

EDITORIAL

Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my immediate predecessor, the founding Editor-in-Chief Professor Kim Stevenson, for her sterling work over the last 11 volumes of this journal, encompassing a fascinating and highly inclusive range of material from distinguished visiting speakers, staff and students. It is a hard act to follow. Looking back at Lord Neuberger's Pilgrim Fathers Lecture, published in the first volume of *Plymouth Law Review* (2008), he said:

'I stand before you in a state of some trepidation. A previous lecturer visiting Plymouth complained bitterly about his reception in this city. He fulminated to the *Western Daily Mercury* about, and I quote, "scurrilous, vulgar and unmanly assertions perpetrated by foul-mouthed detractors" following his talk. His name was Samuel Rowbotham, the year was 1864, and the purpose of his talk was to persuade his audience that the Earth was flat.'

I find this reassuring. This year's issue headlines the Pilgrim Fathers Lecture delivered by Lord Burnett of Maldon, Lord Chief Justice, which was held in association with Plymouth Law Society on the absorbing theme of the history of the High Court and its divisions. Plymouth Law Society also generously sponsored a competition for the best Law student essay based on the Pilgrim Fathers lecture. The prize for the winner is £150 together with a certificate of achievement signed by Lord Burnett, the President of Plymouth Law Society and the Head of School, as well as publication of the essay in the *Plymouth Law Review*. Congratulations to Holly Parker, whose winning essay is included here, and thanks to everyone concerned for supporting this initiative, which has established a great foundation for next year and beyond.

The themes of diversity and equality feature in many of the articles and reports in this issue. In the staff reports, Rob Giles describes how he and Kim Stevenson received an award at an International Film Festival in Mumbai for their legal history documentary, 'How Do You Fix A Town Like Plymouth?' and delivered lectures there on independent film-making and equality for women. Professor Judith Rowbotham (no relation to Samuel) celebrates 100 years of Plymouth Powerful Women, starting with Nancy Astor, the first woman to take a seat in the House of Commons in 1919.

The student reports reflect upon the event unveiling Nancy Astor's statue on the Hoe and the Plymouth Powerful Women exhibition in the Guildhall (Lauryn Thurlow); the experiences of an international law student in Plymouth (Shasenem Chakanova); the decision of a tattoo artist to study law (Thomas Wilson); and the importance of commitment from law students engaged in extracurricular competitions through the University of Plymouth Law Society (Emily Parton).

The graduate articles (best final year dissertations) analyse some of the key topical issues of the day. Eleanor Avery examines the problems associated with acquaintance rape and rape myths. Virginia Butcher investigates the legal difficulties surrounding wrasse fishing on a large scale in Southern England to provide 'cleaner fish' for the Scottish salmon industry. Natasha Owen considers the regulation of sexually explicit internet material regarding the protection of adolescents. Adam Richards evaluates the laws and policies related to domestic violence in homosexual male partnerships. Lastly, Grace Thorne offers an intriguing insight into future challenges for the Royal Navy concerning lethal autonomous surface vehicles.

Hugo de Rijke, Editor-in Chief

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