation Trustee 2007-13.



Laura Priestley
Solicitor. One of the first girls to attend Sedbergh School when it became co-educational in 2001. Graduated in History at the University of Cambridge. Now a solicitor specialising in Wills, Tax Planning, Powers of Attorney and the Administration of Estates.



Kate Baron
Completed her LPC 2011, now an Associate at a firm in Dubai.



Sir Maurice Dorman
The representative of the British Monarchy in Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Sierra Leone and Malta. He was a Deputy Lieutenant for Wiltshire and a Knight Grand Cross of the Maltese Order of Merit.

Sir John Robertson Dunn Crichton
Recorder of Manchester; 1967 appointed one of the Justices of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice.



James Ward
Studied piano and conducting at Birmingham Conservatoire. 1993-2007 Special Constable in West Midlands Police. 1999-2008 he practised as the independent Bar. 2008, joined CPS South West as a Crown Advocate. Awarded OBE in 2015 for services to Law and Order in the South West and for service to the community.



Selva Ramasamy
Called to the Bar in 1992, appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court in 2009, and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2018. Specialises in fraud, crime and professional regulation. Also a member of the Bar Standards Board disciplinary prosecuting panel.



Mike Redmayne
Law professor. Pioneer in criminal justice scholarship whose research into the use of forensic evidence started to appear once the courts began to admit DNA analysis in criminal trials. In 2002 he was one of the founding editors of the leading journal for research in law and statistics 'Law, Probability and Risk'. Taught at LSE from 1999 until his death in 2015.



Sir Michael Hanley
Served as an officer of the Royal Artillery during WW2. Became the Assistant Military Attaché in Budapest in 1946. Joined the Security Service M15 in 1948; 1971, he became the Deputy Director General; 1972 promoted to Director General.



The Honorable Sir Mark Turner
Became a Recorder in 2000, Justice of the High Court and assigned to the Queen's Bench Division, 2013. Presiding judge Northern circuit.



Sir Stephen O'Brien
After Emmanuel College Cambridge he practiced as a Solicitor in London. Was international industrial business Executive and MP for Eddisbury, Cheshire for 16 years, including serving as Minister for International Development and as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the Sahel, Africa. Vice-President Liverpool School of Tropical United Nations. United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs & Emergency Relief Coordinator 2015-17. Appointed as a non-executive director of the Department for International Trade in 2019.



Sir Roger Gifford
A London banker and the 68th Lord Mayor of London 2012 to 2013. Knighted in the 2014 New Year Honours list. Sedbergh School Foundation Vice President from 2014.



The Right Honourable Sir Richard McCombe
In 1998 he was appointed as a Deputy High Court Judge. 1996-2001, Attorney General to the Duchy of Lancaster. 2001, appointed to the High Court, Queen's Bench Division. 2004-7, served as Presiding Judge on the Northern Circuit. 2012, appointed as a Lord Justice of Appeal. Sedbergh School Governor 2002-13.



His Honour Judge Michael Grieve
Appointed a QC and an Assistant Recorder in 1998. Appointed a Recorder in 2000.

His Honour Judge Lawrence Schroeder
Appointed a Deputy District Judge in 1989 and a District Judge in 1992.

The Right Honourable Lord Waddington
Conservative MP who held a variety of government roles under Margaret Thatcher including Home Secretary. Made a life peer in 1990 and held several positions in the House of Lords including Leader of the House. Also served as Governor of Bermuda.



Sir Christopher Hewetson
President Liverpool Law Society in 1976, President National Law Society in 1983. Became Knight Bachelor in 1984. Appointed High Sheriff of Merseyside in 1998.



Edmund Sharpe
An architect, architectural historian, railway engineer, and sanitary reformer. His architectural practice, Sharpe and Paley, (by then, Austin and Paley) designed the School boarding houses and chapel. An elected town councillor for Lancaster and served as mayor in 1848-49. Concerned about the town's poor water supply and sanitation, he championed the construction of new sewers and a waterworks.



