

# The 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."

- His Honour Judge John Walford**
- 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. Lovden, T.D.T. Hodson, J. de G. Walford, T. Hewitt



**His Honour Judge Brian Duckworth, DL MA**  
Lupton House 1948-52

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.

**The Right Honourable Sir David Edward, KC, QC, FRS, PC**  
Sedgwick House 1948-53

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, DL, DL, LBS**  
School House 1950-55

Retired solicitor, partner 1962-97 in the largest firm in the NE, appointed Under Sheriff for Newcastle upon Tyne 17 times, Clerk to the Lieutenantcy 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.

**His Honour Judge David Hodson, LL**  
Evans House 1956-60

Retired solicitor, partner 1962-97 in the largest firm in the NE, appointed Under Sheriff for Newcastle upon Tyne 17 times, Clerk to the Lieutenantcy 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.

**Alan Craze**  
Powell House 1959-64

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

**Michael Pattison, CBE**  
Winder House 1960-64

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

**His Honour Judge Richard Lowden**  
Evans House 1961-66

Resident judge at Durham Crown Court 2001-9. He was judicial recorder at Durham 2005-10. Died in 2012.

**Peter Birkett, QC**  
Winder House 1961-66

Called 1972; Inner Temple. Recorder of the Crown Court 1989; master of the Bench (Inner Temple) 1996; deemsister 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**  
Lupton House 1964-68

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**  
Sedgwick House 1966-70

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.

**Lord Lupton of Lovington (James), CBE**  
Powell House 1968-72

Qualified as a solicitor in 1997. Co-founded 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.

**The Right Honourable Stephen O'Brien**  
Hart House 1970-75

Qualified as a solicitor in 1983; practised at Freshfields, City of London. Industrialist 1988-99. Served as MP (Conservative) for Eddisbury 1999-2015. Minister for International Development. Appointed Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs & Emergency Relief Coordinator, United Nations 2015. Privy Counsellor 2013.

**Christopher Boyle, QC**  
Sedgwick House 1981-88

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).

**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 2008-13. Sedbergh School Governor 1988-97.

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

**Kate Baron**  
Lupton House 2004-06

Solicitor. Studied law at Manchester 2007-10, completed her LPC 2011, now an Associate at a firm in Dubai.

**Laura Priestley**  
Lupton House 2001-03

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.

**James Ward, OBE**  
Evans House 1985-91

Studied piano and conducting at Birmingham Conservatoire. 1993-2007 Special Constable in West Midlands Police. 1999-2008 he practised at 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.

**Mike Redmayne**  
Sedgwick House 1980-85

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.

**Edmund Sharpe**  
1927-29

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.

**Norman Openshaw**  
Hart House 1927-32

Liberal MP for Bolton.

**Sir Maurice Dorman, GCMB, GCVO**  
School House 1926-30

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.

**James MacColl**  
Sedgwick House 1922-27

Appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1938. Mayor of Paddington 1947-49. At the 1950 general election he was elected MP for Widnes and held the seat until his death in 1971. 1964-69 he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.

**Bill Carritt**  
Lupton House 1922-27

Communist, lecturer and poet. Air-lifted home from WW2 to stand as Westminster Abbey Communist candidate in the 1945 general election and was elected to Westminster council. 1946, he was one of five Communists tried at the Old Bailey for leading a campaign which put homeless families into empty luxury flats. Until the 1960s, he worked as a Communist Party full-timer.

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