Sir Russell Fairgrieve
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland 1979-81 and a Member of the Council of Europe. Chairman of the Conservative Party in Scotland 1975-80. Appointed a CBE in 1974 and knighted in 1981. President of the OS Club 1993-96.

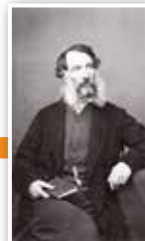
Sir Hugh Cortazzi
Diplomat, businessman, academic, author and Japanologist. Left the RAF in 1947 and joined the Foreign Office. 1975 he was appointed Deputy Under-Secretary of State. 1980, appointed as Her Majesty's Ambassador to Japan where he served until 1984 and was appointed GCMG (Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George).



Sir Francis Sharp Powell, 1st Baronet
A Conservative politician who sat in the House of Commons between 1863 and 1910. He was one of Sedbergh School's greatest benefactors and was the Chairman of Governors 1874-1914.



William Ainslie
Conservative politician, magistrate, ironmaster and stockbroker. MP for North Lonsdale 1885-92.



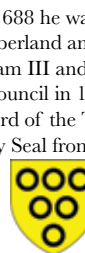
Edward Eyre
A land explorer of the Australian continent and colonial administrator. 1848-1853, he served as Lieutenant-Governor of New Munster Province in New Zealand. From 1854 he was Governor of several Caribbean island colonies. He was a controversial Governor of Jamaica when the Morant Bay Rebellion took place – a major turning point in Jamaica's history.



John Charlesworth
A colliery owner and MP for Wakefield 1857 and 1859. Defeated by his Liberal opponent, William Leatham, at the 1859 general election both he and Leatham were subsequently found to have conducted extensive bribery during the campaign.



The Right Honourable Sir Alan Chambre
In 1767 he was called to the bar and went into the northern circuit. Elected to the bench of Gray's Inn in 1781 and in 1783 filled the annual office of treasurer. 1796 he was appointed recorder of Lancaster. Worked at the court of common pleas 1800-15.



John Lowther, 1st Viscount of Lonsdale, 2nd Baronet
Twice MP for Westmorland between 1677 and 1696. In 1688 he was serviceable in securing Cumberland and Westmorland for King William III and was appointed to the Privy Council in 1689. In 1690 he was first Lord of the Treasury and was Lord Privy Seal from 1699 until his death in 1700.



Sir John Otway
Trained to be a lawyer at Cambridge 1636. An ardent Royalist involved in the activities to bring Charles II to the throne, Charles appointed him Vice-Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Chancellor of the County of Durham. Knighted in 1673 or 74. Died in 1693 and buried in St Andrew's Church, Sedbergh.

Gerrard Lowther
An eminent Counsel and Bench of Lincoln's Inn and High Sheriff of Cumberland in 1592. The Lowther family would appear to have been supporters of Mary Queen of Scots. Involved in various plots in Elizabeth I's reign including "The Rising in the North" and one led by the Duke of Norfolk with his brother, Richard. They managed to extricate themselves and survived.



His Honour Judge John Walford
In 1983 he was appointed to the Circuit Bench of Judges and when he retired in 2004 he was the longest serving Circuit Judge in the country. Served on the Lancashire Probation Committee, the Lord Lieutenant's Advisory Committee on the Magistracy and was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire in 1995.



Lord Bingham of Cornhill
Judge and jurist. He served in the highest judicial offices of the UK as Master of the Rolls, Lord Chief Justice and as Senior Law Lord before his retirement when he focused on his work as a teacher and lecturer in human rights laws. 1525 Society President 2010-12.

Sir Robert Rhodes James
Historian and Conservative MP. 1955-64, worked in the Clerk's Department of the House of Commons. 1976, became a Conservative MP for Cambridge, a seat until his retirement in 1992. Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Foreign Office. Knighted in 1991.



Sir Giles Shaw
MP for Pudsey 1974 to 1997. Held a number of ministerial posts under Thatcher: Parliamentary Under-Secretary for N. Ireland Office, Department of Environment and Department of Energy; Minister of State for Home Office and Department of Trade & Industry. Chairman of Governors at Sedbergh School 1992 to 1997.



H Montgomery Hyde
Barrister, Ulster Unionist MP and author. Joined the British Army Intelligence Corps in 1939 and was commissioned into MI6. Lost his seat in the House of Commons in 1959 as a result of campaigning for homosexual law reform. In 1972 wrote the first history of homosexuality in Great Britain & Ireland, 'The Other Love'.



Helsby, Baron Helsby (Laurence)
Joined the Civil Service in 1946. In 1963, he was made joint Permanent Secretary to the Treasury and Head of the Home Civil Service. Made a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1955; awarded Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath in 1963; made a life peer in 1968.



Viscount Bracken of Christchurch (Brendan)
Working closely with Churchill, he was made MP for Paddington in 1929, a post he held for 16 years. In 1940 became Parliamentary Private Secretary to Churchill and in 1941 was made Minister of Information, a post he held until the end of the Second World War. After WW2 he was made First Lord of the Admiralty. A generous benefactor to the School and was Chairman of Governors 1951-58.



Philip Mason, OBE CIE
Had a distinguished career in the Civil Service in India until Independence in 1947. Well-known as an author of a great many books about India and also for his pioneering work in promoting the study of racial and minority problems as the founding director of the Institute of Race Relations.



Sir William Wavell Wakefield, 1st Baron Wakefield of Kendal
A Conservative politician, rugby union player for Harlequins and England and President of the Rugby Football Union. In 1935 he became Conservative MP for Swindon. At the 1945 general election, he moved to St Marylebone. Knighted in 1944 and in 1963 was raised to the peerage as Baron Wakefield of Kendal.



Glencairn Balfour Paul
After WW2 he served in the Sudan Political Service as a District Commissioner, before joining the Diplomatic Service in 1955. Appointed Ambassador to Iraq in 1969, Ambassador to Jordan in 1972 and Ambassador to Tunisia 1975-77. Awarded The Order of St Michael and St George in 1968.



Air Vice-Marshal Peter Furniss
Solicitor and senior Royal Air Force officer. He served as Director of Legal Services for the RAF and was Head of the RAF Legal Branch from 1978-1982.



Lord Shaw of Northstead (Michael)
Conservative politician who served as an MP from 1960-64 and from 1966-92. Also served as a Member of the European Parliament 1974-79. Received a Knighthood in 1982. Created a life peer in 1994. 1525 Society President 2002-05.

The Right Honourable McConnell of Lisburn, Baron McConnell Lord (Brian)
First elected to Stormont at the Northern Ireland general election in 1953. 1962, he was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Finance and became Minister of Home Affairs in 1964. President of the European Movement in Northern Ireland 1992-95. Granted a life peerage in 1995.



The Right Honourable Sir Richard McCombe
In 1998 he was appointed as a Deputy High Court Judge. 1996-2001, Attorney General to the Duchy of Lancaster. 2001, appointed to the High Court, Queen's Bench Division. 2004-7, served as Presiding Judge on the Northern Circuit. 2012, appointed as a Lord Justice of Appeal. Sedbergh School Governor 2002-13.



His Honour Judge Michael Grieve
Appointed a QC and an Assistant Recorder in 1998. Appointed a Recorder in 2000.

Michael Pattison
Diplomat and administrator, Private Secretary to successive Prime Ministers 1979-82. Sedbergh School Foundation Trustee 2007-14.



Alan Craze
Former solicitor who has been Her Majesty's Senior Coroner for the County of East Sussex since 1998.



His Honour Judge David Hodson
Senior Circuit Judge, Manchester 1987-96. Senior Circuit Judge and Hon. Recorder of Newcastle upon Tyne 1997-2010. Bench, Inner Temple. Deputy, then Chancellor of the Diocese of Newcastle 2001-12. Judicial Member of the Parole Board. An Assistant Surveillance Commissioner 2013-15.